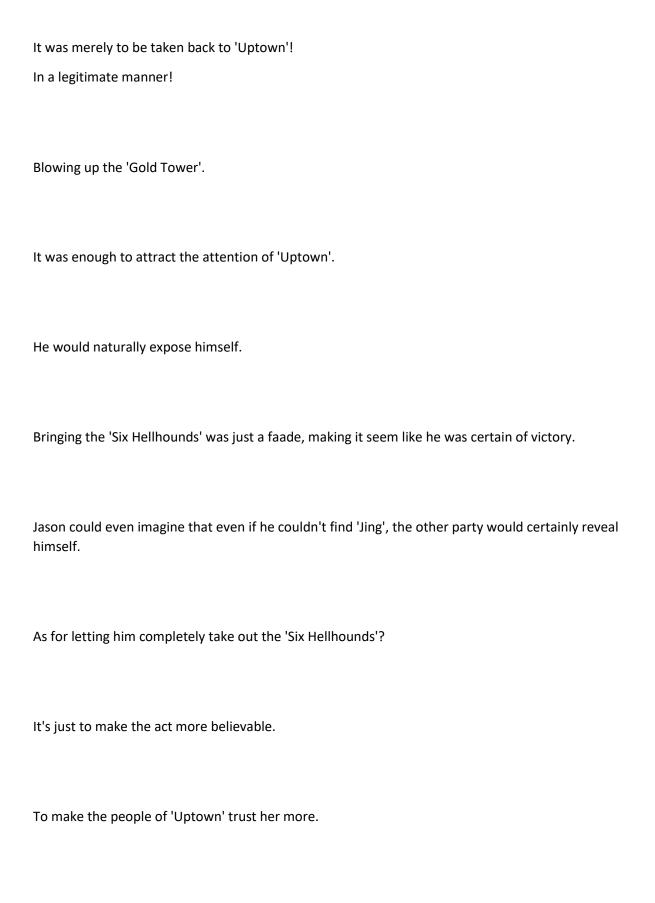
Menu 1531

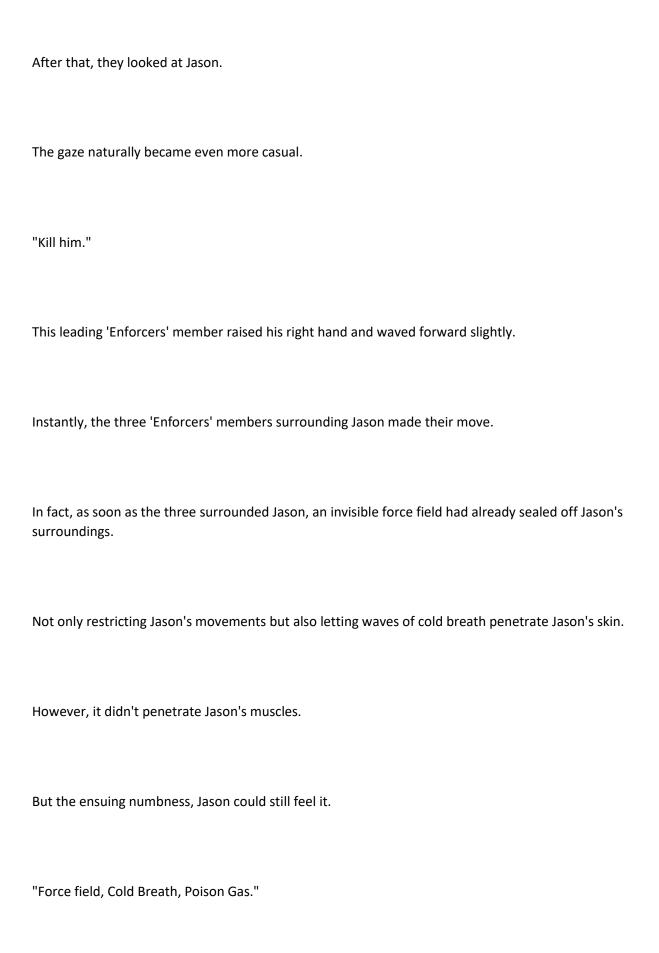
Chapter 1531: Jason: As a Human, My Strongest Weapon Is
Mocking.
At this moment, from 'Jing's eyes, and expression on his face, this emotion was conveyed.
It was a complete schadenfreude.
It seemed like he was waiting for this moment.
'Uptown'?
The barrier that envelops 'Lower City District' within the 'Ring City' of 'Nightless City' is in 'Uptown'?!
Jason thought briefly and guessed the truth.
Because only this could explain 'Jing's purpose.
All this effort was not to get caught himself.



Undoubtedly, 'Jing' has set up a fallback in 'Uptown'.
Although Jason didn't know what it was, he knew for sure.
He must not let 'Jing' succeed.
Even if the approaching 'Uptown' folks were unfriendly.
He just heard the execution order.
Is it truly the order of the 'Uptown Council'?
Or is that 'contact' taking matters into his own hands?
Or could it be
Both?
The former just has the intent, while the latter is adding fuel to the fire.

And why?
The word 'defection' just uttered by the other party explained everything.
He seemingly 'touched' some taboo.
Although he didn't, the other party thinks he did.
That was enough.
Looking at the three people filled with killing intent around him, Jason's gaze once again shifted to 'Jing'.
Compared to these three, Jason was more concerned with 'Jing'.
At this moment, the other party's mockery remained unchanged.
"I told you, trying to stop me is useless, because I am too"
Smack!

Even at this moment, 'Jing' was still acting, but before he could finish speaking, he was struck hard.
A sheathed long sword smashed into the back of 'Jing's head.
'Jing' twitched as he fell to the ground.
Yet the mockery on his face did not diminish in the slightest.
"Gently, don't kill him."
The leading member of the 'Enforcers' casually said to the subordinate who made the move.
But there was no sternness in the words, rather, they were quite casual.
It seemed like they didn't care about 'Jing's life or death at all.
Then, they straightforwardly cuffed 'Jing's hands.

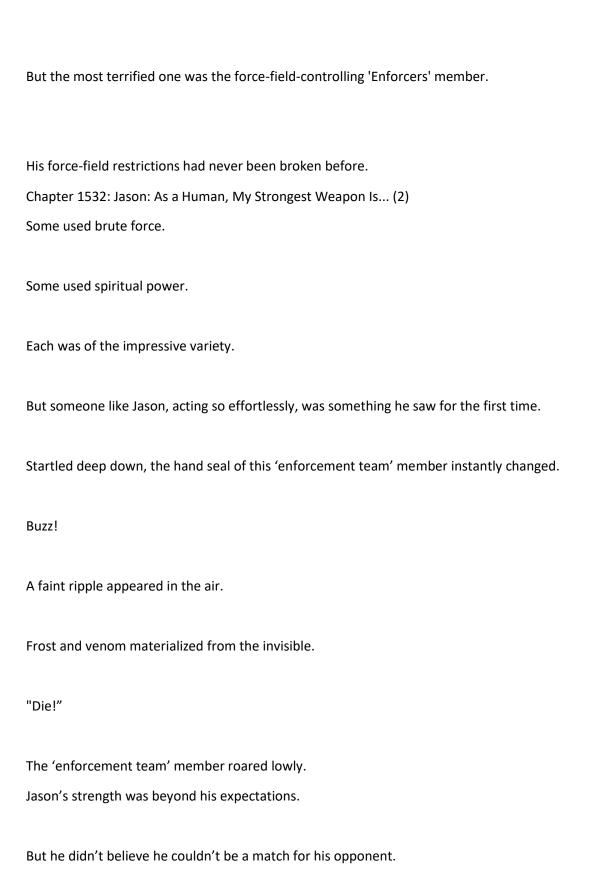


Jason sighed inwardly.
The enforcers' members in front of him were quite formidable, and they cooperated very closely.
Adding this systemic learning, 'Lower City District's transcendents couldn't compare at all.
Not to mention coordination.
I'm afraid even their understanding of their own 'Extraordinary Power' is shallow.
Whoosh!
Whoosh!
Amid the sound of metal slicing through the air, two long swords thrust from the left and right, one pointing at Jason's heart, the other at Jason's waist.
The leader had already given the execution order.

