

Gacha 681

Chapter 681 - The Situation on the Surface Part I

Meanwhile, on the surface right before the earthquake struck the Heavenly Continent.

Anya and Firia were talking about their monthly report to send back to Alex.

"It should be enough for now. Rose only focuses on her cultivation lately due to the surveillance from the Fire God Clan. It seems she wants to reach Martial Monarch as soon as possible to get that New Gacha from Alex," Anya said while writing it down on a paper.

"That's right. She might reach that stage first before Alex even reaches Martial Saint Stage. She doesn't have many things to do anyway other than cultivating. Her strength and techniques are mostly in the peak of her realm, and we will only let her learn peak Heaven Tier Martial Arts after she reaches Martial Monarch... Which is solved by the Gacha." Firia nodded.

"Sister Xingzhi will take care of the missions, so we are free to do whatever we—"

Rumble!

Just like how the earthquake struck the Freedom Sect, it also shook half of the Heavenly Continent, let alone their temporary base, which was close to the shore.

"!!!" The lamps started swaying left and right as Firia and Anya quickly floated a few centimeters in the air.

"We need to get the Rune Stone. I'm afraid this house will collapse," said Anya while glancing at Firia.

"I will store all the documents here and wake up Sherry while you can go store the Rune Stone and wake up Stina and Kyle." Firia nodded and waved her hands, storing everything in her Space Ring first before moving them to the Inventory after everything calmed down. She quickly headed toward Sherry's room, where she was looking left and right, not knowing what just happened. "Sherry. We are going out of this house!"

Firia told her in a manner that couldn't be rejected. As confused as she might, Sherry still followed Firia.

Meanwhile, Anya fetched the Rune Stone that was in the room next to them and woke up the couple.

They flew outside of the house before seeing that the houses around them also had collapsed to the ground before their house collapsed. They then regrouped with Firia and Sherry.

"This is Earthquake, right? I have experienced it when training with my Master... But it's not as powerful." Firia asked Anya.

"Correct. The power of Earthquakes will depend on the mass and volume of the tectonic plates. I'm afraid that there will be some aftershocks and a Tsunami coming to this place. I'm afraid these rubbles will soon be swept by an enormous Tsunami." Anya nodded.

She had more than five thousand years of knowledge, so she obviously had the knowledge about these terms.

"What should we do now? Search for a new base and inform Alex?" Firia asked while contemplating their next move. She was also worried about Alex at this time.

"For now, I will recall everyone here because the Tsunami will surely bring us a fortune," Anya smirked.

"What is this Earthquake and Tsunami you are talking about?" Sherry asked while trying to calm her heart down. She thought God was angry or Martial Saints were fighting in the area.

Anya looked at Sherry and the others before explaining, "Earthquake is..."

After several minutes, she finally finished. "... That's all about it."

"So, this Tsunami might bring many sea monsters to the shore, depending on the size of the Tsunami? Then we will take advantage of this and kill them?" Sherry tried to summarize what they needed to do.

"Yeah. Do you want to see the sea right now?" Anya smiled while summoning the others.

"Un!" Sherry nodded furiously. "I'm curious about it."

Anya looked at the others who nodded their heads before they flew to the sea.

"Woah!" Sherry was amazed seeing the seawater slowly went back as if it was pulled by someone. The wet ground started expanding as the water slowly moved away. "Is the big wave coming soon?"

"Hmm... Maybe a little longer. It's formed far in the ocean and takes time to reach here. That's why we are going to talk about our plan for the time being." Anya smiled and patted Sherry's head.

"We should resolve everything first before informing Alex that we are alright. After that, we need to check if this actually causes a change in the landscape because earlier is like a major one." Firia nodded.

"Yeah. We will do so, but we need to make a strategy to kill these sea monsters that will soon come to this place due to the Tsunami. I am sure that the people from the Divine Kingdom will come to this place too, so we are talking about strategy." Anya added.

"That's right. Calculating the distance and timing, we can safely assume that we can only stay like this until tomorrow. We should be able to kill around twenty thousand Martial Monarchs sea monsters... Of course, without our True Spirit Body. The question is, will we?" Anna thought for a moment and said.

"We can only see how big the wave is. Meanwhile, Nelson should go toward the Divine Kingdom and inform us of their condition and how many they will bring to this place. After all, the Sea Monsters might trample their territories if they are not stopped." Anya commanded.

"Alright." Nelson nodded his head and disappeared. "Call me if you need anything."

As soon as Nelson flew off, Anya commanded the others. "We will search for the edge of this Tsunami and start sweeping the monsters from the edge. Leoz and Jeanne will be a big help in this hunt, while Jean can help us weaken their power by controlling the seawater. Sherry and Firia might not have a problem with these monsters since your Fire Element is far superior.

"However, I am a bit worried about Fabio, Stina, and Kyle. Fabio might be fine considering you can use your sword, but Stina and Kyle..." Anya looked at the couple while furrowing her eyebrows.

"Please don't worry about us, Mistress. We have mastered the Fire Core Technique that Master has given us not long ago. Although we don't have a big elemental advantage, we can support you by sending all of our techniques to the monsters." Firia waved her hands. "Besides, our fire level is slightly higher than Fabio, so I think we can kill some monsters together."

"Alright. Just make sure you are not overworked yourself. After all, we will escape as soon as the people from the Divine Kingdom arrive in this area... Maybe go to another remote battlefield and fight there." Anya looked at Greg. "Greg will stay with me so I can maintain the Strength Support and heal any injuries."

"Understood."

"Artur will go with Anna. Leoz and Jeanne might not be able to kill everything, so you two are going to kill the leftovers. Remember, leave no one alive."

"Leave it to me." Artur puffed his chest.

"How about ignoring those and advancing as fast as possible?" Anna asked. "I mean, if we want to get more EXPs, then we can use this plan."

Anya thought for a moment and shook her head. "Firstly, the Divine Kingdom might notice the difference between their numbers later and think there is something around this area. I don't mind if we are found out, but they might find Alex's place if they do thorough research. On the other hand, if we sweep around the area, we can simply store all those dead bodies inside the Inventory to avoid their suspicion. Of course, this place is a bit far from Alex, so they won't search for that cave."

"Alright." Anna nodded, ready to follow her command.

They waited for another one hour before there was a giant wave coming from the horizon. Sherry widened her eyes and dropped her jaw. "Is that the Tsunami? It's very tall! I can somehow see many monsters inside that wave, but I don't think there are more than a thousand."

Anya furrowed her eyebrows before commanding. "We are going to take advantage of this wave with our True Spirit Body. It has yet to reach the surface, and it has already accumulated one hundred meters in height... It might even reach three hundred meters as soon as it comes here. Besides, the monsters inside the wave are only low-level monsters while the big ones follow the waves on its tail. We just can't see it yet unless Alex uses his Spirit Eyes."

"Are you sure? How many monsters do you think it will bring?" Sherry asked.

Anya didn't answer her immediately and looked to the left and right, noticing how big the Tsunami is. "I'm sure that even if we fly for two days straight, we still can't see the end of this Tsunami. And the monsters that come might even touch millions. That's the rough calculation."

"How many of them do you think will be killed?"

"Not that many. Around two hundred thousand, I guess... Before those monsters come back to the sea. We are going to use our True Spirit Body and try to kill fifty thousand. I'm sure most of us, if not all, will reach Martial Saints after this."

"Don't worry. We will make sure to obliterate them one by one and not leave a single magical beast behind. Besides, we can sell them to the Blackwade Clan later... Or maybe wait for Alex to sell it himself when he decides to reveal his card to Song Jiaoren." Firia nodded while smirking.

"True enough. Alex can use this as his first transaction to elevate his status even further. Just imagine if we kill fifty thousand Martial Monarch monsters and sell their bodies in a single transaction, it will surely create quite an impact." Anya also smirked as if she thought something extreme.

"Anyway, we will do whatever we can in this place before thinking about the plan later." She nodded to Anya. "And considering we are fighting for only a day, True Spirit Body is a must to maximize the profit."

"Yeah. I'm thinking that way too." Anya nodded.

They nodded and flew to the sky.

As Anya predicted, the wave slowly grew taller and taller, surpassing even her prediction. The gigantic Tsunami Wave hit the shore directly and broke.

The height was nothing like before but the power and destruction now filled this scary wave. It continued and reached the area behind the shore, destroying trees and some abandoned houses in the area.

Sherry was amazed by this natural phenomenon as this was the first time she saw something like this. She was fascinated by the waves that could destroy everything on its way, forgetting what the wave originally carried.

"Sherry. You can admire it later. We need to leave first." Anya patted Sherry's shoulder while looking at the appearances of many monsters on the shore.

Sherry then looked down and noticed a thousand monsters filled the area while more and more were coming from the ocean. "I understand."

They then flew off the area while searching for the edge of the impact so they could start killing these monsters.

Chapter 682 - The Situation on the Surface Part II

One day later,

In the Divine Kingdom, a person stood tall in the highest balcony of the castle.

He was an old man with purple hair. There was a scar on his eyebrows, making him appear to be a person with many stories to tell. The red mantle had been too heavy for him recently. Of course, it was a different kind of heavy. As a cultivator, he didn't feel the weight of this mantle. The heaviness came from his heart.

"Your Majesty... No, Grandfather. Please come back to the hall. The shaking has stopped, so we should convene a meeting to discuss what we will do." The person appearing behind him was a blonde male with a mask covering his right eyes.

"Haiz... Julius. Stay here with me first. I want to talk." The old man sighed.

"What is it, Grandfather? I mean, we should do it fast because..." Julius didn't continue, but his eyes were staring at the town around their castle. Many famous buildings weren't destroyed, but middle size houses or lower have been destroyed by the Earthquake. They needed to discuss the restoration.

"The town needs to be recovered, and there must be a huge change of landscape and the potential of a big wave coming... This mantle is already heavy on my shoulders." The old man sighed.

"Grandfather!" Julius's body shook as he quickly cupped his hands and bowed. "I'm still not prepared to take the throne, Grandfather."

"Haiz... I have been holding the throne for two generations. I think it's time for you to take the mantle. At first, your father will take the throne and be responsible for passing the mantle to you, but he has passed away. You are my child, and very talented. You are already a 2-Star Martial Saint while your mindset is good to be a ruler..." The old man sighed.

"Grandfather... It's not like Julius doesn't want to wear the mantle, but I have promised Father to wear it only after reaching 5-Star Martial Saint. I can't annul my promise."

"And there are still your Brothers and Sisters who are aiming at the throne... I know that you have suppressed them with overwhelming strength, you still need to be careful. I'm sure they will use this disaster for their own personal gain."

"I am aware. That's why I will do my best in the restoration process and ask for Marshall Fudi to accompany me the whole time. I don't wish to trouble Grandfather for this." Julius sighed, recalling his own brothers and sisters.

"Well... I will hold this mantle for a little longer, I guess." He sighed before turning around and leaving the balcony. "Let's go to the hall. It's time to discuss with our ministers."

"Yes."

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A few minutes later, the duo came to the throne room as the old man sat on the golden throne while Julius stood beside him.

"I need the damage report. Speculation is enough." The old man demanded fifty people in front of him.

Suddenly, a middle-aged man stepped forward while looking at the paper in his hand. "There should be deaths, but it won't be that much, considering we have too many Martial Masters. They will be fine even if they are buried under the pile of rubles. The problem will be how much it will cost us to restore the land."

"You forget something." The king stopped him before recalling a few matters in the past. "There must be some aftershocks after this and a massive wave in the shore. It will surely bring many monsters..."

"I have read this in the Imperial Record. May I know about the details, Your Majesty?" Julius asked his grandfather politely.

"Let me remember... This is a story of one thousand years ago. Back then, the kingdom was shaken by this incident once... Albeit, the power was weaker than this. At that time, we need around three hundred thousand Spirit Crystals to restore the entire kingdom."

