

Gacha 721

Chapter 721 - Different Place Different Culture

"Thank you." Alex nodded.

"Do you have another question?" The Village Chief asked.

"How about the other influences? What are they called?"

"All of them are Kingdom. Zealous in the east, Evvy in the north, Lush in the west, and we are under Plide of the south."

Alex contemplated for a moment and shook his head. He thought some questions were too specific, and there was no way the old man would know, considering he didn't know much. "I will go to the capital city first. Thank you for answering my questions."

"If you can, don't kill anyone and leave this area. I am sure that you are far stronger than me..." The Village Chief sighed before handing Alex a letter.

"I understand," Alex assured him once again before unlocking the seal of his cultivation. He then looked at Fabio and nodded. "Let's go."

They both then went outside the village without anyone noticing and regrouped with Firia.

"Why do you come back this early?" Firia furrowed her eyebrows. If everything went according to the plan, Alex would only call her a few hours later.

Alex shook his head and smiled. "The plan just went too well. The Village Chief answered all my questions. Although I don't know whether we can believe him or not, we can assume they are the truth. Using this assumption, we will try to move along with our original plan. If there is any hole in the information we will get in the future, we know that one of them must be lying."

"I see." Firia looked down while thinking. "In that case, should we call back Nelson?"

"No. I have another mission for Nelson and probably for him alone. We will wait until he finishes his mission." Alex nodded, tossed the recommendation letter to Inventory and called Nelson. "Nelson! Take out the recommendation letter, go to the Earl, and ask him for another letter to the capital city. If he asks anything, just say that you won't bring him and the letter came from his father. And your identity is a challenger."

"Understood," Nelson replied and stated. "The Earl is a 2-Star Martial Monarch, so he is pretty strong."

"Do you have a problem?"

"No." Nelson answered instantly and disappeared, sneaking inside the earl mansion.

Inside the study room, the door was pushed open as a male walked inside with the recommendation letter.

"Who are you?!"

"A challenger." Nelson simply asked before giving the letter to him.

The Earl glanced at the letter and realized it was coming from his father. He rose from his seat and looked at Nelson mysteriously.

"Don't think anything weird. I only want information." Nelson said coldly, leaking his Spiritual Energy.

"!!!" Feeling the difference in Spiritual Energy, the Earl finally calmed down and realized he couldn't see Nelson's cultivation stage. There was only one meaning. Nelson was far stronger than him. "Alright. Considering my father gives you the recommendation letter, I will answer your questions."

"Firstly, I want a recommendation that can link me to the people in the capital."

"That can be done. I have it with me right now." He wanted to go on this journey, so he already prepared and hoped to have a challenger appear in his territory. That was why he could simply take out the letter and tossed it to Nelson.

Nelson checked the validity of the letter and nodded. "I have received the letter. On to my questions. First, I want to know the safest way to the capital city, the map of this place, and the way to participate in the fight against the monsters."

"I understand." The Earl didn't think anything and answered his question one by one. "First, I will give you this map first. Our Kingdom is located in the east of this place while our position is the far east of that place. In other words, this place is in the perimeter of this huge cave."

"If you want to go to the capital city, I can guide you according to this red line." He pointed his finger at a red line on the map. "There are no monsters or whatsoever, and you won't even meet any settlement around."

"As for how to participate in the fight, the fact that you are a challenger yourself is already proof for them to let you join. There are three ways to join the war. First, you can join me as my retainer. I will then let you meet the king and talk about this yourself. Second, you can participate as the second party... There are some mercenaries inviting people to fight against the Monsters, and they are under the direct order of the king himself. However, you won't be related to the royal family."

"Lastly, you can go alone without anyone helping you... Maybe you can meet the king after presenting the letter in your hand. It's proof that the king asked to give if we encounter any challengers. However, the fact that they are coming from the royal family, you need to be extra careful because sometimes the ones who get the letters might be the princes and princesses."

"If they get you, they might pull some strings to get you on their side. There might be even some back dealing and stuff." The Earl finished his explanation.

Nelson thought for a moment and asked another question. "What is mercenary?"

"They are an independent group that can roam around the area. They are trusted by the Mercenary Guild in all places. Well, there are some advantages and disadvantages of becoming a part of the mercenary camp. That's why the first option is the safest one." Like how the Village Chief knew it, the Earl indeed wanted to go to the battle and received some inheritances.

Nelson recalled Alex's intention and smiled. "I am grateful for the recommendation letter, but I will choose the fourth option."

"The fourth option?" The Earl narrowed his eyes, not knowing what he had in his mind.

"Create my own mercenary group..." Nelson smirked evilly.

"What?! Do you think you can do it? There are many people wanting to create a mercenary group, but all of them failed because they are not strong enough to build one. They need to pass many challenges and trials from the guild itself before they approve your guild."

Nelson looked at him coldly, not saying anything.

"The safest option is coming with me. I can even introduce you to the king, and they will surely help you enter the inheritance palace a few months later."

"That's enough." Nelson suddenly appeared beside him, pointing his sword at the Earl's neck. "I have promised your father not to bring you there. However, if you are going to threaten me or something, I won't hesitate to slice your throat no matter the consequence."

Before the Earl could say anything, Nelson already disappeared. Although he wanted to ask a few more questions, it wasn't possible because the Earl was too obsessed with the inheritance trial.

Nelson immediately returned through teleportation, of course, by using the card. Alex summoned him back right in front of him.

"I am sorry, Young Master. I am not capable of extracting more information from him. He is a bit too obsessed, so I have no choice other than retreat. If we can rush toward the capital now, we should be able to best him and finish all our preparation before anything could happen. The map is over there, and the route seems to have no human settlement and is rare with humans, so I think we can follow the path." Nelson apologized.

"Thank you. That's plenty." Alex nodded. For someone like him, the path he prepared must come from careful consideration as to not let someone spot him because the challenger could be snatched by other people. That was why Alex could trust this map. "Besides, we need to check the monsters soon to see whether we should summon everyone or not."

"Alex, do you think we can separate for a while? You can go to the capital and search for information while we are heading to the battlefield to see if they give us EXPs and Gacha Tickets?" Firia asked, volunteering herself to be part of this.

"Who do you think I am?" Alex smiled and created a small symbol on his hand. Before she could say anything, Alex already teleported them. He looked at her and said. "I am a Space Element Array Master. Traveling all these distances is easy for me, so don't think about risking your life."

"I am sorry." Firia closed her eyes and smiled.

"Anyway, I want Nelson to investigate the royal family as soon as we have arrived there. If possible, search for some clues about what they want to offer if we are willing to cooperate with them." Alex paused for a moment. "Firia and I will try to create a Mercenary Guild. Considering the answer that he has given us, we can take advantage of this status to participate in the battle legally. At the very least, they won't confuse us with the enemies. Leoz will be our bodyguard."

"Understood." Nelson and Leoz nodded their head while Fabio already disappeared after being called back to the surface.

Alex then teleported them again according to the route before they arrived in the capital city. Considering they needed to go through those guards, he decided to sneak inside the capital city with his Spatial Gate.

Firia put on her veil, covering all her face. Meanwhile, Nelson already disappeared, going on his mission.

Before Alex could say anything, Nelson already contacted him.

"Young Master. I have found the Mercenary Guild. It's not that far from you... If you see the castle, just follow the route, and you will find the building on your right."

"Understood. Thank you." Alex glanced at the two and nodded. "Let's go."

The trio then walked toward the castle and found the building almost immediately. No wonder Nelson contacted them that soon.

They entered the building and searched where they could register themselves.

"There it is, Alex." Firia found it and pointed her finger toward the counter.

Alex's eyes followed her direction and saw a counter with three people inside it. This scene reminded him of the time when he wanted to register as an adventurer.

He nodded to Firia and walked toward the counter. Out of the three, he simply chose the one that served no one at the moment.

"Welcome. How can I help you?" The receptionist bowed her head and smiled.

"I want to create a Mercenary Group. Is that possible?" Alex asked.

Suddenly, the receptionist's face turned annoyed. "This again? Do you think because the land is going to be swarmed by monsters, they can simply use the Mercenary Group to be their backer?"

Alex furrowed his eyebrows, ignoring her nasty mouth. "I heard that I only need to pass some tests... So, what is the requirement to create a Mercenary Guild?"

"Look at you... You are too young to do this! You are just going to die as soon as you enter the battlefield." She snorted.

Alex started to get annoyed. Firia was waiting for him to take care of the business. She had seen everything in Alex's memory from the system, and she realized how annoying it was when you tried to be humble but got looked down instead.

"Do you think we should just go back and fight them alone? It's not like we really need to be a mercenary group, right?" Firia asked.

"True enough. I am just thinking of fighting them legally, but it was never an option." Alex shrugged and turned around. Suddenly, a guy walked toward them. "What is this? A little brat wants to play mercenary?"

Alex became more and more annoyed as time passed. He was wondering what the heck was wrong with this place. He somehow thought that the royalty to be as bad as these people, especially after recalling the Village Chief saying to not trust anyone in the capital city.

"We are leaving." Alex ignored the guy. He wasn't a hot-blooded person anyway. Even the receptionist, a mere Martial King, and this guy, a 2-Star Martial Monarch, he thought nothing and just wanted to leave.

"Still... If you are going out there, it will be such a waste for a beauty like this..." The guy suddenly looked at Firia's b.o.o.b.s vulgarly.

"Why is this always happening?" Alex sighed while Leoz grabbed the guy's hand as he couldn't control his rage anymore. He released his 5-Star Martial Saint aura and looked at the guy. "That's it. I can't endure this humiliation anymore!"

Chapter 722 - Their Next Course

"That's it. I can't endure this humiliation anymore!" Leoz glared at the man and released his killing intent.

The sudden pressure alarmed everyone in the guild, especially someone upstairs. A bald guy was sitting calmly while going through the documents in front of him. Yet, this sudden ruckus happened. He immediately dropped everything and roared. "Who dares to disturb the situation in my Mercenary Guild?!"

Alex turned around, saw the man, and frowned.

The guy glared at Leoz with killing intent. "You are the one who disturbs the peace! Do you think your 5-Star Martial Saint strength can protect you?"

Alex suddenly heard many voices coming from around him.

"As expected from a newbie, he doesn't know anything about this."

"But that guy is still a 5-Star Martial Saint, you know."

"It's still nothing compared to the guild master. He is an 8-Star Martial Saint."

"But do you think the guild master wants to offend someone like that for a mere 2-Star Martial Monarch?"

"Hush! Even though he is only a 2-Star Martial Monarch, his father is the leader of Tiger Mercenary, a bona fide 6-Star Martial Saint, you know."

Alex could only sigh, wondering everything actually went out of his expectation. From the very start, the Village Chief knew their acting. Meanwhile, they got this problem immediately after arriving in the capital city.

"Guild Master! This guy dares to hurt me! Please get me justice!" The guy shouted.

Alex, on the other hand, looked at the guild master with a calm face. "So, what are you going to do? We are literally coming here, wanting to create a mercenary group. However, not only did we get rejected

by your staff without proper explanation or whatsoever, but this guy tried to molest my wife. I will act according to your action."

"Are you threatening me?" The guild master became angrier. To think a mere 8-Star Martial Monarch dared to lecture him like this.

"I am simply saying everything like your staff over there." Alex shrugged, not scared of the 8-Star Saint Monarch in front of him.

Even the guild master suddenly halted his advance and looked at Alex mysteriously. "Is that true?"

