Chapter 31 : Chapter 31

Chapter 031 : Moyong

The Heavenly Demon, Hyeokryeon Hwi, recalled Hyeokryeon Yeom who had readily said he would leave without even raising a question at the command to leave for the Ice Palace.

“Did he really say it was a wedding gift?”

“I mentioned it because I thought it would be good if it were a wedding gift. It seems they haven't reached that stage yet.”

“I will deduct the cost of the teacup from the Strategist’s monthly salary.”

At those words, Sa Ma-ui smiled bitterly.

He had spoken once to lighten the serious atmosphere, but he couldn't even recover his principal.

“Right, did he say Yeom is doing well?”

“Yes. It seems the Ice Palace Lord trusts him quite a bit. He said he entrusted him with the squad that escorts the Young Palace Head.”

“The scoundrel Third Young Master operating a squad.”

“I had many worries, but it seems they were groundless.”

“What does the Strategist think?”

“What do you mean?”

“I mean what do you think about the fact that Yeom, who lived as a scoundrel, was living normally as soon as he went to the Ice Palace.”

“Wouldn't it be one of two things?”

Either his appearance at Our Cult was entirely fabricated, or due to some opportunity, he was able to spread his wings at the Ice Palace.

It was the opinion of the Strategist, Sa Ma-ui.

“Which probability looks higher between the former and the latter?”

“Well... It is the former.”

Hyeokryeon Yeom absolutely must not reveal his prominence within the Heavenly Demon Divine Cult.

Sa Ma-ui was clearly aware of that reason.

Knock knock knock-

“Cult Leader. Young Master Hyeokryeon Geuk has visited.”

‘...Geuk?’

The eyes of the Heavenly Demon, Hyeokryeon Hwi, settled coldly.

“Come in.”

As the door to the Cult Leader’s Hall opened, a heavy demonic qi covered the corridor in an instant.

From the center of that energy, a man with a frame like a mountain slowly entered.

It was the Heavenly Demon’s eldest son, Hyeokryeon Geuk.

“It has been a long time, Cult Leader.”

As befitting a man predicted to be the next Cult Leader of the Heavenly Demon Divine Cult, demonic qi spread out every time Hyeokryeon Geuk took a step.

No warmth could be felt at all in those cold eyes.

The eyes of the Heavenly Demon, Hyeokryeon Hwi, who was watching that figure, slowly cooled down.

It was because the image of the third son, Hyeokryeon Yeom, who contrasted clearly with this guy, shimmered before him.

That contrast, rather, made Hyeokryeon Hwi’s heart turn cold.

‘To survive... has he been deceiving the world all this time?’

Hyeokryeon Geuk is a child with great ambition.

If the second or third son had revealed their prominence from a young age, he would have tried to trample them before the bud could even grow.

“It has been a long time. What is the matter?”

“I stopped by because I heard the news that a gift arrived from the Ice Palace. I was also curious about the current situation of Yeom who left for the Ice Palace. Does it say Yeom is doing well at the Ice Palace?”

Outwardly, he looked like a desirable older brother looking after his younger brother to anyone who saw.

However, Hyeokryeon Hwi noticed Hyeokryeon Geuk’s intention.

‘Is there no spy planted by Hyeokryeon Geuk in the Ice Palace?’

In Hyeokryeon Hwi’s eyes, it seemed the reason Hyeokryeon Geuk visited the Cult Leader’s Hall was to acquire information regarding Hyeokryeon Yeom.

Currently, there is only one thing Hyeokryeon Geuk wants.

‘Geuk probably hopes I will formally invest him as the Young Cult Leader.’

But the Heavenly Demon Divine Cult’s Cult Leader, Hyeokryeon Hwi, was not unaware that that moment would be the moment of ruin.

Tssst-

The demonic qi wrapping Hyeokryeon Geuk’s whole body rippled like waves.

It is the Heavenly Demon Divine Art.

The demonic qi emitted by the Heavenly Demon Divine Art predates upon other energies.

Evidence that he has already learned the Heavenly Demon Divine Art, which is passed down only to the Cult Leader’s direct heir, up to eight stars.

A martial art that could not be taught to the third son Hyeokryeon Yeom and the second son Hyeokryeon Mu.

So Hyeokryeon Mu and Hyeokryeon Yeom could not learn the Heavenly Demon Divine Art.

‘If time passes like this…….’

It was clear that Hyeokryeon Geuk would complete the Heavenly Demon Divine Art to twelve stars and become the strongest Heavenly Demon among the successive Cult Leaders.

And if that happens.

‘He will try to erase the second and third sons from the world.’

Hyeokryeon Geuk was a guy who would do that and more.

“Well, this gift is also a formal gift exchange, so I do not know well.”

Therefore, he speaks a lie.

“Is that so? He should please stay quiet in the Ice Palace, though.”

“Since he will marry the Young Palace Head anyway, Yeom is no longer a person of Our Cult.”

If only that happens, wouldn't Hyeokryeon Geuk also let Hyeokryeon Yeom live?

“Has the wedding date been set?”

“Not yet.”

“Oh, that is fortunate. Because I couldn't give a single gift to my younger brother before he underwent the wedding ceremony.”

“A gift?”

At Hyeokryeon Hwi’s question, Hyeokryeon Geuk answered while smiling.

“Yes, as the eldest brother, shouldn't I fulfill the duty of a brother? Isn't that so, Strategist?”

Sa Ma-ui glanced at Hyeokryeon Hwi and then spoke.

“Yes, there wouldn't be a problem with just fulfilling a duty, but…….”

“The Strategist says so, but I am curious what the Cult Leader’s thoughts are.”

At the appearance of Hyeokryeon Geuk wearing a smile all over his face, Hyeokryeon Hwi’s eyebrows twitched.

Hyeokryeon Hwi did not like the way Our Cult was running recently.

It is because a significant number of forces of Our Cult are gradually passing into Hyeokryeon Geuk's hands.

Even if that were so.

The attitude Hyeokryeon Geuk is showing right now,

"...Geuk, your attitude has been arrogant since a while ago."

It was not an attitude to show to the Cult Leader.

Hyeokryeon Hwi released his energy and began to crush Hyeokryeon Geuk.

Ku-o-o-

Flinch.

At this, Hyeokryeon Geuk's knees trembled for a moment, but he soon endured it and maintained the smile he had forced.

Seeing that appearance, Hyeokryeon Hwi's expression hardened.

'Does this mean he has grown this much already.'

Although it is said he cannot exert as much power as before due to an injury suffered in the past, he did not think Hyeokryeon Hwi would endure it.

The fact that he has climbed to a level to endure this momentum means his growth rate is faster than what Hyeokryeon Hwi anticipates.

Soon, Hyeokryeon Hwi released his momentum.

"Well, fine. Try doing as you wish."

As if he had waited for those words, Hyeokryeon Geuk maintained his smiling face and took a clasped hands greeting as he continued his words.

"Yes, then I should convey the Cult Leader's will to Yeom and the Ice Palace Lord, right?"

"What does that....."

"I want to send a return gift. I would appreciate it if you would permit it."

Hyeokryeon Hwi's eyes flashed at Hyeokryeon Geuk's answer.

He had been aiming for this from the beginning.

Hyeokryeon Hwi could not find a justification to refuse Hyeokryeon Geuk’s proposal.

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Days of training with Seol Ye-rin continued to find clues about the Extreme Yin Body.

I, Hyeokryeon Yeom, practiced the Sword Venerable’s Snow Wind Sword.

Seol Ye-rin practiced the Demon Queen’s Cold Snow Secret Realm.

While the two of us were immersed in mastering martial arts, time began to flow like running water.

I had left the task of grasping the movements of the Elders to the Small Snow Squad for the sake of ferreting out the traitor.

However, after I visited the Council of Elders, the Elders stayed indoors and did not move.

Then one day.

“Go to Liaoning Province."

It was the news that a merchant from the merchant guild for the Cold Iron transaction mentioned last time is visiting the North Sea.

Although we swept away most of the horse bandits, remnants must still remain.

Bringing the merchant safely to the Ice Palace avoiding their eyes.

That was the instruction of the Ice Palace Lord, Seol Baek-ho.

“I will go too.”

The Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, also declared she would go out of the Ice Palace at the fact that I was heading to Liaoning Province.

“Right, go and come back.”

“Even if Father opposes... Pardon?”

She thought Seol Baek-ho would naturally refuse Seol Ye-rin’s request.

It was an easy permission to the point Seol Ye-rin tilted her head.

“Is it... okay even if I go?”

“Of course. Wouldn't the Small Snow Squad Captain take responsibility.”

Grin.

The expression of the smiling Seol Baek-ho contained the meaning that if the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, were to get hurt even a little, he would break my legs.

“We will return safely.”

“Right. Go and come back.”

After receiving permission thoroughly, I headed to Liaoning Province with the Small Snow Squad.

Since it’s going out for an outing outside the Ice Palace after a long time.

Even more, since we came close to the Central Plains this time, Seol Ye-rin did not show it, but she seemed quite excited.

“Have you heard who we have to bring?”

“I received the portrait and personal information from the General Manager.”

It was quickly proven who General Manager Seol Su-hyeok trusted most in the Small Snow Squad.

We began to hear Wi Ji-yeong’s explanation while moving.

“First, the ones we have to bring are the Moyong Clan merchant guild Leader’s son and his escort. Two people.”

“Only two people?”

“Persuading those two to sell the Cold Iron as expensively as possible is the second mission.”

“Even the Cold Iron sales... we have to do it?”

“Yes, Young Master. And one more thing remains.”

“What is it?”

“The Moyong Clan merchant guild is a guild operated by the Moyong Clan. Since it is also a sect belonging to the Five Great Clans among the Orthodox sects, he said it would be good to inform them of the Ice Palace’s robustness as well.”

The moment I recalled why we have to inform the Moyong Clan of the Ice Palace's robustness,

'Certainly.....'

Memories of my past life began to emerge one by one.

'The Five Great Clans.'

Among them, if it's the Moyong Clan, it is a martial family but a family that became more famous for its merchant guild than its martial arts.

Because the one who came to be called the Merchant King was produced from the Moyong Clan.

'Since when did the Moyong Clan's Merchant King start being called the Merchant King?'

I didn't remember the details.

Anyway, there was no one who didn't know that the Ice Palace's long-standing cherished desire is to prepare a base in a warm place.

In other words, the place the Ice Palace wants to establish a base is precisely the Central Plains.

And in order to migrate to the Central Plains.

'Massive money and massive authority and power would be needed.'

However, the Central Plains Murim of the current era would not be able to view the Ice Palace that way.

The disconnection due to the horse bandits would be the biggest factor.

And also because it has been a long time since the martial artists of the Ice Palace haven't roamed about the Central Plains.

-Kneuk kneuk, how did the Ice Palace become like this?

-Why are you being like this?

-Back in my day, if I appeared in the Jianghu, the Jianghu people trembled in fear.

-Oh my, that is exactly the same as me.

-Then it seems the problems started to arise from when problems arose with the Ice Crystal.

Listening to the conversation of the Martial Gods, it seems the Ice Palace also had a glory of the past.

Now I had to recreate that glory of the past.

“Everyone confirmed the three things to keep in mind, right?”

“We confirmed it but... are we leaving right away like this now?”

As I nodded my head with an indifferent expression, Baek Mu-yong muttered.

“I was wondering in which era we would get to Liaoning Province again.”

Certainly, the distance is far.

“How long would it take if we go by movement arts?"

-Kneuk kneuk, you should cover it in two days.

-If it’s this number of people, three days?

Combining the words of the Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen, it means it takes two to three days to get to Liaoning Province by movement arts.

“I will pack food ingredients and come!”

Dash, seeing Wi Ji-yeong taking Tae Un-seo and leaving, I looked back to the side.

“Surely, you aren't taking the Young Palace Head too, right?”

“We have to take her.”

The moment it gets delayed even a little, we end up emptying our spots for seven days round trip.

Considering Seol Ye-rin’s current health condition, the Extreme Yin Qi could flare up again if I am not there.

When I explained regarding this matter to Eun Bin,

“...It can’t be helped. I will bring her.”

Like that, taking even Seol Ye-rin, we ran for two days and nights continuously and were able to arrive at the border of Liaoning Province.

“Here.”

“Thanks.”

Seol Ye-rin handed cold frozen water to everyone.

Her Ice Arts almost reminded one of a refrigerator.

The two days coming to Liaoning Province were very peaceful.

Why?

Because we only performed movement arts to death.

‘Thanks to that, the control of energy improved a lot.’

Running until the night deepened, consuming Inner Qi to the limit.

If one of the party members collapsed from exhaustion, we took a rest.

The Small Snow Squad kept up with this forced march.

The person I was most worried about was Wi Ji-yeong.

‘I looked down on the maid from the Demonic Cult too much.’

We performed movement arts endlessly, but Wi Ji-yeong actually encouraged Tae Un-seo and ran without giving up.

-I didn't know running was such a good thing.

Seol Ye-rin even really liked performing movement arts.

Perhaps because it was her first time running like this, a smile was built occasionally on her expressionless face.

Seeing that appearance, what I thought was.

‘She is a monster.’

To think she can smile while running like that.

Stamina is good and she is even beautiful.

If it were modern times, she was a talent that a running crew would welcome with open arms.

Baek Mu-yong ran very comfortably saying he had run with White Night many times.

Unexpectedly, the one who ran worst was precisely Eun Bin.

“It, it is a disgrace, huff, huff.”

Laughter came out at the fact that even Eun Bin, who later becomes a Killing Star, is bad at running.

“The Third Young Master doesn't seem very tired?”

“Uh, not really.”

My stamina was on the good side from my first life.

Since martial arts were grafted onto good stamina, I came to possess steel stamina that doesn't get tired easily.

“Looking at you sometimes, I think you are really amazing.”

Suddenly Seol Ye-rin threw out a compliment.

It seemed she thought a lot while running.

The amazing one is Seol Ye-rin.

It requires tremendous courage for a person who only stayed at home to come out and roam around.

Right now Seol Ye-rin was struggling to live her best.

“Rather than me, the amazing one is.....”

Just as I was about to tell her it is Seol Ye-rin.

-I see them over there.

The Sword Venerable’s voice was heard.

“It seems to be those people.”

Flutter-

People holding flags symbolizing the Moyong Clan outside Liaoning Province came into view.

Chapter 32 : Chapter 32

Chapter 032 : Blood Tears

Clip-clop, clip-clop.

“It is certainly cold.”

The border of Liaoning Province.

Although they hadn't even entered the North Sea yet, the cold wave seemed to make the body chilly.

Moyong Geum, the son of the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild Leader who dominates Liaoning Province, muttered while driving his horse.

“Father is too much, really.”

When he mentioned there was a place to visit secretly, Moyong Geum wondered where it was and it turned out to be the North Sea.

‘Aren't all the roads leading to the North Sea blocked due to horse bandits?’

‘I heard a message came saying it opened up a while ago.’

‘Is that really true?’

The road to the Ice Palace has opened.

What that statement implies is only one thing.

It means they can trade Cold Iron again.

Martial artists who value swords wanted well-forged blades.

The gemstone absolutely necessary to make such blades was Cold Iron.

If Cold Iron starts circulating in the Central Plains again, the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild can monopolize that trade.

‘Sitting on a pile of money wouldn't be a dream.’

That is why his Father entrusted this task to Moyong Geum.

Although it is a task accompanied by danger, a trustworthy person had to close the deal with the Ice Palace.

“I think they said they would come out to the border of Liaoning Province to pick us up.”

“Over there, someone is approaching.”

Moyong Geum looked back at the place his escort Jang Baek-rim pointed to.

“Six people……?”

He thought they would at least bring a carriage, but he saw a group of only a measly six people approaching.

Whether to not stand out or not, they were all wearing black clothes.

“Gasp.”