"Three hundred thousand Spirit Crystals? Three hundred million Spirit Gems?" The people gasped. Julius stepped forward and asked another question. "That would devastate our treasury, Your Majesty. Not to mention that you said the power was weaker than this one."

"I am not finished yet." The king shook his head and stopped them from talking. "Back then, a huge wave traversed toward this place, bringing a few hundred thousand monsters in the coast, south to our kingdom."

"!!!"

"This will be terrible."

"We need to inform the army."

"Enough!" The king shouted while releasing his Spiritual Energy. He could relate to why those ministers panicked, but he could see a few staying silent like they had experienced it before. "Firstly, we won't get that much loss because we will hunt those monsters and sell them to the Blackwade Clan."

"This will have the economy start running, and our cost should be covered with this. After all, these monsters will be perfect ingredients for Alchemists and other things while the normal cultivators and other people will buy the end products. That's why we will utilize our army and have them head to the South Coast to farm the monsters and sell them."

"That..." Julius was astonished and bowed his head. "Your Majesty is wise. We can monopolize this opportunity."

"There is no way we can do that." He shook his head. "Back then, the wave carried six hundred thousand monsters, and this might bring one million sea monsters. If I remember correctly, around fifty percent of them were Martial Monarchs or above."

"!!!" The people were utterly shocked once again. The number was insane, but considering the fact that the sea was never explored this whole time, there might be hundreds of thousands of Martial Monarchs inside the sea.

Unfortunately, they didn't know the exact reason why a large number of sea monsters decided to go to the surface. How could they think that the Underwater Eruption was the one that forced them to the surface because of that smell?

"Anyway, send fifty thousand soldiers and five thousand Martial Monarchs with a hundred Martial Saints. Have them go to that place and start hunting the monsters. I want them to be as careful as possible, so we won't lose too much." The king ordered.

"Yes. Your Majesty."

"For now, we can open our coffer first to proceed with the restoration of our kingdom. Although it will be costly, the economy will go like usual if we fix this mess sooner."

"We will take care of it, Your Majesty."

"And lastly, inform the other influences to participate in this hunt. I don't know how much environmental impact we get, but I want you to have the other influences to participate. It's not because I want to let them become rich like us. We are simply not matched against those many monsters."

"I will take care of the invitation, Your Majesty." Julius finally stepped forward.

"Good. If you have any questions about this, just ask the old ministers. They should know what to do. I will leave now." The king stood up and left the room.

Julius looked at his back and took a deep breath before doing his own job.

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Meanwhile, In the Fire God Clan,

They were in the same state as any other influence. Many buildings were destroyed, and panic spread around, so the elders and their patriarch held a big meeting.

"I am sure you have been notified of what happened yesterday. We talked about it yesterday, but I will just remind you first. We need to proceed with the restoration of our land, especially our mines. At the same time, we need to assemble our attack forces and have them head toward the southern area near the Divine Kingdom.

"We don't need to wait for the invitation from the Divine Kingdom since their message will arrive sooner or later." Leo, the patriarch, announced.

"Patriarch... May I say something?" An elder stepped forward.

"Tell me!"

"I think Spirit Nest will appear on this occasion... I'm afraid that they will use a situation like this to strike at our influences."

"!!!" All people in the room gasped as they looked at this elder for a while before the Patriarch broke his silence. "Why didn't you tell me yesterday?"

"I... I just thought about it last night."

Leo smashed his chair as he stood up with solemn expression. "There might be hundreds of thousand monsters on this occasion... We must grab this opportunity to acquire some wealth, but it's really risky because the Spirit Nest might ignore this incident as a whole and strike at us.

"With those many monsters, they only need for us to exhaust ourselves before finishing us..." Leo looked down, weighing something in his mind. 'Should I participate or have the whole family go? This will be reckless since the Blackwade Clan might attack us at a time like this.'

"Patriarch... If I may suggest, we can just send our disciples to do this. Of course, we don't need important disciples, and the number doesn't need to be that high. Although the profit we can reap is

lower, we won't be bothered too much if we lose them." Another elder stepped forward, suggesting the solution.

Leo didn't immediately give him the confirmation and still thought for the best solution. 'It is true that by doing it, we can minimize our loss in case we are attacked by Spirit Nest. At the same time, we will know that the Spirit Nest is hiding around the Divine Kingdom. Meanwhile, I need to think about the profit... No. Screw profit. If our family can't destroy this Spirit Nest, we might even get destroyed in the future, looking at the speed of their progress.'

After a few minutes of silence, Leo finalized his order. "Send the disciples out. I will also instruct our spies to watch them closely and try to investigate the Spirit Nest if they truly attack us. If we did not send anyone, but we will become a laughing stock in the Seven Influences Banquet next year.

"Hence, we will brace ourselves in this matter and have some useless disciples go there to get us some face and materials. On the other hand, I want the disciples and elders to start taking this matter more seriously as the matter might concern the fate of our entire clan. Are we clear?"

"Yes, Patriarch." The elders cupped their hands and bowed.

...

The other influences were also discussing the same topic as these two influences. They never thought that another phenomenon occurred with this timing. There is already a storm brewing on the Heavenly Continent, and this matter just makes it worse. They kept complaining about Alex and Fire God Clan.

Inside the Drunken Pavilion, Evelyn opened the window and looked outside. "Big Brother Alex... Evelyn has reached the 2-Star Martial Monarch right now... If not because Big Brother Alex refined my potential, I won't have a burst of potential when I realize my fire talent... I am truly grateful to you. Evelyn can't pay you back this whole time because I'm too weak... But now Evelyn has the strength and backing to help Big Brother. Just you wait, Fire God Clan, you won't fight only the Spirit Nest, but you will also fight me and the Drunken Pavilion!"

As Evelyn kept saying her resolve, Letizia didn't have that much of a chance. She was locked inside a prison. Her cultivation might not be sealed, but she couldn't do anything because she was chained on the wall as it would destroy her wrists if she struggled. However, she still couldn't do anything other than waiting for the right time to escape.

"Mother... I am sorry for being a useless daughter and can't visit you this whole time." She couldn't help but recall her memory after the Earthquake. "I hope that you are alright over there. Letizia will surely come back home..."

Her voice only contained disappointment to herself. She once hoped to be a peerless cultivator, but she felt useless right now. Her determination was gradually destroyed as time passed.

She could still increase her cultivation, but it would be over when those people decided to kill her later or even used her as a sacrifice...

Whether it was her loyalty or something deep inside her heart, she uttered a single name that influenced her life greatly.

"Master... Help me."

Chapter 683 - Alex Looks the Hunt from the Sideline

Back to the Freedom Sect,

Alex was a little exhausted after using the Spatial Gate for so long. He never thought it was this exhausting to maintain a single Spatial Gate for a few hours.

"Do you want to change with someone?" Aileen asked before glancing at many Space Temple disciples on the ground. "An Elder usually needs to maintain this for a day before they are qualified to be an elder, you know."

Alex shook his head. The reason he was tired didn't lie in his Spiritual Energy. Instead, it was his Mental Energy that was drained because he never practiced maintaining this technique for this long, so his body had yet to adapt.

Luckily, Alex still could withstand this for another two days with his immense Mental Energy. He stared at Aileen and replied. "I'm fine. Thank you for Great Elder's concern, but I should be fine until the situation is fixed."

"Is that so? Just make sure you don't fall unconscious suddenly, alright?" Aileen looked at his complexion and gave her approval before worrying her disciple. "How about you, Ryuu? How long can you hold on?"

"My personal best is twenty hours... But Alex's training seems to have opened the clogged potential that has been buried by my trauma... So I think I can last longer. I might even reach a day." Ryuu nodded with a smile.

"That's good then. With your progress and Maya's change of mind, my heart can finally rest assured." Aileen smiled brightly.

"Thank you, Master." Ryuu bowed to her.

"It's fine. You are my disciple after all." Aileen waved her hand. She then looked down, watching the people work with the land and informing Alex. "Anyway, we might need almost a day for this, so you can exchange with the others if you are too tired."

Alex also nodded this time before a notification appeared in front of him.

[Host. Anna wants to talk to you.]

"I am still in the middle of this though. I can't really summon the card and expect everyone to ignore it. I can try hiding them inside my pocket, but I need to touch the card and use Spiritual Energy to communicate with them. I'm sure someone will find it."

[That's why I will be the bridge this time. You can send any message to Anna through me and vice versa.]

"That's good then. What does she want to say?" Alex asked and waited for the system to respond.

[It seems they want to take advantage of the Tsunami on the surface. Feeling how big the earthquake was earlier, I'm sure Host knows this will happen, right?]

"Yeah. You are correct."

[The problem is that there are around one million sea monsters encroaching upon the land. These monsters are never disturbed so they can achieve this number. Anna wants to take this opportunity to kill as many as possible, even if they need to use the True Spirit Body. That's why they want you to use the Gacha Tickets and EXP Cards later, according to Anya's instruction.]

"Hmm..." Alex furrowed his eyebrows. "They can use my Inventory, right? Why would they ask for something like this?"

[The problem is they can't. Even though I have the consciousness of my own, your permission is the last thing that needs to be confirmed before I can do anything. After all, I'm your system, not theirs.]

Alex let out a hollow laugh inwardly. "Alright. I will be bored in this place anyway, so I can do something like that."

[Gacha Tickets x 541]

[This is your current count of Gacha Tickets. Meanwhile, you have a few EXP Cards that you have yet to use. Do you want to use them?]

"Sure."

[Processing]

[Tulip Spear (UC) x1]

[Summoning Coin (C) x1]

...

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The system exchanged all of his Gacha and used every single Summoning Coins received from the Gacha. Alex was quite satisfied with the reward and remembered another problem. "By the way, System. Do I get any missions from this? I mean, I have done many things in this place."

[There is basically none. You are mostly training and training, so there is no reward.]

"Tch. I almost forgot why I called you a useless system back in the day." Alex clicked his tongue.

[Love you too, Host.]

The reply remained the same, so Alex sighed. "Anyway, can you ask them what they are going to do with the Fire God Clan and the Divine Kingdom?"

[Anya is thinking about it right now since they want to take advantage of this Tsunami to increase their levels. Meanwhile, Anya had a safe haven, so she could wait on the back while making the strategy.]

"Oh." Alex thought for a moment and nodded. "Ask Anna to watch out for the Fire God Clan too. Considering the number, Divine Kingdom won't be enough. There is a high possibility that other influences will join, especially Fire God Clan."

[Do you want to kill them?]

"Not really. If we are exposed too early, we won't be able to utilize that huge piece of land as our EXPs source. I want them to watch their movement and see whether they are truly helpful or just watch and see. If my prediction is correct, they will do the same like that incident on the Sacred Continent." Alex contemplated and said.

[Then I shall pass this message to Anna.]

"Thank you." Alex nodded slightly.

[Any other messages do you want me to pass?]

Alex contemplated for a moment and said. "Observe the other influences for me, especially the Divine Kingdom. If I am not wrong, the host of this Seven Influences Banquet is them, right?"

[Yes. Alright, Anna has received the message.]

"Thanks." Alex thanked her once again before focusing back to his Spatial Gate.

"Alex. You have mastered the Space Cut right now. Do you want to go to Martial Arts Temple after this? We can search for another Space Element Art for you, and I do have some knowledge about them."

Alex looked down for a minute. 'I have many Space Element Arts in my inheritance actually, but I never look at them because I place no importance to them previously. Should I search the techniques from the inheritances instead of going to the Martial Arts Temple?