"Anyone who is not afraid of him can testify." Alex looked at his surroundings and realized that most of them feared this young man.

"You! How dare you! Do you know who my father is?"

"It's only a 6-Star Martial Saint, right?" Alex looked at Leoz nonchalantly. "Do you think you can remove this so-called Tiger Group for me?"

"If the strongest is only 6-Star Martial Saint, I should be able to kill him. As for the rest, it will be troublesome." Leoz replied with a logical answer.

The people were wondering how arrogant he could get. To think they thought about destroying the famous Tiger Mercenary. It was simply insane. However, Leoz's next words turned them silly.

"I don't know their exact number and locations, so it will be troublesome. What if there are some remnants that will try to kill you? I need to kill everyone in Tiger Mercenary to make sure there is no future threat."

"Hiss~!" The people drew cold breaths.

"Anyway, I won't cause any trouble in this guild again... But I will take this person along with me. Does that sound alright, Guild Master?" Alex asked.

"Hey! Do you know who his father is?"

"I just heard it from those people." Alex shrugged.

"I am sorry, but I think I need to interfere! No one can bring anyone from the Mercenary Guild in front of my eyes."

"Are you serious?" Alex narrowed his eyes.

"You are still ignorant! There will soon be many monsters roaming around the world. There is no way I can let you simply kill those who will fight."

Alex wanted to say another thing, but Firia suddenly grabbed his hand and shook her head. Her action made him think again before he let out a long sigh.

Noticing that he changed his mind, Leoz threw that guy toward the guild master.

"I am really disappointed in the Mercenary Guild and this kingdom..." Alex shook his head before turning around. "I will simply leave this kingdom."

"How dare you talk like a big—!" The guy tried to rebuke him but got stopped by the guild master.

"If you still want to continue... This hand will be the one that cut your tongue!" The guild master released his strength and clutched the guy's jaw as if he was trying to crush it. At the same time, he looked at Alex and remembered his face, wondering who he actually was. He also glanced at the receptionist who rejected a person like Alex, especially the one that created all this mess. That person was shaking before falling on her butt.

On the other hand, Alex noticed another guy with 2-Star Martial Saint strength, sitting on the corner of the Mercenary Guild while having a happy expression as if he enjoyed the show. He took a note of that guy's face and Spiritual Energy while leaving the building.

He made sure that no one followed him and left the capital city.

"Alex..." Firia looked at him worriedly.

Alex shook his head. "Haiz... That was my mistake. I got a little bit excited there and forgot our original intention."

"I never blamed you. After looking at your memory, I learned how harsh you were treated, so I could relate to why you would react this way. On one hand, you didn't want to be arrogant despite having powerful strength. On the other hand, the people saw you as a pushover." Firia smiled gently, telling him he was never wrong.

"I should also research this kingdom first... I never had a chance because I only opened the portal to this world a few days ago." Alex sighed, realizing how important the information was. Everything was always going according to his plan because the N Squad gave him almost every information they could get. But this time, Alex had no clue about this place. He thought this was the right choice, but it turned out it was a mistake.

"It's fine. We can't be prepared for everything, so a mistake like this is normal." Firia comforted him.

"Thank you." Alex nodded with a smile.

"Now, what should we do?"

Alex thought for a moment. "We will wait for Nelson to finish his investigation... Maybe a day. According to the Village Chief, the monsters will come tonight... We can at least afford to spend a half-day waiting for the investigation. If there is really no hope about this place, we will simply go to the front line by ourselves."

Firia closed her eyes, contemplating for a minute. "I understand. I will follow your schedule... This is my trial after all."

"We also need to think about your Lightning Tribulation along with Sherry's and Kyle's. I wonder whether this place can hold a Lightning Tribulation..."

"It can." Firia nodded without hesitation. "I heard from Master that as long as there is a sky, even if it is an illusion, the Lightning Tribulation will appear. In fact, it will alter the illusion itself according to our need."

"I can rest assured then." Alex let out a breath of relief.

"Besides, this is supposed to be my trial, right? I am excited to do this." Firia pumped her fist. "This might be the first mission that we can go together with me standing beside you, not behind you..."

Alex closed his eyes, not saying anything. However, the pictures about everything that happened in the lower world flashed in his mind. It was true that he had never fought alongside Firia in an adventure like this. He didn't know why, but he got a little excited as well.

They then waited for Nelson to come back, only to find him bringing bad news.

"Young Master... I am afraid that the situation is not in our favor. Firstly, there are two people that seem to have gotten teleported inside this Kingdom. Although we don't know their identities yet, there is already a signal that has been transmitted in their treasures."

"Don't you think it is Fabio and Alex?" Firia suddenly came up with names that were a bit hard to believe. "This would probably be the case, considering you have met the Village Chief."

Alex shook his head almost immediately. "No. I think one of them is Nelson. Considering the Village Chief position, do you think he has the qualification to inform the king? It is different for that Earl! He has all the right to send this message. It is even more possible after rejecting him from coming with us."

"I see." Nelson looked down, stroking his chin. "Then, should we worry about the second person?"

"No." Alex shook his head. "I would like you to remain in this kingdom to search for more information along with how the king chooses to act, but there is a possibility of me summoning you in the front line. Are you fine with it?"

"Yes. I will always prepare myself to make sure you can summon me at any moment." Nelson nodded with a serious expression.

"It's not that serious. I just want to investigate first this time before acting on my own again." Alex sighed.

"I understand." Nelson took a note in his mind before informing him of the second information. "There is also a chance for the Tiger Mercenary to move against you. I heard the rumor about what happened and investigated it. Although the guild master had warned them, they might not take it seriously."

"If they come at us on the battlefield, I will exterminate all of them." Alex's expression turned cold.

"Alright. You should go back to the city first. We will head to the battlefield right now according to the map."

"There is another thing, Young Master." Nelson shook his head. "The kingdom and any other kingdoms actually have around two hundred thousand Martial Emperors or above. The first one hundred thousand is to weaken the monsters and reduce their number while the rest is used as a reinforcement."

"However, this doesn't mean the kingdoms are stronger than the influences on the surface. Their strongest person is only a 9-Star Martial Saint. I think the Gods and Goddesses in the past turn them into something like this."

"They can easily reach Martial Emperors due to the bountiful energy and their body constitution, but it's hard for them to reach the top. That's why they want to use this chance to search for a way to break through their limitations and reach God Stage."

"I see." Alex nodded in understanding. "They are going with their younger generations that should be around our level because they have a higher chance to receive the inheritance and utilize it...?In other words, they are pretty desperate to get this inheritance."

"Yes. Besides, they must want to leave this place, considering they have been trapped for thousands of years by this Divine Rank Array. They want to get rid of the array as a whole and escape..."

"Indeed. That's what I will probably do the moment I reach God Stage. I will make sure to do it before the world expels me." Nelson agreed. "Besides, we should also think about their development in Array Mastery. They must already have the layout of the array itself... The only problem is they don't know the real solution yet. After all, they don't have knowledge like you, Young Master."

"Haha... I can't picture myself creating a hole in a barrier without the knowledge from my Golden Lightning Inheritance." Alex chuckled.

"Then that concludes my report. After this, I will check their strength progress, Tiger Mercenary, and the Royal Family. I will make sure each of them is covered within a day." Nelson looked at Alex with confidence.

Alex smiled. "I am counting on you, Nelson."

"Yes." Nelson bowed to him and disappeared.

Alex then looked at Firia and Leoz. "Let's go."

A teleportation array appeared, and they vanished.

Chapter 723 - The Fortress and the Pillar

In the land near the border where the fort was erected to fight against the monsters, three figures suddenly appeared in its perimeter.

"Do you think they have a tall and strong wall to hold the monsters?" Alex asked.

"No way. They can simply destroy the wall with their strength and number. In fact, they might only have that fortress to host those people for a while." Firia shrugged. "Although most monsters don't have the ability to fly... No, they don't know how to fly, their physical strength alone is enough to jump a few hundred meters."

Alex looked down, falling into deep thought. "In that case, how will they retain the monsters from rampaging the area? With millions of fighting four hundred thousand, many monsters will breakthrough in just a day or so."

"I don't know. I had seen some fights when I was with my master, but I haven't seen one with a scale like this."

Getting no answer from Firia, Alex decided to take Nelson's card out. "Nelson. I want you to search for their war strategy if possible."

"Understood." Nelson's voice was calm as if he already predicted this request and was planning to get it even without order.

Alex, as the leader, obviously smiled to have such a partner in this fight. He then looked at Firia and Leoz. "Leoz will go toward the front line with me while Firia will search for a base around here. I have checked that there shouldn't be anyone a few kilometers around us."

"I understand. I will try to get a nice place for us to stay." Firia agreed with the arrangement. Although she wanted to follow him, it wasn't the best chance to do so, especially since they screwed up because of her not long ago.

Alex knew it was unintentional, but he just wanted to be more careful because they had arrived on the battlefield.

"Where are we going, Young Master?" Leoz asked.

"According to the map, there is a fortress not far from here. I am planning to infiltrate the fortress first and not do anything. We are purely watching from the dark to see their movement. I don't want to meet any other people again, lest they misunderstand me and cause a problem."

Leoz nodded. "Then, are you also going to the center of this place where the monsters are born?"

"Yeah. Though I will only watch it from afar." Alex confirmed with a calm tone. "I just want to determine what kind of place it is and how the monsters come out."

"Understood. I shall accompany you as your bodyguard." Leoz bowed to him before the two flew to the sky. Firia waved her hand while smiling before she turned around and started searching for a nice location.

A few minutes later,

Alex found a fortress in the middle of the grassland. It was quite a huge fortress as he saw a huge amount of energy there.

"As expected of one hundred thousand soldiers." Alex narrowed his eyes.

"What do you mean, Young Master? Are all of them inside the fortress right now?" Leoz tilted his head in confusion.

"I don't think so. Mostly, it will be around fifty thousand... Assuming they are not in the perimeter of the fortress, they must have gone to the battlefield, preparing themselves there."

"I see. Though the fortress may be big, it is not capable of housing one hundred thousand people at once." Leoz nodded in agreement.

"No, no. That's not what I mean. Anyway, let's go inside the fortress and watch them from the dark." Alex shrugged and created a Spatial Gate to the Blue Colored Realm.

They didn't immediately teleport inside, but they decided to proceed manually inside the Blue Layered Realm until Alex stopped and opened another gate inside the fortress.

"We are here," Alex said while glancing left and right, confirming they had arrived in a safe place. They were inside a dark alley with two buildings surrounding them. It seemed that most of the buildings around here were military barracks or something. He could say so because he found all houses around the area were similar.

"I will wait here, Young Master."

Alex looked at him and shook his head. "I am not going anywhere. I will probably peek around this area before traveling around within the Blue Layered Realm."

"Is that so?" Leoz smiled and nodded.

Alex then walked toward the edge of the dark alley and peeked at his surroundings with his Spirit Eyes first. He noticed that the two houses were empty, so he had no need to worry he would get spotted by someone from the houses. On the other hand, the city was bustling with people, all soldiers.

He took another look, wondering if he could find a special building or something, especially one that he could see the entire fortress without being suspicious. Unfortunately, it was only wishful thinking.

This fortress was indeed built just to host people for a period of time. It wouldn't be a problem if it were destroyed later.

Leoz also found the answer from Alex's expression alone. He approached him and shook his head.