It was, in a way, natural that Moyong Geum’s gaze headed towards the veiled woman wearing a bamboo hat.

Although she covered her face with a veil, there was an overwhelming beauty that could not be concealed in her clothes' fit and every revealed appearance.

“Did you come from the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild?”

At that moment when he couldn't take his eyes off the woman, he felt a gaze dizzying enough to bring him to his senses.

“This is Young Master Moyong Geum of the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild. Show respect.”

An energy that seemed like it would strike with a lethal technique if Jang Baek-rim hadn't blocked it.

‘…Bald head?’

Only then did the sun-dazzling head at the end of his shifted gaze catch his eye.

The head was completely shaved, but a man with incredibly small slit eyes was glaring at Moyong Geum.

With a gaze full of dissatisfaction somewhere, the man soon took a clasped hands greeting and spoke.

“We came from the Ice Palace. I am Eun Bin, the Vice Captain of the Small Snow Squad.”

“Small Snow Squad?”

“We are the Small Snow Squad of the Ice Palace who will be escorting the Young Master from now on. I am Wi Ji-yeong, a member of the Small Snow Squad.”

A cheerful woman with a small frame appeared in front.

“I am Tae Un-seo, the chef of the Small Snow Squad.”

A chef holding a kitchen knife, and,

“...Introduce yourself properly. I am Baek Mu-yong, the Squad Leader of the Small Snow Squad.”

Up to a large-built man.

‘What in the world are these people.....’

Now he was curious about the remaining two people.

“I am Hyeokryeon Yeom, the Captain of the Small Snow Squad.”

Flinch-

With a single word, chills ran down the spines of Moyong Geum and Jang Baek-rim.

“G-glad to meet you. I am Moyong Geum of the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild.”

“...I am the escort Jang Baek-rim.”

Glance,

When Moyong Geum turned his head wondering if he could subtly hear the veiled woman’s name,

“First of all, since the situation is urgent, I would like to talk while moving.”

Sizzle-

Heat was felt behind his back.

Since it seemed like a silent urge to move quickly, Moyong Geum started to perform his movement technique for now.

Because Moyong Geum, who is from the Moyong Clan, was also a martial artist who learned martial arts.

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Peeping, peeping-

The road heading to the Ice Palace.

The son of the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild Leader, Moyong Geum, was chattering away while being very mindful of Seol Ye-rin.

“I didn't know the Young Palace Head would come out personally.”

“It was the Palace Lord’s instruction. Since it is a process to solidify the connection with the Central Plains, you do not need to mind it too much.”

Seol Ye-rin speaking in a very cold tone.

It was a different appearance from when she usually treated me.

“Haha, if the Palace Lord thinks so, I am just grateful. By the way, how long does it take from here to the Ice Palace?”

“Two days, I expect.”

“Pardon?”

At the appearance of Moyong Geum, surprised by the words expecting two days given the distance, I spoke.

“Young Master Moyong. From now on, we will perform movement arts. Since you are from the Moyong Clan, surely you can perform movement arts, right? Can you follow us?”

“That is true, but the reason we necessarily have to run to the Ice Palace is.....”

“Then we will depart.”

I had no intention of taking questions from the beginning.

Pa-at-

First of all, the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, dashed out.

The members of the Small Snow Squad started running with expressions saying they were used to it.

“What will you do?”

At Jang Baek-rim’s question,

“Ahem, l-let’s go together!”

Moyong Geum also started to follow hurriedly.

The problem was,

‘J-just until when in the world are we running?!’

The martial artists of the Ice Palace didn't seem to have any intention of slowing down until one hour passed.

Even more,

“What dish should I prepare for dinner tonight?”

“I will definitely try to show off my skills today!”

“Since it gets cold again if we go near the North Sea, how about something with hot broth for the sake of Young Master Moyong too?”

“Broth dish, confirmed!”

“Please, I beg you for something a human can eat.”

“Squad Leader Baek!”

They looked peaceful enough to share conversations even while running.

‘M-monsters.’

I approached Moyong Geum, who was thinking a reevaluation of the level of the Ice Palace’s martial artists was needed.

“Is it hard?”

“T-that is not so!”

He couldn't show himself slacking off in front of the Young Palace Head.

“That is a relief. Since Young Master Moyong says he can still run more, everyone increases speed!”

“Yes, Captain!”

N-no.....

Just as the running torture was about to begin like that,

-Be careful.

The Sword Venerable’s voice was heard by me.

At that moment,

Boom!

Dust rose along with an explosion.

At the same time, men in black clothes who soared from the ground thrust their swords.

“Young Palace Head!”

Eun Bin moved quickly to protect Seol Ye-rin.

“Young Master!”

Moyong Geum’s escort Jang Baek-rim moved to protect Moyong Geum.

Watching that scene, I looked down at the ground.

‘Slow.’

Even at the sudden ambush of the men in black, I didn't panic.

Although it was also due to knowing the fact of the ambush in advance thanks to the Sword Venerable’s brief warning.

The swords of the assassins, who appeared as if they were waiting for us under the soil, looked slow.

‘Is this the effect of training?’

I continued to practice the aesthetics of emptying and filling together with Seol Ye-rin.

We continued to exchange Yang energy and Yin energy.

By injecting Extreme Yang Qi, I could prevent the Extreme Yin Qi from freezing Seol Ye-rin’s body.

By accepting Seol Ye-rin’s Extreme Yin Qi, I began to feel the balance of my body gradually being adjusted.

‘Appropriate harmony of Yin and Yang certainly helped my body.’

Fwoosh.

Red flames burst up from all directions.

As heat fire covered the air, the thrusting swords melted down.

The men in black were flustered and tried to retreat quickly, but,

“That won’t do.”

It’s not just me.

The men in black were extending their swords aiming for the necks of the Small Snow Squad, the Young Palace Head, and even further, Moyong Geum of the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild.

“How dare you... where do you think this is!”

Crack crackle!

The assassins who rushed at Seol Ye-rin couldn't even try anything and just froze.

“Huff, huff.”

Glance, looking back at Moyong Geum and his escort, it seemed the escort blocked the attack of the assassin who rushed at them.

“S-suddenly what is going on!”

“They are attackers. I don't know well yet who they came aiming for, but.”

Boom!

Seeing an explosion occur from the ground once again, I frowned.

If I didn't see it wrong, the object causing this explosion is clearly,

“It’s a Thunderbolt Sphere!”

Is it the guys from the Thunderbolt Demon Clan again?

If so, this ambush could have targeted me and no one else.

Swish-!

But soon I corrected that thought.

If they had targeted me.

‘There’s no need to attack Moyong Geum too, right?’

Assassins specialized in ambush, using Thunderbolt Spheres.

There was a group that came to mind.

Swoosh!

“These things.”

Those who gave me confusion for a moment began to move in perfect order with a clear target.

The target was the son of the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild Leader, Moyong Geum.

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“Everyone protect Young Master Moyong!”

“Yes, Captain!”

“The Vice Captain protects the Young Palace Head, and Squad Leader Baek blocks the assassins approaching Young Master Moyong. Wi Ji-yeong, Tae Un-seo match movements with me and execute the assassins.”

“Yes! Young Master, no, Captain!!”

With me at the lead, the Small Snow Squad began to move in perfect order.

“I also want to be of help.”

“Young Palace Head. It is dangerous.”

As Seol Ye-rin tried to move, Eun Bin dissuaded Seol Ye-rin.

“Isn't the Vice Captain even resentful?”

Slash-

Every time I moved, one assassin fell to the floor.

It was a bonus that the surrounding air turned hot every time an assassin fell to the floor.

“What point are you talking about?”

Even while watching all that spectacle, Eun Bin was sharpening his senses to protect Seol Ye-rin.

“I am asking if the person the Vice Captain should protect here isn't me but Young Master Moyong.”

It is a correct statement.

The Small Snow Squad currently had to protect Young Master Moyong Geum who came to visit the Ice Palace.

However,

“I apologize, but Young Palace Head. The order the Captain gave me was the order to protect the Young Palace Head.”

Eun Bin drew the line clearly.

He made it clear that he isn't protecting Seol Ye-rin by his own will.

He said he is following the order according to the Captain’s judgment and order.

“Ah.”

At Eun Bin’s words, Seol Ye-rin realized only then that she was misunderstanding many parts.

‘Most people perceived me as an existence they had to protect.’

-The Vice Captain protects the Young Palace Head.

It seems Seol Ye-rin noticed the meaning contained in that one phrase too late.

Whatever Seol Ye-rin does, Vice Captain Eun Bin will follow her around to protect Seol Ye-rin.

In other words, Seol Ye-rin’s movements were not restricted.

It means it doesn't matter even if she moves freely.

As soon as she recognized that fact,

“Young Master, please stay back. This Jang Baek-rim will definitely try to protect Young Master!”

I could see more assassins being deployed towards Moyong Geum.

‘With this number of personnel, it seems they moved almost one unit?’

It seemed we were far enough from the North Sea for them to openly commit such a killing act.

Seol Ye-rin gazed at me moving to protect Moyong Geum while cutting down assassins.

The reason she followed me out was partly because she wanted to go on an outing, but the biggest reason is that she wanted to be of help to me.

‘I received a lot of help from the Third Young Master.’

So she thought she wanted to make it so that sometimes I can rely on Seol Ye-rin with a relaxed mind.

Then what would be the direction that helps me?

-Bring the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild safely to the Ice Palace.

Perfectly executing the task Father, the Ice Palace Lord, ordered.

If it’s that task, it seems Seol Ye-rin could also be of help.

Seol Ye-rin, who judged so.

“S-save m……!”

Descended in front of Moyong Geum and Jang Baek-rim who faced a desperate crisis.

Craaaack-

Everything in the surroundings except the two people froze.

Twinkle-

Watching the figures of the assassins who became ice statues and froze, Seol Ye-rin muttered towards Moyong Geum.

“Hold onto your lifeline tight. Since it seems there are quite many who aim for your neck.”

“Young Palace Head……!”

Moyong Geum gazed at Seol Ye-rin’s back with a moved expression.

“Sigh.”

There was another person sighing while looking at Seol Ye-rin.

“…You should have left some opportunity for me to be active, Young Palace Head.”

-Grrr.

It seemed clear he would hear nagging from Wi Ji-yeong that he only caught a few assassins when the battle ended.

Baek Mu-yong stroked the innocent White Night’s head and looked at the faces of the assassins who became ice statues.

A red dot clearly stamped on the mask.

It is a mask a specific assassin group wears.

“This is…….”

“It’s Blood Tears.”

At my voice approached after organizing the assassins before anyone knew, Baek Mu-yong looked back at me.

“Why would Blood Tears……?”

“That, we will have to look into from now on.”

The affiliation of the assassins was.

Along with Deathshroud , one of the two great assassin groups of the Central Plains, Blood Tears.

Chapter 33 : Chapter 33

Chapter 033 : Collapse.

North Sea Ice Palace, Council of Elders.

“They must have taken care of them by now, right?”

“Most likely.”

“Tsk, if they took care of them, they should send a message quickly saying so. It's getting late.”

A man in black robes answered Chairman Seol Un-gang’s question.

“Do you not trust Blood Tears right now?”

Blood Tears (Hyeol-ru).

Along with Deathshroud, it is one of the renowned assassin organizations in the Central Plains.

As the man in black grumbled as if he were slightly offended,

“It is not that I do not trust Blood Tears. It is because neither that guy nor the Young Palace Head are ordinary wenches and bastards.”

“Extreme Yang Body and Extreme Yin Body. They certainly possess bodies rare even in the Central Plains. However, even so, they are merely children barely of age.”

The man in black wore an expression showing he couldn't understand Seol Un-gang.

“It is shameful enough to dispatch a squad of Blood Tears against kids, yet you worry about the failure of the assassination. It is unlike you, Elder.”

“Having confidence is good, but Sa-wol. If it fails, your neck will not remain intact.”

Chairman Seol Un-gang thought.

‘If only that guy hadn't come.’

Everything would have proceeded according to Seol Un-gang’s plan.

If only that guy disappeared, the North Sea would return to how it was before.

So he had been constantly looking for an opportunity to assassinate him.

‘To think they would let him out of the Ice Palace just in time.’

He felt he should be grateful to the Palace Lord.

The sight of trying to open trade with the Central Plains again looked very good.

However,

‘Palace Lord, you trust the live-in son-in-law too much.’

Merchant guilds are entities that pursue loyalty and trust.

The guys in the Central Plains are ones who really like justification.

If a person from the merchant guild is harmed before the trade even begins, it was clear they would break the deal before even arriving at the Ice Palace.

It doesn't matter if the assassins of Blood Tears fail to take care of Seol Ye-rin and Hyeokryeon Yeom.

If he could just block the Ice Palace’s flow of funds from circulating, the Ice Palace would gradually fall into ruin even more.

A crisis requires a hero.

‘Using this as an excuse, I will drag down the Palace Lord.’

And become the new Palace Lord of the Ice Palace.

“You promised instead? If successful, you agreed to give double the payment.”

“Of course.”

If only they succeed, he could give any amount of money.

Since the money to be paid to Blood Tears wouldn't be his personal private property anyway.

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“Are you alright, Young Master?”

“I am fine.”

Moyong Geum watched the Small Snow Squad facing the assassins.

Not just any guys, but assassins of Blood Tears.

‘I thought it was just a dying minor sect of the Outer Regions.’

It was not at all.

Only six.

No, to speak precisely, it is four.

Because the Small Snow Squad members protecting Moyong Geum, including Young Palace Head Seol Ye-rin, are doing nothing.

‘Then... what is that?’

Slash- slash-

A chef holding a kitchen knife slicing off the arms and legs of assassins indiscriminately, and,

“To do things like killing people, you are all too much.”

Pew-

Every time the maid threw a flying dagger, it was embedded into the necks of the assassins.

Furthermore,

Fwoosh.

“Aaaargh!”

Even well-trained assassins had no choice but to scream in pain,

A man cremating the assassins alive with flames blooming from his whole body.

“For a martial artist of the Ice Palace to use Fire Arts, it is peculiar.”

No one brought up the point that he isn't from the Ice Palace.

It was because most people of the Central Plains have an aversion to the Demonic Cult.

“They seem to be targeting Young Master Moyong persistently; does anyone come to mind?”

At Baek Mu-yong’s question, Moyong Geum’s escort Jang Baek-rim shook his head.

“This is the first time receiving an attack from assassins like this.”

“Hmm, that is strange.”

Unless it is a personal grudge against Moyong Geum, it means someone commissioned to kill Moyong Geum.

“There might be those who dislike restarting trade with the Ice Palace.”

Moyong Geum spoke calmly.

Since the Moyong Clan also moved carefully, information wouldn't have leaked out.

Naturally, the Ice Palace was suspected, but he didn't voice it out.

“We will ensure there are no problems until we get to the Ice Palace.”

At the Young Palace Head Seol Ye-rin’s voice, Moyong Geum nodded.

Since he clearly confirmed with his own two eyes that their skill is certain, there was nothing much to worry about.

“Wouldn't it be better to catch at least one guy and interrogate him?”

At Eun Bin’s question, Moyong Geum shook his head.

“The assassins of Blood Tears would rather commit suicide than ever talk. Seeing as the Small Snow Squad Captain also noticed that, he seems to be disposing of the assassins without hesitation.”

Whoosh!

The heat wind begins to subside.

“You are correct.”

I gazed at the assassins of Blood Tears collapsed around.

With this number of personnel, it is almost a squad level.

‘Whoever it is, they are a guy who likes certain handling of matters.’

As Moyong Geum said, if it is clear someone commissioned it.

“Let’s run.”

“Pardon?”

“There is no time. We must arrive at the Ice Palace first before the news that the assassins were all defeated is conveyed.”

The purpose of this mission is to restart the trade between the Ice Palace and the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild.