'Still, I am worried that I will have no teacher to ask about Space Element, so I can only study it alone and will surely need a longer time. I am afraid that I won't have enough time to practice two Space Arts if I choose them... Meanwhile, I can speed up the process by paying money to Aileen. It seems I will go to the Martial Arts Temple first, choose a book, and have Aileen to teach me. Besides, Aileen will surely suspect me if I ask a technique she never knows anyway.

'I don't really care about money since I can easily get it back while I can learn those Martial Arts in my memory later. I will prioritize speed this time.'

Having finalized his decision, Alex nodded to Ryu. "Then, I will trouble you to guide me to Martial Arts Temple after everything is over."

"Judging from the situation, I am sure it will be fine after two days. We can go there after some rest."

"I have no problem with that timing." Alex nodded before glancing at Aileen. "Great Elder, I will need to trouble you later on."

"I can only teach you what I know." Aileen shrugged and rolled her eyes. "Besides, I will be taking payment for that."

Alex nodded and continued maintaining the Spatial Gate.

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A few hours later, the system disturbed him once again.

[Host. They have killed around five thousand monsters within four hours. Anna will soon ask you to level up someone soon.]

Alex nodded and thought that his Spirits were the best. After all, it was hard to kill five thousand Martial Monarchs within four hours unless they use some big moves or their True Spirit Body. Little did he know that Anya already instructed them to use both.

[Want me to tell you something?]

"Sure. I am bored anyway." Alex agreed nonchalantly.

[They are planning to kill fifty thousand monsters in just a day before hiding from everyone else.]

Alex widened his eyes first before pondering about the plan. "It's true that we shouldn't appear on the continent as long as possible because it will make us more mysterious. This will impact how the Blackwade Clan perceive us, so this plan is working for me."

When he was talking to himself, the system sent him a notification.

[Gacha Ticket x331]

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[Gacha Ticket x750]

"!!!" Alex widened his eyes and blinked a few times. "What the heck just happened?"

[I'm just showing you that Jeanne uses the first big move and kills a few thousand monsters by herself. Unfortunately, only around half of them can be recovered to be sold to Blackwade Clan. The rest are charred back or reduced to ashes.]

Alex chuckled. "That's surely like her. Jeanne and Leoz will be very powerful in this battlefield because of their element. My prediction is Leoz will only use his Thunder God Cannon rather than his most powerful technique. After that, there are still Anna and the others. Due to their exhaustion, I think Leoz will stop after reaching 3-Star Martial Saints due to the lack of EXP Cards and how his Berserk thing works."

The system didn't respond any more as if she was waiting for the request to use the Gacha Tickets.

"Use the Tickets and Coins to replenish the EXP Cards," Alex commanded.

[Processing.]

Alex waited until it was completed before he asked. "By the way, can I just ask you to automatically open the Gacha?"

[There is no automatic system. You have seen how I manually open those many Gacha Balls, right? I have done it twice today according to your request.]

"Ahaha... I'm sorry about that. Though I can see that I'm pretty lucky, no? I mean three hundred Gacha Balls for a few thousand monsters... Isn't it almost ten percent chance to get a single Gacha Ball?" Alex asked excitedly.

[You are wrong. Although I can't say the exact percentage, it's less than one in a thousand. The reason you get so much Gacha Tickets is due to the mission. Have you forgotten about your repeated mission again? I think I have explained it previously.]

[Mission: Kill 100 1-5 Star Monarch Stage Monsters (Repeatable)]

Reward: Gacha Ticket x10]

[Mission: Kill 100 6-10 Star Monarch Stage Monsters (Repeatable)]

Reward: Gacha Ticket x10]

[Mission: Kill 100 1-5 Star Saint Stage Monsters (Repeatable)]

Reward: Gacha Ticket x25]

The system showed him the repeatable missions again. There were still many repeatable missions, but the system didn't show as it was only to jog Alex's memory.

"Ah, right. I think our Gacha Tickets come mostly from here." Alex laughed.

[You are right.]

Alex nodded and continued keeping tabs on Anna and the others along with the Gacha Tickets. He kept using the Gacha Tickets and used the EXP Cards according to Anna's instruction.

Finally, after one day, he noticed the tickets didn't increase in the past three hours, so he thought the hunt must have stopped. He quickly opened the status of his spirits.

[Anna (Dark)]

Level: 72/80 (2-Star Martial Saint Stage)

Exp: 214552/630000]

[Leoz (Thunder)]

Level: 73/80 (3-Star Martial Saint Stage)

Exp: 213112/640000]

[Nelson (Dark)]

Level: 71/80 (1-Star Martial Saint Stage)

Exp: 378674/620000]

[Fabio Fabotelli(Fire)]

Level: 70/80 (10-Star Martial Monarch Stage)

Exp: 214024/610000]

[Greg (Earth)]

Level: 70/80 (10-Star Martial Monarch Stage)

Exp: 45175/610000]

[Vera Fobotelli (Water)

Level: 70/80 (10-Star Martial Monarch Stage)

Exp: 45178/610000]

[Jeanne (Thunder)

Level: 72/80 (2-Star Martial Saint Stage)

Exp: 12421/630000]

[Anya (Light)

Level: 70/80 (10-Star Martial Monarch Stage)

Exp: 51675/610000]

[Artur (Light)

Level: 70/80 (10-Star Martial Monarch Stage)

Exp: 4167/610000]

[Jean (Water)

Level: 70/80 (10-Star Martial Monarch Stage)

Exp: 4675/610000]

He was surprised that some already reached Martial Saints. In fact, the others could reach Martial Saint Stage with his EXP Cards, but Anna must think about their mental situation and didn't force them to level up. After all, exhausting and recovering continuously was like dying over and over again.

After reaching the exhaustion, Anna must have stopped.

"Tell them they have worked hard."

[Surely.]

Chapter 684 - Negotiation

After dealing with Anna's Gacha request and finishing his job in that place, Alex finally had the chance to rest and recover his Spiritual Energy.

However, there were still many disciples working around the area, especially those who took care of the flood. The Barrier had been restored, so Space Temple, Water Temple, Wind Temple, and Ice Temple could take a rest. Lightning Temple also finished their mission after killing a few thousand monsters.

After they finished the illusion barrier, the Light Temple and Dark Temple finally finished their job, only leaving the Water Temple and some Space Element disciples to suck the water flooding their place.

Meanwhile, Viola apologized on behalf of Fire Temple as they couldn't help them this time due to the eruption.

As soon as they settled everything, they could finally go back to rest. Ryuu said goodbye to Alex and told him to have a nice rest first before going to the Martial Arts Temple since that place must still be a mess.

After resting for a day,

Alex opened his eyes and came out of his room, preparing himself to go to the Martial Arts Temple. Suddenly, he remembered another thing that needed to be addressed to Anna and the others.

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

"Ah, Alex. Thank you for helping us another day." Anna was startled and thanked him first.

"It's fine. The jurisdiction is on me anyway, so you don't need to thank me. On the other hand, I want to ask you about the surface condition."

"Let me see... According to the testament of the N Squad, only fifty percent of the land on this continent experienced the Earthquake. Well, it's already big enough to be honest. Anyway, there are four influences hit by this Earthquake. Divine Kingdom, Blackwade Clan, Ancient Blue Family, and Phantasm Sect. The other three are relatively in the north of the continent, so their lands got little to no shake at all."

"I don't know about the Divine Kingdom and Phantasm Sect. But the Ancient Blue Family will suffer quite a big loss because of this, I guess. It might be possible to stop them from allying with the Fire God Clan. As for the Blackwade Clan, is this even a problem for them?" Alex thought for a moment and said.

"Yes. I will send the report of the damage later after confirming everything."

"Thank you."

"Onto the second matter, Fire God Clan has indeed sent their useless disciples to lure us out. They might want to learn our position first because it would take too much time to travel around the continents. Even Snow White Mountain and Drunken Pavilion can't participate in killing the monsters due to their distance.

"That's why Anya suggests we stay low for the time being to create a grand entrance for you." Anna chuckled, planning to tease him.

"Grand entrance, huh... I might need it, but I will skip if it's embarrassing."

"Don't worry. The Grand Entrance we are talking about is when you are going to sell the forty-five thousand monsters to them in your first meeting."

"Forty-five thousand?" Alex furrowed his eyebrows.

"Yeah. Our place didn't have many high-level monsters. According to our rough statistic, we killed around sixty thousand monsters, in which half of them were Martial Emperor monsters. On the other hand, we only got around twenty thousand Martial Monarchs with three thousand Martial Saint

Monsters. The rest were Martial King or below. Still, this transaction should give us... Never mind, I don't know the market. Let's just wait for your meeting with that Song Jiaren."

Alex twitched his eyebrows before sighing. "What about the surface condition? Has the water gone yet?"

"No. It should be much longer, but it seems the sea level dropped slightly, so the process has somehow sped up."

"..." Alex was speechless. He almost forgot that they continued sucked the seawater inside their Spatial Gate for a day. If it was only a single person, it might not be possible to influence worldwide, but it was done by the joint efforts of hundreds of Space Element Users. They might even decrease the sea level by a few centimeters.

"It must be coming from you, right? What happened there?"

"Let's just say there is a black hole in the ocean floor that sucks the seawater for a day due to some accidents. I'm alright, though. I will send the report to you later." Alex chuckled.

"Sure. I will be awaiting your news." Anna nodded before returning to the topic. "Anyway, the water level is only a third from their original height, so it should be clear after a day or two."

"Oh. It's good then. There is also something I want to ask you." Alex closed his eyes.

"What is it?"

"I want you to check the sea later. It's fine if you are searching up in the sky because I am sure you can find it." Alex paused for a moment. "Anyway, the earthquake disrupted the Ring of Fire and created a big eruption. The mountain must have spurted out many minerals, so I want you to check and grab all those minerals."

"Oh. So that's what you want. Undersea volcano eruption usually goes unnoticed, so I don't know. With your information just now, I think I will send Jean there and store all of them inside the Inventory. It's unlimited space anyway, so we can take everything from there. Meanwhile, Greg will be examining all those stones to check if there are any important materials. After all, it usually has many precious materials and other things." Anna nodded.

"Yeah. I will leave it to you. We don't really need the metal, so we can sell those along with the monster parts later."

"Sure. Do you want us to do another thing?"

"No. I am good for now. I will inform you if I need anything later."

"Then, I am going. I still need to count and organize the monsters we have hunted this time."

Alex nodded and threw her card inside the Inventory.

He then waited until Ryu came to pick him up.

"Alex, we are going to the Martial Arts Temple." The shout from outside came after another hour, and Alex quickly left his house.

Ryuu waved his hand and said. "Thank you for your hard work yesterday. Even though you were not obligated to help, you still helped us in that pinch, so Master will offer you a discount if she teaches you in the future."

"Oh. I never thought of that, but I'll still gratefully accept it." Alex nodded.

"Good. Then follow me." Ryuu then raised his hand and created a Spatial Gate toward the Martial Arts Temple.

Alex followed him and arrived around the grassland right in front of the temple. Unlike the previous temples, this temple had an orange color.

The place was brimming with people even though they only just opened after the incident.

"I heard the elder was frustrated when the books were scattered on the ground." Ryuu grinned.

"Haha... I can see the frustration." Alex nodded while laughing. The temple itself was around the size of Space Temple, so he was sure there must be many books inside. With those thousands of books, it would be hard work to reorganize them.

"Anyway, don't mention anything about that and let me do the talking. Master also has given her a token, so we are clear." Ryuu nodded with a smile.

Alex nodded and followed Ryuu to the inside, finding a very old elder with a huge bag under his eyes. He thought, 'This old man must be the one that Ryuu was talking about.'

"Elder. I and my friend want to go toward the top floor. This is my Master's token." Ryuu presented Aileen's token. Having her token meant Aileen had given her permission for the youngsters to go there, so the elder nodded his head. "Just remember. You can only take one book outside."

"Yes, Elder." Ryuu nodded and asked Alex to follow him.