"All the people around the area wear the same uniform. If we assume they are soldiers, I think there won't be any normal citizen inside this fort." Leoz shook his head. "Although I am not good at strategy, I realize that the wall of this fortress is only built without any proper care. I can even blast it without any trouble."

"I see. So the wall is only for decoration." Alex stroked his chin and thought for a moment. "Let's search for another spot to see whether there are any mercenaries around here."

"Are we going to be one of them?" Leoz furrowed his eyebrows.

"No. I will try explaining my reason later." Alex opened the Spatial Gate to Space World, and the two vanished once again.

On the other side of the fortress, Alex found many soldiers around the area. However, he found a few people wearing casual clothes and realized they were mercenaries.

After checking the four corners of the fortress, Alex finally disappeared from this fortress, making his way to the center of this place.

"Young Master. Why didn't we act like one of the mercenaries?" Leoz asked.

"We actually could act that way. However, it would be different if I need to count Firia for this plan. Besides, I don't really like mercenaries that much." Alex shrugged his shoulders. "And in the worst case, they might ask us for our identity. Considering we couldn't create our own group, it would become

troublesome later. That's why I rather leave. I have said it, right? I won't have any contact with the people around the fortress."

"I see." Leoz closed his eyes, following Alex without saying any word.

They were flying for about one hour, realizing how far the fortress was from the actual battlefield. However, he soon realized that the fortress was indeed constructed in a perfect place.

In the middle of the place, there was a colossal pillar standing from the ground to the sky.

"This is..." Leoz narrowed his eyes and asked Alex to lower their altitude, so no one spotted them.

Alex nodded and kept advancing with caution. When they became closer and closer, Alex realized how big the pillar was. From the diameter alone, it was close to the entire Freedom Sect Space Temple territory.

His Spirit Eyes allowed him to see what was behind this pillar.

"Seriously?" Alex took a deep breath, calming his heart down.

"Young Master?" Leoz furrowed his eyebrows.

"You should know about the Potential Tower, right?" Alex asked.

"Yeah. I saw it from your memory."

"There are around fifty floors inside the pillar this time, and all of them contain around a hundred thousand monsters. In other words, there are five million monsters inside there; all are Martial Emperors and above." Alex sweatdropped.

"!!!" Leoz opened his eyes wide. "Should we call everyone here right now?"

"I don't know." Alex shook his head. "I think I will stick to our original plan. If these monsters can bring us EXPs and Gacha Tickets, I will call them. If not, I will simply hide inside the Space World."

"I understand. I hope they bring us some EXPs."

"Same." Alex shrugged. "From my calculation and such, I think we can kill around a few hundred thousand monsters easily for six months. I think that is enough for you to level up, right?"

"Yeah. With their power level, I am confident I can reach 7-Star Martial Saint or even 8-Star Martial Saint in this place." Leoz confirmed. "The rest will probably reach 4-Star Martial Saints... At least, it won't go below 3-Star Martial Saints."

Alex nodded with a serious expression. "After that, I can utilize the Gacha Tickets and level you up with the EXP Cards," Alex added with a smirk.

"Indeed. But you should know that we have a level capacity which is one whole realm above you. At the same time, we won't be able to break through to God Stage before you can reach that stage."

"I know. I will try to reach Martial Saint as soon as possible. I only hope that I can find something useful inside this place." Alex nodded.

"Still, won't Mistress Firia's cultivation will be hindered at this point? Sherry, Stina, and Kyle can safely stay inside you without any problem and can become a Martial Saint. On the other hand, Lady Firia won't have time to cultivate. The same applies to you, Young Master."

"No. I am not going to fight the monsters continuously... Anyway, I will tell you the battle plan after confirming the monsters." Alex stopped talking and checked the sphere with his Spirit Eyes as they had gotten close enough.

There were a few places leaking energy from the inside, and when he lowered his vision, many soldiers had been stationed at the bottom of that place.

'It seems the soldiers already know the place where they are going to appear.' Alex furrowed his eyebrows. 'The array is powerful and colossal. It is easy to see that the leaking part will be broken first. However, is there such a different amount of Spiritual Energy inside that place? I can see the leaking energy is very dense... Now that I think about it, the density of Spiritual Energy inside that pillar is far stronger than the surrounding area.'

Leoz didn't disturb him at this point, protecting his safety from any other threats in the area silently.

Alex closed his eyes. 'I have many questions, but I am sure a few things. First, a hole will appear in that area, and the monsters will start to come out. However, the fact that there are only a few thousand soldiers in front of that place and the low population inside the fortress means...'

"Many holes will appear at the same time. If we can search one hole that is not occupied by the army or mercenary, we should be able to use that place as our battlefield." Alex muttered to himself.

Leoz heard it as well but didn't say anything.

"We are going to check the perimeter. Follow me." Alex flew to the side, going around the huge pillar.

Just as he predicted, they found a few places leaking a huge amount of Spiritual Energy. The soldiers realized this as well and surrounded it.

"Now I can see why one hundred thousand soldiers are enough for a few months. The monsters won't be released in all directions simultaneously. They have their own places, and the soldiers and mercenaries will handle each hole for a long time."

They kept flying before they found another fort. "Young Master... There is another fort there. We have traveled for two hours, so I assume it's from another influence."

Alex frowned and sighed. "Every leaking place has been occupied by soldiers... What should we do? Should we go around and check every single place? It will probably be midnight after finishing a whole trip... Inform Firia about this, and we will continue the search."

"Understood." Leoz nodded and disappeared.

Chapter 724 - A Simple Solution

After that, Alex and Leoz continued their search. Hour after hour passed, but they didn't find a single open space they could exploit. Alex was on the verge of his patient as of now.

The moon kept rising higher and higher, telling him how much time he had left before the gate opened.

"Young master... I am afraid there won't be any empty spot for us." Leoz had refrained from telling this, but he had no other choice because their effort would only be for naught.

Alex gritted his teeth. He knew this already. The kingdoms wouldn't leave such a gap carelessly.

"Haiz... We only have two options now." Alex sighed and paused for a moment. "First, we can join one of the armies that have been stationed around the area. I don't know if you notice it, but do you remember that they actually have a different number depending on the place?"

"Now that I think about it, yes. They do have different numbers. Though I couldn't see the Spiritual Energy leaking from the space, I could still feel it even if we were far away. Every time I felt a strong Spiritual Energy brushing my skin, the number of soldiers stationed was far higher."

"Indeed. We have identified around forty possible holes around the area. All of them have a minimum of five thousand soldiers, while eight of them have ten to twenty thousand soldiers." Alex nodded and stroked his chin, falling into deep thought. "If we assume that there will be a bigger hole appear in those eight areas, everything will make sense."

"Maybe we can sneak inside those eight areas? There is nothing wrong with having more fighters, especially with my 5-Star Martial Saint power." Leoz's words were brimming with confidence.

"It is true, but our objective is only to see whether they are considered as normal monsters by the system." Alex reminded him. "That's why I think it will be better to sneak inside the smaller one and retreat if necessary."

"I understand. We might be able to get some information as well." Leoz nodded. "Still, I think we need to know their strength first because I am not sure whether they have someone stronger than me or not."

"Some of them have, some of them don't. We are going for a group that doesn't have someone stronger than you. It must have the lowest difficulty, and they might act a little polite to you. As soon as we know they are hostile against us, we will abort the mission." Alex nodded.

"I thought you said you were not going to have another interaction with those people?"

Alex shrugged. "I wanted to rely on Nelson, but not that I have calmed a little bit, I think I will have Nelson to investigate the other kingdoms and see if they are friendlier than this kingdom. If that is the case, we can simply change spots and help that kingdom while completing our objective."

Leoz thought for a moment and recalled the first thing Alex said. "That's right. Didn't Young Master say there are two options? What is the second option?"

Alex smirked slyly. "We simply go inside that hole and swipe the enemy inside. Considering their number, the hole, and the monsters, I believe we only need around one or two hours before we can enter the pillar."

"Why is Young Master so confident about this? Have you forgotten about the fact that even Manness feared this place?"

"No. In fact, I have noticed why Elder Manness got scared in the past." Alex nodded. "I have said there are fifty floors inside this pillar, right?"

"Yes."

"I could see ominous energy every five floors. I feel that the true opponents are inside those floors. Meanwhile, there are only Martial Monarchs monsters as the highest on the first floor. I think our group does not fear these monsters, right?"

"If it's all of us, including Anna and the others, using our True Spirit Body, I believe it's just a simple task. However, we only have You, Lady Firia, me, Sherry, Stina, and Kyle. Six of us might get surrounded easily..."

"I have a plan. After that hole is opened, we can rain them down by using my Spatial Gate... Wait! Why can't I think this earlier? Isn't the real solution simple? I can enter the hole and create a Spatial Gate. Due to this, we will be able to handle them by ourselves without interfering with others!" Alex's expression brightened, finally realizing the most and efficient solution.

"Congratulations, Young Master." Leoz smiled and bowed his head. "I believe this is the solution we need in this situation."

"We will try to kill a few monsters first before going back to Firia." Alex nodded with a smile, still feeling happy with this solution. After all, he was the master of Spatial Gate. If he wanted to create it small or big, it would be up to him. In other words, he could control the rate of monsters coming outside the gate.

"Understood." Leoz looked at the sky and said, "There is probably a half-hour left before midnight."

Alex and Leoz then waited patiently before a thunderous sound echoed across the region. They immediately stood up and looked at the pillar.

A giant hole three hundred meters wide appeared on the pillar as monsters emerged from within, charging blindly to the front.

"!!!" Alex was surprised. This place was one of the weakest places in the surroundings. Yet, it had a hole this big. The size alone allowed around thirty monsters to come out simultaneously.

"Young Master. I feel there is something wrong inside the pillar."

Alex furrowed his eyebrows and activated his Spirit Eyes. There was a sudden influx of Spiritual Energy coming from the pillar. All of them started assimilating with this place, increasing the density of Spiritual Energy in the area. With that kind of change alone, it would probably increase their cultivation speed.

At the same time, Alex found that the soldiers started killing the monsters. The monsters released a Spiritual Energy into the air. He recalled the Battle Tower in this case.

"This..." Alex made a weird face as if he thought something absurd. "I think this place will soon be a nice place to cultivate, especially if those monsters keep releasing the energy to the air. Anyway, we should probably go after another fifteen minutes when the situation starts getting out of hand."

Leoz nodded and waited for another fifteen minutes before Alex summoned his Spatial Gate to silently enter the battlefield.

The other gate appeared near the hole, and Alex ordered. "Attack them normally. Don't release too much and expose ourselves."

Leoz then clapped his hand and created a small lightning bolt between his hands.

"Thunder Break!"

The ball flew inside the gate, only appearing again right in front of the monsters. Once it hit a body, it sparked and electrocuted a few monsters around it. Unfortunately, because of Alex's order, it wasn't powerful enough to kill the monsters.

However, he had fulfilled his objective since the main attack was Alex. Alex slashed his sword three times and released three Sword Waves, albeit inside the Space Realm.

"Triple Draws."

"Space Cut."

The three Sword Waves cut the electrocuted monsters, killing seven monsters simultaneously.

[EXP+ 100]

[EXP+ 100]

[EXP+ 300]

...

...

[Gacha Ticket x1]

"Hmm?" Alex's expression brightened when he saw the notifications. He quickly closed the Spatial Gate before anyone could notice and let out a breath of relief. "I am glad."

"Yeah. This is indeed good news. At least, after so many wrongs in this place, we get this one right." Leoz smiled from ear to ear.