If only that is achieved, the North Sea will begin to develop again.

“Are there any injuries?”

“Thanks to the Captain, I was safe, thank you.”

“That is a relief. Then let’s perform movement arts again.”

“Pardon?”

Looking at the flustered Moyong Geum, I smiled.

“You can run, right?”

Moyong Geum couldn't bear to say he couldn't run in front of Seol Ye-rin.

***

“They say the Small Snow Squad is returning together with the son of the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild Leader.”

The Ice Palace’s General Manager, Seol Su-hyeok, read the message tied to the carrier pigeon and reported to Seol Baek-ho.

“When did they say they would arrive?”

“They say they expect about two days.”

“That fast?”

“They say they are performing movement arts like crazy.”

“Why? They could come slowly.”

“They say assassins of Blood Tears targeted the Merchant Guild Leader’s son.”

“There was an attack?”

“Yes. So the Small Snow Squad Captain’s proposal is that it would be good if we prepared the Cold Iron in advance. So that someone does not interfere with the trade.”

The General Manager, who finished reading the message containing my thoughts, looked back at Seol Baek-ho.

“It seems the Small Snow Squad Captain anticipates a certain force will interfere with the trade.”

“It seems so.”

“What does the General Manager think?”

“The movements of the Council of Elders are unusual.”

“Do you think there is a traitor within the Palace?”

“It is because while the Palace Lord was paying attention to the Young Palace Head all this while, you couldn't grasp the movements of the Council of Elders.”

Seol Su-hyeok began to tell the story he had been harboring until now.

“If it is to bring back the glory of the Ice Palace again, I think you need to make a decision.”

In Seol Su-hyeok’s story, Seol Baek-ho pondered for a moment and then spoke as if he had made a decision.

“Summon the heads of the Five Families.”

“Palace Lord?”

“Shouldn't the Ice Palace that Ye-rin will inherit be intact.”

Seol Baek-ho’s blue eyes began to shine.

***

“Huff, huff. Captain, l-let’s rest a little before going.”

Baek Mu-yong declared surrender.

“Right. Let’s rest for a moment before going.”

Actually, I was thinking we should rest around this point.

Although everyone wasn't saying it, Tae Un-seo and Wi Ji-yeong also looked exhausted.

Seol Ye-rin and Eun Bin also looked slightly tired.

And the most important Moyong Geum and Jang Baek-rim were, Flop.

“Whew, whew.”

At the talk of resting, they quickly sat down on the ground and started Qi Circulation.

It seemed they thought we would stand guard on our own.

-Tsk tsk, it seems they were quite tired.

-Certainly, if they do Qi Circulation, stamina will recover quickly, so. It is a good choice.

‘Does the Young Palace Head look okay?’

-It seems she consumed quite a lot of Extreme Yin Qi through movement arts and battle.

Then it seemed I should tell her to pass the remaining Extreme Yin Qi to me.

Approaching Seol Ye-rin, I extended my hand.

“What is it?”

“Please pass a little Extreme Yin Qi to me.”

“Here?”

“Yes. I think I need to fill up on Extreme Yin Qi.”

There are still many things I want to experiment with on this body.

Until now, side effects of the Extreme Yang Body haven't appeared.

That is probably because I am using the Extreme Yang Qi so much.

And because the Extreme Yin Qi received through the Young Palace Head achieved harmony with the Extreme Yin Qi.

“...We still have to run more, so. Just a little.”

Seol Ye-rin held my hand.

Then,

Flinch-

Moyong Geum who is doing Qi Circulation.

Except for Jang Baek-rim who is standing guard for him, the Small Snow Squad was surprised.

“Right now... you held hands with the Young Palace Head, right?”

“It is just truly fascinating that you didn't freeze.”

Wi Ji-yeong whispered quietly, and Baek Mu-yong spoke as if it was really fascinating.

“The rumor that the Captain is a live-in son-in-law was widespread, I guess it was true.”

“.....”

At the muttering of Tae Un-seo, who was making simple food with the ingredients he brought to soothe hunger, Eun Bin clenched his fist.

Vroom-

The Extreme Yang Qi in the qi center reacted to the Extreme Yin Qi crossing over through the joined hands.

A situation where it feels like all acupoints will freeze as the Extreme Yin Qi crosses over.

The Extreme Yin Qi began to pierce through the acupoints again.

Soon the two energies that met,

Rumble.

Began to harmonize without colliding.

‘It is fascinating, really.’

They are clearly conflicting energies.

But the two energies began to welcome each other intensely as if they had wanted each other from the beginning.

Vroom!

As if telling it to follow, the Extreme Yang Qi guided the Extreme Yin Qi.

The Extreme Yin Qi settled in the qi center where the Extreme Yang Qi was coiling.

I wasn't the only one experiencing a process like this.

“Mmm.”

Seol Ye-rin also let out a small groan while looking at this process with fascination.

Since the movement of unfamiliar true qi is bound to accompany pain.

Rather, she was looking at me, who didn't let out a groan, with fascination.

Because it meant I was enduring all of that immense pain rushing in.

Anyway, by sharing each other's energy, the two people felt their exhausted look recover a little.

“...Until when are you going to hold it?”

“Ah, sorry. A little more.....”

As I tried to continue the story,

“Tw-two people! What is your relationship!”

I looked back at the shout of Moyong Geum who woke up after finishing the Qi Circulation.

Because Moyong Geum, not knowing when he woke up, stood up and was pointing his finger at the joined hands of me and Seol Ye-rin.

“What relationship.....”

I looked at Seol Ye-rin’s face.

It’s not like formal marriage talks have been exchanged yet either.

Although the Palace Lord called me over to the North Sea and I spent a night together with Seol Ye-rin.

A situation where I am not in a lover relationship with Seol Ye-rin either.

Right now, it should be seen as a relationship between a Captain and a Young Palace Head.

Just as I thought there was even less need to inform an outsider who isn't even an Ice Palace person of these details and was about to open my mouth.

“It is a relationship where we will soon hold an engagement ceremony with the Small Snow Squad Captain. Is there perhaps any problem?”

Seol Ye-rin opened her mouth first.

Wide-eyed-

Everyone was looking at Seol Ye-rin with an expression that they heard shocking words.

“Ah……”

The one most shocked seemed to be Moyong Geum.

At Seol Ye-rin’s one word, Moyong Geum’s head dropped down.

Although I cannot know what turbulent future he painted with Seol Ye-rin who was still wearing a bamboo hat and even a veil.

It seemed Moyong Geum’s world had collapsed right now.

Chapter 34 : Chapter 34

Chapter 034 : Han Seol-bi

‘It is a relationship where we will soon hold an engagement ceremony.’

Hyeokryeon Yeom ruminated on the words Seol Ye-rin had just said while performing movement arts.

‘Hmm.’

-Tsk tsk, what are you worrying about so much?

-Hoho, of course, he would be worried. Isn't he thinking about what in the world the Young Palace Head’s words meant?

‘No, I am not.’

A need to worry about the meaning?

None.

Since an engagement ceremony is just something to hold.

Since the Young Palace Head also needs to keep Hyeokryeon Yeom by her side to have even a little possibility of surviving, this was a naturally necessary action for the sake of maintaining each other's relationship.

The problem was.

-Then what kind of worry is it?

‘If we hold an engagement ceremony... I was worried that people from Our Cult might visit the Ice Palace.’

I wasn't ready to face Hyeokryeon Geuk yet.

-...You were worrying about something unexpectedly strange.

‘Is that so?’

-From our perspective, it is a strange worry. Rather than that, we are here.

Looking ahead at the Sword Venerable’s words, the castle walls of the Ice Palace began to be seen before I knew it.

“Finally……!”

Moyong Geum burst out an exclamation seeing the castle walls of the Ice Palace.

After Seol Ye-rin declared she planned to hold an engagement ceremony with me, Moyong Geum had been performing movement arts silently without a word.

It wasn't a secret that the Small Snow Squad members were chattering via telepathy that it was clear Moyong Geum had an interest in the Young Palace Head.

“We can supply Cold Iron!”

It seemed he wasn't happy about arriving at the Ice Palace, but happy about the fact that he could earn money by selling Cold Iron.

“Hahahaha, let’s go see the Cold Iron quickly…….”

“Young Master!”

“No, let’s go see the Palace Lord!”

Only after Jang Baek-rim restrained Moyong Geum did Moyong Geum seem to come to his senses.

‘I think his eyes spun just now.’

True to his name, Moyong Geum (Gold) seemed to go crazy for money.

“Captain.”

Just as we were about to enter the Ice Palace, Eun Bin called me separately.

“Why?”

“Is it okay to enter inside the Ice Palace like this? Isn't the probability very high that the one who commissioned Blood Tears to ambush Young Master Moyong is a traitor within the Ice Palace?”

As expected of Eun Bin who has experience leading a squad, his judgment was quick.

“It is certainly as the Vice Captain says.”

The spy within the Ice Palace is a thorough guy enough to read our movements and send assassins.

“So we have to go in.”

Even if just to notify them of the fact that we survived the attack of Blood Tears.

“While I see the Palace Lord with the Young Palace Head and Young Master Moyong. The Vice Captain should take the Small Snow Squad members and convey the story of subjugating the assassins to the General Manager.”

Currently, the only person trustworthy was the General Manager, Seol Su-hyeok.

“Understood.”

“Don't forget to take Ji-yeong, Squad Leader Baek, and Un-seo too.”

“...Do I absolutely have to take them?”

“It would be good if you induce the Elders to eat Tae Un-seo’s cooking.”

“...Confirmed.”

I expected if it were Eun Bin, he would understand perfectly what I wanted.

Like that, the Small Snow Squad was able to bring the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild safely into the Ice Palace.

***

“Greetings to the Palace Lord.”

“Right, it has been a long time.”

“It seems it is the first time since seeing you when I was young.”

North Sea Ice Palace, Palace Lord’s Hall.

Moyong Geum was conversing with my father-in-law without being nervous at all.

“...Were you acquaintances?”

“I am close friends with the Moyong Merchant Guild Leader. We met often until the trade was cut off.”

“Then.....”

Naturally, my head turned towards Seol Ye-rin.

“Was Ye-rin acting prickly this time too?”

“Although she covered her face with a veil, it seems she has become pretty to the point I couldn't recognize her.”

So, it means the two are childhood friends.

“I have never gone out of the Ice Palace, though.”

“It is natural that you do not remember. Young Master Moyong visited the Ice Palace together with the Merchant Guild Leader to take Cold Iron. Although you did exchange greetings every time that happened.”

Seol Ye-rin would not have taken a single step out of her room.

‘But is that really a friend?’

Just a relationship without even knowing the face.

In other words, a stranger.

“He is a stranger.”

At Seol Ye-rin’s firm drawing of a line.

“Haha, it seems it has been too long since we couldn't communicate due to horse bandits.”

Moyong Geum made a truly regrettable expression.

But now I felt I could understand the meaning of those words.

‘He must feel it’s a waste since he couldn't trade Cold Iron for all that long time.’

A feeling of roughly grasping the person called Moyong Geum.

It seems the Palace Lord had already done this grasping.

“General Manager.”

“.....”

He called General Manager Seol Su-hyeok, but there was no answer.

“The General Manager went out for a moment as there was a matter to discuss with the Vice Captain. If you have any needed business, please tell me.”

“I was thinking shall we go see the Cold Iron, but a story to tell the General Manager. Did something happen?”

My father-in-law pretended not to know and broached the subject to me.

At that gaze, I glanced at Moyong Geum,

“Oh my, Palace Lord. It is nothing special. There was a brief ambush on the way coming here, but.....”

Moyong Geum stepped forward first.

“An ambush?”

“Yes, yes. It was nothing special. Thanks to the Small Snow Squad Captain, we blocked the ambush easily. Thank you very much for attaching a great escort.”

Watching Moyong Geum’s action, I could feel that he was certainly quick at calculation.

The first life I passed through.

The scouters who came to sign a contract with me in the past life were acting exactly like Moyong Geum.

From Moyong Geum’s perspective, my father-in-law and I were like customers.

Now he opened the trade with the Moyong Merchant Guild due to the connection formed in the past.

But, if Moyong Geum makes even a small mistake here, he doesn't know if this deal might fall through.

That absolutely must not happen,

“Palace Lord, if you just tell me where it is, I will guide Young Master Moyong.”

“Did you find me?”

Just as we were about to leave, General Manager Seol Su-hyeok returned again.

“Right, guide the two people to the warehouse keeping the Cold Iron.”

“Yes, Palace Lord.”

We began to move following General Manager Seol Su-hyeok.

“How much would the amount be?”

Moyong Geum began to ask the General Manager with sparkling eyes.

“There is a lot of Cold Iron we set aside while trade wasn't happening all this while. I trust the Moyong Merchant Guild will sell it well.”

“A lot of money……. Since Cold Iron is overflowing with scarcity, I can adjust the volume of goods distributed at once a little, right?”

“We will entrust everything about selling.”

“Thank you!”

Watching Moyong Geum whose eyes sparkled as soon as the talk of money came out, I came to have a thought ‘Perhaps……’.

‘Surely the Merchant King of the Moyong Merchant Guild isn't Moyong Geum, right?’

The Merchant King who will come to possess the power to sway the business world of the Central Plains in the future.

To fight against Hyeokryeon Geuk, I had thought in advance of the people I had to win over through the memories of his past life.

First of all, the Ice Palace was the very first.

Second was the experts of the Potala Palace, Poison Palace, and Great Thunder Temple.

Third was the Merchant King responsible for the business world of the Central Plains and the Manor Master of the Ten Thousand Gold Manor.

And if possible, even those who can be won over among the Ten Venerables under the Heavens.

‘To deal with the Demonic Cult, I should prepare at least this much.’

If Moyong Geum is the one who becomes the Merchant King in the future, I had to win him over right here somehow.

-Captain.

At that time, Eun Bin’s telepathy was heard.

-What is it?

-While we were out, the atmosphere of the Ice Palace was strange.

-What is strange?

-It is the news that the Palace Lord summoned the heads of the Five Families of the Ice Palace.

Five Families?

-Kneuk kneuk, does it mean the Five Families are still being maintained?

-Tradition ought to be continued.

As if they secretly overheard the telepathy between me and Eun Bin, the Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen brought up the story.

‘Please tell me a bit.’

In the Demonic Cult, I hadn't heard news up to the Five Families of the Ice Palace.

-In the Ice Palace, the Five Families exist.

-North Wind Seol Clan, Ice Wolf Baek Clan, Cold Blood Han Family, Snow Tiger Gwak Clan, Guardian Jang Clan.

The Seol Clan would be my father-in-law’s family.

I roughly understood Baek Mu-yong’s family, the Ice Wolf Baek Clan, and the Elder from the Snow Tiger Squad, Gwak Tae-san’s family, the Snow Tiger Gwak Clan.

Elder Han Bing-ok's place of origin is the Cold Blood Han Family.

'It is the first time I hear of the Guardian Jang Clan, though.'

Another armed force of the Ice Palace.

It seemed to be the family of the Guardian Squad protecting the Ice Palace.

The fact that he summoned all of them would mean my father-in-law drew his sword at the news of the ambush.

I expected the force that realized Blood Tears was defeated would come to find us immediately.

If it becomes like this, I wonder if I should leave the elimination of the traitor to my father-in-law.

"Is something wrong?"

At the feeling that Hyeokryeon Yeom was continuously exchanging telepathy, the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, asked.

"No. First of all, showing the Cold Iron to Young Master Moyong and opening the trade seems to be the priority."

"We arrived."

As I conversed with Seol Ye-rin, we arrived at the warehouse.

We could discover Cold Iron piled up fully inside the warehouse.

"Wooooah!!"

I had an illusion that Moyong Geum's eyes, witnessing the fully piled Cold Iron, were dyed in golden light.