There was no way the two 'Enforcers' members would hold back.
The remaining unmoving 'Enforcers' member secretly formed hand seals.
The invisible force field, Cold Breath, and Poison Gas didn't appear out of nowhere.
"Die!"
The 'Enforcers' member controlling the force field sneered.
He had no doubt about Jason's imminent gruesome death.
How could a mere ordinary resident of 'Uptown' be their opponent, these elites?
Even though Jason had some systematic exposure to 'mysterious knowledge', the foundations and advancements were entirely different.
"Go to hell and repent for your betrayal!"

This force-field-controlling 'Enforcers' member said coldly as he saw the two comrades plunge their swords into Jason's clothes.
Against traitors.
'Uptown' has always been notoriously harsh.
This moment was no exception.
Others also sneered at this scene.
And then—
Clang, clang!
Amid two clear metallic clashing sounds, the sneering 'Enforcers' members' smiles froze.
Sparks flew.
After the long swords pierced Jason's clothes, they couldn't go any further.

"How is this possible?!"
The two sword-wielding 'Enforcers' members exclaimed.
Instinctively, they wanted to withdraw their swords and retreat.
But it was too late.
Official source s novlfire.net
Jason twisted like a snake, slipped through the invisible force field's constraints, raised his hands, and grabbed the faces of the two sword-wielding 'Enforcers' members. With a forceful grip of his fingers and a lift of his arms, he lifted them.
Crunch.
The five fingers of Jason's left and right hands deeply embedded into the faces of the two swordwielding 'Enforcers' members, making the bones in their skulls creak.
The two sword-wielding 'Enforcers' members howled continuously.



After all, he had just begun using his reserves
Bang!
Crunch!
With a muffled sound, the 'enforcement team' member on Jason's left hand viciously smashed into the member in front, the opponent's body emitted a crisp sound of bones cracking, abruptly interrupting their unfinished thoughts.
The two bodies rolled backward.
Directly rolling to the feet of the leading 'enforcement team' member.
The opponent's expression changed.
The raised hand had not yet truly been lowered.
"Go!"
The opponent said this.
The two subordinates glanced at each other and rushed towards Jason.
Still wielding long swords.
This time, Jason wasn't empty-handed.

The short-handled broad blade cleaver remained unsheathed, but he grabbed the 'enforcement team' member and wielded him as a weapon.
Immediately, the two approaching 'enforcement team' members became constrained in their movements.
The long swords they thrust were blocked by the human weapon.
They had to keep dodging.
Seeing this, the leading 'enforcement team' member frowned.
"Don't hesitate."
"Let go of your inhibitions."
The opponent said this.
The two 'enforcement team' members immediately changed their attack strategy.
Faced with the 'human weapon' being swung at them again, they slashed with their sharp swords.
Slash!
The 'human weapon' was chopped into pieces, blood splattered, dyeing the view of both red
Thud, thud!
The chopped corpse fell to the ground.

Driven solely by instinct, the two sword-wielding 'enforcement team' members thrust their swords forward.
In their perception, this was where Jason stood.
However, the thrusts missed.
No one was where the swords struck.
Opposite, behind them—
Crunch!
The familiar sound of bones cracking echoed once more.
The two sword-wielding 'enforcement team' members instinctively turned back.
Immediately, they witnessed the most unbelievable scene of their lives.
Their captain.
The one they saw as powerful.
Was just like that, with his neck broken.
Like a chick, he was held by Jason and swung towards them.
In a daze, the two did not even dodge the attack.

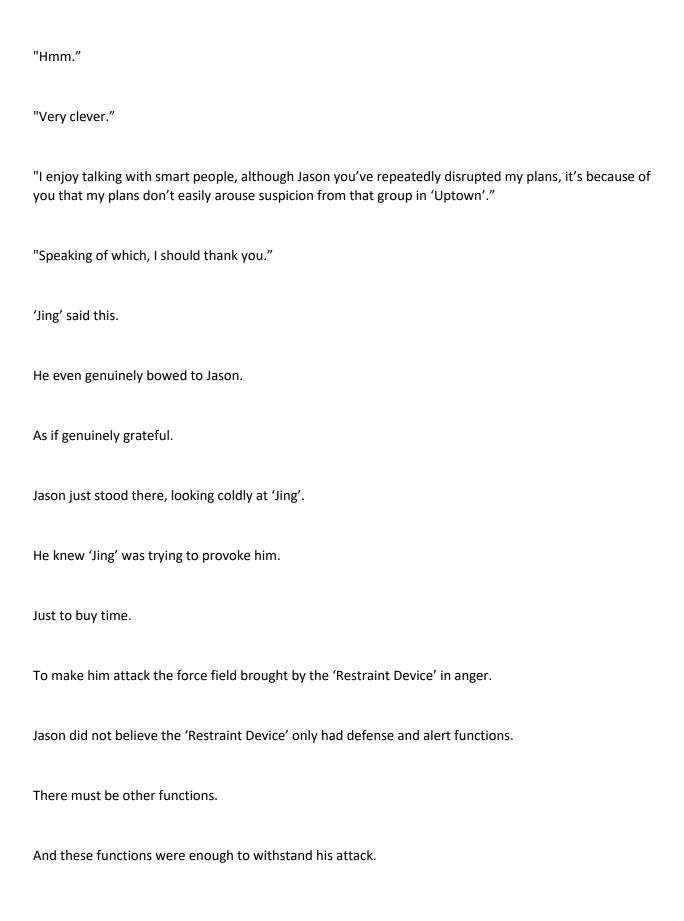


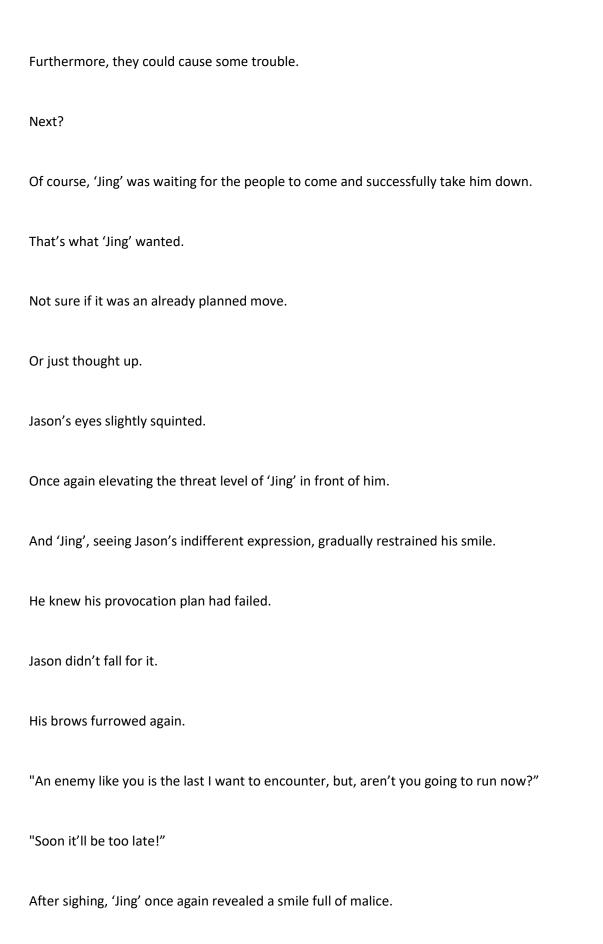
The opponent's aura was stronger than the remaining five.
And by a considerable margin.
However, it posed no threat to him.
But, according to 'Jing's' plan, the person before him should have been capable of killing him— 'Jing' had seen him in action, and despite concealing much of his cards, even what he showed should not have been something someone like this could handle.
Therefore, Jason speculated that this 'enforcement team' captain ought to have some special measures.
Hence, he cautiously battled with the other 'enforcement team' members.
Looking for flaws.
Looking for opportunities.
Then, delivering a fatal blow.
In fact, he found it.
And easier than anticipated.
Taking advantage of the dispersing blood, through transcendent-level stealth, he sneaked behind the opponent and snapped the neck in one swift move.
Throughout the process, Jason was intensely focused like never before.
He was prepared for the worst.