"Still, the EXP is a bit too low..." Alex furrowed his eyebrows.

"No way! It's already considered high, you know." Leoz shook his head. "First of all, Young Master is only an 8-Star Martial Monarch, giving you more EXPs. Secondly, these EXPs will need to be shared for SR and UR spirits. Thirdly, if I am the one who kills them, I will only get a messy twenty or less EXPs. That's why I am going for higher-level monsters, but it's hard to find them."

"I see... It seems I have put too much work on your shoulders, Leoz." Alex apologized.

"No, no. I am not saying it is burdening me. In fact, I love this kind of job since this is the best thing I can do. I just want to inform you how hard it is to level up... That's why I said I might need a few hundred

thousand monsters with the strength of the Martial Emperor or above to level up two or three times. In the future, it might even be more." Leoz sighed.

"Thank you for your hard work. Let's go back first and wait for Nelson's information before we decide what to do next." Alex smiled and created another Spatial Gate.

"Understood." Leoz followed him inside the Spatial Gate and regrouped with Firia.

A few minutes later,

"... That's what happened." Alex finished telling their condition to Firia.

"I see. You are planning to create a gate yourself for our use. Because you are in control of that gate, you can decrease or increase the rate of monsters coming out of the gate or even close the gate entirely. It will be the perfect plan for us, considering we are a third party in this place."

"Yeah. That's what I think too." Alex nodded and took out Anya's card. "Tell everyone that I will probably summon all of you here within a few days after I confirm everything."

"So, we can raise our levels there?"

"Yeah. This might be the fastest way to increase your levels."

"Sure. I will prepare everyone to get ready. Do you need Nelson to control the surface?"

"No. I want all of the UR Spirits to be here. We can give the surveillance to the N squad."

"I will erase everything in this base then since we are going for a while. We can't be careless." Anya chuckled.

"Thank you. I will meet you soon."

"Yeah."

Alex then tossed Anya's card inside the Inventory before looking at Firia, who seemed to want to say something. "What is it?"

"Nelson has given us a little information earlier. The first thing he investigated was the Tiger Mercenary group. They are searching for you right now in the capital city, except it is futile because you are no longer there. They also said they are going to kill you if they find you, no matter if it is on the battlefield or capital city." Firia said coldly. "It seems sparing him was my mistake... We should kill him no matter the consequence and simply leave the city."

"If we do that, the Mercenary Guild will be involved and probably with the Kingdom itself. That's why sparing him wasn't a mistake, so don't blame yourself." Alex shook his head, comforting Firia. "We can kill them later. Do you remember that the guild master said they were going to fight as well? It will be the perfect time for us to ambush them."

Firia closed her eyes for a bit and sighed.

"Anyway, is that all the information?" Alex asked.

Firia shook her head and continued. "He is investigating the royal family right now. He found out that the name of the challenger in this kingdom was Astennu, while the other one was unknown. After that, he was convinced the other one was Nelson himself."

"Fair enough. I don't hold any grudge with Astennu, so I will let him handle his problem alone." Alex shrugged.

"Nelson is also investigating what kind of treatment will the Royal Family give to Astennu."

"Sure. It's important to see how valuable we are in this place. The wording could be better, but that's about it." Alex nodded in agreement.

"The last thing was a bit mysterious." Firia hesitated for a few seconds before saying it. "According to Nelson, if they managed to pass this ordeal, this place would be filled with Spiritual Energy like in the past. At that time, it would be a perfect time to increase one's cultivation. You can say that this place will be like Heavenly Sword Sect's Battle Tower."

"That's good then. We can raise our strength as well as spirits." Alex smirked, pumping his fist excitedly.

Chapter 725 - Information

After understanding the most important thing about the monsters, Alex and the others waited for Nelson to finish his investigation.

Another half-day passed, and Nelson returned. Alex summoned him in front of three people as they looked at Nelson with a serious expression.

"Have you gotten all the information?"

"Yes," Nelson reported everything he found inside the capital city. "First is about the Power Level of the Plide Kingdom itself. They don't have that much strength, considering most Martial Saints are around 5-Star to 6-Star Martial Saint. Despite having so many Martial Saint, they don't have the opportunity to break through to another level."

"Is this related to the information you sent yesterday?" Alex noticed the hint and asked.

"Yes. Does Young Master notice the different energy around here?"

Alex looked up, observed the Spiritual Energy around him, and looked back at Nelson. "There is nothing in particular. Although I can see that the quality is lower, the quantity is very high. I don't mean that it's not pure or whatsoever. Instead, it is a kind of Spiritual Energy that is restricting one's to not pass the limit.

"For example, Stina's world has the same energy, but the quality is only enough to reach the 7-Star Martial Emperor. Now that I think about it, the Spiritual Energy around the area only allows one to reach 6-Star Martial Saint or so... That's my speculation." Alex furrowed his eyebrows and fell into deep thought.

"I believe it's their restriction because the monsters won't be able to break through that level as well." Nelson nodded in agreement.

"I can finally see the reason." Alex touched the bridge of his nose and sighed. "They can break through their limit only at this time because of the combination between this natural Spiritual Energy and the Spiritual Energy coming from the monsters and the pillar itself. This raises a huge amount of Spiritual Energy quantity and allows the others to advance their cultivation..."

"The pillar itself has the same amount of Spiritual Energy, albeit it is compressed inside. As soon as holes begin to appear, the energy inside will be overflowing to outside... In this type of arrangement, only humans will be benefited... Besides, having monsters close to a God Rank is dangerous because it might break the balance of this world."

"I think that is the reason why the Gods and Goddesses a few thousand years ago limited this place's cultivation level. With the human having some 7-Star to 9-Star Martial Saints, they will have the chance to stop the monsters." Alex finished his train of thought.

"That's basically it." Nelson agreed with him. "They might have many Martial Saints, but none of them can reach the peak because the Gods and Goddesses wanted them to stop the monsters without breaking the balance."

"Then, a person like that Guild Master or the strongest one in the Plide Kingdom seems to have undergone this period for a few times, so their strength has increased to this level." Alex looked down, thinking about something. "How is their younger generation?"

"They are basically similar... Maybe, a bit higher than the surface's younger generation because of the previous reason. They are hovering around 2-Star to 3-Star Martial Saint," Nelson reported.

"Their personality, and how is their intake against Astennu?"

"They are very appreciative of Astennu, and the first thing they do is welcoming him with a banquet. It seems they are going to negotiate with him to bring them inside the pillar, so they can receive a part of their inheritances. From how they act, I can see this is not the first time they did it."

"Good enough for me... Not that I will appear in front of them though." Alex nodded and ignored them.

"As for the technical progress, like Array Mastery, especially about the research in the array around the pillar... I can't see much due to the time limit. However, I can say that they have many rank 8 arrays, but no rank 9 array."

"That's right. Where is the place to enter the pillar?"

"I don't know anything about this. I only know that it will open after six months... And we will have another six months to conquer the pillar and get the inheritances." Nelson shook his head in disappointment.

"Six months, huh... Before that, there is one remaining question in my mind. When are they going to move to this area?"

"I don't know. If we take the fact that this place is going to be swarmed by monsters in a few months, I think they will start moving around that time until they can reach the pillar itself. In other words, we can set up an underground base and lure the monsters inside before killing them. We can wait until the promised time and sneak around."

"Oh! That's a good idea. But we will need to see the development first because there is no assurance that they will move that way." Alex thought for a moment before summoning Anna, Anya, and the others.

They greeted him as usual, but Alex wanted to cut to the chase by asking them a question. "My only question is how many monsters we can kill a day for six months before doing any other things."

"Hmm... I have seen your memory and realized what you want to do." Anya nodded and thought for a moment. "First of all, I think we can open a portal, small enough to only let a single monster pass at a time."

Alex closed his eyes and sighed. "This is our best strategy, I guess..."

"Yeah." Anya gave her approval.

The others were still confused about what they were talking about, and Alex decided to explain it.

"I will just use numbers as our example. If we kill five monsters a minute, we can kill three hundred monsters in an hour, right? Then we can kill more than seven thousand monsters in a day. Considering the rate of monsters coming out of the pillar, we need around three days before we clear the entire first floor.

"Of course, five monsters a minute are too low. If I predict the number, we should be able to get more than twenty thousand monsters on the first floor alone, AKA, around twenty to twenty-five percent of their original number. If we calculate that rate with their total number, we can kill more than one million monsters in this period.

"However, this method is very repetitive and boring. Not only are we going to fight in the same place, but we will also fight the monster together." Alex put a warning in the end.

"That is pretty boring." Jeanne nodded in agreement. She didn't know whether they had the patience to do so.

Hence, Alex added. "That's why I want all of you to enter your True Spirit Body the moment we reach the fifth floor. I can see that the monsters on this floor are relatively stronger, so we can utilize this floor more."

"You should also add that this number can go lower because the monsters will start getting stronger and stronger... There might even many Martial Saint monsters around, forcing us to lower our pace or close the gate for the time being." Anya presented another problem.

"Yeah." Alex nodded. "There is still a chance of the armies collapsing... That's why if we take everything in our calculation, five hundred thousand monsters will be our lowest number."

"What is the strategy then?" Firia asked.

"We have fifteen people in this place, including Sherry, Stina, and Kyle. I want to split us into three groups, and each group will handle the gate for a day. We rotate this every day." Alex nodded.

Firia closed her eyes and nodded, picturing how Alex's plan would turn out. "We can save our Spiritual Energy and such while giving some experiences for me and the others, especially Sherry and Kyle."

"Yeah. We can use the remaining two days to cultivate and advance... Considering you, Sherry and Kyle are on the verge of a breakthrough; I can simply split the group into two with six members each later." Alex nodded with a smile. "Besides, Nelson can search around in those two days."

"I understand. I only need to search around the area, especially those forts anyway, so I don't need that long." Nelson gave his input.

"Who will group up with who?" Anna asked.

"The first group consists of me, Sherry, Greg, Jeanne, and Artur. The second group consists of Firia, Anna, Nelson, Fabio and Vera. The last group will be for Anya, Leoz, Jean, Kyle and Stina."

They each thought about this group and nodded, showing their approval.

"Still, you are going to maintain the gate as well, right? Aren't you overworking yourself?" Firia asked with a worried expression.

"That's why I have Sherry and Jeanne. They will be the group's main attack, while Sherry will have more chances to gain experience in battle. On the other hand, Greg can protect me even when we are not in battle." Alex smiled, assuring her. "Your group is the most balanced, and I feel you can balance your cultivation and training. As for the third group, Anya can't fight, but Leoz is there. If she uses her support skill, it won't be a problem."

Alex explained that he had considered everything carefully before giving his opinion. Even Anya didn't have any qualm about this arrangement.

He looked at their expression and found they had no more objections, so he said, "I will now create a portal toward that pillar... It sucks when you know that you can't pinpoint your own Spatial Gate."

Alex talked from experience. Though he could summon a Spatial Gate that let him travel for hundreds of miles, he had no ability to pinpoint his location unless he had marked that place with another Spatial Gate. However, it was normal because not even Aileen could do such a thing.

The Space Element might be powerful, but they also had their own limitations. Besides, it needed more control over elements than any other element. He was planning to train this ability in this chance.

Alex raised his hand and created a Spatial Gate toward the Blue Layered Realm. This was a normal gate that he was planning to connect to later.