"This, all! of! it! The Moyong Merchant Guild will purchase and distribute it!"

"Thank you, Young Master."

"For transport, I will go back and tell my father and send the escort agency to the Ice Palace."

"Yes, Young Master, come to think of it, it seems you moved without being given time to relieve the fatigue of the journey. Since you finished checking, please rest quickly now."

At the fact that he could finally rest, Moyong Geum's pulse seemed to relax.

"Whew, it seems I should do that."

Moyong Geum's escort, Jang Baek-rim, supported Moyong Geum who started to stagger.

"I will treat you to a delicious dinner!"

At that appearance, Tae Un-seo shouted with sparkling eyes, and,

"N, no. First I need to sleep a bit."

"Guide him to the accommodation."

"Yes, I will guide him."

Moyong Geum stopped his steps for a moment and conveyed a greeting with a light clasped hands greeting towards me.

"Young Palace Head, Captain. You worked hard escorting me a long way. I wish to see you again after taking a rest for a while. Since I have things to talk about too."

"Yes, yes, Young Master. Then see you later."

Baek Mu-yong took Moyong Geum along with White Night.

"Miss Seol should also go back quickly and rest, no?"

"After sending me back, what work do you intend to start again, Captain Hyeokryeon?"

She is incredibly quick-witted too.

Since it seemed she was curious about the telepathy with Eun Bin, I conveyed the news about the Five Families to Seol Ye-rin via telepathy.

Then,

"Wait... then....."

"What's wrong?"

"If Father summoned the head of the Cold Blood Han Family, surely! General Manager!"

Seol Ye-rin quickly looked back at General Manager Seol Su-hyeok.

“Probably, as the Young Palace Head anticipated, it is expected they will come in together.”

“Ah. I, I will try going back to the Young Palace Head’s Hall quickly.”

“Why are you suddenly like this?”

The moment I made a puzzled expression at Seol Ye-rin’s appearance of being extremely flustered and restless.

“Oh my oh my, you really came out, Sister!”

I could see a woman running at a crazy speed from far away.

“Sister?”

A woman enough to be able to call Seol Ye-rin sister.

My head started spinning fiercely.

“To be able to see Sister like this, ah, this Seol-bi is so touched!”

The pure white hair of the woman who ran quickly and landed in front of Seol Ye-rin fluttered.

“This woman is……?”

“Oh my, who is this person?”

Hyeokryeon Yeom and the woman’s eyes became entangled.

“He is Captain Hyeokryeon Yeom who became the new Small Snow Squad Captain this time.”

At Seol Su-hyeok’s introduction, the woman reacted.

“Small Snow Squad Captain… Nice to meet you! I am Sister’s lovely sworn sister! Han Seol-bi!”

‘Surname Han?’

A woman of ultra-extroverted disposition who looks completely opposite to Seol Ye-rin appeared in front of my eyes.

Chapter 35 : Chapter 35

Chapter 035 : Introduction

The sparkling eyes of Han Seol-bi of the Cold Blood Han Family turned towards me.

It is a man she is seeing for the first time.

‘If it’s the Small Snow Squad... it’s the squad protecting Sister, right?’

Was the Captain of that squad this handsome?

A peculiar point was the fact that I was wearing black martial arts robes with a red tint, not blue martial arts robes.

Just as she was about to open her mouth at the appearance of wearing martial arts robes that Demonic Cult bastards would likely wear.

“Seol-bi.”

The Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, called Han Seol-bi.

“Oh my, this clear voice. Do you know how much I missed it!”

“I understand you are happy to meet after a long time, but people are watching.”

It's an informal speech.

I saw Seol Ye-rin using informal speech for the first time.

The relationship between the two looked extremely intimate.

Given the characteristics of the Extreme Yin Body, there must have been many people who would freeze just by approaching close.

‘Han Seol-bi, from the Cold Blood Han Family.’

It seems like a name I have heard somewhere.

“Ah, yes yes. By the way, Sister. Where did you find this handsome Captain? With a face like this, there is no way I would have passed by without seeing him!”

Twinkle twinkle.

As Han Seol-bi tried to approach close to me,

Swish-

“Huh?!”

Seol Ye-rin pulled Han Seol-bi’s collar.

“Father brought him.”

“...The Palace Lord?”

At the words that the Ice Palace Lord, Seol Baek-ho, brought me personally, Han Seol-bi’s curiosity about me grew more and more.

As Han Seol-bi continued to glance at me from Seol Ye-rin’s side,

“By the way, what brings you all the way into the main palace?”

“Ah, I came together with Dad.”

“The Family Head... entered the palace?”

“Didn't you hear? A summoning order for the Five Families has been issued right now.”

At the word summoning order, Seol Ye-rin’s expression hardened.

It was because it was the first time the Five Families were summoned since the day the fact that Seol Ye-rin has the Extreme Yin Body was announced.

“I am sorry, Captain. I think I have to go to the Palace Lord’s Hall, not the Young Palace Head’s Hall.”

“Ah, that is a method I don't really recommend.”

“Why?”

“Because everyone doesn't seem to be in a very good mood.....”

“Then I must go even more.”

Seol Ye-rin thought.

If Father Seol Baek-ho hadn't tried to save her, the Ice Palace might have been much more developed than it is now.

Therefore,

‘I have to bear a certain part of the responsibility.’

“Small Snow Squad Captain.”

“Yes, Young Palace Head.”

“Take the lead.”

“Understood.”

Surrounding Seol Ye-rin and Han Seol-bi together with the Small Snow Squad, I advanced towards the Palace Lord’s Hall.

The Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen who were watching that scene shouted respectively.

-She is a filial daughter, a filial daughter!

-Yeom, you help a bit! Your partner looks quite distressed right now!

I was planning to go anyway.

Since if I intend to become the live-in son-in-law of the Ice Palace, I also have to make my presence known to the heads of the Five Families.

***

North Sea Ice Palace, Palace Lord’s Hall.

Four Family Heads were gathered in a large conference room.

“Just when in the world is the Palace Lord coming?”

Gwak Un-cheol, the head of the Snow Tiger Gwak Clan who was wearing tiger fur all over his body, blew out steam from his nose.

“Calm down. Your impatient personality is always the problem.”

As Baek Il-sang, the head of the Ice Wolf Baek Clan, scolded such Baek Un-cheol,

“What!”

“Since even the head of the Jang Clan showed his face after a long time, I am asking if you have to cause a commotion like this.”

Jang Un-seong, the head of the Guardian Jang Clan who participated in this place with the most simple attire, frowned.

“If it were usual times, I wouldn't have associated with you guys.”

“Everyone is the same as always.”

Han Myeong-gwang, the head of the Cold Blood Han Family, let out a sigh.

All four Family Heads did not look to be on such good terms.

At that time,

“Being noisy is also the same as always.”

Seol Baek-ho, the head of the North Wind Seol Clan and the Palace Lord of the North Sea Ice Palace, revealed his figure in the hall.

“Greetings to the Palace Lord.”

Although it is formal courtesy, the Family Heads offered greetings.

“Sorry I am late. I needed some preparation.”

Flutter-

Unlike usual, Seol Baek-ho entered the hall wearing clothes symbolizing the Ice Palace Lord.

At his appearance, even wearing a sword, the expressions of the Family Heads hardened.

“...I wondered for what matter you called us, it seems it was a serious matter.”

Even Gwak Un-cheol, whose usual temper is fiery, became quiet upon seeing Seol Baek-ho’s appearance.

“It seems the Young Palace Head has certainly recovered. It seems you have returned to the Palace Lord of the past.”

At Jang Un-seong’s admiration, Baek Il-sang asked.

“It seems you are going to wage war somewhere, Palace Lord.”

“It is correct that I am going to wage war.”

“Pardon?”

“It is intelligence that there is a traitor within the Palace.”

Flinch.

The expressions of the Family Heads changed.

“By traitor, you mean.....”

“There are guys trying to kill Ye-rin. Not only that, they even tried to kill the official of the Merchant Guild brought from the Central Plains to sell Cold Iron, the main product of the Ice Palace. Hiring assassins of Blood Tears, no less.”

“Did the Young Palace Head go outside the Ice Palace?”

“You mean they hired assassins of Blood Tears?”

“So, what happened?”

As the story about the Young Palace Head came out, the attitudes of the Family Heads changed.

“The Small Snow Squad disposed of all the assassins of Blood Tears.”

At Seol Baek-ho’s one word, the Family Heads looked back at each other.

Because they noticed who brought up the story that they have to ferret out the traitor.

“So, you mean the reason the Palace Lord gathered us like this is because the Young Palace Head’s spouse brought this time, the Demonic Cult bastard. Is that what you mean?”

At Han Myeong-gwang’s summary, Seol Baek-ho’s gaze headed towards Han Myeong-gwang.

“Head Han. Do you think this Palace Lord is being swayed by the Demonic Cult?”

Pause.

His attitude is completely different from the Palace Lord until now.

Although stories like this came up often even during the Family Head meetings.

The Palace Lord, who had never singled out one Family Head to speak... had changed.

“Gulp.”

The fighting spirit emitting from Seol Baek-ho was no longer the fighting spirit emitted by the Palace Lord of the past.

“Palace Lord. Head Han also did so because he was worried, he probably didn't have other intentions. Isn't that so?”

“Th, that is correct.”

The one who helped Han Myeong-gwang escape the crisis situation was none other than Jang Un-seong.

“By the way, Palace Lord. You seem a bit different today.”

Gwak Un-cheol spoke with sunken eyes.

“I have changed. First, I have a story to tell the Five Families.”

The atmosphere in the hall settled heavily.

It was a situation where the Family Heads could not predict at all what story Seol Baek-ho would tell.

“I acknowledge that I neglected the operation of the Ice Palace as the Palace Lord all this while. So I called you to apologize to everyone like this. I am sorry.”

“……?”

“Palace Lord? Are you... really the Palace Lord?”

To think of an apology.

As the head of the North Wind Seol Clan and the Palace Lord of the North Sea Ice Palace.

The Palace Lord who had moved self-righteously to recover Seol Ye-rin had completely changed.

“Did you recognize the situation of the Ice Palace only now?”

While there were gazes looking at Seol Baek-ho with surprise, there also existed sharp reactions filled with coldness.

Because Seol Baek-ho had thrown aside all other work for Seol Ye-rin’s treatment all this while, the Ice Palace was in a situation driven to the edge of a cliff.

“I recognize it. So from now on, I intend to show a changed appearance.”

“If you say a changed appearance.....”

“Before that, I should ferret out the traitor first.”

Many things have changed.

“...Surely you don't think that traitor is among us, right?”

The gazes of the Family Heads reached Seol Baek-ho.

“I do not know. So find them. Ferreting out the traitor will be the first step to make the Ice Palace great again.”

“Kuhaha! Only now you seem to show an appearance befitting Seol Baek-ho of the North Wind Seol Clan. You mean a purge of blood, right?”

“That is so.”

“Then... Do you mean it doesn't matter even if we raid the Council of Elders?”

At Baek Il-sang’s question, Seol Baek-ho nodded.

At those words, the Family Heads’ eyes flashed.

Because war was soon an opportunity to reorganize the power structure of the Five Families.

“If it is for the sake of ferreting out the traitor.”

“We understand the Palace Lord’s will well.”

The four Family Heads realized that Seol Baek-ho had drawn his sword.

What was slightly doubtful was.

‘Such a decision wouldn't have been easy.’

How he came to make such a decision.

The moment they just had such a thought.

“Palace Lord, the Young Palace Head and the Small Snow Squad have arrived.”

The guard’s voice was heard.

“Young Palace Head?”

“You mean the recovered Young Palace Head came to visit?”

“Tell them to come in.”

Everyone’s gaze headed to the door.

***

“Will you really be okay?”

“Yes, according to the Small Snow Squad Captain’s words, it means in the current situation, there is a need to face the heads of the Five Families inside here.”

“That is true, but…….”

“Sister, I think it would be better for you not to go in right now.”

“If you don't want to come in, you don't have to follow.”

Han Seol-bi guessed she couldn't break Seol Ye-rin’s stubbornness.

“I will assist you.”

Rather than that, her gaze kept going to the Small Snow Squad Captain guarding Seol Ye-rin’s side.

Inside, the Family Heads of the Ice Palace and even the Ice Palace Lord would be waiting.

The moment they enter.

Even though I had to receive their gazes head-on, my eyes did not change a single bit.

‘How can he be like that?’

Han Seol-bi, who had not a single interest in the Demonic Cult, did not notice that I was the Cult Leader’s youngest son even after hearing the name Hyeokryeon Yeom.

She thought I was just an ordinary martial artist who rolled around in the Demonic Cult.

So she was wondering how I happened to become the Small Snow Squad Captain protecting Seol Ye-rin.

“We are entering.”

“Yes.”

“L, let’s go together!”

Step, step.

Han Seol-bi and I followed behind the Young Palace Head who took the lead with a confident gait.

As we entered the Palace Lord's Hall conference room.

Numerous gazes began to fix on us.

"Is it really... the Young Palace Head?"

"She has completely... recovered."

"Then the man behind is....."

"S, Seol-bi."

Except for the Palace Lord, Seol Baek-ho, the four Family Heads each burst out exclamations.

Clap.

The sound of wrapping hands called everyone's attention.

I spoke while taking a clasped hands greeting.

"Greetings to the Palace Lord. I have returned safely to the Ice Palace bringing the merchant of the Moyong Merchant Guild."

"Right, you worked hard coming all this way."

Swish-

Seol Baek-ho's gaze reached me.

"Thank you for protecting the Young Palace Head from the assassins of Blood Tears, Small Snow Squad Captain."

"No, Palace Lord. I only did what I had to do."

At the appearance that looked like I received the Palace Lord's recognition to anyone who saw, the Family Heads began to open their mouths.

"Palace Lord, I heard you seated the Demonic Cult Leader's youngest son in the Small Snow Squad Captain's seat. I am curious if it is true."

Flinch-

At Baek Il-sang’s one word, Han Seol-bi’s two eyes opened roundly.

Although she knew I was from the Demonic Cult, it was because she didn't know I was the Demonic Cult Leader’s son.

“If it is true... What do you intend to do, Head Baek?”

A clear voice like a nightingale rang through the conference hall.

At the same time,

Whoosh- Crackle-

A cold chill began to encroach on the surroundings.

Cynical eyes like frost glared at Baek Il-sang.

“Haha, Young Palace Head, there seems to be some misunderstanding.”

Due to the tremendous Extreme Yin Qi, Baek Il-sang’s complexion became noticeably bad.

“Young Palace Head.”

At that time, I called Seol Ye-rin.

Whoosh!

In an instant, the Extreme Yin Qi was withdrawn.

‘She is a monster.’

‘She seems... stronger than before.’

‘He restrained the Young Palace Head.’

‘Seol-bi……!’

While the Family Heads were each thinking different thoughts inwardly at Seol Ye-rin’s appearance of handling energy.

“Why did you call?”

“I intend to formally present an introduction to the Family Heads, would you permit me?”

Since it was a place where others were watching, I treated Seol Ye-rin politely with honorifics.

Seeing such an appearance of mine, Seol Ye-rin's eyes narrowed.

'……?'

Although I was puzzled by that gaze.

"Do as you wish."

Seeing Seol Ye-rin stepping back one step for now, I stepped forward.

"I offer greetings to the distinguished Family Heads of the Ice Palace. Known as the youngest son of the Demonic Cult Leader until a while ago. I am Hyeokryeon Yeom, currently serving as the Small Snow Squad Captain. And."

Fwoosh!

Flames began to soar from my whole body.

The moment hot heat contrasting with a little while ago covered the hall,

"I am the live-in son-in-law scheduled to hold a wedding ceremony with the Young Palace Head."

"……!"

"L, live-in son-in-law?!"

Han Seol-bi, who was listening to my story from the very back, burst out a scream of astonishment.