And had made corresponding plans.
But unexpectedly, he just snapped the opponent's neck so easily.
The opponent offered no resistance.
Or to be precise, not the slightest chance of resistance.
Jason, who had engaged in various psychological constructions, showed a moment of daze.
When he realized his guesses were wrong, and these people were not the ones 'Jing' was waiting for, Jason quickly ended the fight.
Jason's gaze fell on the fallen 'Jing'.
Was he really unconscious?
Or pretending to be?
At this point, it no longer mattered.
Jason raised his head, that aircraft which resembled a bomber had already increased its altitude at the instant he snapped the neck of the 'enforcement team's' captain, and now, it had flown far away.
"Going to fetch reinforcements?"
"Are these the people you were waiting for this time?"



However, 'Jing' remained unharmed.
He stood there, a protective force field surrounding him.
'Jing' stood there, smiled.
Then, raised his hand.
The handcuffs began to emit a faint glow.
"These were made by the 'Council', with significant resources dedicated, it's one of the best tools in 'Uptown' Restraint Device."
"It can not only restrain criminals but also activate a defense mechanism upon encountering external forces."
"Including but not limited to this force field."
"Guess what else?"
'Jing' smirked again.
Flooded with malice.
"Alert, notification?"
Jason asked.

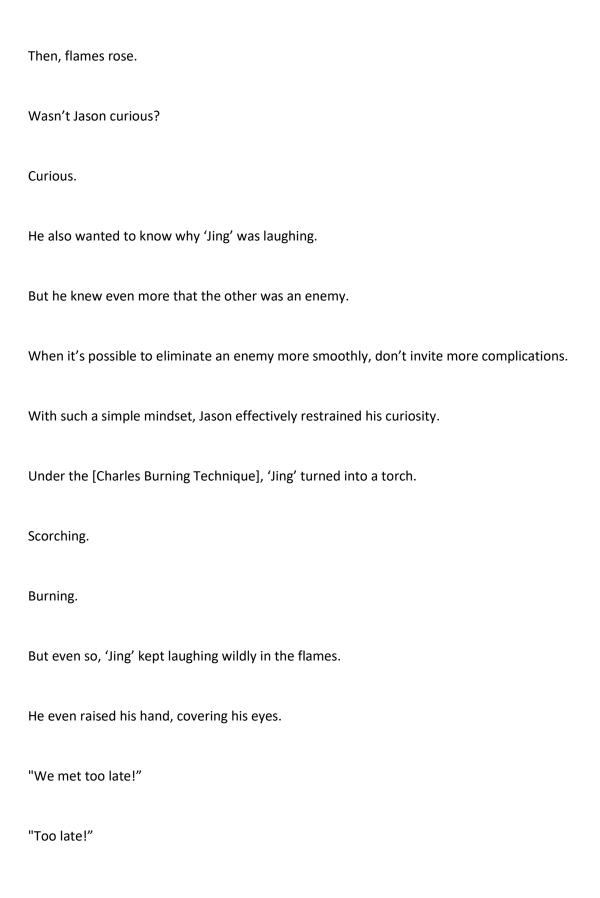


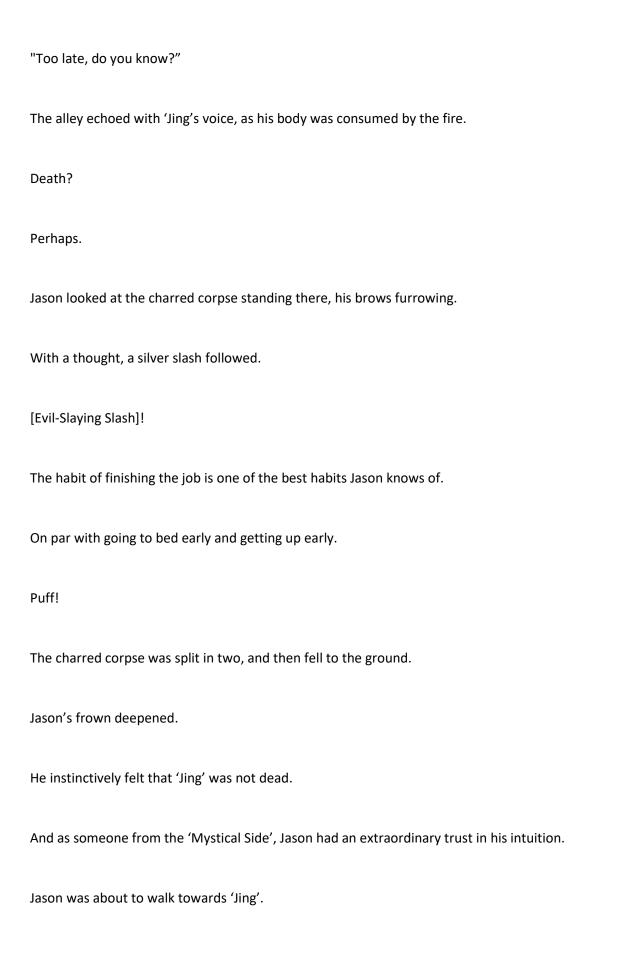




The next moment!
Under 'Jing's gaze, Jason opened his mouth and bit the 'Restraint Device', then——
Crack!
The Restraint Device shattered.
Chapter 1533: Yao!
'Jing' was taken aback.
'Jing' stood there completely stunned, staring blankly at the scene before him.
'Shackles'
Broken.
The 'Shackles', one of the classic symbols of 'Uptown', were broken.
He had struggled so many times, yet the 'Shackles' he couldn't break were just shattered like that.
That crisp sound.
It was like a mocking laugh.
It kept echoing in 'Jing's ears.
He stared blankly as Jason's mouth, still open, extended his tongue, licking and rolling, and swallowed all the fragments of the 'Shackles'.