"Now everything is set, I will create another gate inside the tower, so I might need to enter it. But fret not, it will be over in an instant, so I think I won't have any problem." Alex smiled as he disappeared, teleporting himself toward the pillar. He needed to make the gate inside the pillar before connecting it with the gate in their temporary base. So, he really needed to enter this place to make sure he pinpointed the location.

Alex searched for the hole and sneaked inside the pillar, only to find many monsters staring at him. The interior of the pillar was pitch black as if it was trying to convince him there was nothing there. No wonder the monsters immediately went outside of the pillar.

Even though many things came to his mind, he still didn't forget about his objective and went as deep as possible before landing and creating a small Spatial Gate. He went through it, baiting the monsters to come inside. The size itself was around seven meters, fit only for one monster at a time.

As soon as he returned to the others, Sherry, Greg, Jeanne, and Artur already raised their guards while the others were doing their own things. Alex smiled and took out his sword and spear before the first monster came out. Alex immediately snapped his finger, creating a giant Sound Insulation Barrier to prevent the soldiers from noticing the ruckus they would make.

He looked at the gate that had changed from a portal to Blue Layered Realm into a dark place, containing many monsters inside.

Suddenly, Anya realized another thing. "Alex, why don't you make a Special Realm to hide us and this battle?"

"Yes. I am planning to do so, but I will do it tomorrow in my off time." Alex nodded. "It won't be a huge Special Realm anyway, so it won't take too long."

Anya then nodded, falling into silence.

"Now! It's time to hunt." Alex then smiled.

Chapter 726 - Boring Fights

"Ha!" Sherry sent another barrage of Fire Swords, the evolved Firebirds skill, overwhelming the 8-Star Martial Emperor monsters.

"That's your one-hundredth monster." Alex nodded and smiled upon seeing Sherry's control over her fire. Although there was a lack of Sword Intent, it was, by no means, weaker than your average attack, especially for those 10-Star Martial Monarchs.

Alex was watching her like a coach, assessing her ability and giving some tips while he was at it. To be honest, Sherry's fire ability was already far above average. If he wasn't an Alchemist, he might already lose in terms of Fire Control.

That was why Alex advised her while incorporating Alchemy Fire Manipulation. It was the most effective set of training to let one improve their control.

Hearing Alex's voice, Sherry reduced the monster to ashes with her fire before preparing for the next monster.

The next monster coming out the gate was a giant beetle. Sherry immediately tried melting the beetle's hard carapace with her Pure Fire. Luckily, it was only another Martial Emperor monster, so it posed no challenge for the time being. Sherry killed it in a matter of seconds.

Repeating this process over and over again, the day passed. Just like Sherry, Firia also underwent the same training to gain experience from killing monsters. She had the least amount of experience in combat, so Firia didn't reject the idea. In fact, she appeared very excited to fight these many monsters.

The same applied to the third group, specifically Kyle and Stina. Stina aside, the main focus in this group was Kyle. Even though he was a reincarnated person, he had no memory of his previous life. Hence, his

fighting prowess was considered as the lowest in this group, despite having 10-Star Martial Monarch strength.

After three days of killing, the rate of monsters coming out gradually decreased until sometimes they needed to wait for a few minutes before a single monster came out of the gate. This only happened on the last day, and Alex decided to enter the tower and caused a stir to grab the monsters' attention.

According to Nelson's report, this incident baffled the soldiers. They were ready to fight many monsters only to find it became easier than the record.

Unfortunately, they wouldn't know the reason why this event turned like this because Alex had created his Special Array, covering a small region. The Special Array had some Gathering Arrays for cultivation, Sound Insulation Array, and Illusion Array to camouflage the realm. This way, not only the monsters wouldn't be able to break through this barrier, but the people outside also couldn't find it.

Alex had a perfect spot to train the group.

After they killed all the monsters on the first floor, nothing happened on that day. The change only started when midnight came.

A large booming sound startled the entire battlefield as the pillar shone in bright red, illuminating the world. They had no choice other than closing their eyes due to how bright it was. Luckily, Alex could still see what happened through his Spirit Eyes.

The energy on the first floor was forced to go out before the second floor collapsed to the ground, replacing the first floor. It could be said that the original fifty floors had become forty-nine floors, with the first floor had the size of two whole floors.

Alex was impressed and scared at the same time. He realized that the monsters would rage inside the pillar because of that sudden change and stormed outside the pillar.

Sherry, once again, became the main attacker while the rest watched her from the sideline, only moving when Sherry needed help.

This pace continued for several days until the third floor came. To their surprise, the third floor didn't come immediately. Despite watching over it throughout the whole night, there was no shift inside the pillar as if it was waiting for something.

Alex and the group were baffled because they didn't know when the floor would collapse.

Only after two days the tower finally made the change. Luckily, there was no change in the monsters, so Alex didn't have any plan change.

At this point, Nelson's investigation finally bore some fruits.

He learned that the monsters had a certain time limit for each floor, and it would continue to increase.

They needed around three weeks from the start of this event before facing the first giant hurdle in their path, the fifth floor. According to Nelson's report, the fifth floor had important monsters such as peak Martial Monarchs... And there was also a chance to fight invisible monsters on this type of floor. Of

course, it would only appear on the higher floor, and Alex knew it wasn't an invisible monster. Instead, it was a Space Monster.

According to Nelson, they would only reach floor twentieth before the portal to the inheritance palace opened. Alex didn't know what kind of portal it was, but Nelson told them Firia had the key to open the door.

They were startled at first before Firia recalled the scene when she teleported. She indeed came into an illusory realm where she got a golden key. She didn't know what it was, but she still took it because it flew to her hand and stuck.

When she tried to think about it, she couldn't summon the key, making her confused. In the end, Alex shook his head and let it go. At the very least, if they were stuck in something, they knew Firia would be the clue.

At the same time, Alex felt something was wrong.

If they only reached the twentieth floor before the inheritance palace, they wondered whether to keep killing monsters or go to the inheritance place. Knowing it was far dangerous to head there, Alex decided to go to the inheritance place while the spirits kept watching the gate. The moment he realized he couldn't beat the trial alone, he would need to summon everyone.

Anya proposed to have Leoz and Anna as his additional bodyguard beside Firia and the contracted beasts, and he accepted.

On the other hand, Alex was a bit sad because he couldn't take advantage of the monsters to get all the EXPs and Gacha Tickets he needed.

He still remembered his repeatable missions where he could get a certain number of Gacha Tickets from killing a hundred monsters. Even if most monsters were Martial Monarch or lower and only gave him one Gacha Ticket every one hundred kills, he was confident he could kill more than five hundred thousand.

That alone would give him five thousand Gacha Tickets. He still got on with the normal way. It might not be comparable to those from the system, but he should still receive around one thousand to two thousand Gacha Tickets. Besides, he still had a higher mission where he could kill those in the same ranks or the Martial Saint Stage, giving him more Gacha Tickets.

His original prediction, he would be able to get ten thousand Gacha Tickets from this event alone. If he added the levels that his Spirits would receive, he kept smiling for a period of time.

Unfortunately, it seemed the world didn't want him happy because he would need his Spirits later...Or at least, that was what he promised.

Nelson also had one last important report. It was an investigation about the other challengers. As they expected, the unknown guy from the Plide Kingdom was Nelson. The Earl must have reported him to the royal family, and they desperately searched for him but to no avail.

Alex only laughed upon this matter because he didn't care about the Plide Kingdom as long as they didn't stand in his way. As for the Evvy Kingdom in the north, they seemed to have contact with Julius

and Elizabeth. Although the two didn't like each other, they had no choice other than teaming up in this weird and dangerous environment. Even Elizabeth knew better about it.

Meanwhile, Lush in the west had gotten three people: Rio, Evelyn, and Angela. Alex decided to keep an eye on this kingdom because of Evelyn. He just wanted to make sure she was treated well inside the kingdom, albeit he had no chance to confirm everything due to time and other problems.

Lastly, the Zealous Kingdom had the rest of the people, except Song Ling'er. He was confused about why her name wasn't on the list. Although he doubted she would run into danger, he still thought of some possibilities. Her brother, Song Jiaoren, might become submissive to him because of the card, but he also needed to show some sincerity. As long as he met her in the future, he didn't mind helping her a little bit... Or Firia would help her because he wasn't supposed to be here.

After around sixteen days, the fourth floor started releasing the monsters. Alex had no change of schedule and let the others do the rest. The monsters were still weak as they only found a couple of Martial Monarch monsters while most of them were Martial Emperors.

Alex and the others already became bored since the monsters didn't pose any challenge. It wasn't really a useful experience for Firia and the others because they didn't really fight back before dying in front of them. Even Alex and his spirits began joining the battle as they let the three rest.

Finally, the long three weeks passed, and they finally killed all the monsters. The pillar shifted once again. The time for the real battle was about to begin. And Alex became excited to see whether they had something special with this fifth floor other than stronger monsters.

Chapter 727 - The Conclusion of the Fifth Floor

Alex and the others started becoming tense, especially Alex's group, because the third group had done their part yesterday. In other words, Alex's group will fight today.

He glanced at Sherry and the others, noticing there was a sudden influx of Spiritual Energy in their surroundings. Squinting his eyes, he discerned everything with his Spirit Eyes. Spiritual Energy came from the gate, showing the different amounts of energy on this particular floor.

"Master?" Sherry tilted her head, worried about him.

"Have the others stand by near the gate as well," commanded Alex while taking out his weapons.

Sherry nodded and called everyone without hesitation.

A moment later, the group assembled in front of the gate, waiting for the monsters to come out.

However, a bright flash appeared on the front line. Alex narrowed his eyes, trying to look at what just happened. There was a giant monster that was easy to spot even from this distance. That monster just spewed up a bright flame while the soldier started fighting against it, along with the other monsters that came out of the gate.

Alex furrowed his eyebrows. Although he couldn't see their average level, that big one was still there. He found out that the monster was a 3-Star Martial Saint.

"This is going to be troublesome... We should prepare for the worst. It seems I have still underestimated this tower." Alex took a deep breath, and took another look at his strategy, revising it on the spot.

The others finally came to him, only to find Alex yelling at them. It wasn't like he was angry at them, but the situation had simply gotten serious.

"I am going to split our group into two this time. There is no change for the first and second groups. However, I want Leoz and Jean to come to the first group while the rest go to the second group. Each group will hold for a day, but be ready to use your True Spirit Body. Depending on the difficulty of this floor, we might use it soon."

Just as he passed the order, a monster came out of his gate as if he heard his shout earlier.

The group had no time to think, especially with a 2-Star Martial Saint monster in front of them. He thought for a moment and decided to stop the connection between this portal and the one inside the pillar. The portal then turned blue.

Alex and the others raised their weapons, looking at this Martial Saint White Tiger.

"The second group can rest first," Alex shouted before commanding his own group. "Leoz will be the main attack. We will try to kill this tiger in under thirty seconds."

"Understood." The group nodded and instantly surrounded the white tiger.

Leoz appeared right before the white tiger and slashed his sword as lightning started sparkling around it. "Thunder Spirit Slash!"

The lightning sword wave flew toward the tiger. The latter was trying to grab it with its teeth.

Alex and Sherry summoned their Fire Swords and attacked the white tiger from the two sides.

The white tiger obviously noticed it and changed his plan. It stopped thinking he could stop Leoz's attack and tried to escape. However, Greg blocked his escape route by creating a translucent green barrier to trap all of them inside. Not only that, Artur and Jean appeared and struck the two front legs of this tiger.