Chapter 36 : Chapter 36

Chapter 36 : White Hand Demonic Art

"A live-in son-in-law, the youngest son of the Demonic Cult Leader? What is all this about, Unnie?!"

Han Seol-bi's shout rang out through the hall.

Seol Ye-rin wore a troubled expression as she heard that voice.

The Heads of the Five Families of the Ice Palace were all watching.

If it were the past, Seol Ye-rin would have said whatever she wanted without caring whether they were staring or not.

But now it was different.

Since they would react to every single word Seol Ye-rin said, she had to be as careful as possible.

“That is how it happened. Seol-bi.”

“So you mean... it is true.”

Swish!

Han Seol-bi’s gaze began to scrutinize me.

It was frustrating, but she and Seol Ye-rin looked very good together.

“But, Unnie is!”

Just as she was about to raise her voice.

“Han Seol-bi.”

Flinch-

Han Seol-bi glanced back at the heavy voice.

It was the Head of the Cold Blood Han Family, Han Myeong-gwang, called Han Seol-bi.

Gulp-

“F-Family Head.”

“This is not a place for you to step forward.”

“Y-Yes.”

Han Seol-bi quickly stepped back.

“Palace Lord. I understand that you entrusted the Small Snow Squad to the Small Snow Squad Captain because he saved the Young Palace Head’s perilous life. But a live-in son-in-law? It sounds like you intend to form an alliance with our enemy, the Demonic Cult."

Seol Baek-ho answered the words of the Ice Wolf Baek Clan Head, Baek Il-sang.

“That is correct.”

“……?”

“...Are you saying you intend to form an alliance? With the Demonic Cult?”

Wooooong-

The Palace Lord’s Hall began to vibrate.

“This Palace Lord surely answered already.”

A massive chill soared from Seol Baek-ho’s entire body.

Energy that seemed to cut into flesh encroached upon the Palace Lord’s Hall.

‘That is the true appearance of the Ice King, Seol Baek-ho.’

The Ice Palace Lord, who had cast aside the major and minor affairs of the Ice Palace until now to save Seol Ye-rin, began to move again.

“Palace Lord. No matter if you are the Palace Lord, if you proceed with matters like this without any consultation with us.....”

When the Head of the Snow Tiger Gwak Clan, Gwak Un-cheol, had just opened his mouth.

“Could you tell us once what exactly makes the Demonic Cult such a problem, Family Heads?”

I stepped forward.

“You fellow, this is not a place for you to intervene right now!”

Gwak Un-cheol projected his energy explosively.

It seemed his intention was to crush my spirit at our first meeting, but.

Fwoosh-

Sparks rose slightly and the energy that touched me was obliterated.

I had burned the energy itself.

“What the.....”

“If the person involved cannot speak, then who can speak? I can understand that the perception of the Divine Cult is not good. However, I hope you will please look at me as a person rather than looking at my origin first.”

The moment I finished speaking.

“Should you not listen to my opinion as well?”

When the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, stepped forward, the Family Heads rushed in with lights in their eyes.

“Yes, that is right. Should we not also hear the story of the person involved!”

“Right! There is no way the Young Palace Head would say she will get engaged to a Demonic Cult 20 fellow.”

Only the Head of the Guardian Jang Clan, Jang Un-seong, did not say anything.

“I am going to do it, though.”

“……?”

“What?”

“Since it has not been long since we met, I intend to proceed with the engagement ceremony first. Meeting and getting married is a problem to figure out gradually, but. The Small Snow Squad Captain, no, the Third Young Master is the benefactor who allowed me to come out to the outside world again.”

This time, I wore a bewildered expression.

Like when she mentioned the title ‘Gaga’ in front of Seol Baek-ho last time.

Seol Ye-rin usually could not say things like this at all, but she was speaking very fluently in front of others.

Seol Ye-rin was properly boosting my morale.

“…….”

“Since the Young Palace Head is speaking to that extent, I hope the Heads of each family will also think about it once more. I called you today to tell you this.”

A seat to declare that things would change from now on since the Young Palace Head had recovered.

The Heads of the Five Great Clans of the Ice Palace stared at me without a word.

Because all these things began to change as I came to the Ice Palace.

***

The Family Heads went back.

Those remaining in the Palace Lord's Hall were Seol Baek-ho, Seol Su-hyeok, Seol Ye-rin, myself, and Han Seol-bi.

Originally, she should have followed Family Head Han Myeong-gwang, but the Young Palace Head kept her behind.

Because Seol Ye-rin knew too well what kind of things Han Seol-bi would suffer if she followed Han Myeong-gwang as is.

"I did not know you would even go so far as to make a declaration in front of everyone."

Seol Baek-ho spoke while looking at Seol Ye-rin.

"I said it because I thought it would be good to hold the engagement ceremony. Since I am not in a completely cured state yet, we should at least have an engagement ceremony to tie the Third Young Master to the Ice Palace, right?"

I have no intention of leaving for anywhere even if you do not necessarily tie me down.

"An engagement, I will have to send a letter to the Demonic Cult."

"Palace Lord, they say the Demonic Cult has sent an envoy to return the favor for the gift sent last time. Would it not be fine to send it back via that side?"

Wait.

I think I just heard something strange.

"An envoy?"

"I sent a gift to the Heavenly Demon in exchange for treating the Young Palace Head. It seems to be a return envoy for that."

...The Ice Palace Lord of all people sent a gift to the Cult Leader?

It seemed the Cult Leader and the Strategist who received the gift would have been very surprised.

'Anyway, to think an envoy is coming.'

I was very curious about who would come.

If the information the envoy sees and hears gets passed to Hyeokryeon Geuk.

‘It might become a little troubling.’

What I was doing in the Ice Palace right now was no different from a preparation process to deal with the Demonic Cult in the future.

In this situation, I had to prevent the situation where information about me gets passed to Hyeokryeon Geuk at all costs.

“You look like you are not very pleased that a person from your hometown is visiting the Ice Palace.”

“Well, there are such things as the circumstances of an illegitimate son.”

At those words, Seol Baek-ho’s eyes narrowed.

“Is there anything you want to request of this Palace Lord?”

After tipping back white liquor, it seemed my father-in-law’s attitude toward me had strangely changed.

I pondered for a moment and spoke.

“Would you be able to do as I wish at least when the envoy visits?”

“If you wish.”

“Thank you.”

That broad-mindedness to agree without even asking what I would request.

It was befitting the Palace Lord of the Ice Palace.

“What happened with the trade with the Moyong Clan merchant guild?”

“We decided to take everything. Young Master Moyong Geum is resting in his accommodation due to travel fatigue.”

“Protect him strictly so that the son of the Merchant Guild Leader suffers no harm.”

Ah.

At my father-in-law’s one word, I realized I had left Moyong Geum too free.

The opponent was from a prestigious Orthodox Sect considered one of the Five Great Clans in the Central Plains Murim.

The Merchant Guild Leader of the Moyong Clan merchant guild was the younger brother of the Moyong Clan Head, and Moyong Geum was the Merchant Guild Leader's son.

If such a person were to suffer harm in the Ice Palace, the Moyong Clan might advance toward the Ice Palace right away.

'If a spy really exists within the Ice Palace.....'

He would feel like very sweet prey.

"I think I must go see him."

"Why do you think something will happen?"

"The possibility... is not nonexistent."

My father-in-law had heard that I left the possibility of a spy open, just as I mentioned last time.

"Then the Small Snow Squad Captain should go first."

"Yes, Palace Lord."

"I will also.....!"

"You seem to need to have a talk with me."

"Unnie.....?"

"...Help the Small Snow Squad Captain a little, Seol-bi."

"Yes, I understand!"

I gave a glance to Seol Ye-rin for a moment and came outside.

Just as I was thinking I should go to Moyong Geum quickly and was about to move.

"Hey, there."

Han Seol-bi spoke to me.

"What is it?"

"...Your speech is a bit short?"

"Did you not call Lady Seol 'Unnie'?"

“That is true, but…….”

“Then let’s speak casually.”

If we argued hierarchy, I was her older sister’s husband to Han Seol-bi.

“……That is somewhat frustrating.”

“Then you can speak casually too.”

Moving to the accommodation used by guests, I examined Han Seol-bi.

The daughter of the Cold Blood Han Family Head.

Looking only at that origin, in reality, her origin was similar to Seol Ye-rin’s.

‘Well, I guess that is why they can be Unnie and Dongsaeng (younger sister).’

“That’s not bad.”

I did not know she would speak casually right away like this.

“So, why did you call me?”

“Ah, because I was curious. Do you really have thoughts of marrying my Unnie? I heard Unnie’s opinion, but I don’t think I heard the Small Snow Squad Captain’s opinion.”

“Why are you curious about that?”

Ssaaa-

I only uttered one word.

A chill begins to settle down.

Although it is not Extreme Yin Qi.

Crackle-

It was enough to stop my steps.

“…What are you doing?”

“That is what I want to say. If you are toying with Unnie…….”

Frost forms at the tips of my feet.

But it was only for a very short moment.

Flare-

“Sorry, but did you say you were Han Seol-bi?”

Flames soar.

“W-What.....”

“You see, I have no intention of going easy on a punk who radiates killing intent at me just because she is Lady Seol’s sister.”

Flutter-

Just like the frost that touched my shoes a moment ago.

A butterfly fluttering wings of flame landed on the tip of Han Seol-bi’s foot.

“Kyaaak!”

The flames went Pop! and singed the ends of Han Seol-bi’s hair.

“Huk!”

“Toying with her, what do you mean toying? Since I plan to protect the Young Palace Head for the rest of my life from now on, you should do well to look after yourself.”

I wondered if it was too much, but due to the memories of my past life, I extremely hated being restrained.

Matters with Seol Ye-rin, I can discuss it directly with Seol Ye-rin.

The intervention of a third party was not needed.

Grind-

At that moment.

Touching her slightly burnt hair, it seemed Han Seol-bi clenched her back teeth tightly.

“Unnie, you see. She did not tell anyone, but she was always trembling in fear. Wondering if her constitution would devour her someday. From when she became an adult and the Extreme Yin Body began to grow fearfully large, she lost her words, and I could not meet her anymore either.”

I stopped walking and looked back at Han Seol-bi.

“To save Unnie like that, I also looked in many directions, and the Palace Lord also used countless methods such as bringing in a Divine Physician, but Unnie’s constitution could not be treated.”

But, I appeared.

I appeared and Seol Ye-rin recovered and became able to walk around outside.

Han Seol-bi rejoiced at that fact, but at the same time lamented that it was not herself who saved Seol Ye-rin.

So she wanted to see, wanted to meet.

Just what kind of person saved Seol Ye-rin.

However.

‘A live-in son-in-law?’

The man who will marry Unnie?

They even say he is from the Demonic Cult.

‘Frustrating.’

On top of that, after exchanging blows briefly, he seemed strong too.

-Seol-bi, listen well. The Small Snow Squad Captain is the youngest son of the Demonic Cult Leader. The moment the Young Palace Head marries the Small Snow Squad Captain , the Ice Palace might pass over to the Demonic Cult. Stop it somehow.

Han Seol-bi heard the secret telepathy of the Cold Blood Han Family Head, Han Myeong-gwang.

Therefore.

‘He will protect her for life?’

It was clearly a lie.

“Who do you think you are to suddenly appear and take Unnie away from me!”

The blood cools down coldly.

Blue energy jutted out and began to dye Han Seol-bi's hands pure white.

"That martial art is....."

Seeing that bluish energy, I could notice immediately what martial art Han Seol-bi intended to use.

The problem was.

"How do you... have that martial art ....."

The martial art Han Seol-bi was learning was not a martial art of the Ice Palace, but a demonic art.

White Hand Demonic Art.

A martial art of the Demonic Cult had revealed its appearance in the Ice Palace.

Chapter 37 : Chapter 37

Chapter 37 : Older Brother

Just as there are Five Great Clans in the Ice Palace.

Five outstanding families also exist in the Demonic Cult.

The Thunderbolt Demon Clan of the Thunderbolt Exploding Demon, who attacked me before I left the Ice Palace.

The Hyeokryeon Demon Clan of the Heavenly Demon Hyeokryeon Hwi, which has produced the Heavenly Demon for generations.

The Dokgo Demon Clan of the Ten Thousand Red Sword Demon.

The Hyonwon Demon Clan of the Heaven Shaking Saber Demon.

The Yayul Demon Clan of the Hell Poison Demon.

Besides these, various other families existed in the Demonic Cult.

Each family possessed demonic arts they practiced independently.

Like the White Hand Demonic Art, for instance.

‘Surely the White Hand Demonic Art is the unique martial art of the White Hand Demon Queen?’

The unique martial art of the White Hand Demon Clan, which had risen to become one of the Five Great Demon Clans in the generation before I was born.

Why was Han Seol-bi displaying that?

“How do you know that martial art?”

“What is wrong with the White Hand Ice Art!”

White Hand Ice Art?

It was a martial art different from the name I knew.

However.

‘That demonic qi.’

Others might be fooled by that demonic qi disguised as cold energy, but I, who inherited the blood of the Heavenly Demon, could not fail to recognize it.

“...What is the relationship between the Cold Blood Han Family and the White Hand Demon Clan?”

“White Hand Demon Clan? Stop saying strange things and lift your sword quickly!”

Seeing this, it seemed Han Seol-bi truly believed the White Hand Demonic Art was the White Hand Ice Art.

‘I will have to dig into the Cold Blood Han Family once.’

I had to find out why a martial art of the Demonic Cult was being passed down like a family specialty of the Ice Palace.

‘The more I learn information the past me did not know.’

I would be able to draw the future ahead anew.

Anyway.

‘What do I do with this reckless girl?’

At this time when I had to check Moyong Geum’s safety as soon as possible, Han Seol-bi was a very burdensome existence.

But I could not kill her either.

“If I draw my sword, it will not end without shedding blood. Are you still telling me to draw my sword?”

-Since she learned the White Hand Demonic Art, why don’t you make her hands unusable?

-Master, isn’t that remark a bit too harsh?

-You don’t know, but White Hand is a monster. That girl who learned that demonic art will surely become a witch…….

Wooooong-

Just as the Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen began to chatter.

Extreme Flame spat out a sword cry.

And Extreme Flame’s sword cry was heard by Han Seol-bi as well.

Tssst-

Soon, flames bloomed from me.

‘Butterfly?’

Butterflies made of flame began to fill the surroundings of Han Seol-bi.

“Oho, it seems I have found an interesting spectacle!”

It was then.

At the appearance of a familiar voice, I looked back at the source of the voice.

“Young Master Moyong.”

Jang Baek-rim and Moyong Geum were watching the two of us.

Flinch-

Noticing the appearance of outsiders who were not me, Han Seol-bi’s hands returned to their original color.

“Hmm? Were you not intending to fight?”

“We were just having a conversation. Is that not so, Lady Han?”

“T-That is correct.”

Seeing Han Seol-bi hurriedly hiding her hands as she spoke.

I intuitively felt there were some circumstances.

“I thought Young Master Moyong would be resting in the accommodation, so what brings you out here?”

“Because my sleep was restless, you see. A walk is best when clearing one’s head.”

Rustle-

I sensed the presence of the Black Shadow Unit warriors following Moyong Geum nearby.

‘Bold.’

Moyong Geum looks like an Orthodox Sect person to anyone’s eyes.

If he encountered a demonic practitioner while roaming around the sect like this, a troublesome situation could have occurred.

“If your business is finished, Lady Han may return.”

I thought it would be best to send Han Seol-bi back since I confirmed Moyong Geum was safe for now.

However.

“I, I haven’t finished talking yet…….”

“Have the remaining talk with the Young Palace Head.”

“Now, now, since it has come to this, I am feeling a bit peckish, so how about Lady Han also joins us for dinner?”