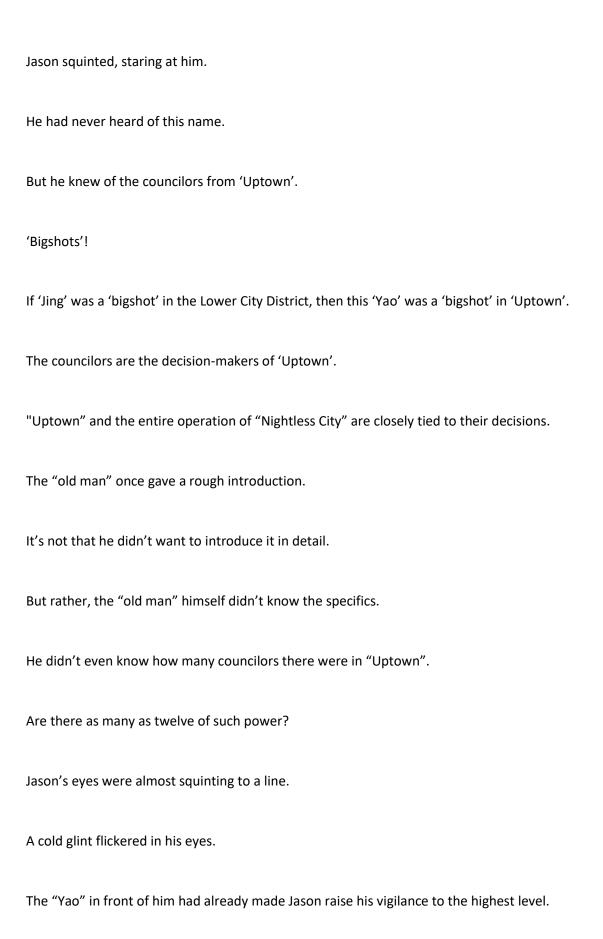


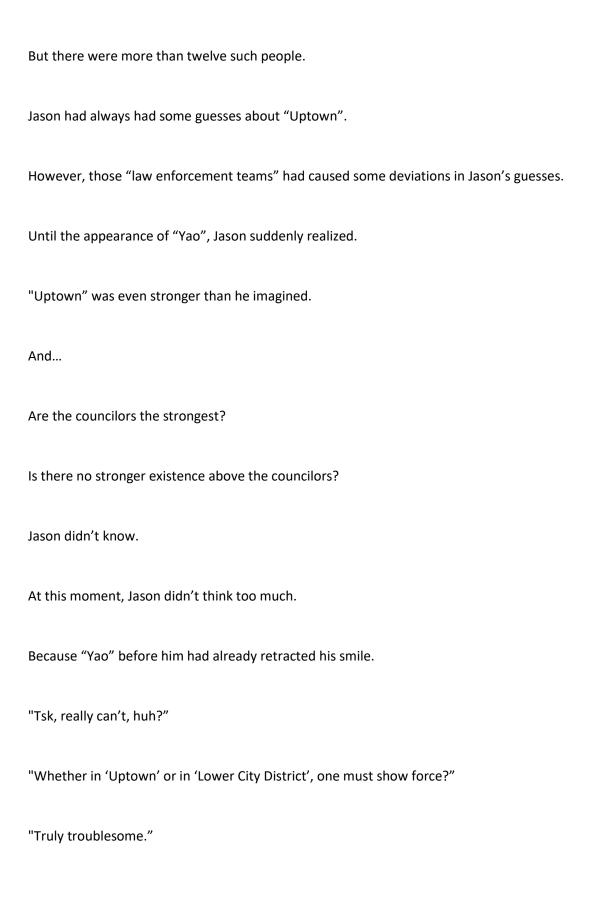


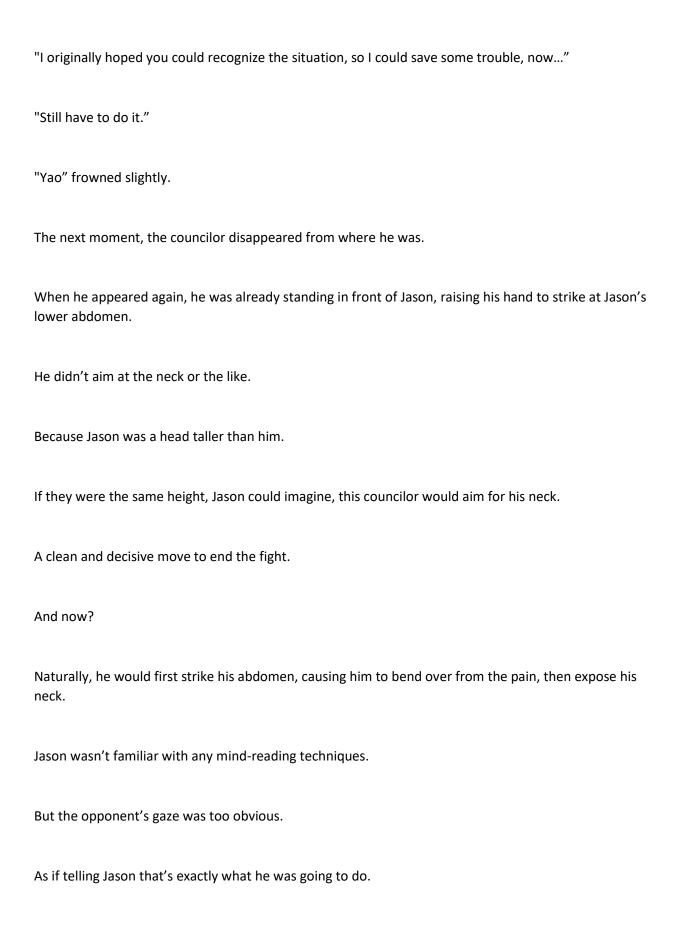
But just as he lifted his foot, he stopped, turning his head slightly to one side.
Behind Jason, a figure stood there.
No white suit.
But the clean, decent clothes and equally clean, decent face were enough to indicate where he came from.
'Uptown'.
His face bore grooves, youth long gone, but his eyes were extremely bright.
And sharp.
Bright as a light bulb.
Sharp as a blade.
The moment Jason was gazed at by him, he felt his skin being pricked by needles.
Very awkward.
Very uncomfortable.
Even more awkward was the way he appeared.
Jason had no idea when he showed up.

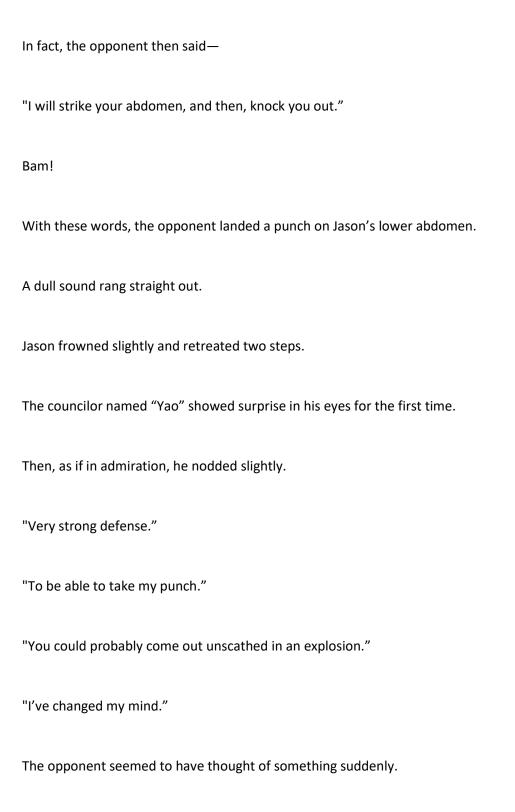
After consuming [Key of Karl], his perception had reached a level of 18.2.
But even with a perception over 18 times that of an ordinary person, he couldn't detect his appearance.
If not for the fact that he consciously released part of his aura, Jason wouldn't have even realized he was standing there.
Immediately, Jason's vigilance reached its peak.
Since leaving Ter Street, Jason knew he would encounter situations beyond his control.
So he had always been extremely careful.
He hoped this moment would be delayed a little longer.
To give him more time to prepare.
But unexpectedly, even with him being cautious enough, it was only three days.
Looking at Jason's wary demeanor, the middle-aged man in front of him smiled.
"You probably don't know who I am."
"But I think I should introduce myself."
"After all, I don't like using force."