"Tch! This is why I don't like fighting against a huge opponent... They are too big to be split into half in a single slash." Artur complained after noticing that his cut was only able to cut half of the tiger's legs. Jean was also in the same situation but didn't complain.

Instead, it was Jeanne who suddenly decided to rebuke Artur by slashing the other two legs. Jeanne had been sneaking around the tiger and chose to attack it from its blind spot. The two short swords of her didn't look like the usual ones because she covered it with her golden lightning, creating an illusory form and extending the blades long enough to cut the two legs. "This is why you should use your Spiritual Energy."

"And do you think wasting it right now is a good idea?" Artur rolled his eyes.

Boom Boom Boom!

At this time, Alex's and Sherry's Fire Swords had finally transformed from baits into the main attacks, scorching the white fur until it became black. Leoz's first attack also arrived and made a deep wound

right beside the tiger's head. The location was between his head and the right leg, so the tiger suddenly lost its strength and tilted to the right.

Leoz took this chance and appeared from the opposite direction, sending another Thunder Spirit Slash to behead the white tiger.

The tiger couldn't even struggle in front of these people, but it could be said it was justified since all of them except Alex and Sherry were Martial Saints.

Alex took a deep breath and called the rest of his team, discussing this matter.

"What do you think?" As much as he wanted to ask the others, Anya seemed to be the only one who could come up with a good strategy except him. Hence, he threw the question to Anya.

"If Martial Saint is the standard of the monsters on this floor, I am afraid the army there won't be able to hold for long." Anya shook her head. "The fact that they are still looking confident and save their reserve army in the capital, I believe the average strength of the monsters is lower."

"Since you said it's lower, what is their average strength?"

"Around 3-Star Martial Monarch with hundreds or thousands of Martial Saints."

Alex looked down and fell into deep thought. "The previous four floors had the average level of 1-Star to 3-Star Martial Emperor... To think this one has a one whole realm different..."

Anna and the others could also understand why these two were furrowing their eyebrows. With that level difference, it would be troublesome, especially when they entered the fiftieth floor.

"Should we use our True Spirit Body and try to aim at killing twenty thousand of them in a day?" Anya asked with a dangerous glint in her eyes.

"We can indeed get many monsters that way, but I believe we can separate them into two days. I will keep connecting and disconnecting the gate from time to time. I am satisfied to have only fifteen thousand each day for a span of two days. The remaining days that we can't use our Spirit Body, I am satisfied even if we can kill an additional five to ten thousand monsters before the monsters run out." Alex nodded.

"It will give a burden to your body, you know." Anya furrowed her eyebrows.

"Still, I think it is worth the effort. The monsters on the tenth floor must be stronger than this, so we should take advantage of what we can at the moment." Alex smiled. "We can try another strategy if this doesn't work out."

"I understand." Anya sighed and let Alex do what he wanted. It was a good plan nonetheless.

After getting the confirmation from Anya, the others also nodded their heads to show their approval, and they separated into two groups again.

Leoz, Jean, Greg, Jeanne, and Artur activated their True Spirit Body simultaneously.

"True Spirit Body!" Their bodies started glowing before any additional features appeared on it.

Alex and Sherry still couldn't get used to this breath-taking sight. Not only their strength and appearance changed, their aura that signified their existence also changed.

"I might be going a bit easy, Young Master," Leoz warned him.

"I know." Alex nodded and patted his shoulders. "It's better for you to not lose your mind. You are already far stronger than 5-Star Martial Saint anyway..."

"Thank you." Leoz smiled and raised his weapon.

Alex then turned to the gate and connected it with the previous gate before enlarging it, allowing five monsters to come out at a time.

"Sherry and I will keep the two busy with our Fire Elements. Greg should watch our back. Jean and Artur will fight together while Leoz and Jeanne will take one each. Remember to help each other to end the fight faster. We will use this strategy as our base strategy for now," Alex commanded as they took their own positions.

Alex and Sherry summoned their Fire Swords and started bombing the monsters with them. Meanwhile, Leoz took the strongest one as his opponent. Although it looked like the bear was the strongest one, its strength was still lower than the previous tiger.

"Thunder Spirit Slash!" Leoz cut this 1-Star Martial Saint Bear with his Sword Wave before they started having their fight.

Jeanne and the others also did the same, killing their opponents as fast as possible. They somehow managed to double their killing rate even though their opponents had a higher cultivation base. It just showed how powerful the True Spirit Body was.

Alex was full of joy after he got around thirteen thousand magical beasts in a single day before he let the second group take over. Although the result wasn't the best, he indeed almost reached it.

When the second group took over, they managed to kill one thousand more than them due to the fact that they had one more person than Alex's group.

Nonetheless, Alex didn't really care about this number because they got many Gacha Tickets and EXPs during this time.

Checking at the soldiers, he realized they lost a fifth of their original numbers. Alex was baffled at this point, but Nelson said the soldiers inside the base had arrived to reinforce them, and they had a higher average cultivation base than the one fighting right now.

At the same time, he also found out that Song Ling'er already joined the battle together with the Zealous Kingdom. She was teleported in an area far from the human settlement, so she kept wandering around the area with utmost care.

Nelson informed him that she had finally arrived at the battlefield, neither as the Mercenary nor the army. Because she was clueless, the army managed to invite her to join since they probably suspected her as one of the challengers.

They wanted to send her back to the capital city, but the latter refused their offer and stayed as one of the fighters. Having no other choice, the leader of that army agreed and took her in and made sure to protect her.

Alex wanted to look into this matter, but he was too busy to maintain the gate, so he only let the matter slide after knowing that Song Ling'er was alright. He then continued killing the monsters without True Spirit Body, accumulating a total of forty thousand kills on this floor alone. It raised suspicion from the army, but they couldn't search for the reason as well because they were too occupied by the current situation.

In fact, they were pretty happy about it because they didn't need to sacrifice more soldiers, keeping their number high.

And thus, how the fight against the monsters on the fifth floor concluded.

Chapter 728 - Lightning Tribulation Turns out to be Easy

"Master... I am sleepy." Sherry looked at Alex with her fuzzy eyes as if she hadn't slept for years. Although it was possible to do such a thing as a cultivator, most still chose to sleep because it often reset their mind.

"Sleepy? Are you going to evolve?" Alex asked as he approached her.

"I think so... The Spiritual Energy in my body is rampaging. The only thing to calm them down is to sleep, allowing my body to adjust this state and advance to Martial Saint." Sherry nodded before she fell down.

Alex caught her and lowered her body gently. "Don't worry. Just take care of your body."

Sherry nodded and entered her deep slumber. At the same time, Kyle also fell asleep in Stina's embrace.

Both turned into a small fox and phoenix. Alex decided to protect them inside his body, waiting for them to reach Martial Saint.

After that, he looked down, falling into deep thought. He knew the exact reason why this happened. It started last night after they finished killing the monsters from the fifth floor.

The Spiritual Energy released by the pillar and the monsters enriched the entire cave by a large amount. Sherry and Kyle, who were on the verge of a breakthrough, felt the impact the most as they immediately fell to the ground and started cultivating.

Since they only had two groups at the moment, there was no change in their plan since both groups each had their members go down.

The next day, they didn't do anything in particular. Alex started thinking about the future as he realized something important. Firia would soon need a Special Realm to hide her presence on the battlefield. After all, the Lightning Tribulation would gather both armies' and monsters' attention.

He ended up making another Special Array in his day off, so Firia could undergo her Lightning Tribulation there. Nonetheless, she accepted because she had reached the peak after intaking the Spiritual Energy like Sherry and Kyle. Fortunately, she didn't need to consolidate her strength because her foundation was solid, considering she had been under the care of a God Rank Expert from Martial Master.

He didn't forget to make a Lightning Rod Array for her. Firia refused it at first, saying she didn't need such a thing, but Alex insisted persistently. He didn't want her to get hurt just because of some sloppy mistakes. She finally agreed after some persuasions. The reason she didn't need it was not because she was arrogant. She simply never used it in the first place because of her master.

The group then started fighting again, until the tenth floor appeared. After completing the ordeal of this floor, Alex finally achieved a breakthrough, advancing his cultivation to 9-Star Martial Monarch. At the same time, Firia also felt her Lightning Tribulation coming.

Anya noticed her condition and asked Alex to accompany her, letting the spirits take charge of this process, also with Stina.

He thought for a moment and agreed with that suggestion and made sure there was nothing wrong with her Lightning Tribulation.

Firia leaped toward the other Special Array along with Alex before she stood in the middle of it and began cultivating until she triggered the Lightning Tribulation.

To their surprise, the Lightning Tribulation only came a day later. The black cloud gathered right above her as the thunder shook the ground. Firia released the Sacrificial Element from her body as her Fire Shawl also flared up. She looked at the black cloud gently and stated. "Come!"

Rumble Rumble!

The first Lightning Strike flew down. Surprisingly, the one that had a change of expression was Alex instead of Firia. He was utterly shocked by the Lightning Tribulation.

"Seriously?" Alex expected her Lightning Tribulation by forming the image of his previous Lightning Tribulation, and it became very powerful. Yet, it didn't even satisfy half of his expectations. If Alex needed to speculate the exact number, it was around thirty to forty percent of his original expectation.

Firia didn't hear his rumble as she was already focused her entire attention on this Lightning Tribulation.

She pointed her finger toward the Lightning Strike but didn't do anything afterward.

Alex furrowed his eyebrows and activated his Spirit Eyes, wondering whether she used a technique or not.

Suddenly, the Spiritual Energy concentrated on her fingertip. The first thought that came to his mind was Firia shooting a laser-like attack from her finger. However, Firia still didn't attack until the Lightning finally reached the tip of her finger.

"Spark!" The Spiritual Energy burst out of her finger and blasted the Lightning into smithereens.

Alex widened his eyes, blinking a few times. It could be said that Firia managed to destroy it, but he could also say Firia actually dispersed the Lightning to the ground by using that technique at a perfect time.

The image of him destroying his Lightning Strike this way... Couldn't appear in his mind as he expected. The power of his Lightning Strike was far bigger than this, making a technique like this unusable. Firia might start using her strength to destroy the Lightning completely sooner or later.

As many thoughts came to his mind, Firia destroyed the second and third Lightning Strikes with the same technique. But Alex managed to catch a single thing. In the third strike, there was a little spark from the Lightning that touched her finger. Firia dispelled that force instantly though.

Alex then continued to watch her from the side as the Lightning became blue. Things started to get serious, and Firia finally released her attack for the first time.

The fire from her shawl concentrated on her right hand as she waved her hand. That fire turned into a giant hand and shot upward.

"Absolute Hand."

This red-colored hand caught the Lightning as if it was grasping a stick. It squeezed the Lightning until it evaporated the entire Lightning.

Alex's expression already became bland as he had predicted this would happen. It wasn't like the Lightning was stronger than his Lightning, so he just enjoyed the scene in front of him.

The fifth Lightning Strike struck forth. Firia lifted up her eyebrows as she suddenly raised another hand, creating the Absolute Hand with both hands.

"Absolute Hand."

The two hands grasped the Lightning and squeezed it as if trying to dry the water from a wet cloth. Not only the power behind that hand was horrendous, but the scorching fire also helped the burning process, destroying the Lightning in a matter of seconds.

"How I wish to have a Lightning Tribulation that easy..." Alex sighed. "Well. Rather than thinking about that, I need to know what I will become after getting slapped or squeezed by that hand. Wait, it's not me, but her enemies. Firia never used this technique even once in the fight since she mostly attacked the monsters from a distance. Hmm, I think they will burn into ashes, not letting even their skeleton to remain."