Twinkle, twinkle!

I sighed at the sight of Moyong Geum’s eyes twinkling.

Because if it was a request from Moyong Geum, who would circulate the Ice Palace’s funds, I had no choice but to grant it.

***

A dinner gathering decided suddenly like that.

“How did you know the fact that there is an inn within the Palace?”

“Well... I used to come often in the past, you see.”

Listening to his story, he said he frequented the Ice Palace like his own home following the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild Leader.

Jingle-

Somehow, it ended up being Han Seol-bi, myself, Jang Baek-rim, and Moyong Geum.

The four of us came to eat dinner like this.

“Welcome!”

As we opened the door of the inn and entered.

A familiar face welcomed me.

“Ji-yeong.....”

-Shh!

Wi Ji-yeong, disguised as a waiter, revealed herself in front of me.

“How many in your party?”

“It is four, but.....”

-Young Master, I am sorry I could not tell you in advance!

“I will guide you to this seat!”

-I also received contact half an hour ago and came in a hurry. Don’t be surprised and listen, the Demonic Cult’s envoy sent by the First Young Master is currently staying in this inn!

What in the.....

Hearing Wi Ji-yeong’s telepathy, I quickly scanned the surroundings.

I did not feel any demonic qi.

-What happened?

“What will the Captain plan to eat?”

I stopped conversing via telepathy.

Because Moyong Geum, who sat down, spoke to me.

“Ah. Wheat noodles will be fine for me.”

“Then please give us two dumplings and two wheat noodles.”

“Yes! Understood!”

As I watched the back of Wi Ji-yeong hurriedly entering the kitchen.

‘……Tae Un-seo?’

The face of the man cooking in the kitchen was familiar.

‘Come to think of it…….’

“Check, please.”

“Yes.”

I did not know when we entered, but the person calculating the bill was Baek Mu-yong.

His appearance acting as the inn owner was quite natural.

If even Baek Mu-yong was here, that meant…….

“Slurp. Tastes bad.”

The customer sitting at a corner table was Eun Bin.

-Vice Captain. It was your work. I did not know you would mobilize the squad members and take on a mission without the Captain’s knowledge.

-I am sorry. Since it was an order from higher up…….

-Higher up?

The Captain of the Small Snow Squad is me.

However, just one person.

There was one more person who could give orders to the Small Snow Squad.

‘The Young Palace Head?’

Seol Ye-rin is not in this space right now.

I could be certain of that because the Extreme Yang Qi, which naturally reacts when I get close to Seol Ye-rin, had no reaction.

Then that meant Seol Ye-rin sent the Small Snow Squad instead of coming herself.

‘Just who is the envoy that…….’

“Captain?”

Flinch-

“Ah, I apologize.”

“Your expression is not good. Is there something wrong?”

“No. It seems it is because I am hungry.”

I felt I misspoke for a moment.

If the chef cooking inside is Tae Un-seo…….

‘This, I should get out quickly.’

It seemed I had to escape the inn before the food came out.

Otherwise, I might have to eat Tae Un-seo’s cooking.

Pour-

At that moment, Moyong Geum handed the water that was on the table to Han Seol-bi and asked.

“How is it, has Lady Han’s mood improved a little?”

“…Thank you. If not for Moyong Orabeoni(older brother), I would not have come to a place like this together.”

Today is a continuous series of surprises.

“…Did you know each other?”

“There were this and that many events in our childhood.”

They say you have to build many connections far and wide to be a merchant.

It seems Moyong Geum had exceptional talent since childhood.

“I see.”

“May I also ask one question, Captain?”

Pour-

This time, he asked while giving water to me.

“Yes. Please ask.”

As I held the water Moyong Geum handed me and was about to drink.

“Since when did you become that kind of relationship with the Young Palace Head?”

“Pfft!”

“Young Master! You fellow!”

In an instant, I sprayed out the water I was drinking.

At that sight, Jang Baek-rim placed his hand on his sword hilt.

“It is fine.”

Moyong Geum found a handkerchief and began to wipe his face.

“I apologize.”

“No, one can make mistakes.”

It is hard to concentrate at all.

I had to figure out who the Demonic Cult’s envoy in the inn was.

I also had to think about why the Young Palace Head deployed the Small Snow Squad to this inn.

On top of that, thinking that I had to leave before Tae Un-seo’s cooking came out, cold sweat was flowing.

In such a situation, at the question that came in out of nowhere, I had no choice but to spray water.

“It seems to be the first time seeing you flustered.”

If it was obvious, it was a problem.

I circulated Extreme Yang Qi to clear my mind.

Then.

Whoosh-

A warm wind spread out starting from me.

“Oho.”

Now my head seems to be working a little.

‘First, getting out of here comes first.’

Thinking about it, the situation is that Moyong Geum does not know the fact that I am the third son of the Demonic Cult Leader yet.

If by any chance we encounter the Demonic Cult’s envoy, it was clear everything would be exposed.

‘I have to draw their attention somehow and take them outside.’

What method is there?

A method to naturally draw the two people outside…….

“Why are you curious about that?”

“Yes?”

“I mean, why is Young Master Moyong curious that the Young Palace Head and I are that kind of relationship.”

My attitude changed in an instant.

A feeling as if only this space was heating up to the point that the surrounding energy felt sweltering.

Moyong Geum realized he made a mistake only then.

Jealous that he was the spouse chosen by the Ice Palace’s precious gem, he failed to be considerate of me.

The opponent was the man who would become the Young Palace Head’s spouse.

The man who would become the live-in son-in-law of the North Sea Ice Palace.

From Moyong Geum's position, to avoid problems in future transactions with the Ice Palace, he was actually an existence he had to revere.

Moyong Geum, having quickly finished calculations in his head, opened his mouth.

"If by any chance you were offended....."

Just as he was about to say he was sorry.

Thud, thud.

I saw someone walking down from the second floor of the inn.

As if each of the man's steps encroached upon the space, the surrounding air settled heavily.

As soon as he recognized the man was walking down,

Moyong Geum forgot what he was saying and ended up staring at the man.

A feeling as if everyone in this space was watching only the man's footsteps.

'What in the.....'

Silvery-white long hair rippled along the stairs.

At the figure of the man who showed this immense absorptive power just by appearing.

"I came down because I smelled a familiar scent, and you were really here?"

He is a handsome man.

A high nose and sharp jawline, deep purple eyes shine in the shadows.

His skin is pale but full of vitality, and alluring wrinkles are etched when he smiles at the corners of his mouth.

The man's voice rang out softly and vibrated the entire inn.

Gulp-

The sound of Han Seol-bi swallowing dry saliva was heard vividly.

The man was looking exactly at the Small Snow Squad Captain, me, as he spoke.

Seeing that appearance, I seemed to let out a sigh.

Suddenly, Moyong Geum's brow furrowed naturally.

'Another handsome guy next to a handsome guy?'

The fact that another human who crushed the space with looks, not martial arts, appeared was quite displeasing to Moyong Geum.

"This may be presumptuous, but who are you, Young Hero?"

Since I did not acknowledge him, Moyong Geum asked straightforwardly.

Then the man approached closer and said.

"I am called Hyeokryeon Mu. The second son of the Cult Leader who rules the proud Heavenly Demon Divine Cult and the person who is this guy's older brother. Although our mothers are different."

"Hyeokryeon Captain's... older brother?"

No, more than that.

Just now... what did he say?

Heavenly Demon Divine Cult?

The Demonic Cult fellows used to call the Demonic Cult by the title Heavenly Demon Divine Cult.

That means.

"The Heavenly Demon's... youngest son?!"

At the unexpected situation and realization, Moyong Geum's sly expression crumbled in an instant.

Chapter 38 : Chapter 38

Chapter 38 : Return Gift

The Cult Leader's second son, Hyeokryeon Mu, wore an expression of intrigue as he looked at the youngest son, who had an expression like he was chewing shit.

'I did this much, yet he is enduring it?'

If it were normal times, a fist would have flown as soon as he saw Hyeokryeon Mu.

When he first heard the news that the youngest was sent to the Ice Palace.

Honestly, he was a little bitter.

Although he was a guy whose scoundrel-like temper appeared sporadically, they had struggled in their own way together to escape from Hyeokryeon Geuk's hands.

‘To think he would run away alone like this without even a single goodbye.’

He felt resentful.

So he accepted Hyeokryeon Geuk’s proposal.

-Go to the Ice Palace, deliver the gift, check if the youngest is doing well, and return.

If it weren't for Hyeokryeon Yeom, he would not have accepted something like being an envoy to the Ice Palace.

‘Originally, I intended to visit tomorrow.’

He did not know he would come to find him directly like this.

By the way,

“The Heavenly Demon’s... youngest son?!”

“Hmm?”

Hyeokryeon Mu’s gaze, which had been directed only at Hyeokryeon Yeom at first, turned to the surroundings.

‘One woman, and one guy who does not look like an Ice Palace person at all... giving off a strong scent of the Orthodox Sect.’

Looking at it, he seemed like a guy who didn't even know Hyeokryeon Yeom was from the Heavenly Demon Divine Cult.

“Tsk tsk. To think you are dining at the same table with these kinds of guys. Where did the scoundrel Hyeokryeon Yeom I knew go?”

“Are you going to sit, or not?”

Oho?

He scratched him one more time, but instead of a fist or a sword flying, ‘words’ flew.

Thud.

Hyeokryeon Mu sat in the seat next to Hyeokryeon Yeom.

“This is extremely interesting. Just what happened in the Ice Palace for you to become so docile?”

“Let’s talk separately later.”

“Hmm, really? Then introduce me. Is this side your spouse?”

Hyeokryeon Mu’s gaze scanned Han Seol-bi.

“That mouth…….”

Just as Han Seol-bi was about to explode at that gaze.

“The food is here.”

Tae Un-seo came out with the food.

“…….”

“Oh, I was just feeling peckish, so this worked out well.”

As Tae Un-seo began to place the dumplings and wheat noodles on the table, Hyeokryeon Yeom asked Moyong Geum.

“Young Master. If the meal is uncomfortable, you may leave first.”

“It is fine. I will eat.”

Roll.

Moyong Geum, who relaxed his stiffened expression with a strange look, turned his gaze for a moment and soon returned to his original expression.

‘Did he only realize just now?’

Although his complicated inner thoughts were revealed, Moyong Geum succeeded in hiding his expression.

Just the fact that he could stay like this with two important figures of the Demonic Cult as an Orthodox Sect person meant he was no ordinary person.

It seemed clear he quickly judged how to respond in the current situation, leaving aside Orthodox principles.

Hyeokryeon Mu's martial prowess is by no means low.

And there must be attendants who came over from the Demonic Cult with Hyeokryeon Mu.

In a situation where he came out on a business trip, it seemed he decided to try to blend into the current situation well rather than escalating matters.

Moyong Geum had a more cautious personality than expected.

Well, since he is a merchant, perhaps it is natural.

"Right, do the introductions slowly later and let's eat first."

At Hyeokryeon Mu's one word, my gaze turned to Tae Un-seo.

That gaze contained a silent worry asking if it was food that was okay to eat.

"Please enjoy your meal."

Seeing me like that, Tae Un-seo smiled and tried to withdraw.

At that moment.

"Chef."

Pause.

Tae Un-seo, who was trying to withdraw, stopped at Hyeokryeon Mu's call.

"Yes?"

"The portion is insufficient. Bring out one more wheat noodles and dumplings."

"Yes, understood."

"Hmm, it seems even the chefs in the Ice Palace are martial arts experts. What are you doing? Let's eat."

"You eat first, Hyung-nim."

"Ha, Hyung-nim, you say... sure. Since there are many watching eyes here. Hyung-nim will eat first!"

Watching Hyeokryeon Mu pick up the dish Tae Un-seo made, Hyeokryeon Yeom smiled wickedly.

***

Munch munch.

Hyeokryeon Mu put a dumpling in his mouth and began to chew.

If it was a dish made by Tae Un-seo alone without Wi Ji-yeong's supervision, a dish close to poison would surely have been completed.

I looked at Hyeokryeon Mu with a very tense expression,

"Oho! It is delicious!"

I felt regret that Tae Un-seo did not make the dumplings and wheat noodles alone.

Slurp.

At the sight of Hyeokryeon Mu eating the wheat noodles as if drinking them following the dumplings.

Gulp-

"Please go ahead and eat first. Since I ordered one more, I will eat when it comes out next."

"Will you be okay?"

"Yes, it will come out soon."

"Then, though it is shameless, I will eat first."

Han Seol-bi, who missed the timing to get angry, also picked up a dumpling.

Slurrrp! Nom.

The moment Moyong Geum and Han Seol-bi inhaled the wheat noodles and dumplings.

Thud- Thud-

The two people slammed their heads onto the table just like that.

"Young Master!!"

“Hmm? Why are they being like this?”

Hyeokryeon Mu was perfectly fine.

“...Did you perhaps put poison in it?”

I could not answer.

Because Tae Un-seo’s food is like poison.

-I put in sleeping powder to prepare for any eventuality.

At that moment, Wi Ji-yeong’s telepathy was conveyed.

“Jang Baek-rim. Take care of Moyong Geum.”

“...Yes.”

Since the escort was not poisoned by the sleeping powder, I had him protect Moyong Geum using Jang Baek-rim.

At that moment.

Thud, thud.

As Moyong Geum and Han Seol-bi collapsed.

Wi Ji-yeong and Tae Un-seo from the kitchen.

Eun Bin from the corner table.

Baek Mu-yong from the inn entrance approached the table where they were.

“...What is this doing right now?”

“Since you are an envoy of the Demonic Cult, surveillance is essential.”

“Oho.....”

Hyeokryeon Mu looked around at the personnel who approached with an intrigued expression.

“It has been a long time, Yeong-ah.”

“It has been a long time, Second Young Master.”

A person who calls Wi Ji-yeong’s name correctly.

“No wonder it tasted somewhat nostalgic, the cooking was done by you too.”

“I am glad if it suited your taste.”

“Anyway, for a chef to play pranks on the food.”

Grind-

At Hyeokryeon Mu’s one word, strength went into Tae Un-seo’s hand holding the kitchen knife.

“Calm down, Tae Un-seo. Ignore Hyeokryeon Mu’s words. Because he is an expert at scratching people’s nerves.”

“Only now does an appearance like you come out.”

“Hyung-nim. I hope you realize that I am no longer Hyung-nim’s younger brother now.”

“If you are not my younger brother, then who are you?”

“The Captain of the Small Snow Squad, the unit protecting the Young Palace Head of the Ice Palace, Hyeokryeon Yeom. This is my identity in the Ice Palace.”

“Is that so?”

Glance-

Hyeokryeon Mu’s gaze turned to Han Seol-bi.

Again, he seemed to have made some strange misunderstanding.

“Then, you must have to protect the Young Palace Head of the Ice Palace with your own hands?”

“Hyung-nim!”

Whoosh!

Hyeokryeon Mu reached out his hand toward Han Seol-bi.

Bang!

The one who blocked that hand was Eun Bin.

The problem was that although the hand and sword collided, not even a scratch was made on the hand.

“Oho, you are quite good!”

Hyeokryeon Mu’s excitement rose.

When I quickly stepped back and drew Extreme Flame, already,

“Vice Captain! It is not the front but the back!”

Smack-

Hyeokryeon Mu, who had gone behind Eun Bin, was in a state where he had planted his fist into Eun Bin’s back.

“Keuheuk-”

Whoosh!

The one who saved Eun Bin, who was about to be slammed into the wall while vomiting a groan, was Baek Mu-yong.

“Hup!”

He barely managed to stop him from hitting the wall directly, but.

“That hand... won’t you put it down?”

In that interval, Hyeokryeon Mu had taken Han Seol-bi hostage.

“Tsk tsk, for the Young Palace Head of the Ice Palace to be this defenseless.”