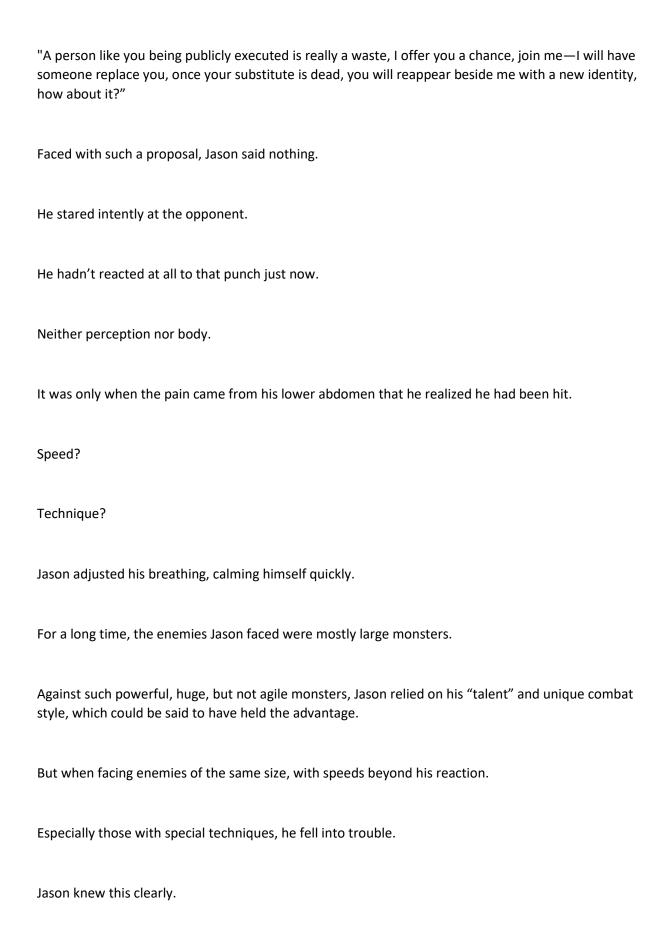




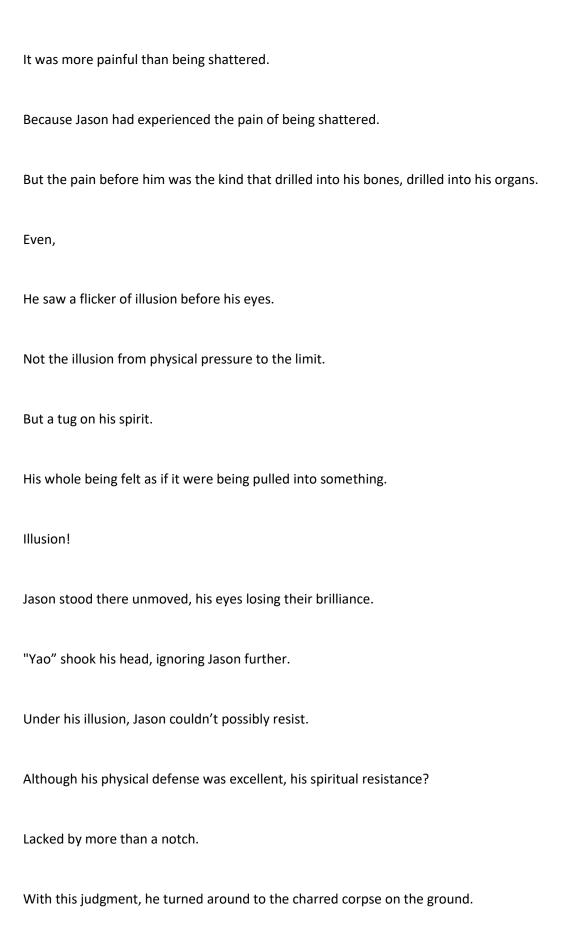


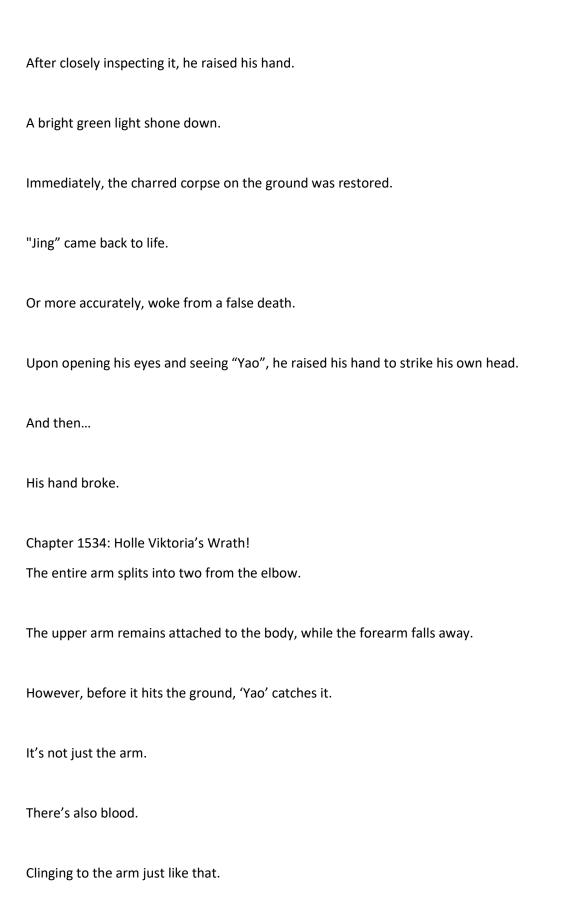






Hence, he had simulated similar battles in his mind more than once.
But
Those fighting methods were not suitable for the "Yao" in front of him.
Because the opponent's speed was simply too fast.
Bam bam bam!
In a series of dull sounds, Jason had already retreated from one side of the alley to the other.
The pain spread.
Jason gritted his teeth to stop himself from shouting out.
He had long surpassed the "war machine level" defense, resisting "Yao's" fists.
But this resistance was not entirely mitigating.
Jason still felt the pain.
Moreover, this pain had far exceeded that of a regular strike.
Every punch felt as if it would shatter him to pieces.
No!





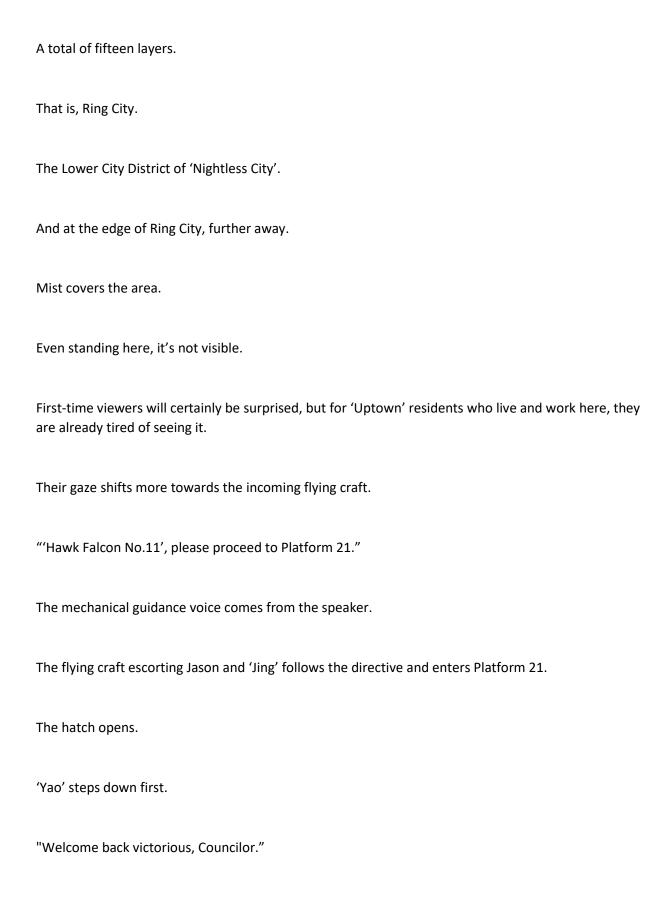
'Yao' looks at 'Jing' with amusement.
"Suicide is the act of a coward."
'Yao' says.
'Jing' silently raises his other arm, aiming for the head again, faster and fiercer than before. But,
The result doesn't change.
It breaks again.
Just like the previous arm, split into two at the elbow, the forearm is held at the fingers by the same hand of 'Yao', like holding a dead fish.
'Yao's other hand grips 'Jing's jaw.
Crack!
A crisp sound.
'Jing's jaw is dislocated.
"Death is not your choice."
"At least not now."