They went to the top floor as Alex mesmerized by the sight of the bookshelves along with how organized the books were. He wondered if he had time to make something like this in the future when he had settled down.

While thinking of it, he had arrived as Ryuu said, "Welcome to the top floor. The Space Element section is over there, but I'm afraid you won't get anything other than the techniques I told you a few days ago. Because that's the mainstream but powerful book for us Space Element masters."

"I will look around first." Alex nodded and went to the Space Element section, only to be disappointed. Just like he said, he didn't find a single book that fancied him. After going through the record in his head, he learned that there was a record for Space Bind, Space Mark, and Spatial Lock, in the inheritances. Hence, he decided not to take any and used the knowledge from there.

"Haha... It seems nothing catches your eyes."

"I will ask Great Elder Aileen to teach me the techniques. Can you bring me there?" Alex asked.

"Surely." Ryuu nodded before passing the elder once again to tell him that they didn't bring back anything. After that, he created a Spatial Gate, and the two went back.

...

After arriving at the Space Temple, they met Aileen first by Alex's request.

"So... What do you want to talk about with me?" Aileen asked while checking her document. These past days were tiring for her because she needed to check the document again and again.

"I want to learn a few Space Element Techniques, so I want to negotiate the price for you to help me understand the techniques," Alex asked bluntly.

"Hmm... I am pretty busy at the moment." Aileen glanced at Alex with a sly glint.

"I know. That's why I say I want to negotiate the price." Alex nodded.

"Well, you helped us a few days ago, and your information really saved many lives. So, I won't treat you badly. Still, I need to know the techniques you want to learn first."

Alex nodded. "I am planning to learn Space Bind, Space Mark, and Spatial Lock. Space Bind might be more useful to me currently, while Space Mark can let me escape from my enemies. As for Spatial Lock, I will see whether I can spare some time to learn the third one since I'm not confident enough."

She blinked a few times and looked at Alex weirdly. "Are you sure? I know that you have a fast comprehension speed, but it is different from the Spatial Gate and Space Plates you have learned not long ago. This time, you need to learn from scratch, so it might take longer than you have expected..."

"Really? I am going to leave after another year..." Alex lifted his eyebrows in surprise.

"Are you even serious?!" She raised her voice a little bit. "I know that you might use the standard of Fire Element Art, but Space Element Art is harder than those arts, alright? And you actually don't need to learn that long due to your Pure Fire. If normal people learn Martial Arts, they need years while some geniuses need months. That's why I am afraid you might only be able to learn one technique even with my help."

"Anyway, I will just take care of the first payment, and if you still want to learn the second technique, you can pay at that time." Aileen sighed while shaking her head.

Alex contemplated for a moment and nodded his head. "Sure. I want to learn Space Bind."

"Space Bind, huh... I myself use Space Bind, so my understanding is deeper. I will blatantly say the price. It will be six million Spirit Gems or six thousand Spirit Crystals. Do you have that much money? I have discounted the price though. The price is high due to the speed of your growth and how many variants I can use with this technique."

"I will take it." Alex waved his hand and took out a Space Ring, filling it with Spirit Gems. "This is the money."

"Oh. You even pay in front. I'm impressed." Aileen widened her eyes in amazement. "I will handle my work today, so I will start teaching you tomorrow. Meanwhile, if I can't teach you on a particular day, Ryuu will take care of it. Is that alright, Ryuu? This money is for you too, so you need to work hard. Haha..."

Ryuu could only scratch his head, embarrassed.

Chapter 685 - Training

The next day, Alex began his training with Aileen.

As usual, they were going toward the field with Ryuu and Maya.

"I hope you don't mind if my disciples are watching us." Aileen softly said, looking at Alex, who stood in the middle of the field.

Alex thought for a moment. Ryuu aside, Maya didn't have anything with this training. After all, Aileen must want Ryuu to learn what she thought and learned where he needed to teach Alex on a particular day.

Aileen smiled as if she knew the question in Alex's mind. "I need to supervise Maya these days since I want to see how big her determination is. I am just afraid that she will become her past self and say she is bored."

"Master. Trust Maya a bit more." Maya pouted and looked at her with teary eyes.

"You should earn my trust then. Do you think I don't know how much you slack and how much you beg your Elder Brother Ryuu to hide that fact? I know everything about my disciples. You are talented and powerful, so I want to see you at the top, assisting Ryuu in managing the temple after I retire." Aileen sighed and shook her head.

"Eh? Isn't it enough for me as long as I get stronger? Why do I need to handle those boring jobs? I can't stand those papers." She pouted.

"This is why I can't trust you. Cultivation is a boring and tedious path. If you can't even handle this type of job, you shouldn't think about marrying Ryuu. I'm not handing him to you." Aileen shrugged.

"What do you mean? Why do you sound like a mother opposing his son's marriage? And to your other disciple on top of that." Maya lifted her eyebrows, looking very annoyed.

"Anyway, I won't give you a blessing for this if you are not diligent enough. Unless you want to elope to the surface... No, do you think you can escape even on the surface? I only want the best for you." Aileen thought for a moment and said. "You two are going to the potential tower half a year later along with Alexander. Will that be alright?"

"Yes. Just like how Master or even Great Elder Viola, we will try again and again." Ryuu nodded with a solemn expression.

"That's right. Always ask this question to yourself! Have you found the limits of your abilities? Even though your technique, body, cultivation, and mentality aren't complete?" Aileen paused for a moment before pointing at Ryuu and Maya. "People who are naturally better than you have been different from you ever since they were born. It's impossible to turn that around, no matter how hard you work, how well you strategize, or who your teammates are..."

"You can complain about that once you have actually done everything you possibly can." Aileen smiled brightly as she gave a thumb up. "Rather than despairing and giving up because you are not a genius,

believe that your strength is not limited to this, and to continue on the path straight ahead of you... It may be harsh to say so, but...

"Today might be the day to grasp the chance to let your talent bloom, maybe tomorrow, the day after, or next year, or maybe even when you are a thousand years old. I'm not sure if physique has anything to do with it, but if you think it will never come, it probably never will.

"That's why I want both of you to take every chance present, including this training. Because there is no saying it will be completely useless to you. You might even get enlightenment, but if you don't attend this training or stop trying to improve yourself, I have said it myself, that is where the clock of your world dies." Aileen had the need to say this, so his disciples didn't get discouraged after watching Alex.

Alex lifted his eyebrows in astonishment. Although her personality was like this, Aileen was really a good teacher.

"Master." Ryuu bowed his head and cupped his hands respectfully. He had experienced it himself when Aileen asked him to be his disciple. Meanwhile, Maya bit her lips and realized what she had done wrong this whole time. "I'm sorry, Master. I will try to reach the ninth floor this time."

Aileen smiled gently and said, "I just want to say that you won't know how big your talent is until you die. That's why don't waste it. I will always stand behind you."

"Yes."

Alex nodded in agreement. The word choices might be different, but Alex had conveyed the same thing to Rose and Evelyn.

She turned back to Alex and apologized. "I'm sorry to say something like that in this training session."

"It's fine." Alex waved his hand.

"Then, should we start?"

"Yes."

"Have you read the book yet? I want to know about your view first."

Alex contemplated for a moment and recalled everything he learned from the memory. "Space Bind. A technique to bind someone by creating a chain with the Space Energy inside the Blue Layered Realm. This chain is very effective in stopping anything in that realm while you can connect to the real world to bind someone or something."

"That's right." Aileen nodded. "There are many variants for this Space Bind. My favorite is to use it with my Spatial Gate just to make my enemy think I need a gate to use it. Besides, they will be visible if I bring them to the real world to make it even more obvious. The enemy will usually focus on what they can see when it's right in front of their eyes, so I can use another Space Bind in the Blue Layered Realm to make a sneak attack.

"There are many more, but I want you to practice creating a single chain first. I will let you learn the variants after you can create thirty chains like your Spatial Gate. Are you up for the challenge?"

Alex nodded with a smile. "Of course!"

"Then let's start."

The two began their training with Ryuu and Maya observing their movement. Ryuu was amazed by Alex's comprehension speed because Alex managed to create thirty chains in just two months. No, it was actually easy to create thirty chains if you already knew how to make one. However, it was a different matter if one needed to control it. The technique used too much Mental Power.

Alex only smiled upon this challenge. His Mental Energy was far beyond their imagination due to his fateful encounters and pills. At the same time, he had been training Alchemy this whole time, so his control of Mental Energy was perfect, and the amount of energy was crazy.

Yet, Aileen still couldn't understand how Alex had such a speed. It didn't matter whether he had learned about the basics of Space Element as it didn't increase his speed too much. Unfortunately, her question remained unanswered, and she also didn't want to ask Alex because she respected his privacy.

Albeit, the cost of it was a little bit of her sanity. She was completely stunned when she saw Alex mastered most of her variants in another month. The only variants Alex had yet to master were those that combined with other techniques that Alex didn't study.

In the end, Aileen could see the hope of Alex finishing another two Space Arts within his stay here.

Alex was grateful to her and asked her to teach him about Space Mark.

Aileen agreed to teach him to the best of her ability, but only offered a very low price that she would say after Alex mastered the technique.

Maya sometimes gave Alex some advice as it was still useful despite how incomplete her understanding was, but Aileen denied most of them because she could see the flaws behind her understanding. Of course, Alex was still thankful to her and decided to show a bit of his understanding of the spear.

Unfortunately, there was too much uncertainty, and with Maya's incomplete understanding, Alex decided not to take the risk and only practiced the very basics of this ability. He would only use the escape ability until he mastered another variant.

Nonetheless, the relationship between Alex and Maya became pretty good to the point she proudly said that Alex was the number third after Ryuu and Aileen. Obviously, Ryuu came first.

Alex thought he would just treasure the memory because this might be the last time he met them. At the very least, he got a few people that he could call friends in this world.

Lastly, Alex wanted to learn about Spatial Lock from Aileen. She had been waiting for it after the failure earlier. She taught Alex everything about this technique.

In front of this enthusiasm, Alex accepted and learned everything. He felt that Spatial Lock was more powerful than he expected, and he should learn it before the Space Mark, albeit it was futile to regret it.

He kept studying under Aileen and got shocked when she compressed his Pure Fire. At one time, Alex was wondering whether he could compress his own Hell Inferno and released it in a more mighty way.

Unfortunately, he abandoned the idea when he realized that his control over Space Element was still too low.

Unlike Alex's frustration, the three were also frustrated because Alex was still disappointed despite having that much talent. They knew Alex had Pure Fire, but they didn't know Alex's Space Element was, in fact, beyond their imagination.

Alex could learn Space Element this fast because he had a Unique Space Element granted by his System, Knowledge about Space from Earth, and the memory he got from the inheritances. These three somehow contradicted each other, but still gave him the answer he sought.

Yet, Aileen could only smile despite how much she was frustrated about Alex's talent. She simply wished to see another person reach the tenth floor this time, even if that person was not her disciple. Ryu and Maya might get motivated by him and pursue higher cultivation. She didn't know whether it was possible or not, but she was already happy knowing her disciples didn't see him as a limit. Instead, they treated him as a role model that they needed to surpass.

Finally, he finished all his training perfectly, leaving Aileen speechless. She only wished him luck for the Potential Tower and asked him to prepare for it before leaving the scene.

Ryu said she must want to fill the necessary forms for us to join, so he asked Alex to go back until the time arrived.

It was only a week or so anyway, so Alex agreed and trained in his house quietly.

...

Six months later,

"Alex! Let's go to the Potential Tower." Ryu's voice resounded through the entire house.

Alex himself went out of his room and replied. "Alright. I will be ready in a moment."

He had been training so hard in the past six months. Anna had informed him of the situation on the surface, and he was quite satisfied with it. Fire God Clan had lost so much face this time and endured the humiliation because they didn't bring a big force to help the Divine Kingdom.