“There seems to be some misunderstanding. That child is not the Young Palace Head.”

“Ah, she is not your spouse?”

I saw Hyeokryeon Mu’s interest cool down sharply.

“Then it doesn’t matter if she dies.”

As he was about to throw Han Seol-bi just like that.

“Hyung-nim. You, what business brings you to the Ice Palace? Did you not come as an envoy?”

Pause.

I stopped him with a few words.

“That was close to being a big trouble.”

“I do not know who ordered you to come, but since you came to the Ice Palace, I hope you follow the Ice Palace’s rules.”

At my words, Hyeokryeon Mu made an incredulous expression.

Following that, Hyeokryeon Mu put his index finger to his head and began to twirl it.

“Youngest, did the shock of being sold to the Ice Palace happen to be too great that you went crazy? You do not seem like the Hyeokryeon Yeom I knew?”

It would be so.

Unlike the scoundrel, Hyeokryeon Yeom.

The Hyeokryeon Yeom in front of Hyeokryeon Mu.

Was a regressor who experienced a past life and returned for revenge.

“If you came looking for the Cult Leader’s youngest son, you have found the wrong address.”

“Shall we ambush him?”

Tae Un-seo muttered from behind.

Whether he was extremely angry at the words from a moment ago, killing intent was swirling in his eyes.

“Groan. I am disappointed, Youngest. I don't think the old you was a guy this weak to affection.”

‘Weak to affection?’

My mind flashed at that one word.

I realized I was thinking I had to protect Han Seol-bi unconsciously.

Even though Han Seol-bi of the Cold Blood Han Family died or got hurt, it had nothing to do with me.

As my thoughts reached this point.

Naturally, Seol Ye-rin's face began to shimmer.

-He is a dangerous fellow.

At that time, the Sword Venerable spoke to me.

-If the Ice Palace made you like that, since I came to give a gift, I will make you come to your senses a little. I heard you are having an engagement ceremony soon. Yet if you carry a woman by your side like this, what would the Young Palace Head think?

Squeeze-

I saw Hyeokryeon Mu gripping Han Seol-bi's arms.

I knew too well what kind of event would occur if left like that.

-The Han family child looks in danger! Yeom-ah, you must stop him!

The Demon Queen's worried shout was also heard.

But I did not seem to have any intention of moving.

"Right, that is like the scoundrel Hyeokryeon Yeom."

Grin-

Hyeokryeon Mu tried to apply force to tear off the arms of the unconscious Han Seol-bi.

Crackle-

Clearly, it was so until a moment ago.

"W-What....."

Thud, thud.

The air turns cold.

As the sound of footsteps coming from behind got closer and closer.

"C-Cold."

Hyeokryeon Mu could feel his whole body beginning to freeze.

No, it is not just Hyeokryeon Mu.

The entire inn was freezing over.

“How dare you... touch Seol-bi and the Third Young Master?”

Gulp-

Only then could Hyeokryeon Mu realize the identity of the woman standing behind him.

“Ice... Flower.”

The Ice Flower that freezes the world bloomed fully.

***

The Young Palace Head of the Ice Palace, Seol Ye-rin, could realize that the Demonic Cult’s envoy visited the Ice Palace through a conversation with her father, Seol Baek-ho.

‘The representative of the Demonic Cult envoy is Young Master Hyeokryeon’s older brother?’

If Seol Ye-rin and Hyeokryeon Yeom were to hold a wedding later, the older brother, Second Young Master Hyeokryeon Mu, would become Seol Ye-rin’s brother-in-law.

Seol Ye-rin knew too well that the relationship with the Demonic Cult was not just bad for generations but that they were enemies.

Nevertheless, at the thought that she might meet the family of the person who would become her spouse for the first time, she kept it a secret even from Hyeokryeon Yeom and called in the Small Snow Squad.

-Serve Young Master Hyeokryeon Mu at the Ice Palace Inn?

Recruiting even Wi Ji-yeong was a stroke of genius.

Wi Ji-yeong, who had already met Hyeokryeon Mu in the Demonic Cult, knew what Hyeokryeon Mu liked and disliked.

While the Small Snow Squad members including Wi Ji-yeong were treating the envoy with utmost sincerity like that, the plan was to go meet the Second Young Master, Hyeokryeon Mu, together with Hyeokryeon Yeom later.

However.

‘To think the plan would go awry!’

It took too long to prepare.

On top of that, she heard the news later that the Small Snow Squad Captain went to meet Young Master Moyong Geum.

The sight she saw as soon as she moved urgently, chased after Hyeokryeon Yeom, and arrived at the inn was,

‘If I were a little late, it would have been a big trouble.’

Of course, she thought that if she hadn't stepped in, Hyeokryeon Yeom would have stepped in and saved Han Seol-bi.

Crackle-

Seol Ye-rin, who was looking with a cold gaze at Hyeokryeon Mu who was freezing more and more, approached Hyeokryeon Yeom.

“Baek Mu-yong, Eun Bin. Take Lady Han and Young Master Moyong and return.”

“Yes, Captain.”

Watching the two people leaving, Seol Ye-rin looked back at me.

“...I am sorry.”

Hyeokryeon Yeom seemed very angry.

It was clearly a fault to have moved the Small Snow Squad without the Captain’s permission.

When she meekly admitted her fault and apologized to Hyeokryeon Yeom.

“Lady Seol did nothing wrong. Rather, thank you for appearing at the appropriate moment.”

Was Hyeokryeon Yeom not saying thank you instead?

“Third Young Master.....”

“If you were a little late, I almost burned the older brother who came as an envoy.”

It was a vicious remark, but Seol Ye-rin somehow empathized with my feelings.

“I didn't realize he was such a violent older brother.”

“You don’t need to know in the future either.”

Hyeokryeon Yeom approached the front of Hyeokryeon Mu who was freezing over.

Hyeokryeon Mu, who was becoming an ice statue unable to budge, was still smiling.

“Is... that... woman... the woman... who will become... your spouse?”

“Yeah, that’s right. Rather than that, until when are you going to be like that?”

Everything was Hyeokryeon Mu’s act.

Sizzle-

Black demonic smoke began to melt the ice.

“Luck has rolled in on its own.”

“That is what I want to say. So who sent you here?”

Hyeokryeon Mu, who melted all the ice and became neat, muttered quietly.

“Hyeokryeon Geuk.”

Flare-

Hearing that name, rage soared.

The moment flames were about to surge.

“Now, calm down and take this. Since a return gift is a return gift.”

Hyeokryeon Mu took something out of his bosom and held it out to me.

“This is.....”

Receiving what Hyeokryeon Mu handed over, Hyeokryeon Yeom could realize that the Demonic Cult had paid quite a lot of attention to the return gift.

Chapter 39 : Chapter 39

Chapter 39 : Misunderstanding

As I checked the identity of the return gift delivered by Hyeokryeon Mu.

-...The current Heavenly Demon is a guy with big generosity.

-With this much, it seems even the Palace Lord would be satisfied.

The Sword Venerable and Demon Queen also admired it.

“Is this a gift for the Palace Lord?”

“Since it is food. Wouldn’t he have sent it for everyone to eat together?”

The return gift Hyeokryeon Mu delivered was indeed food.

And it was an item containing energy that would be especially good for the people of the Ice Palace to eat.

“To think it is a Ten Thousand Year Fire Carp.”

The Ten Thousand Year Fire Carp is a fish that harbors Extreme Yang Qi.

As much as the Young Palace Head was suffering from Extreme Yin Body, the Ten Thousand Year Fire Carp, rich in Extreme Yang Qi, was no different from restorative medicine.

“I wish you would tell us exactly who sent it.”

“Hmm?”

“Hyeokryeon Geuk? Or the Cult Leader? Who the sender of the gift is, is an important matter.”

Hyeokryeon Mu’s expression stiffened.

“What is certain is that I came because Hyeokryeon Geuk sent me. As for the gift, you will have to check through the Strategist.”

Hyeokryeon Mu was not a person who would go just because Hyeokryeon Geuk told him to.

It could be that he really came simply to check if I was doing well.

‘In this life, I probably won’t be able to make many memories with Hyeokryeon Mu.’

In the past life, as I chose to remain in the Demonic Cult instead of leaving for the Ice Palace, I learned martial arts from the Elders of the Five Great Demon Clans.

Naturally, my competitors became Hyeokryeon Mu and Hyeokryeon Geuk.

Because the one who becomes the Young Cult Leader is only one person.

The three of us pledged to fight fair and square for the position of Young Cult Leader.

‘The problem was that I realized too late that it was a smokescreen.’

Fair and square, my ass.

Hyeokryeon Geuk thoroughly used his influence to try to kill us.

Whether thanks to that or not, I had to struggle to survive together with Hyeokryeon Mu.

“Hmm, then there is a need to be suspicious, but.”

“Are you afraid he injected poison into the Ten Thousand Year Fire Carp?”

“If it is Hyeokryeon Geuk, it is a possible matter.”

Hyeokryeon Mu could not refute.

Instead.

“When are you going to introduce us?”

Hyeokryeon Mu signaled behind him with his eyes.

I saw Seol Ye-rin looking this way with a fierce gaze.

It is reaping what one sows.

Even though she was an opponent who froze him outright without even having a proper conversation, Hyeokryeon Mu seemed unconcerned.

‘Well, he was originally this kind of guy.’

He had a violent side, but he was the only guy I could open my heart to and talk with while staying in the Demonic Cult.

“Hyung-nim came all the way to this distant Ice Palace in person, yet are you ignoring me?”

I mean, that was in the past.

“Are those words coming out after being beaten while trying to tear off the arm of the Young Palace Head’s acquaintance just now?”

“That is because your reaction was lukewarm…….”

“Apologize.”

Twitch-

Hyeokryeon Mu’s eyebrow twitched.

“To tell someone to do this and that right now…….”

“If you get frozen once more, you won’t be able to melt easily.”

At my words, Hyeokryeon Mu pondered for a moment and slowly approached Seol Ye-rin.

“I am Hyeokryeon Mu. I was rude. If I knew she was the Young Palace Head’s acquaintance, I would not have touched her.”

Calling that an apology.

“…If you were not an envoy from the Demonic Cult, if you were not the Small Snow Squad Captain’s brother, I would have truly frozen you away.”

It means she made allowances.

If this were the Demonic Cult, he would have rampaged asking to compete properly, but.

Hyeokryeon Mu also had tact.

If he had to face me, who had completely changed from when I was in the Demonic Cult, and the Young Palace Head, who handles Extreme Yin Qi freely, at the same time.

‘Interesting.’

The story in the history passed down that the Demonic Cult’s nemesis is the Ice Palace was not a lie.

“Since this is also fate, how about a meal together…….”

“It is fine. I will take Seol-bi and return first.”

A chill was emanating from Seol Ye-rin.

“Then I will also take my leave.”

“No, at least a meal…….”

“Please eat a lot by yourself.”

At the appearance of the two people radiating cold air, Hyeokryeon Mu picked up one more dumpling.

Munch munch.

“Cough-”

This one was filthily tasteless.

***

The next day.

On the way to the Palace Lord’s Hall.

“Captain, are you still sulking?”

“……I am not doing that.”

Wi Ji-yeong began to chatter continuously from the side.

It was because the squad members who followed the Young Palace Head’s order without my permission were walking on eggshells.

‘It really doesn’t matter at all, though.’

Thanks to that, I could gain the upper hand in the meeting with Hyeokryeon Mu.

If Tae Un-seo wasn’t together, I wouldn’t have been able to put Han Seol-bi and Moyong Geum to sleep either.

If Seol Ye-rin hadn’t appeared, I might have really had to have a huge brawl with Hyeokryeon Mu.

“Act first, report later, I apologize once again.”

Whether absolute obedience was normalized, Eun Bin also seemed to show a very apologetic appearance this time.

“How many times do I say it’s fine. Next time too, if the Young Palace Head commands, you may follow.”

“Yes, I will do so!”

Baek Mu-yong answered loudly.

“Squad Leader Baek.....”

Seeing that appearance, Wi Ji-yeong shook her head side to side.

“Why, is this not it?”

“It is Mount Jun Silver Needle Tea.”

Tae Un-seo handed over tea.

“Thanks.”

Since tea just requires pouring hot water, I drank it without suspicion.

A feeling of the mind stabilizing.

“You mean everyone is gathered inside again, right?”

“Yes, that is correct.”

“What about Moyong Geum?”

“After sending back the envoy, we decided to escort him back to Heilongjiang Province.”

An opportunity to go outside the Palace arose.

‘I should try expanding the search range a bit more this time.’

In a situation where I don’t know how long the Ice Crystal will last, I had to search for the Ice Emperor quickly.

“We have arrived.”

First, for now.

‘I should deal with the troublesome Hyeokryeon Mu first.’

“I will announce it inside.”

“Yes.”

As I nodded at the guard’s words.

“Small Snow Squad Captain and Small Snow Squad entering!”

Rumble.

The door of the Palace Lord's Hall opened.

"You have come."

As we entered inside.

I saw the Ice Palace Lord, Seol Baek-ho, along with the Heads of the Five Families and Young Palace Head Seol Ye-rin sitting in the main hall.

"Seeing you again."

And next to them.

I saw Hyeokryeon Mu smiling broadly.

"I did not anticipate that he would send the Cult Leader's second son as an envoy."

The atmosphere does not seem that heavy.

I could easily guess it was because of the Ten Thousand Year Fire Carp placed conspicuously in front.

"I called you to share a reunion between brothers, Small Snow Squad Captain."

Seol Baek-ho specified my title.

The meaning of those words was just one.

Here, he made Hyeokryeon Mu recognize that I am not the Demonic Cult Leader's youngest son, but the Captain of the Small Snow Squad, the unit protecting the Young Palace Head.

"I thank the Palace Lord for his grace. However, since I already shared a reunion with Hyung-nim yesterday, I felt it would be fine not to talk further."

I cut ties quickly.

More than that, checking if there were no issues with that Ten Thousand Year Fire Carp came first.

"Is this the return gift brought from the Heavenly Demon Divine Cult?"

"Yes, it is a gift signifying the reconciliation between the Demonic Cult and the Ice Palace."

At Seol Baek-ho's one word, the Family Heads frowned.

'That, I don't think it is. Father-in-law.'

Seol Baek-ho seemed to want to resolve the grudge with the Demonic Cult in his generation somehow, but.

The resentment accumulated through history would not be easily resolved.

Unless there is some kind of trigger.

"Yesterday? Do you mean the two people held a secret meeting separately?"

The Head of the Cold Blood Han Family, Han Myeong-gwang, made a thorny remark.

I glanced to see if perhaps Han Seol-bi reported yesterday's events, but.

He did not particularly mention Han Seol-bi.

"A secret meeting, you say. I met him when I visited the inn to treat Young Master Moyong Geum to a meal."

"What is that if not a meeting!"

At the appearance of Han Myeong-gwang shouting loudly, I sent telepathy toward Seol Ye-rin.

-Is it okay to mention that I met Hyung-nim at the inn?

-Of course.

Since I received permission too.

"The Young Palace Head also met him together, though."

"Keuk."

If he insisted on calling it a secret meeting here continuously, it would be the same as claiming the Young Palace Head is also in cahoots with the Demonic Cult, so Han Myeong-gwang had no choice but to stop talking.

"It is done. Tell the Heavenly Demon we will eat the Ten Thousand Year Fire Carp well."

"Yes, Palace Lord. It is truly a relief that the youngest seems to be doing well."

“Ah, and since we plan to hold the engagement ceremony soon, I wish you would ask the Heavenly Demon when his time is free and reply via letter.”

Flinch-

Talk of the engagement ceremony came out.

“Are you requesting the Cult Leader to visit the Ice Palace?”

“That is so.”

“Palace Lord!”

“Are you saying such words while knowing what kind of incident occurred every time the Demonic Cult Leader set foot in the North Sea Ice Palace!”