"When the judgment comes"
"That will be your execution time."
After 'Yao' finishes speaking, he releases his hand, but 'Jing' doesn't fall to the ground. Instead, he's suspended in mid-air, glaring at 'Yao', even as he notices Jason's fingers twitch slightly not far away, there is no change.
Anger.
Resentment.
It's a look of a failed attempt.
'Yao' appreciates this expression.
Until the distant flying craft descends.
"Lift him up."
'Yao' points to 'Jing', then turns to look at Jason.
Seeing Jason dazed there, 'Yao' smiles.
"Take him too."
"When transporting, be gentle."
"Don't wake him."

As 'Yao' speaks, he enters the flying craft.
Even though he could return to 'Uptown' directly using the 'passage', opening the 'passage' consumes quite a lot of resources.
Those resources can be put to better use.
For instance
Transforming 'Jason'.
An individual with such strong defensive capabilities like Jason, in 'Yao's eyes, is an excellent 'shield'.
No need for nurturing.
No need for investment.
Simply erase with 'illusions', confuse his mind and it's done.
He's done this more than once.
Although it's a prolonged endeavor, the rewards are quite substantial.
He needs a shield.
In every sense of the word.

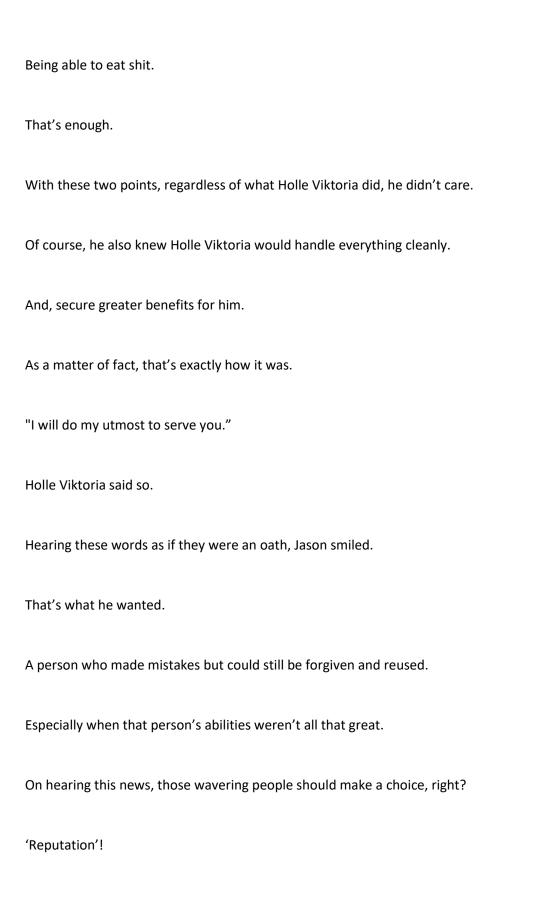
He was troubled by where to start before, but unexpectedly during the capture of 'Jing', he found a pleasant surprise.
Just
Would someone like Jason remain unknown in 'Uptown'?
Quickly, 'Yao' realizes this.
However, immediately, 'Yao' smiles.
Who is Jason?
Does it matter?
Not really.
In the end, he'll be his.
His desired shield.
Knowing that is enough for him.
The rest?
Who cares.
The propellers spin swiftly, and the flying craft shoots into the clouds.

Less than a kilometer away.
The seemingly insurmountable clouds are soon breached.
The flying craft enters a massive 'hole'.
In this 'hole', scaffolds densely cover the scene, with square platforms marked with numbers in between.
Entirely metallic structures.
All pitch-black.
Appearing even colder in the presence of various holographic images.
Hundreds of people in clean uniforms shuttle back and forth on platforms.
Squads of armed guards diligently perform their duties.
Occasionally, someone looks downwards.
Unlike the obscured view when looking up from below.
When looking downwards from above, everything is clear.
A complete circular 'ground' appears in everyone's view.
Layer upon layer.



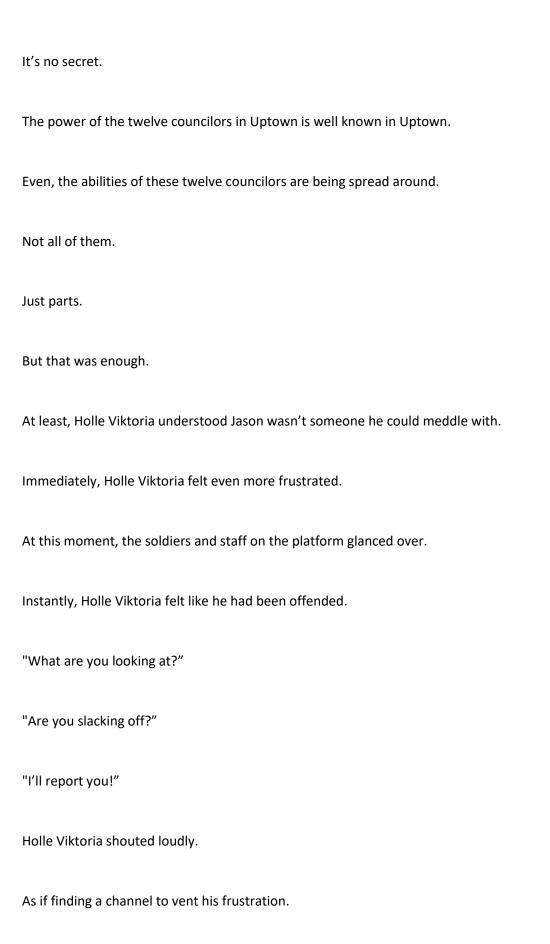
The soldiers on the platform salute simultaneously.
'Yao' nods in response and turns his gaze toward a distant figure on the platform.
Feeling 'Yao's gaze, Holle Viktoria breaks into a cold sweat.
Since knowing 'Yao' went to the 'Lower City District', this former contact person for 'Jing' has been anxious, especially upon hearing that 'Yao' is returning with 'Jing' in custody and Jason captured, his heart completely sank.
To cover up his negligence, he's done quite a number of shady acts
If discovered, it means execution on the spot.
He doesn't want to die yet.
Thus, he appeared at the 'port' immediately.
He hopes to exchange his 'sincerity' for his life.
So, when he noticed 'Yao' looking at him, Holle Viktoria hurriedly trotted over to 'Yao'.
"Sir 'Yao', welcome back."
Holle Viktoria speaks while bowing in salute.
During this process, he discreetly places a ring into 'Yao's hand.
It's his accumulation of nearly thirty years.