On the other hand, the Divine Kingdom somehow learned about the Spirit Nest's existence on that shore, but they didn't do anything. In fact, they were wondering whether to give Spirit Nest the invitation for the banquet or not.

Sadly, many disagreed with that plan because Spirit Nest was too mysterious and dangerous at the same time. Alex didn't mind though, because he was happy with many minerals from the sea. Even Greg said there were a few rank 8 metals that could be fetched for a high price.

As soon as he came back to the surface, he would become rich to the point he wouldn't think about the twenty-five thousand Spirit Crystals he lost for all the fees he needed to pay in this place. His heart wasn't that sour because he broke through to 7-Star Martial Monarch to boot.

"Only a few months, huh... I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again." Alex smiled as he walked toward the door, finding Ryu and Maya in front of his house. "Sorry to make you wait."

"It's fine. Let's go. Master has gone first to meet the other Great Elders." Ryuuz waved his hands as a Spatial Gate appeared, and the three went inside.

Chapter 686 - Potential Tower

"We have arrived," said Ryuuz after going through the portal, looking at the white temple in front of him.

Alex activated his Spirit Eyes to see what kind of tower was known as Potential Tower. However, he was disappointed when he saw so many symbols around the area, jumbling around each other.

'What is this array? I can see many arrays inscribed in the tower, but the placement doesn't make sense.' Alex thought while looking at Ryuuz's and Maya's happy expressions.

"We will need to wait until the Great Elders arrive. This tower is always open for Elders, but this time, the students finally get the chance."

"Hmm? Always open for the elders?" Alex glanced and furrowed his eyebrows.

"Yeah. They encourage the disciples this way, like saying, "If you want it, come and get it with your effort." Ryuuz nodded. "Besides, the elders should have refined their power to a high degree, so it will be more satisfying to see their performances. Of course, I'm not saying the test is related to the Cultivation Stage, but the elders should have more wisdom than disciples, right?"

"I can understand what you are saying." Alex nodded. "Just say that they have more possibility of success."

"Yeah. That's correct." Ryuuz nodded. "Anyway, no matter if I have 1-Star Martial Saint cultivation or your 7-Star Martial Monarch cultivation, the chance to succeed in that tower is the same... Albeit, there is one thing that can increase your chance of success."

"That is..."

"Experience. Know yourself, know the tower, and you shall succeed." Ryuuz smiled.

Alex felt he had too little information about this Potential Tower, so he asked. "Ryuuz, can you explain this tower a little bit?"

"Sure. I will tell you everything I know." Ryuuz nodded. "This tower was built by nine first Great Elders. In other words, your master is also involved in the creation process. Why do you think there are nine temples in this place?"

Alex contemplated for a moment before he looked at Ryuuz as if he had figured out the answer.

"That's right. We will be tested by the tower, and every floor will contain each element. The order of the elements is random, so you shouldn't expect me to say what element you will get first. I myself don't know."

"Wait... Nine? The Potential Tower has ten floors, right?" Alex furrowed his eyebrows.

"You are right. I heard this from my master, but there is simply no element on the tenth floor. Of course, this comes from a record. As for whether there is an element or not, we don't know because Great Elder Maxwell refused to tell us back then." Ryuuz shook his head and sighed.

"So, I should climb the tower as high as I can?" Alex asked.

"Yeah. I want to tell you about my experience, but Master said you shouldn't know first." Ryuu closed his eyes. Aileen had instructed him to not say anything unnecessary to Alex because she wanted to witness whether Alex really had the potential of being a God or not. There was once a doubt about Maxwell and thought he passed the tenth floor because he was one of the people who created it. Different from him, Alex still had no clue.

She wanted to see whether the tower was a real deal or not. However, having him go inside without preparation also didn't bring him justice, so she allowed Ryuu to tell Alex to a certain extent.

"It's alright." Alex nodded.

"Anyway, I will explain how this tower works first. The Great Elders usually tell the disciples before opening the Potential Tower, but the explanation is not full. I can tell you to a certain extent if you don't mind that is." Ryuu studied Alex's expression to see whether he was dissatisfied or not.

"I would love to hear the explanation." Alex agreed without hesitation.

Ryuu looked at him in astonishment before coughing. "Ahem. Firstly, each floor will give you a riddle. You need to answer the riddle to proceed to the next stage. At the same time, you can't break the illusion because you will be teleported outside as soon as you break the illusion. I have seen a few occasions where the tower actually did it, so this warning is a real deal."

'A riddle on each floor, and my mission is to solve the riddle? However, it will be hard to pass it if I can't break it. After all, illusions are never effective against me due to my Spirit Eyes. If I need to seal my Spirit Eyes... No, I should be able to use it as long as I don't break the illusion.' Alex thought and nodded repeatedly.

"When I first entered the tower, the elder wanted to see all of our potential from heart, cultivation, element, will, or even wisdom. That's why you are required to use your power and wisdom in this tower if you want to reach the peak." Ryuu looked at Alex with a solemn expression.

"I am fine with the test since I also want to see if I have a brain that I can be proud of." Alex nodded.

"Anyway, this is the first time I experienced this type of trial, so I'm looking forward to it. Not that I want to be arrogant though."

"We understand your character, Alex." Ryuu nodded and glanced at Maya. "You are not someone who is arrogant and reveals your power right and left. That's why we are not offended by that."

"I have learned it in a painful way though." Alex smiled as he recalled how he acted in the lower world.

"I also want to warn you about another thing. Although this is only an illusion, just make sure you are not too deep inside the illusion, alright? It will be hard for you to dispel the illusion, and the tower will expel you after the time limit. I mean, you shouldn't think too hard about the riddle because the answer might be in front of you. If you encounter a problem, just take a deep breath as you usually do." Ryuu gave another piece of advice.

Alex nodded with a serious expression. "Don't worry. I will be careful."

"Good."

'Still, to think the elements will come in random order.' Alex thought while using his Spirit Eyes to observe the tower. 'That must be the reason for how horrible the layout of this array. No, I should say it's starting to make sense if I think the nonsense symbols placement is to make a random order. There is also one array that tests one's element, so I am sure of this.'

'The problem is how to measure my talent? Seeing I have two elements: Pure Fire and Space Elements. Then, I have the possibility of encountering these two on the first two floors, I guess? After all, this should be the easiest for me.' Alex scanned the tower from top to bottom.

"Look!"

"It's the nine Great Elders."

"Uoh!"

Not long after, nine Great Elders appeared to the sky, slowly descending on the tower.

"Who will give the speech this time?" Viola asked. "Whose turn is it?"

"It is my turn." Licht stepped forward.

"Disciples, I want your attention please." Licht stood on top of the tower along with the other elders, looking at the disciples in front of the tower.

The disciples started gathering around the tower, including Alex, Ryuu, and Maya.

"As usual, we will open the Potential Tower for the disciples again. Use this time to test your limit, challenge your limit, and surpass your limit. This is a precious chance for you to be noticed by Great Elders or Elders. That's why don't waste your talent and slap us that I'm worthy to be your disciple. We will see everyone's progress and result from outside." Licht paused for a moment before looking at the other Great Elders. "Does anyone want to say something?"

They shook their heads and asked him to continue. He then nodded and started talking. "I won't say much, but I'm still required to inform you about the rule here. Firstly, no one can attack anyone because you will be expelled from the tower. We will usually learn about the qualification from the outside, so it's easy to see you attacking someone if you are out of the tower.

"On the other hand, I also want to enforce you from not breaking the illusion. The tower will create a Teleportation Array by itself if you finish your task inside the illusion. Last but not least, use everything you have in this tower, and we shall meet again later. Now, go inside the tower!" Licht finished with a wave from his hand. The gate began to open as the disciples got excited to go inside.

Alex furrowed his eyebrows and waited. "I will go last, Ryuu. If you want to go first, you are free to go. But I can't stand the crowd that much... I mean, it will feel very cramped if you enter that tower with a few thousand disciples at the same time.

"Haha... I can understand your worry." Ryuu laughed. "The others are doing it as well, so it's not you alone. We usually wait for fifteen minutes, and many should have reached the second floor. After the first floor, we won't be disturbed anymore because we are deep inside the illusion."

"That's right. No one would take advantage of our body from the second floor." Maya nodded furiously. "I can still remember where someone dared to touch my ass when I was a normal disciple. Master took me in after that, and nobody dared to do it again. Unfortunately, I didn't know who did it because I was inside the illusion. If I knew him, I would surely skin him alive."

Ryuu chuckled before looking at Alex. "We will enter in fifteen minutes, are you alright with that schedule?"

"Yeah."

On top of the tower, Licht furrowed his eyebrows, observing Alex with his own eyes. No matter how hard he tried, Alex looked like a normal disciple. He didn't have an aura of an expert to show dominance over others, so he somehow doubted Aileen's claim about how genius he was.

Nonetheless, Aileen had told Alex that she would tell everything if Alex finished the Potential Tower, so he would make the appearance at that time.

"Old Licht. I have warned you! Dare to do anything underhanded, I will surely fight it out with you." Viola's voice resounded from his back.

"I know. I also want to see the power of that man in front of this tower. After failing more than a hundred times, I have given up on challenging this tower, so I myself want to see hope appearing right in front of my eyes. Maybe I will find my answer." Licht nodded as he turned around.

"Fufu... Alexander Sirius is like a family of Space Element. He is really good to my disciples, so I will back him up. In fact, why don't you let him go, Viola? You have no b.o.o.b.s and talent to teach him due to the fiery personality of yours. And you are old." Aileen smirked and joined their conversation.

"Aileen. Do you want to die?" Viola looked at her with a cold gaze. Unlike her usual fiery temper, her tone was murderous and scary at this time, making the others feel chill down to their spines.

"Unlike you, I still have a few thousand years ahead of me. Of course, I don't want to die." Aileen shrugged.

"Well, well. You both should stop right now and settle your boob conflict another time." Licht sighed and walked back to the other Great Elders. "Elder Melva, I want you to help me create an illusion later if that person really beat the entire tower."

"Sure. I'm quite interested in this boy anyway because I can see that he is hiding too deep. I'm afraid that he actually has the power to kill a 1-Star Martial Saint with his 7-Star Martial Monarch." Melva smirked while licking her lips.

"Don't you dare to seduce him, Succubus! His master is still Great Elder Maxwell," Viola snarled.

"I'm just saying my opinion. He is too young to fit my taste anyway..." Melva shrugged and looked away.

"Anyway, let us see what will happen to the disciples right now." Licht nodded and waited.

Chapter 687 - The Riddles

Alex was observing the Potential Tower for fifteen minutes. He also saw many other Great Elder's disciples like Ryuu and Maya. Most of them were pretty strong according to his Spirit Eyes, but he had no intention of fighting them. He simply wished to finish the tower without causing any trouble... Well, only one trouble in the end.

Suddenly, an array appeared beneath a person sitting on the lotus pose. He suddenly disappeared.

"!!!" Alex was confused at first, but he found a sign of energy on the second floor. "I see. That person has beaten the first floor."

"Correct. If you fail the test, you will be teleported outside the Potential Tower. The tower will then glow according to the color you were in." Ryuu confirmed.

Alex nodded before more and more disciples started to go up like popcorn. "I think it's time to enter?"

"Indeed." Ryuu nodded and led the way.

When they reached inside the tower, Alex was stunned to see nothing other than bricks for the floor, wall, and ceiling. There was no entrance to the second floor, so they really needed to teleport to reach the next floor.

"Just sit wherever you want, the Array will be activated, and you will go inside the illusory world." Ryuu smiled before Maya pointed at an empty spot.

Alex and Ryuu followed her and sat near each other.

"Then, I wish you all the best." Alex smiled gently.