Bang!

Seol Baek-ho struck the table.

“Do not live captured by the past anymore!”

Wooooong-

The chill blooming from Seol Baek-ho begins to cover the Palace Lord’s Hall.

Hyeokryeon Mu wore an intrigued expression with that immense spirit.

“I will convey it well.”

If it just wraps up like this, the envoy visit ends without any incident.

I was welcoming the situation ending better than I thought.

Bang!

“P-Palace Lord! It is a big trouble.”

“What is the matter!”

“Whose presence do you think this is that you run in so urgently!”

While I was shaking my head at the appearance of the Family Heads venting their innocent annoyance on the guard.

“It is a raid by the Demonic Cult!!”

Words that should not have popped out of the guard's mouth popped out.

"What does that....."

"I knew it would be like that!"

"Demonic Cult fellows, as expected!"

"Palace Lord, I knew it from the moment the Demonic Cult Leader sent his second son as an envoy. That fellow is clearly the one who came to raid the Ice Palace right now!"

That cannot be.

No matter if Hyeokryeon Mu is a crazy guy, there is no way he would raid the Ice Palace single-handedly.

'Someone staged an incident.'

Since the Demonic Cult's envoy is arriving just in time.

It was clearly a self-made drama staged to drive a wedge between the Demonic Cult and the Ice Palace.

The problem is,

'Who is leading this?'

Someone who knows this situation well must be involved.

Then the possibility that a traitor is inside is high.

"Young Palace Head."

"Go out quickly and check."

"Thank you."

"Small Snow Squad."

"Yes, Captain."

"Let's move."

Just as I was about to move.

“Where are you trying to go! Small Snow Squad Captain, are you not also a demonic practitioner!”

The Chairman of the Ice Council, the Council of Elders, Seol Un-gang, who had been watching this quietly, tried to restrain me.

“Palace Lord, please give the order quickly! Those abominable Demonic Cult fellows.....”

Smack-!

“Keuheuk!”

Thud, Bang!

“Really noisy beyond measure.”

Dust, dust.

I saw Hyeokryeon Mu speaking while dusting off his hands.

He had flown to Chairman Seol Un-gang in an instant and blown his face away with a fist.

“That's crazy.....”

I think we are f*cked, really.

If Hyeokryeon Mu had stayed still, we might have been able to prevent misunderstandings like a Demonic Cult raid or whatever.

However, if he threw the first punch like now.....

“If you think I am a devil who really raided the Ice Palace, you just have to attack, right?”

Grin.

In this situation, Hyeokryeon Mu was smiling.

“You felloooow!”

Wooooong!

At the appearance of the Ice Palace’s Five Family Heads raising their internal energy, I bit my lip.

This is an irreversible situation.

If I took Hyeokryeon Mu’s side here, it would cause another misunderstanding.

“Captain.”

Wi Ji-yeong, Eun Bin, Baek Mu-yong, and Tae Un-seo were waiting for my order.

Now whether the force raiding the Ice Palace is the Demonic Cult’s force or not was not important.

“Go.”

At that moment.

It seemed a celestial maiden descended from the sky.

A woman passed by me while fluttering the blue martial arts uniform that is the symbol of the Ice Palace.

“I will take charge of that lunatic.”

The celestial maiden, Seol Ye-rin, lowered a to me.

Chapter 40 : Chapter 40

Chapter 40: The Culprit

"Really, this environment, it seems so good."

Lick.

A middle-aged man wearing black martial arts clothes licked his lips with his tongue.

One unit of assassins from Blood Tears had gathered at the Ice Palace.

"To disguise ourselves as the Demonic Cult, kill Ice Palace people and make money. Where else would there be a more suitable environment for us than this, isn't that right?"

"That is correct!"

"Do not forget. We are demonic practitioners."

Grin.

At the middle-aged man's words, the assassins drew their swords and began to kill the people of the Ice Palace.

"Heavenly Demon Rebirth, Ten Thousand Demons Submit!"

"Heavenly Demon Rebirth, Ten Thousand Demons Submit!"

As if brainwashing themselves that they were cultists, the assassins shouted Ten Thousand Demons Submit.

"Slaughter the cultists!"

Martial artists of the Snow Tiger Squad and Ice Wolf Squad began to pour out.

Even so, the assassins disguised as cultists were not daunted at all.

Spurt-

"Keoheok!"

Why?

Because they were killing the masters of the Ice Palace while appropriately utilizing assassin martial arts.

'Since we were told it doesn't matter if we run away at the appropriate time anyway.'

This was a fight that was too advantageous for them.

"Die, you Ice Palace bastards!"

Shoowak! Shoowak!

The assassins' swords were fast and cruel.

"Kuhahaha! You are weak!"

At the moment Gwon Un-so, a high-ranking assassin of Blood Tears who thought they could defeat all the martial artists of the Ice Palace at this rate, burst into mad laughter,

Flutter-

A butterfly flew over, fluttering.

'A butterfly?'

The moment the butterfly flew over like that, it sat on Danmok So's shoulder.

Hwareureureuk!

Enormous flames soared up.

"Kkeuaaaak-"

"Captain!"

"Cultists? That is absurd."

"White Night!"

-Keuwaang!

Baek Mu-yong's Ice Wolf, White Night, began to roam among the men in black at immense speed.

Slash- Slash-

"Kkeuaak! My arm!"

"My leg!!"

Tae Un-seo began to slice arms and legs with a kitchen knife.

"You are cruel."

Puk- Puk- Puk-

Wi Ji-yeong's flying daggers lodged into the necks of the men in black.

Shyushyushyuk!

Every time Eun Bin's fast sword shot out, the lives of the men in black were extinguished one by one.

"R, Reinforcements!"

"Wuaaaaaa!"

"But... who are they?"

"It's the Young Palace Head's direct unit, the Small Snow Squad."

"If it's the Small Snow Squad... Isn't the Captain from the Demonic Cult?"

"Then is he killing cultists with his own hands?"

Hwareureuk!

Once again, flames soared.

"I wish you wouldn't compare me with these kinds of fakes and demonic practitioners."

"Fakes?"

"Do you guys think these things that don't even emit demonic qi are cultists?"

Cheucheucheut-

Enormous demonic qi began to soar from my whole body.

Flinch- Flinch-

"This is the very demonic qi that the demonic practitioners of the Demonic Cult possess."

Gulp-

The martial artists of the Ice Palace swallowed dry saliva at the numbing demonic qi I was radiating.

"The enemies?"

"We have dealt with most of them."

At Eun Bin's answer, I nodded my head.

As expected, those who raided the Ice Palace were not demonic practitioners.

I had to prove this.

"Bring Mister Moyong."

And I knew a martial artist of the Orthodox Faction who could prove this.

***

At that time when I came out of the Palace Lord's Hall and dealt with all the men in black who raided the North Sea Ice Palace.

Kwaang!

"Ye-rin!"

"Young Palace Head!"

"Stand back. The moment even a single person interferes, I will freeze this space itself."

Seol Ye-rin did not lie.

Hyeokryeon Mu's surroundings were completely covered in ice.

"……I like it very much."

To Hyeokryeon Mu, Seol Ye-rin was a woman who continuously evoked admiration.

She possessed martial prowess enough to keep Hyeokryeon Mu isolated like this with a woman's body.

And above all.

'The face sparsely visible inside the face veil is……'

It was a beauty capable of toppling kingdoms.

"You are still stupid."

"What?"

"If you do not know what kind of price the Third Young Master is paying because of you, shut that mouth."

Hyeokryeon Mu frowned.

"Why… Do you support Hyeokryeon Yeom to that extent?"

"A scoundrel like you will never understand the Third Young Master's heart for the rest of your life."

Seol Ye-rin was already showing an attitude close to murder with her words alone.

And there was a person stomping his feet unbeknownst to others upon seeing such a Seol Ye-rin.

'Damn it! I should have dealt with Hyeokryeon Mu here!'

He didn't know the Young Palace Head would protect the Demonic Cult's envoy like that.

Seol Un-gang, who stood up while clutching his stinging cheek, clenched and unclenched his fist.

He wanted to step forward, but he couldn't.

There were eyes, far too many eyes.

The gazes of many people were currently watching Seol Un-gang.

'The moment I step forward here.'

He would be completely trapped.

'Because I let myself get hit once for no reason.....'

At that time, he shouldn't have just let himself be hit but should have subdued Hyeokryeon Mu.

If he had done that, he wouldn't have let Hyeokryeon Yeom go outside the Palace Lord's Hall.

And he wouldn't have had to worry like this.

The eyes of the Council of Elders, the Ice Council Chairman, Seol Un-gang, began to roll around.

"Young Palace Head, by the way, until when do you intend to wait like this?"

The Head of the Guardian Jang Clan, Jang Un-seong, asked on behalf of the Clan Heads.

It was understandable since nearly one hour had passed since the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, had tied down Hyeokryeon Mu.

Seeing that there was no further contact from the outside, it was highly likely that the Small Snow Squad that went out was dealing with the demonic practitioners well.

If the Small Snow Squad really returns without betraying the Young Palace Head like this.

'The hypothesis that someone impersonated the Demonic Cult and attacked the Ice Palace fits.'

Clan Head Jang Un-seong was of the position that such a possibility should not be left open.

Even without that, the expression of the Palace Lord, Seol Baek-ho, was getting worse and worse.

If a traitor had really appeared from within using Hyeokryeon Mu as an excuse.

The moment Hyeokryeon Yeom brings the guys who raided the Demonic Cult and reveals they are not demonic practitioners.

'The time of the Great Purge will arrive.'

Before the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, suffered from the Extreme Yin Qi, the Ice Palace Lord, Ice King Seol Baek-ho, reigned as the King of the Ice Palace just like his alias.

Compared to Seol Baek-ho of those days, there must be many who think of him as a toothless tiger now.

However, Clan Head Jang Un-seong knew well.

That a tiger is a tiger even if it has grown old.

When the crouching tiger bares its teeth, just how much of a bloodstorm would blow.

As the Head of a Guardian Family that protects the Ice Palace, Jang Un-seong wanted to minimize the damage.

To do that.

"Until the Small Snow Squad Captain returns."

He needed to separate the Young Palace Head, who only had eyes for that Small Snow Squad Captain, from Hyeokryeon Mu first.

At Seol Ye-rin's remark, Clan Head Jang Un-seong turned his gaze to Seol Baek-ho.

"Palace Lord, one hour has already passed. We cannot just wait like this forever, can we? First, regarding the envoy of the Demonic Cult who threw a fist at Chairman Seol Un-gang, we should ask for responsibility....."

"Clan Head Jang."

Flinch-

At Seol Baek-ho's single word, Jang Un-seong snapped to his senses.

Seol Baek-ho was currently in a sharp state to the point where goosebumps rose all over one's body.

'The eyes he used to show in the past.'

It seemed Seol Baek-ho intended to completely root out those gnawing at the North Sea using this opportunity.

"My thoughts seem to have been short."

As Jang Un-seong quickly tucked his tail and returned to his original spot.

The expressions of the Head of the Ice Wolf Baek Clan, Baek Il-sang, and the Head of the Snow Tiger Gwak Clan, Gwak Un-cheol, hardened.

It was because they kept thinking that the Palace Lord's power would become too strong at this rate.

"This is boring. I thought the Young Palace Head would play with me as the representative of the Ice Palace, but to think you were stalling for time for that guy Yeom."

Trudge. Trudge.

Demonic qi rose from Hyeokryeon Mu's whole body.

"You, haven't forgotten that you visited the Ice Palace as an envoy, have you?"

"I know. But I'm the type who can't stand being curious. Why do you trust Hyeokryeon Yeom to that extent?"

At Hyeokryeon Mu's words, Seol Ye-rin began to think deeply.

Why does she trust Hyeokryeon Yeom?

Come to think of it, it was truly fascinating.

Saving Seol Ye-rin who was in despair by barging in out of nowhere at their first meeting.

Sweeping away horse bandits to be acknowledged by her father.

Finding the legacy of the Martial God that hadn't been found for three hundred years.

Smirk.

A smile naturally formed when thinking of Hyeokryeon Yeom.

"...Ha?"

The moment Hyeokryeon Mu's expression distorted upon seeing Seol Ye-rin smiling,

"Did you wait long?"

Hyeokryeon Yeom returned.

***

Moyong Geum wondered what was going on.

Clearly, he had visited the Ice Palace to take Cold Iron to Liaoning Province and sell it.

'To think the Ice Palace's Young Palace Head and the Demonic Cult Leader's youngest son are scheduled to hold a wedding.'

He had acquired tremendous information.

If this information is conveyed to the martial artists, a storm will surely begin to blow.

And such precious information.

'It is bound to become money.'

Moyong Geum smelled money from Hyeokryeon Yeom and Seol Ye-rin.

Of course, the Moyong Clan is one of the Five Great Clans that aims for the Orthodox Path.

Then what about the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild?

In appearance, it looks like a merchant guild belonging to the Orthodox Path, but in reality, if it was something that made money, they jumped into it through fire and water.

Becoming the best merchant guild in the Central Plains was the dream of Moyong Geum, the son of the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild Leader.

Generally, saying one becomes the best merchant guild meant becoming the richest person in the Central Plains.

There was one thing such Moyong Geum considered an iron rule.

'Money comes from people.'

When Hyeokryeon Yeom called Moyong Geum and asked him to distinguish whether the people who raided the Ice Palace were cultists or not.

Even when he heard the words asking him to speak on the name of 'Moyong'.

The first thought Moyong Geum had was.

It was 'I can create a debt'.

"We meet again, Palace Lord and various vassals of the Ice Palace. I am Moyong Geum of the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild."

"Why is a merchant suddenly....."

"Who called him?"

As Moyong Geum took the lead, the people gathered in the Palace Lord's Hall began to murmur.

"Haha, everyone must be flustered. The reason I have stepped forward in front of you all like this is....."

It is entirely because of Hyeokryeon Yeom, though.

"It is precisely because of these people."

The Small Snow Squad brought the captives with bound mouths and placed them in front of Moyong Geum.

Hwik!

"Do you see? These are the very people who raided the Ice Palace this time."

"Cultists!"

"Now, now, hasty judgment is taboo. It is too early to conclude that this person is a cultist yet."

Moyong Geum said that and looked back at Hyeokryeon Mu.

"I heard that an envoy of the Demonic Cult has visited. And since the raid proceeded matching that time, naturally you thought it was a raid by the Demonic Cult. Is that correct?"

"That is so."

The answer was given by Seol Baek-ho.

"When thinking about it with common sense, do you think there would be a raid that even the person visiting as an envoy doesn't know about?"

Seueueuk.

Seol Baek-ho's gaze headed toward the Clan Heads of the Five Great Families.

"Keuheum."

"Looking at the reactions, it seems the Clan Heads did not think up to that part. However, is it not necessary to recall once again whether someone agitated the situation?"

"Agitated?"

"Usually."

Tak, Tak.

Moyong Geum, who tapped the head of the man in black who was gagged in case of suicide, continued his words.

"Look. You have to regard the person who agitated to make non-demonic qi possessing cultists into cultists as the figure who led this raid. And."

Pat-!

Moyong Geum pulled down the nape of the man in black.

Then,

The word 'Blood' engraved on the neck was visible.

"These are assassins of the Central Plains' Two Great Assassin Groups, Blood Tears."

In other words, to summarize, someone commissioned an assassin group to raid the Ice Palace and tried to frame it as if they were cultists.

Hearing Moyong Geum's clean summary, the people began to recall the time when the guard shouted about the raid again.

"Clearly... the person who agitated first was..."

Everyone's gaze headed toward the Elders.

At that appearance, I stepped forward.

"Chairman Seol Un-gang. As expected, you were the culprit."

I found the traitor disturbing the Ice Palace.