Certainly not the meager 'salary'.
Chapter 1535: Holle Viktoria's Wrath!
It was the 'wealth' he painstakingly scraped together.
As he touched the ring, Jason's lips curled into a smirk.
"Viktor, you're the person with the most contact with Jing. I need your cooperation in the investigation—as one of Jing's interrogators."
Jason spoke as he walked forward.
Towards someone like Holle Viktoria, who only held a position for the title, Jason had no ill will.
Because he was obedient.
When choosing between a tiger that devours people and an obedient, docile dog, what's the choice?
Need it even be said?
The latter, without a doubt.
Is ability important?
Not really.
The key is, obedience.
Moreover





Holle Viktoria said fiercely.
What he got in return was Jing's indifference.
With both arms severed, jaw dislocated, and the whole body bound, Jing seemed resigned, hanging his head without a word.
This look made Holle Viktoria want to punch Jing.
But he didn't.
Because Jing was a person designated by the 'Council' to be dealt with.
Although meant for execution.
Before the actual execution, no one would touch him.
But the anger from being ignored made Holle Viktoria uncomfortable, stifled.
Instinctively, Holle Viktoria glanced at the carried-off Jason.
Hit by an illusion?
By Lord Jason?
Relying on the 'mystical knowledge' not entirely forgotten, Holle Viktoria made a judgment.
Then, he guessed what Lord Jason wanted to do.

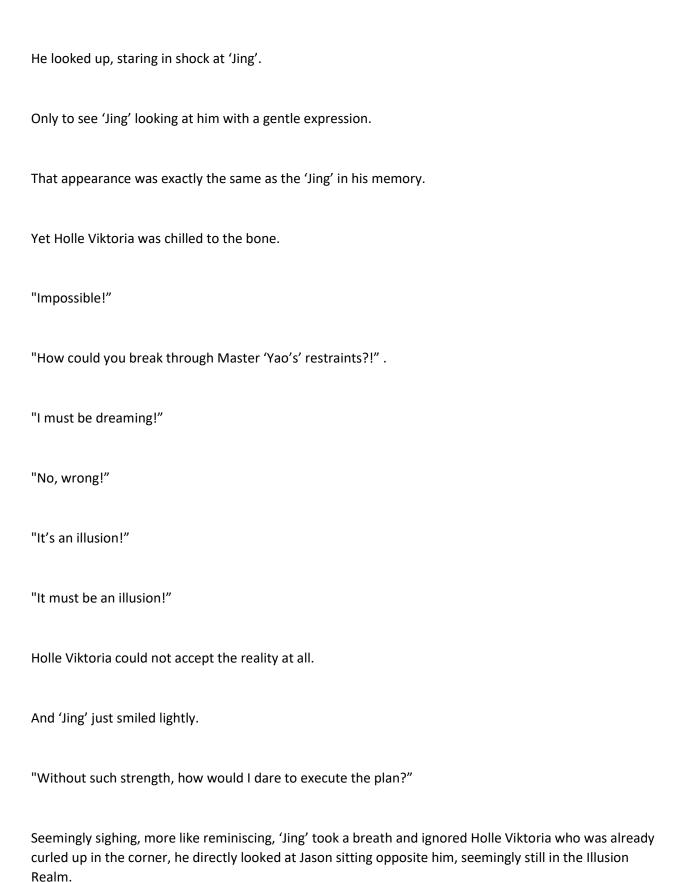


From that moment on, until he completely left the 'port,' Holle Viktoria's mouth never stopped.
He strongly, solemnly declared his stance.
Reprimanding the nearby platform staff for not working hard enough.
Why were there fewer soldiers?
Because, when a few soldiers showed fierce expressions and put their hands on their triggers, Holle Viktoria thought he should be magnanimous, shouldn't cling to others' minor mistakes.
However, it was different with those staff members.
In the face of his rightful persuasion, they actually remained silent?
Not the slightest remorse!
How can they endure this?
Therefore, Holle Viktoria's voice grew louder and louder.
Until just before getting into the car.
Feeling a bit uncomfortable in the throat, Holle Viktoria finally closed his mouth with satisfaction.
He sat in the latter half of the carriage.
With Jason, and 'Jing' together.

After drinking a bottle of water in big gulps, Holle Viktoria let out a satisfied breath.
Then, he looked at 'Jing'.
First glanced at the front.
After confirming the carriage was sealed, and 'Jing' was completely restrained, Holle Viktoria then spoke in a very low voice.
"Do you know you almost ruined me?"
"Do you know you made me lose everything?"
"Do you know you made me start over?"
Interrogation.
Holle Viktoria questioned sharply.
As he asked, Holle Viktoria grabbed 'Jing' by the collar.
Of course, Holle Viktoria wouldn't do anything more excessive.
Nor dare to do it.
At this moment, it was just taking advantage of no one around to vent a little.
"He tui!"

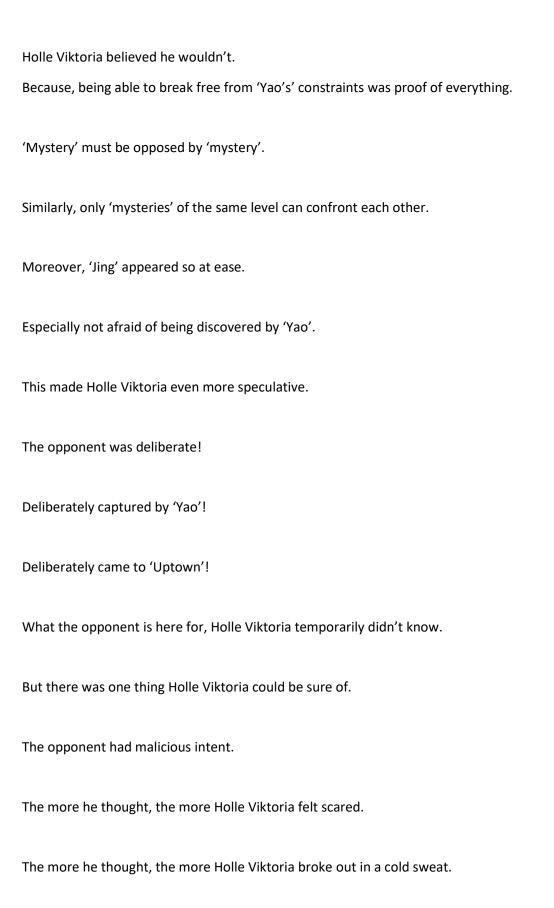
Holle Viktoria prepared to complete the above action, but just as he gathered the saliva, 'Jing' raised his head.
Suddenly, their eyes met.
Looking at 'Jing's gaze full of cold indifference, Holle Viktoria inexplicably shivered from the bottom of his heart.
Not fear.
Definitely not fear.
But
Pity.
Yes, it was pity.
More than ten years of colleague camaraderie made him feel pity for this person about to be executed.
The saliva swallowed back.
The hand let go.
And, he smoothed the collar.
Despite 'Jing's clothes having already become tattered and unsightly, for his own pity, Holle Viktoria thought he should still do his best; this was to express his sentiment.

Squeak.
Unfortunately, Holle Viktoria was too nervous, using too much strength at once.
'Jing's collar was just torn open like that.
"Sorry."
"Apologies."
"I didn't mean to."
Holle Viktoria immediately apologized.
This was just an instinctive apology.
Holle Viktoria naturally did not expect 'Jing' to respond.
But—
"It's okay."
'Jing's voice sounded.
"That's good, that's goo"
Holle Viktoria instinctively said, only realizing something was wrong when the words repeated the second time.