"Yeah. I'm not going to lose against anyone else." Ryuu nodded with determination.

"Hmph. I will break my record and reach the ninth floor this time."

After that, the three closed their eyes.

...

Alex felt his consciousness had entered the illusion world.

The heat started enveloping him as the scenery gradually changed. He opened his eyes only to find an unfamiliar world filled with flame.

"Where is this?" Alex activated his Spirit Eyes right away to see if there was a clue for his riddle. After all, he didn't know what his riddle was.

The hot burning magma flowing around, the reddish-orange sky, and the burning flame jumping around made him think this was hell or something.

Suddenly, golden words formed in the sky.

'Put the Source of Fire in the right place, and the gate shall open.'

"Source of Fire?" Alex twitched his eyebrows as he couldn't understand the meaning behind these words. "Isn't the source oxygen? Do I need to infuse the Oxygen to somewhere? But where? I need to search around this place first."

Not knowing what to do, he began to fly around the area. It turned out that he was inside the mouth of a giant volcano. The heat didn't affect him the whole time, due to his special physique granted by his Pure Fire.

"What should I do? Is the mouth of this volcano the right place?" Alex thought for a moment and shook his head. "Maybe there is an entrance or whatever around this place. If not, I can start looking inside the magma."

He began flying around from the foot of the volcano to the top, but everywhere was only a barren ground before his Spirit Eyes picked up something.

It was a small trace of energy in the middle of the mountain body, so Alex went around the mountain to see if there was any entrance to that place. Luckily, the trees were only on the foot of the volcano, so he had no problem with his observation.

However, he didn't see a single entrance in the body, so he thought there must be a tunnel around it.

After another few minutes of flying around the volcano, Alex started becoming impatient. "Where is the entrance? Honestly..."

Not knowing why he suddenly remembered what Ryu said to him before a trace of enlightenment appeared in his eyes. "The answer actually lies in front of my eyes... Don't tell me it's really inside the magma?"

Alex flew toward the scorching magma and activated his Spirit Eyes. Luckily, there was no monster here, so he didn't need to deal with them. He gulped down and jumped inside the magma, descending down until he reached the same level as the weak energy he sensed earlier.

"!!!" He was stunned by a cave entrance in front of him. "To think it's really here. Anyway, I need to go inside."

Alex entered the cave without hesitation. Of course, it was filled entirely with magma, so he was swimming in this place like a fish with a thin layer of Pure Fire blocking the heat from burning his clothes.

At the end of the cave, he found out something impressive. It was an altar that couldn't be melted by this temperature, so Alex thought. 'This must be the right place. However, what is the Fire Source? Isn't it air? Do I need to use my Spatial Lock and compress the air before throwing it on to that altar?'

The altar was a huge pillar without any decorations around it. It also had no single hole, so Alex was curious about where to put the 'key' in the right place. He knew this pillar was the answer, but he had yet to finalize the answer.

"But it will surely explode, so I am worried that it will destroy the altar and consider me failing this test..." Alex furrowed his eyebrows and came closer to the altar, trying to see whether the materials were strong enough to withstand the impact. Touching the materials and stroking it gently, Alex could

feel the materials behind it. "This is Scorching Earth Rock, a rank 7 rock. It should be enough to withstand the explosion if I don't compress too much air."

Having decided what to do, Alex swam to the surface. He raised his hand as pink energy gathered above his head, gradually turning into a pink sphere with a few meters radius.

"Compress!" Alex channeled his Spiritual Energy to the sphere as it gradually shrunk until it was at the size of his palm. He looked at the sphere and nodded his head, feeling the control and energy compressed inside was stable. He swam back to the altar and looked around it once more.

"The energy is surely coming from inside the altar. The problem is where to throw it? Should I throw it blindly?" Alex thought for a moment. He had no clue, so he ultimately threw right at the pillar.

"Boom!"

The sphere that compressed the air disappeared, and the air trapped inside it expanded like crazy and created an explosion.

"!!!" Alex gasped when he saw the pillar broke into half, despite the fact that the explosion wasn't too big, and it was made of rank 7 materials. He simply couldn't understand why would such a pillar get destroyed like this. "I'm speechless. To think I am going to fail in the first round... So embarrassing."

Just as he resigned to his fate, he felt another wave of energy brushing his skin gently. "Wait, what?"

There was actually another podium on top of the pillar... broken pillar. It was also built by the same material, and there were a few weird symbols on top of the podium.

"I have not failed?" Alex came closer to the podium and wondered what these symbols wanted him to do. He activated his Spirit Eyes and saw the energy leaking from the podium. It made his heart skip a beat as he suddenly realized that the energy flowed along the cave, but it flew down instead of going to the surface as it was chasing something.

Alex glanced back and forth before deciding to come out of this place, following the energy. The energy kept heading down as if this place was an endless tunnel filled with magma. He had no problem with this heat, so he was happy if this actually led him to the entrance of the next phase. However, two red lizards suddenly came to his vision.

"What is the riddle? Isn't it just a brawl?" Alex clicked his tongue when he saw the two lizards wanting to kill him. He took out only his sword after realizing that the two lizards were only 1-Star Martial Monarchs.

"Triple Draws!"

"Heaven Light Slash!"

Alex had no mercy and split these two lizards into half before continuing until he reached the bottom.

"Hmm? The light goes inside, but I can see powerful energy below this place. I think I should dig down until I reach it. I assume it will be an item or something because the shape and energy don't really resemble that of a gate." Alex thought for a moment and started working.

"Phoenix Aura!" He turned his Phoenix Aura into a shovel and dug the ground as if he was scooping a pudding. He dug for a few minutes before finding a small red jade containing powerful flame energy. "This is the source of the fire? Ah, This is another world. There is no way the air will be only the fuel for the fire. I bet I can make fire with my Spiritual Energy alone in the space that is supposed to have no oxygen. This is a blunder."

As he was complaining to himself, the jade suddenly glowed brightly before it started absorbing the magma above them like a black hole. It was sucking all the magma down until it dried.

"What?" Alex was startled and blinked his eyes a few times. "Are you serious? So, this is the key, and I need to place it in that altar that I accidentally broke?"

He quickly flew upward and went inside the cave. Without the magma around here, this place looked pretty dark. Yet, it didn't bother him as he made his way toward the podium and placed the jade on top of it.

The pillar then started glowing and created a Teleportation Array not far from him. Alex went inside there without hesitation and activated the array.

"The next mission will be related to Space Element, I guess." Alex nodded as he closed his eyes for a second before he found out that he couldn't breathe, and the place became cold.

He looked around and furrowed his eyebrows.

"This..."

He found himself inside an underwater cave with many stalagmites and stalactites around the area.

The golden words appeared again to give him the next riddle.

"The water fills almost the entire world. One day, there will be a day where the world will once again be enveloped by the water and no lands suitable for humans to live in. What will you do to live in this place?"

"Ehm... Isn't this an easy riddle?" Alex thought for a moment. "However, I don't want the previous incident to happen again. So, I will go around this place first, and maybe I can find some clues to answer this riddle."

Not wanting to repeat his past mistake, he swam around the area and mesmerized by its beauty. Although it was pretty dark, Martial Monarch had no problem with this as if it were bright like a day. He looked around and stumbled into an entrance that led upstairs.

"This is the path toward the next floor?" Alex contemplated for a minute and tried to see if he could find anything in this entrance. Unfortunately, there was nothing wrong with the path, except the translucent yellow barrier that seemed to prevent him from going further.

"Can I just break this barrier? Judging from its power and energy, it had enough strength to resist a couple of attacks from me." Alex took out his sword. "Still, I believe the riddle wants me to drain all of this water, so the land becomes suitable for humans to live in. The land must be the ground below me. In other words, I might need to suck this water with my Spatial Gate or evaporate it with my Pure Fire."

Alex placed his hand on the barrier, supporting his body as he thought what way he would use to drain the water.

Suddenly, he felt a wave of energy coming around his hand before he looked at the barrier with his Spirit Eyes. And what he saw was quite surprising.

"Now, I am sure what to do!" Alex smirked.

Chapter 688 - His Choice

"Now, I am sure what to do!" Alex smirked.

Alex found out that the water was actually illusory generated water. The moment he slightly pushed the wall, the water got drained a little bit. Even if it was the size of his water bottle, it was still a big clue for him.

"The push is light, but it drains a little bit of water in this cave. In other words, my main task is to drain water for sure. I have three ways of doing it in this place. Firstly, I can strike the barrier with my attack, and this barrier will calculate my force and strength behind it before draining the water corresponding to my attack.

"The second way is to maintain the Spatial Gate and drain them. The problem is I am not sure if I can create a Space World within this illusion. Which means, the last method is the most effective one but energy-consuming. It's to evaporate all the water around the cave with my Pure Fire like what I did last year."

Alex thought hard on what he wanted to do. What he did first was to check whether he could open a Spatial Gate, but it seemed the Blue Layered Realm couldn't be connected to this Illusory Realm.

"It seems I can only strike this barrier while using my fire to evaporate most of the water. Still, just like the previous one, it seems the test itself consists of brawl and riddle, and we need to use both every single time." Alex thought for a moment and muttered to himself. "I still haven't gotten enough information, but I will try to solve the future test with this in mind."

A giant sphere of Pure Fire appeared on top of him and started burning the water. However, Alex suddenly felt something wrong after two minutes.

The water was pressed by the vapor in this enclosed space due to how much vapor on top of the water, creating a huge amount of pressure. If he continued doing this, he would most likely get crushed by that pressure as the pressure would gradually grow.

"Hmm... This is basic physics. On Earth, all cooking tools usually have a hole in their lid to let the vapor outside because if it accumulates enough pressure from vapor, it will blast the lid away. This is the reason the water got slightly pushed, and I didn't get something like this when I burned the cave water because there was a hole connecting to the outside... I need to stop this and do this in a normal way." Alex let out a long sigh as he raised his sword and thrust it toward the barrier.

"Mythical Spear Cannon!"

"Boom—!"

The attack exploded as soon as it touched the barrier. And the water level started dropping.

"Wait. What? That single attack is for that much water?" Alex was stunned when he saw the water dropping almost a meter. "If I know I can do such a thing, I don't even need to drain this water with Pure Fire."

Alex shook his head and began his attack.

"Mythical Spear Cannon!"

"Blade of Conquest."

"Triple Draws."

Alex kept attacking until the water was completely empty, and the barrier vanished. Before going upstairs, Alex was pondering about this test.

"Is it really a riddle? I mean, it's that easy to drain all the water, and the puzzle isn't that hard like the previous one. Wait, if I didn't accidentally push the barrier, I wouldn't realize this possibility. I might even think there would be a secret passage or key and go in a circle." Alex gasped. "I see. The first riddle was to search while the second riddle had already given you the answer."

Alex nodded, convinced with such a reason and continued his way toward the next floor. The temperature started to go down as Alex climbing up the stairs, and the Ice Element was gradually increasing.

And when he reached the third floor, he found himself surrounded by snow. Not far from him was a land free from snow, with some blue pillars standing tall, circling around the area.

Alex went there without hesitation. He was surprised that these stone pillars were actually ice blocks. Each of them contained four pictures from top to bottom.

Before looking closely at each pillar, he found two empty boxes with a sign in front of them.

"If you can remake your past like the one shown inside the Ice Blocks, which one will you choose? Pick two ice blocks here, and the choice must come from the bottom of your heart." Alex read the words out loud before looking at the two empty boxes. To call them boxes might be a bit weird, considering they were like a drawer without a door. There were some spikes every few centimeters.

Alex suddenly realized that the Ice Blocks shape were matching the drawer. "I see. I need to go through all these ice blocks and choose two."

Alex walked toward the first one and saw a green-haired woman in the picture with her sword. "This is Putri?!"