Firia thought for a moment and took a deep breath, observing the sixth Lightning Strike.

"Absolute Blaze Ball."

She clapped her hand as a few fireballs appeared, hovering around her. The moment the Lightning Strike came out, the ball flew one by one, hitting it continuously.

Alex had seen this attack before and felt pretty sorry for the monsters. The first fireball started burning the monster while the second one turned them into charred black. The third one burned the flesh while the next one started spreading it before their bones and internal organs got burned by the fifth one.

Just like last time, the five fireballs flew in succession. First, it clashed with the Lightning from the front, reducing the speed of the Lightning. The second one flew toward the Lightning body while the third one hit the tail, burning these two areas, reducing the strength of the Lightning itself.

Alex watched the fourth and fifth balls obliterate the rest of the Lightning.

It was finally the turn of the Purple Lightning. Alex watched this with great interest because this was the last stage since Firia didn't have the so-called Golden Lightning Tribulation.

The seventh strike came down, but there was still no change of expression on Firia's face. She had yet to get pressured from this Lightning Tribulation. Alex even thought he might have unnecessarily worried about her.

Firia summoned the fireballs again and shot the Lightning down without much problem. However, she suddenly changed her strategy when the eighth Lightning Strike appeared.

She raised her hand and waved it, creating a fire wave. The first thing that came to his mind was the attack was similar to his Sword Wave, only to find it was far from it.

The moment it hit the Lightning, it neither exploded nor clashed with the Lightning. Instead, it suddenly bent elastically, wrapping the Lightning with its gentle embrace... Or maybe scorching embrace.

"Red Sun Mantle."

This so-called Mantle actually burned the Lightning slowly, and when it reached Firia, it only had around a third of its power left. Firia simply used her Absolute Hand and destroyed it.

When the ninth strike came, Firia gently smiled and looked at Alex.

Alex could only scratch his head, embarrassed. As she said, she didn't need a Lightning Rod Array. Yet, she still used it because Alex had made it for her. How could she not use it when her husband worried and made it specifically for her? There was no sadness because he didn't trust her. Only happiness and warmth filled her heart.

She bent down and touched the Lightning Rod Array gently, activating the entire array. The Lightning was absorbed almost instantly because Alex made a few Lightning Rod Arrays, connected with each other. He didn't know Firia had this kind of weak Tribulation, so he miscalculated the number.

When their eyes intertwined, Firia chuckled and whispered, "You are such a worrywart."

Alex looked away to hide his embarrassment before Firia turned serious again.

The final strike flew down, and as expected, it was a normal purple Lightning. Alex had no excitement for this because he knew the Golden Lightning was the most insane thing he had ever met.

Firia raised her hand as the fire on her shawl gathered above her head before turning into another fireball. Suddenly, she clapped her hand and summoned yet another fireball between her two hands.

Alex had seen this technique when he first met her. She used it together with his Pure Fire, but this time, she only relied on her own fire, making Alex curious.

Firia didn't notice the change on Alex's face and shot the ball to the other ball, causing a massive reaction between the two.

The first ball swallowed the second one while the first one burst out, and as a result, the second one also popped out like a sea urchin.

"Flame of Dawn."

Firia controlled the fire movement and flew toward the Lightning.

This sudden burst created more than a hundred fire flares, hitting the Lightning from every direction.

If this was a fight between normal people on Earth, the Lightning was like a guy who protected his head and crouched on the ground while the fires were like bullies that came to kick him.

Luckily, the image was very vague because the fire emitted a beautiful after effect as if it was a firework.

The Lightning gradually became thinner and thinner until it vanished into thin air, and the cloud began to disperse.

Firia looked at Alex and winked her eye, signaling him she would enter the breakthrough process.

Alex smiled and nodded.

Unlike him, who needed to undergo many painful processes, Firia didn't have any reaction in this process, receiving everything she got from the Lightning Tribulation before advancing to Martial Saint.

The next day, she finally opened her eyes and greeted Alex again with a smile.

"I have reached 1-Star Martial Saint now."

"Yeah. I can see it."

"So, how is it?"

"I wish I can have that easy Lightning Tribulation." Alex actually had a picture in his mind where he beat that Lightning Tribulation without much problem.

"Fufu... I have seen your Lightning Tribulations. Although it was hard to pass it, you got something equivalent." Firia chuckled. "Anyway, let's go back. We have been slacking for a few days, so we should help the others."

"Agree."

Chapter 729 - Kyle's Requests

Firia finished her Lightning Tribulation, and they went toward the group, helping them again. As expected, Firia's strength increased exponentially because she just leaped from Martial Monarch to Martial Saint.

Alex, on the other hand, was still the same as ever, struggling in the 9-Star Martial Monarch.

Three months later,

Nelson appeared before him as they were waiting for the next floor to come up.

"Young Master. I have grave news for you." Nelson hesitated for a second. "There is a change of schedule; it seems."

"Hmm?" Alex furrowed his eyebrows. "What do you mean?"

"I have once said that we might only reach the twentieth floor after six months, right?"

"Indeed. I do remember that information." Alex nodded with a solemn expression.

"However, we will soon deal with the nineteenth floor."

"Yeah. I am worried about this as well because I am afraid that the pillar has changed because of us. Just like the first time we came here, I don't want to fight something unknown like this."

"That's the problem. Because of the sudden change of this event, those kingdoms have moved up their schedule. Their reinforcement will come in a few weeks to a month. By that time, we might reach the twenty-fifth floor... And the moment the inheritance place opens up, we might reach the thirtieth floor."

Alex furrowed his eyebrows. "By the looks of it, it isn't necessarily bad for us. The problem is what those people will do because of this sudden change and what kind of huge phenomenon the pillar will show us for the last six months."

"That's what I am worrying about right now."

"Just inform me when the royals come and what they do later. I will respond in any kind." Alex nodded, thinking about his next move. "I will be able to reach the 10-Star Martial Monarch with the help of the twenty-fifth floor. If you are still unsure, you can sneak inside their reinforcement right now... But I doubt there will be much information you can get from them."

"True enough. They won't necessarily discuss anything important at a time like that." Nelson looked down and fell into deep thought. "I will be staying for now and go according to the Young Master's plan. I hope that Young Master can reach 1-Star Martial Saint in this place... Or even further."

"Haha, I hope that as well. But you know that I need to consolidate my power first, right? I don't have enough time." Alex sighed.

"Then." Nelson bowed to him and disappeared.

Alex sighed and opened his system.

[Gacha Ticket x3421]

[Premium Ticket x0]

[Dart x0]

[Gacha Card x1]

[Gacha Coin x0]

[Gacha Hammer x0]

[Summoning Ticket x0]

[Summoning Coin x0]

"Hmm... I have many Gacha Tickets right now. As expected, I can accumulate this much after killing more than two hundred thousand monsters, even though the rate has become lower and lower as I increase my strength." Alex wondered whether he should use it or wait until he returned from this place.

[This is not the first time you get this much. In fact, you have gotten this many Gacha Tickets on a single occasion. But you always used it twice, so it never reached a number this high. Though, you can open it right now and save some EXP Cards. Isn't it good to know how many EXP Cards you will have as an assurance later?]

What the system said was reasonable. If he knew he had some assurance, it might lift some burden in his mind later. "Sure. Use everything like usual."

[Processing.]

[Summoning Coin (R) x1]

[Super Cleaving Axe (UC) x1]

...

...

After opening his Gacha Tickets, the system immediately opened every single Summoning Coins he got from the earlier draw and to his surprise, he managed to get 93 Rare EXP Cards.

Alex wanted to be happy, but he also couldn't say he was thrilled by this number. This was probably the most EXP Cards he ever had. Unfortunately, he still remembered that the Spirits needed six to seven EXP Cards to raise one level. It couldn't even increase his spirits by two levels.

"Still... I shouldn't complain about this. It's still better than nothing. Anyway, the main way to raise their level in this place is by killing monsters." Alex shook his head and remembered another thing. "I almost forgot this one. How about the reward for completing this pillar? Don't you have it for me?"

[Mission: Beat the pillar]

Reward: Gacha Hammer x5

Description: Show them who's the boss.]

He became speechless the moment he read the description. "What do you mean to show them who is the boss? Who actually do you want me to show it?"

[Plide Kingdom.]

"Wait. What?" Alex tilted his head in confusion. "I only have a problem with the Tiger Mercenary while I don't really care about the Kingdom itself. Besides, there is a possibility of me destroying them first before we enter the pillar."

[There is still that Guild Master. Once it's broken, it will never go back perfectly. Besides, the Earl was also annoying, so just slap them with your power.]

"Oi." Alex twitched his eyebrows. "Even if I beat the pillar, only Firia will make her appearance since I am not supposed to be here. If I show myself here and the other people realize, they might want to know the secret and other things, and the situation will become unpredictable."

[Just do your best. The real mission is to beat the pillar.]

As if losing in an argument, the system answered half-heartedly.

"You are running away." Alex rolled his eyes. "Anyway, I think it's time for me to regroup with the others."

He then walked toward the group and resumed their planning.

When he was on his way, there was a sudden movement coming from his body. The fire started gushing out, enveloping him in its embrace.

Two figures emerged from his body, taking the form of a fox and a phoenix.

"Sherry, Kyle." Alex recognized these two and sensed their power had reached Martial Saint.

"Congratulations, both of you."

"Thank you, Master." The two finally flew in front of him and turned into their human form, bowing their head politely.

Sherry had the same appearance as it seemed she had taken fancy of her current appearance. On the other hand, there was a qualitative leap in Kyle's appearance.

His previous teenage body turned into a young a.d.u.l.t, similar to Alex's current appearance. Alex felt that the image of him being his early twenties was the best, so he chose this one. That was why this sudden transformation blew his mind.

The wind swayed Kyle's long red hair as Kyle tried to fix it by tying it into a ponytail. His teenage body had become taller than Sherry's height and reached the same height as Alex. Although the muscle wasn't really apparent, the body felt very compact, and in fact, there should be some abs behind his clothes.

Of course, Kyle didn't forget to put on these clothes as he already felt his new appearance beforehand.

"Kyle..." Alex scanned him up and down.

"What is it, Master? Do you want me to do something for you?"

He hesitated for a second before he shook his head. "No. I just think there will be a certain person that can't wait anymore."

Kyle smiled gently and pumped his fist. "I know. I have made her wait this long... Master, can I request two things from you? I know that I shouldn't request this, but... Please. I beg of you, Master."

Kyle suddenly fell to his knees and placed his head on the ground.

Alex was startled by the sudden emotional scene as he could clearly hear his shaking voice. He immediately helped him get up and smiled. "Don't say it like that. Just say your requests; I will try to work it out."

"First of all, I have made her wait for thousands of years. Although I don't have the memory of being with her, I do have my current memory. After thinking for a long time, I have realized my feelings for her. To tell her that the past is the past and the present is the present, I would like for Master to lead our wedding ceremony."

"Oh?" Alex was amazed by this request.

"This wedding ceremony isn't like what you think. Because you have become our master, we only want you to witness our exchange of marriage oath. I learned this tradition back in that world..." Kyle looked down, wondering whether Alex would accept or not.

Alex patted his shoulder and smiled. "Sure. There is no way I have a problem with that. We can even do it now."

"Thank you, Master. However, I believe we can postpone it until we have finished our business here."