Shocked by what he saw, he unconsciously touched the ice blocks and got absorbed into the world within the ice. Inside here, he couldn't do a single thing, including talking. He could only observe what happened as if he was watching a movie.

The scene was when Alex and Putri visited Zwaka's place, trying to increase their power, specifically the night when Putri wanted to talk with him.

"Alex, can we talk?" Putri asked with a smile.

This time, Alex suddenly activated his Spirit Eyes and looked at his surroundings as if he felt something was wrong. He stumbled on two familiar life energies. He was stunned. "Senior Sister... I feel your fiancée has been cheating on you with your friend. Don't be angry first, and follow me. Remember to remain calm!"

Alex saw Putri wanting to rebuke him, but quickly walked outside toward Eric's room silently and put his ears on the door. Putri looked at him angrily but still put her ears on the door.

"Ah... Ah... Ah! Good Eric! Keep moving your waist!"

"Haha... You are the only woman in my life, my Princess. Just look at that innocent b*tch who waits for marriage before doing anything! She would never know we are only using her this whole time. Hahaha."

Putri was stunned when she heard Mega's m.o.a.n.s and Eric's laughter behind the door. Tears started flowing out of her eyes as she stumbled on the ground.

Alex looked at her expression and grabbed her from behind, dragging her back to his room. There, she fell down and cried. "Why?!"

"I want to get stronger to grasp everything I want!" Putri screamed while clenching her hands.

The story progression became very absurd after this point. Putri became stronger by leaps and bounds, but also crueler. In the tournament, she revealed Mega's Scheme and ruled the tournament because Alex didn't participate in it. After that, he killed Mega and made Eric do her bidding like a slave, and she decided to live that way.

Alex closed his eyes for a second and sighed before returning to the real world. He took another glimpse at the four images and understood their meaning. "I see. The four images are raising her strength, revealing the scheme, killing Mega, and having a happy life with Eric... That's f*cked up."

Shaking his head once again, he went to the next four ice blocks.

This time it was Evelyn's turn. The twist was Evelyn started as his disciple, not Rose. Their relationship grew closer as time passed by until they reached Heavenly Continent, where they fought trouble after trouble together and gradually loved each other. However, Evelyn decided to stay in this world and didn't become a God. Alex was devastated at that time to the point it pulled the real Alex out of that scene.

"What..." Alex became speechless. "I am with Evelyn? No, no. Evelyn is like my little sister. In fact, I have been treating her like one because she looks like my little sister. What am I thinking right now? I will just see reality and solve this puzzle first. The four images this time are becoming my disciple, training with me, helping each other, separation... Next!"

Alex shook his head and continued to see the world within the other six ice blocks. The order went like this: Song Yu, Rose, Charya, Letizia, Song Jia, and Shelka.

In Song Yu's story, the four images were going to the ship to the Heavenly Continent, Alex preventing her, becoming her fiancée, and living happily. It was not a ridiculous twist like Putri and Evelyn, so he put

this one on hold even though his heart was bitter because he felt he would disappoint his wives if he chose this block.

After that, the four images were about Rose. She became the disciple like the real storyline, then helped him fight Fire God Clan, and almost died. In the last image, Alex saved her and reached God Stage together and lived with her afterward. Not that much different than Song Yu for the ending, so he put this on hold also.

The fifth person, Charya, had a twist where Alex became her disciple. He then knew her better and helped the Sect to reach the top before living happily ever-after.

Alex indeed felt Charya a bit pitiful and wanted to know her more. But it was not to the point, he wanted to have her as his wife. He could only shake his head and sighed before going through the sixth person, Letizia.

They still had their master-servant relationship, and she had been serving loyally for a long time. Alex didn't know why, but he gradually became fond of her and fell in love. He then decided to marry her. In the end, Alex decided to relinquish the master-servant relationship since they didn't need to do anything.

"Ignoring the marriage, I pretty much like the ending. I want to free her from this restraint, so she can choose her path. But I'm still afraid that she will be the second Shelka and betray me again." Alex sighed in a sad look and looked at the last two ice blocks.

The girl was Song Jia this time. It started when she saw her n.a.k.e.d. She asked him to be her fiance, and he agreed to take responsibility. However, Alex still destroyed the Joyful Union Sect to break the engagement between her and that Raku. Ultimately, they lived happily ever after.

Lastly, it was Shelka. Alex knew her plan from early on and tamed her. Eventually, she became his slave, and she was actually happy about it. She helped him in almost everything, and ultimately, she became like Anya, his strategist and wife.

Alex gasped and stumbled on the ground. He couldn't stomach the last scene and had the urge to shatter the ice block. He took a deep breath to calm his heart down.

"What the hell? All those stories are messed up. The one who makes the twists in the stories are surely brutal. First of all, I can't actually picture Putri becoming bad and living happily with Eric like that, so this one is out. As for Evelyn... This one is the most neutral even though there was a separation.

"As for Song Yu, Rose, Charya, Letizia, and Song Jia, these five are literally the same. Raising strength, helping each other, and becoming my wife. To be honest, I don't really like it when it comes to this matter... Alicia is enough in this scenario. Yet, the last one is Shelka. I can't even think about how I can live with her like that, especially with that betrayal stuck inside my memory.

"If I choose Evelyn to be the first block, then who will I choose for the second one that is neither Putri and Shelka?" Alex fell into deep thought. He closed his eyes and looked into his eyes, wondering which one he actually wanted to choose between the five women.

Chapter 689 - Choosing the Blocks

Alex was pondering over this matter for a few minutes, but the answer still didn't come.

"Who should I choose? I only can choose one, which is Evelyn, because her story is neutral." Alex scratched his head, hesitating for something stupid. "This is the hardest choice in my life. Even though this won't affect my future or past, the riddle wants me to choose from the bottom of my heart. This is riddi—"

Before finishing his sentence, he suddenly realized something absurd. "From the bottom of my heart?"

"I can't choose any of them if it's coming from my heart. However, I still need to put the Ice Blocks inside the two drawers. Wait... Can these tall Ice Blocks be the only blocks in this place?" Alex gasped and widened his eyes before looking at the drawers. "Why would there be four images in each block? And why is the shape itself weird? It has some curves separating each image as if it's intentional. I almost forgot my statement earlier. This illusion is trying to test my Martial Prowess and Wisdom. Then..."

Alex grinned as he took out his sword from the Inventory and came to Putri's tall Ice Block.

"Ha!" He slashed the Ice Blocks in front of him into four, with each containing a single image. He took out the image where Putri raised her strength because he loved to see Putri get stronger. "I can simply get this small Ice... that can still be said to be an Ice Block. I want to get the second image where Putri reveals Mega's scheme, but I love to see her get stronger more. That's why I will choose the first image."

He separated the image from the rest and let the three small ice blocks there before going toward the second picture. "This will be Evelyn... Now that I think about it, Evelyn is the most neutral story, but it's also the hardest one to choose. I don't know if I want her to be my disciple... But I am sure it's nice to train her, and she is very talented.

"On the other hand, I don't like to see Evelyn and me helping each other. It's simply because this is my trouble, and I feel like I have owed her too much, especially that loyal side of her. That girl has a brighter future ahead without me... I guess. Lastly, I don't know what to say about my and Evelyn's relationship in the end, but I can say that it is a relatively bad ending. So, I think I will choose the second one, the training image like Putri's."

Having decided what to do, he cut the Ice Block again and took the second image, albeit he couldn't say he was satisfied with this answer. He shook his head, placed a block beside Putri's Ice Block and went to the third person, Song Yu. "Senior Sister... I think I will only prevent you from going to the ship. You have helped me enough, so I don't want you to suffer anymore. No, it's one of my biggest regrets for not stopping you from boarding the ship to the Heavenly Continent."

Alex took a deep breath and took the second image and placed it beside the other two. This time, it was Rose. "Rose... I love to see everything about this part. However, I really want to see me living together with Rose in Eulja. Of course, as a master and disciple. I will choose this one, I guess."

"The next person is Charya. I have a Teacher and Master, so I won't choose the first image where I become her disciple. That's why I will choose the second one too because I'm a bit curious about Charya." Alex nodded and placed both blocks on the ground. He wanted to finish separating eight small Ice Blocks first before rearranging them.

Looking at Letizia's image, he couldn't help but touch the pictures first with a sad expression. "You have been mistreated this whole time because of me... One thing that I want to change is to release you. This is only an illusion, so you won't betray me. This is why I can choose the last image easily. It's not like I don't believe you, I am just scared to have another person betray me again."

Alex took a deep breath and headed to Song Jia's ice. He didn't know what to do with this Song Jia because he didn't know many things about her. But there was one thing that he wanted to do.

"I don't know many things about you, but I am sure I still want to destroy the Joyful Union Sect even if I don't know you. And destroying your engagement with Raku is simply a bonus. This sounds a bit rude, but it's really the only thing I want to do." Alex shook his head and headed to the last ice block.

"..." Alex looked at Shelka's images and fell into silence. "Do I still need to choose a single image from here? I feel like not doing it. First of all, the four images are taming her, enslaving her, helping me, and becoming the second Anya. I don't want all of them, especially the last part. She is powerful and smart, but she is like a double-edged sword. I don't want to get betrayed again."

He didn't like all the images in this block before realizing something absurd. "Wait? Do I really need to cut one from her? Can't I just get the second one from the others? This is a test from the bottom of my heart, right? I don't really want to take a single one from her. It's to the point I am repulsed to it, unlike the others."

"If I can take the second one from the other blocks, then..." Alex smirked as he slashed his sword toward the ice. "Begone!"

He used the back of his sword to shatter the ice into pieces before turning around as if nothing happened. "Now, which one should I choose for the second one?"

Alex thought for a moment and came to Evelyn. "Maybe... I actually want to take you as my disciple like Rose. After spending a long time with you, it's like I somehow regret when Old Manness brought you away from me. Even if you had a Master and Teacher at the same time, I don't think it will feel bad to be your Master while Old Manness is your Teacher."

He stared at the image for a minute before taking it out. He then started rearranging the Ice Blocks and created two tall Ice Blocks matching the one in the drawer.

After finishing the preparation, he took another glance at the Ice Blocks to see whether he would regret his decision. However, he still felt that his choice was the best, so he proceeded to put the two blocks inside the drawers.

The words are written on the sign suddenly changed. "Acknowledging your wish as the one coming from your heart. Opening the portal to the fourth floor."

Alex looked at the sign and couldn't say he was happy with this choice. Although he had chosen his answers, he felt he would do it differently if he had a choice.

"I should stay focused on." Alex shook his head and looked toward the blue colored Array not far from the sign. He entered the array and disappeared.

...

On the fourth floor,

A mountain filled with giant rocks was created by the Array. Alex appeared on the ground and looked around, only to find stones without any trees in his surroundings as if he was in a barren land.

"Where is this?" Alex thought for a moment and activated his Spirit Eyes before finding something weird. The ground suddenly contained a Spiritual Energy far higher than the usual one.

Suddenly, ten spikes came out of the ground and flew toward Alex.

"!!!"

"Boom!"

The sound of an explosion echoed across the region. If there were a spectator, they would think Alex was too late. However, the rocks suddenly got sliced a few times before it fell down to the ground.

When the dust settled down, Alex's figure became apparent. He was holding his sword and spear at the same time.

A few golden words appeared again.

"After draining all the water on the second floor, the world has become barren. After all, water is the source of life other than Spiritual Energy. Even if cultivators can go without eating or drinking, how about the babies? They have no ability to do it, so there won't be any reproduction. What will you do?"

Alex narrowed his eyes before the ground started attacking him again. Ten spikes flew toward him while a huge wave of rock appeared as if it was water.

"Tch." Alex clicked his tongue and slashed all of them with his sword. "Scram!"

"Boom!"