"Sure. I will let you choose the time. Just inform me later." Alex nodded. "What is the second wish then?"

"When Master becomes a God Stage Expert and can seal our cultivation as well. I would like for you to seal our cultivation, so we can visit Ellen. I am sure Stina is missing her, and I also want to tell her about this."

"Ah! There is no way I can reject something like this. You have been helping me this whole time."

"Thank you, Master." Kyle made the biggest smile he could have ever made before he flew to Stina.

Obviously, Stina couldn't endure herself any longer and leaped toward his embrace.

Alex and Sherry looked at this and smiled. "Maybe we will hold our marriage later when we reach Eulja? Together with Anna and Anya."

"Really?" Sherry widened her eyes and opened her mouth, feeling thrilled.

"Yeah. I promise." Alex patted her head. "Do you want something too?"

"I don't really have anything. I don't even need a big party like the one you held in the lower world. As long as people like Big Brother Leoz and the others come, I am already happy. Of course, we need to talk it out first with big sister Anna and Anya. I don't want my wish to make them sad after all."

Alex couldn't stop smiling, looking at this girl. "Let's go back then. Since Kyle has run first, the others must have known that we are on our way. We shouldn't make them wait."

"Un!" Sherry nodded with a smile, revealing her white teeth.

...

As soon as he returned, Alex had some talks with the group about the pillar. It seemed that the group decided to wait and see first until they got further information from the four kingdoms. Nelson accepted the request and kept a close eye on them.

Finally, after another month, one big thing occurred. It was the appearance of the grand one hundred thousand soldiers from the four kingdoms. They came together with all challengers to let them get used to the environment first.

Nelson immediately sneaked inside their army, trying to squeeze all the information they possessed.

According to them, the tower would undergo a huge change after the six months period, and monsters from five floors would come out at the same time, roaming around the world. Their mission is to get inside the pillar before the entrance is closed. That was why the reinforcement came with this timing.

They were planning to break through the enemy rank and entered the place before retreating a little bit and counter-attacking after reorganizing their rank.

Alex got a good grasp of their intention and planned to sneak inside with his Space Element before anyone could reach it. After all, they would be swarmed by monsters, so it would be a perfect cover for him and Firia to enter the trial. As for the spirits, they would try to kill as much as they could until Alex summoned them inside.

Although it was such a shame to let those many monsters pass, Alex's safety was their priority. Most of them had raised their level by one anyway, so they should have barely reached their target with the EXP Cards.

With that thought in mind, Alex kept hunting the monsters, killing as many as possible.

The moment they beat the twenty-fifth floor, Alex immediately fell to the ground, breaking through to 10-Star Martial Saint.

One month later, another big occurrence appeared as the pillar suddenly shone brightly as if it was going to transform.

Chapter 730 - Infiltration

The pillar shone brightly, illuminating the dark night sky.

Alex opened his eyes and stood up, activating his Spirit Eyes to see what happened.

"Alex?! How is your advancement?" Firia looked at him with a worried expression.

"It's fine. I have reached 10-Star and stabilized my cultivation a few minutes ago." Alex nodded, assuring her while observing the pillar.

As he started focusing his attention on the tower, the ground started trembling.

Rumble Rumble!

Alex furrowed his eyebrows and looked below them. "The ground? But I didn't see anything in the past few months with my Spirit Eyes. Did I miss something that I shouldn't have?"

The moment he uttered this question, the ground started shaking uncontrollably, and a loud rumbling sound followed right after. In front of the pillar, a thirty-meter wall rose from the ground, circling around the pillar.

"!!!" Alex furrowed his eyebrows and tried to see anything different from it. "I can see a few doors in that wall... There are three doors in my sight, and I can barely see a different change of color in each door. They are red, green, and blue."

"That's it? Is there any special Energy surrounding them?" Anna asked while furrowing her eyebrows.

"I don't see it anywhere." Alex shook his head.

At this time, many holes started to appear around the area, and Alex could see that there were five floors that had this sudden change.

"This is going to be troublesome." Alex watched how the monsters easily surrounded the entire pillar.

Firia fell into silence before she recalled a certain matter. "That's it. The color!"

Alex tilted his head in confusion, wondering why she became excited.

"Do you remember that I go to the illusory realm first before coming to this place to receive a key?"

"Yeah." Alex nodded before he also realized the problem. "The key has a color in it?"

"Yes. Mine is purple!" Firia nodded furiously.

"Nelson! Go to their surroundings. Seeing there is a wall circling around the pillar, I bet there are many doors there. If we are able to spot the one with the same as Firia's, I am sure she can open it!" Alex nodded with confidence.

As he said this, the armies also shifted their movement, moving around the wall as if they were thinking the same thing.

Nelson could see it in this darkness and nodded his head. He flew around as Alex was waiting for him to come back and told him where to go.

Meanwhile, Alex turned to his spirits and asked. "So, I am planning to wait for a little longer while waiting for Nelson's information. This way, the monsters will fill up the battlefield. At that time, I will use my Spatial Gate and sneak inside with Firia."

"Are you planning to take us there? I mean, I know that it's hard to pinpoint the location of your Spatial Gate... So, I am thinking about bringing us there to break through their rank. I can stay here and re-summon them after you enter the gate." Anya asked.

"I think it's fine. If I come with you, they might realize about our group. You must remember that they have people from the surface. Firia and I are enough to do this. Sherry, Stina, and Kyle will help us anyway." Alex shook his head, rejecting the idea.

"So, you want to use her as a camouflage. Giving that Sherry and the others can use your ability if they are in your body, they can make the others think there is only one person in the middle of the enemy range." Anya nodded as he realized his plan.

"Well, I can only use Fire Element in this case because it will be suspicious if I use my Sword and Spear. They will notice the cut... Although the ground has been dyed red and corpses are everywhere, I don't want to reveal a single flaw." Alex added with a sly grin.

"I understand. How about this Portal?" Anya asked while pointing at the Blue Colored Spatial Gate.

"I can connect the gate late, whether it's with the one inside the tower or the one that I will create later. Just know that I might summon you as soon as the situation starts getting dangerous, and it might happen as soon as I reach the door." Alex warned them with a serious expression.

"Don't worry. I will take care of the group and prepare them, so they are ready in any kind of situation. If you don't understand anything inside, you can ask the system or me. We will try to explain everything we know."

"Thank you."

Alex then looked at Firia, wondering if she had any objection.

"I will leave it to you." Firia nodded.

Alex then created a Teleportation Array, appearing not far from the Purple Gate with Firia.

"There it is..." Alex pointed his finger and said. "Don't use your Fire for the time being. Leave it to me and the others first."

Though she didn't really like the idea, she still nodded, not stopping him from continuing their best plan.

There are around a few tens of monsters in the area..." Alex furrowed his eyebrows as the monsters started noticing him. "We will breakthrough through this place. Follow me!"

As soon as he said that, a few hundred Fire Birds and Fire Swords appeared around him, raining the entire battlefield. No matter whether they were wolves, crocodiles, or any other monsters, all of them were roasted by his Pure Fire.

"Boom Boom Boom!"

A series of explosions shook the battlefield. It wasn't the loud sound that actually startled the soldiers nearby, but the location itself. Everyone who had the sight of these explosions would drop their jaws to the ground because the explosions were in the middle of the monsters, close to the gate itself.

These Fire Element Art blasted all the monsters nearby, causing a big stir in that place.

The lush Kingdom saw this and fell into confusion.

"How can there be someone there?"

"Looking at that place... Whoever there must be aiming at the purple door?"

"Now that I think about it, there is one more person that the Plide Kingdom can't grasp... Is that the Unknown person?"

"But according to the challengers, Miss Evelyn and Angela, the challenger is a woman. Doesn't that mean they have a wrong report?"

When they were in a panic, Evelyn and Angela could see the scene as well. Among the noticeable Fire Expert on the surface, only one person had an ability like this. It was Alex. However, Alex was not supposed to be here because Firia took his place. In other words, this fire came from Firia, and by the looks of it, Firia had Alex's Sacrificial Element.

"This is big brother Alex's Sacrificial Element. Although I've never experienced it, I still can feel the familiarity of this fire... I am sure of it. It's big sister Firia!" Evelyn nodded furiously as she kept watching how the explosions destroyed the monsters around.

"Still, I can't understand how she can reach there alone and at this speed." Angela furrowed her eyebrows.

"I think I haven't told you anything about big brother Alex. Do you know that he casually gave me two Teleportation Array Plates without blinking? There is only one method that you can reach that place. Big sister Firia is his wife after all." Evelyn had a mixed feeling. On one hand, she was happy that Firia could enter the gate without any help. On the other hand, deep inside her heart, she also wanted something like that.

Angela had the answer after the clue Evelyn gave but didn't say anything when she noticed her expression.

In the Evvy Kingdom, Elizabeth and Julius also saw this as their expression turned serious.

Elizabeth clenched her hand and thought with a smile. 'It seems the Spirit Nest is deeper than I can imagine... I have got a huge deal with that Alexander. Such a shame that my beauty is nothing in his eyes. We can really build the Divine Kingdom as the strongest influence together. Alas, my Divine Kingdom seems too small in his eyes...'

On the other hand, Julius needed to rethink his plan again after knowing that the Spirit Nest could do something like this. With a background like this, he needed to fully understand them first before initiating a negotiation.

Song Ling'er also thought the same thing and shook her head with a smile. "It seems my brother has made the right choice."

The giant and thick gate were opened, symbolizing that Firia was the first one to enter the trial.

Seeing how she entered and other things, the officials from the Evvy Kingdom laughed.

"Haha... That Plide Kingdom is a fool. They never expect to meet a fake and leave a person with a high skill alone."

"That's right!"

On the other side, Astennu frowned. He had heard many achievements from Alexander himself, but he never saw any reports about his wife as if she just appeared out of nowhere.

However, her performances in this place could only be described as amazing. He stroked his chin and fell into deep thought. "Is she their secret weapon? Is the Spirit Nest fostering her from the start, or does she hail from another influence? If it's the latter, the Fire God Clan seems to have made a wrong choice... After all, a normal influence won't be able to train someone like this."

He was also wondering about the rumored tenth person that didn't align up with the information. With this, he assured that the Kingdom seemed to not trustworthy, so he might need to think of another plan in case he entered the tower.

Little did he know that Firia had actually entered the Plide Kingdom. If the Kingdom and the Tiger Mercenary saw her face, no one would be able to imagine what kind of face they would make.

Unfortunately, the fourth kingdom was in the opposite direction, so they didn't know what just happened.

...

One minute ago, Alex and Firia kept advancing as fast as possible and arrived right in front of the gate before the monsters could swarm them.

Alex activated his Spirit Eyes and saw nothing particular in the gate, so he had no clue how to open it, despite Firia having the so-called key. No matter what, they still needed to enter, so Alex commanded. "Firia! Go to the door. I will buy you time as much as you need."

Firia was a bit unsure whether she could open it or not, but the clue was already there. She had no choice other than advancing, especially since Alex was buying time for her.

She also paid no heed in this situation.

The moment she arrived right in front of it and started wondering how to summon the key, her chest suddenly shone as a golden key with purple stripes emerged from within.

The key flew automatically toward the keyhole and opened the gate by itself.

Firia was surprised by this and watched how the door opened before shouting. "Alex, I think we can enter."

Alex glanced back and nodded his head. He turned around and leaped toward the gate as Firia followed him. The gate then closed once again, and the monsters began regaining their original intention.