The rocks fell to the ground and shattered into pieces. Alex was still wondering what he should do.

"First of all, this is no doubt an Earth Element test. Still, no water, huh? Do I need to search for water around here? Or do I need... Wait, I have many water bottles, water gallons, and water tanks. However, it is still not enough to fill the entire place with water. And I'm not a Water Element User." Alex crossed his arms. "I see. I know the goal, but I don't know where to start this time..."

Alex sighed before he sensed a movement underground. A needle suddenly shot him right on his face. Alex used his Phoenix Aura to block that attack before looking at his surroundings with his Spirit Eyes.

"What should I do? I need water, but where can I get it?" He took a deep breath and asked himself.

Another threat appeared as the ground started rising before turning into a golem-like creature in the size of a human.

"This golem has so much energy. It's like watching a 5-Star Martial Lord in front of me." Alex muttered to himself before he sensed a flow of energy as the golem started moving.

Surprisingly, the golem leaped toward him as if it was a real human. Alex used his sword and struck the golem. Although his sword wasn't a Spiritual Weapon in this illusion, it was still a rank 8 weapon. The moment it clashed with the golem, it split the golem into half as if he was cutting butter.

"I kill it just now with my Absolute Blade Intent because the golem has an autonomous movement. Even fighting a monster is harder than this since they can at least move according to their instinct." However, as he assessed the golem carefully, the ground started shaking as fifty golems like earlier appeared.

"Seriously?" Alex twitched his eyebrows. "Do you seriously want me to solve the riddle under the assault of these golems?"

Without hesitation, he started moving around while cutting the golems one by one. Suddenly, their hands turned into a drill or a sword as they were ready to fight Alex.

Unfortunately, Alex's sword and spear were too sharp, and these golems were no match against him. He had no trouble in killing the fifty golems and thought for another minute before the golem army appeared once again.

"Seriously? Is there going to be more if I kill all of them? There are already more than two hundred golems in this third wave..." Alex was sweating before he flew to the sky. "I can't kill them for the time being and think about the matter in the sky. They seem to rely on the physical aspect, so they won't be able to catch up with me unless the golems can fly."

Alex nodded before the golems showed him another trick. They were raising their hands as Earth Spikes appeared from the ground, aiming toward him.

"This test is so annoying!" Alex roared as he was rained by Earth Spikes from the ground. At first, he thought he could create a simple barrier to block the underground, but he realized that the Spikes had powerful energy inside them.

It was at this moment Alex realized that the spikes were actually the same golems with different shapes. In that case, he would waste too much Spiritual Energy if he decided to block them with his barrier.

"I can't do much, so I will just fly around the area to see if I can find a clue." Alex thought as he kept avoiding the spikes.

Chapter 690 - The Fifth Floor

A few minutes later, Alex was still flying around while avoiding the attacks from the ground. Luckily, the golem had no intelligence, so Alex had no trouble for the time being. However, he really needed to solve this riddle quickly.

"What should I do?" Alex tapped his head a few times with his finger while looking at the ground. Suddenly, he remembered a certain matter. "Wait! If there is no water on the surface, can't I just get one from the underground? It's called groundwater! It is the water found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand, and rock. It is stored in and moves slowly through geologic formations.

"That's right. Even if I evaporate all of the water on the surface, whether it's the sea, river, or lake, there is still groundwater. The riddle doesn't tell me that I need pure water, so groundwater is the answer. I

can purify them with my Pure Fire if it's not enough." Alex had gotten his answer but met another problem. "Still, how can I dig the ground like this? The golems will surely aim at me."

Alex thought for a moment and muttered to himself. "Can I kill all of them except one? Will they multiply? I should kill one first to test."

He pointed his finger toward one of the golems as Fire appeared around his finger. "Flame of Extinction."

It wasn't a powerful fire attack but still contained enough power to destroy one of the unintelligent golems that couldn't avoid any attack.

"Done!" Alex nodded to himself before waiting to see what would happen. And he could only click his teeth in the next minute as he saw four golems come out of the ground."

"I see. I can't use this tactic, I guess..." He started thinking of another strategy to dig the ground under the attack of those golems. Alex shook his head and started searching if he could find or create a terrain to his advantage.

It was after another few minutes, he suddenly found something interesting. Underneath a vast barren ground was actually energy. This blue colored energy was masked well by the ground's green energy. If the golems that were distracting him were actually stronger, he might not find this spot.

"Still, the water is too deep. I need to dig around a few hundred meters while being rained by the attacks from the golems." He thought for a moment before grinning. "I almost forgot what I came here for. I have been practicing Space Element for a year, isn't it for this?"

Realizing what he needed to do, Alex flew down to the ground. The golems looked down and aimed at him again, but Alex simply smiled as he already started digging the hole.

Without Alex in their vision, the golems could only start walking toward the hole and aimed to the bottom. Many Earth Spikes flew down toward him, but a circle, perfectly sized to the shape of the hole, appeared above him.

"Spatial Gate!" Alex smiled while digging. Of course, this place still couldn't be connected to the Blue Layered Realm, but Alex had the solution for that. He didn't create a Portal toward the realm. Instead, there was another portal on the surface, aiming at the ground. This way, the golems couldn't hurt him until he finished his job.

"Keep digging!" Alex scooped the rocks as if they were butter, gradually closing his distance toward the water. It was only after another three minutes that he finally arrived right above the water. "I should make a small hole first to test. I don't want all the water to burst out of the ground... Well, groundwater normally doesn't have high pressure, so I don't need to worry."

Alex took a deep breath and pierced the ground gently and made a hole.

The brown-colored water slowly flowed out of the hole.

"Objective has been completed." Alex smiled before he suddenly heard a weird sound.

Crack!

"What is that?" Alex couldn't see the crack on the floor beneath him because of this muddy water. Suddenly, the ground crumbled, and the water burst out of the hole.

"What-blurb!" He couldn't finish his words before he was pushed back by the water. It continued until Alex reached the surface. However, he found a troubling matter. "This is not good. There are still many golems on the surface. I need to be ready to fight them as soon as I arrive at the surface."

Yet when he arrived at the surface, he couldn't find a single golem around the hole before he was launched to the sky by the water. Not long after, he sensed Space Element behind him and turned around, only to find a Spatial Gate behind him.

"!!!" Alex realized that it must be the gate to the fifth floor. He entered there, and the scenery changed.

"Where is this?" Alex asked himself while still floating in the air. The surrounding was filled with grass. Looking around the area, he didn't find a single structure or a tree. Not long after, the golden words appeared again.

"The answer is in the sky."

"That's it?" Alex was stupefied when he read the golden words. He still searched for some clues with his Spirit Eyes before Spiritual Energy seemed to start flowing out of the ground, flying to the air as if something was absorbing it. Suddenly, the Spiritual Energy formed a layer far above the sky.

"What is that?" He furrowed his eyebrows before looking around, only to find that his path was blocked by another layer of energy. He took a deep breath and slashed his sword toward the side.

"Blade of Conquest."

A sword wave flew toward the energy layer and exploded as if it hit something hard.

"Boom!"

After taking the full brunt of that explosion, the layer of energy seemed to have no change as if nothing hit it. Alex took his sword once again and slashed it with his strongest attack.

"Triple Draws! Mythical Fire Slash! Space Cut!"

He chose to use these three techniques so early because he wanted to see whether the barrier could be affected by power, element, or another realm attack.

"Boom boom boom!"

A series of explosions echoed across the region. Alex used his Spirit Eyes and got disappointed once again because there was no change in the barrier. He looked up and found that the layer of energy started moving down.

"Is the sky falling or something? I will be crushed by the sky that falls down? It's ridiculous." Alex shook his head and laughed. "The answer lies in the sky, huh..."

Although he didn't want to admit it, the answer should truly be in the sky. He slashed his sword three times again, sending the same attack.

The six Sword Waves flew to the sky and cut through the layer of energy, creating a small hole that soon got plugged.

Alex took a deep breath and muttered to himself. "If I want to pass the layer, it seems I can create a hole and slip past this layer. After that, I might reach the highest point. Is it the riddle this time?"

The layer of energy kept coming down, reducing his time to think. He had no choice other than to test his hypothesis. Using both his sword and spear at this moment, Alex flew to the green layer before slashing it with all his might.

A hole appeared in front of him and already started regenerating at speed visible with n.a.k.e.d eyes. He narrowed his eyes and halted right in front of the layer of energy as the hole was already too small for him to pass.

He tried to touch the energy with his barrier and felt as if there was a translucent metal in front of him.

"The barrier is not that strong, but the regeneration is too powerful. I need to be right in front of it first before creating a hole in this barrier." Alex crossed his arms while observing it for a little longer.

Unfortunately, he didn't have any other clues, so he decided to use this existing plan and reached the sky.

He slashed the barrier again with all of his might, creating quite a large hole on it and passed the barrier.

"Is that all?" Alex narrowed his eyes and looked at the barrier that continued moving down. He shook his head and flew upward before he saw another barrier coming down. "What?"

This barrier was the same as the previous one, so Alex kept going by slashing and going through the barrier without any trouble. However, he suddenly met the same layer of energy that had been trapping him from four directions. "Is this the highest height?"

Alex thought for a moment and tried to attack it. Sadly, nothing did damage this energy, like how he tested on the surface. "What now?"

While questioning himself, the barrier appeared again and started pushing downward.

"!!!" Alex was alarmed and made a distance before slashing the barrier again. "What do I lack to solve this problem? I have reached the sky, and there is no other clue. My Spirit Eyes also don't give me any hidden clues like always... I thought I only needed to continue until I reached the space, albeit it's only stupid thinking of mine—! Wait, Space? Not outer space but Space Element!"

While he was thinking about the exit, he remembered that he just used Space Cut out of reflex despite knowing it couldn't be used due to the lack of connection to the Blue Layered Realm.

"Why would I... No, I have certainly felt the Space Energy around and created a portal to that place. In other words, there is a Space Realm in this place, albeit only a replica. However, it still means the answer lies in the sky. The reason there is no secret entrance or any other clues is that the clue is already enough." Alex's expression turned serious.

He raised his hand and gathered the Space Element around him to create a single portal. Yet, he found another surprise. The portal was toward a Red Colored Realm instead of a blue one. There was also a certain kind of energy blocking the entrance as if it was trying to stop Alex from entering.

"I only need to destroy it then!" Alex raised his sword and sent another Sword Wave toward the Red Realm. But...

"Boom!"

The same thing as the barrier on his four directions occurred again. This layer of energy didn't take single damage or whatsoever. Alex contemplated for a moment. "There are two possibilities. I need a stronger power to destroy this barrier, or I don't meet all the criteria. And I feel it's the latter.

"The problem is, what are the criteria?" Alex glanced at the vertical barrier and flew toward it. He created another portal right on the barrier, but to no success. There was still that layer of energy preventing him from entering. Yet, Alex didn't give up because he needed to test the portal to another barrier.

He looked up and came closer to the barrier and opened the gate right in front of it. Surprisingly, the layer of energy suddenly disappeared as if it was not there in the first place. "This—"

Before he could finish his words, Alex saw that the translucent barrier had gone through the portal and the layer of energy appeared again. Alex smiled. "I can understand the riddle now. The barrier is the sky, so if I want to come out of this place, I need to go through this barrier with my Spatial Gate. The problem is the time limit. I can't move my barrier, so I only have a split second to go through the barrier. I wonder if the Great Elder can move her Spatial Gate at will?"

Alex shook the question off his head and focused on the barrier. He waited for a moment until another barrier appeared. When it made its appearance, he quickly made a portal even from afar, allowing him to make his own preparation.

"3..."

"2..."

"1..."

"Go!" When the barrier started closing in, he began counting before using his Sky Movement to step in the air to increase his speed for even a little bit, and he finally passed the gate.