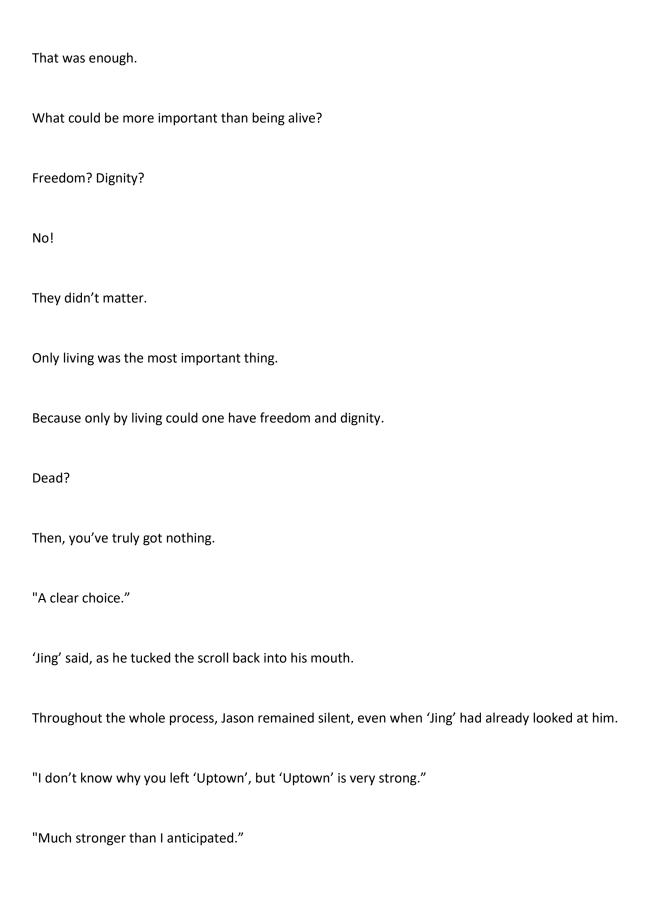




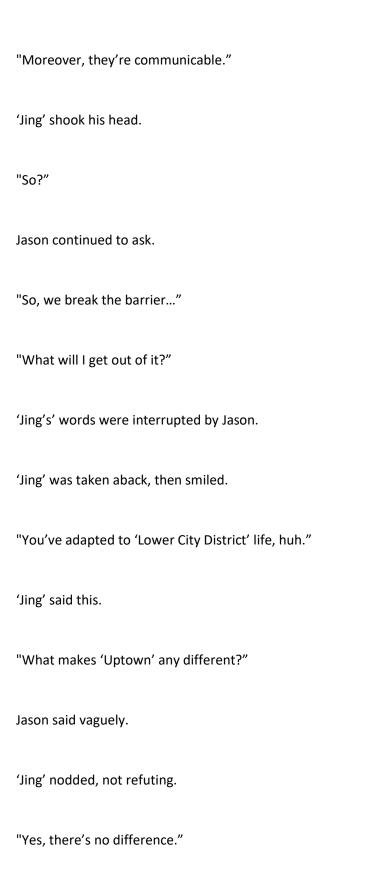


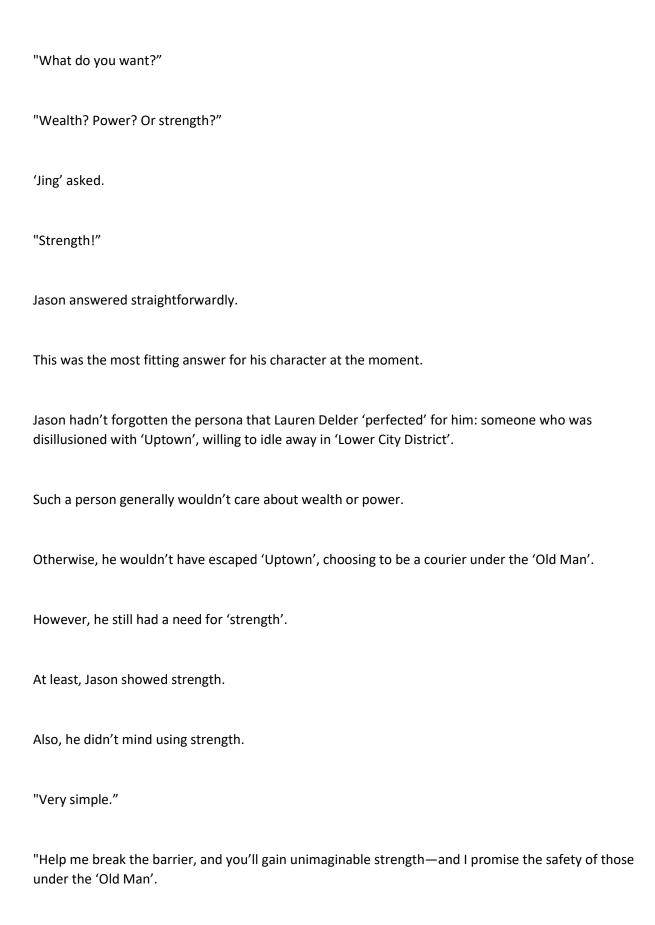
Simultaneously, he tried to curl up his body, hoping 'Jing' wouldn't notice him.
Treat him like a fart and let him go.
Unfortunately, even if a fart is silent.
It still has a smell.
The next second, 'Jing' turned his head to look at Holle Viktoria.
With a slight smile.
Holle Viktoria didn't flinch.
Pfft.
He just knelt down there.
"Happy to serve you."
Holle Viktoria said straightforwardly.
Having reached this point, Holle Viktoria was well aware that he no longer had any choice.
He knew full well what kind of person 'Jing' was.
If he didn't want to die, it was best to obey.

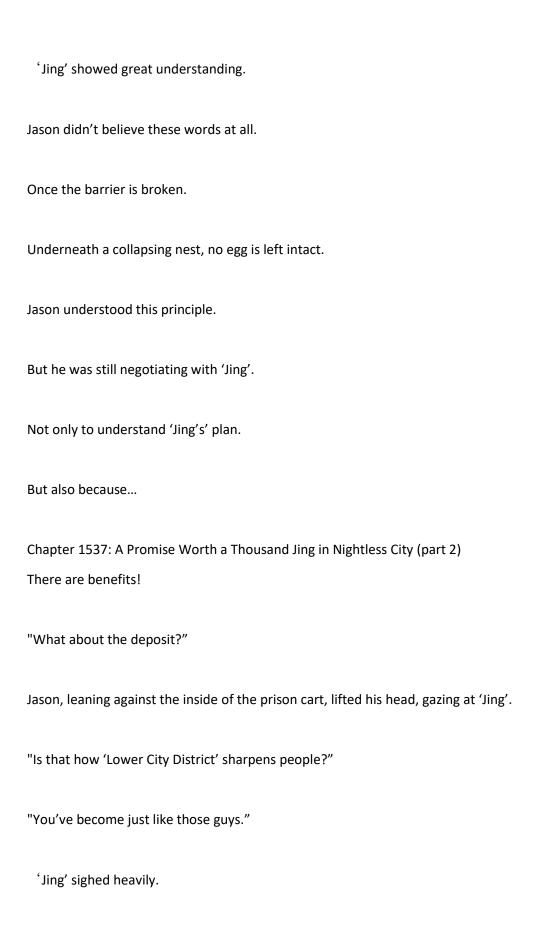
Or rather, the reason he was still alive up to now was that he was still useful.
And this was his opportunity.
'Jing's' smile became even brighter.
"I always thought Viktoria, you were underutilized."
'Jing' praised.
Then, he opened his mouth and spat out a scroll.
"Open it, sign your name, and press your bloody fingerprint on it."
'Jing' said.
Holle Viktoria didn't hesitate at all, completely ignoring the saliva on it, and obediently did as 'Jing' instructed.
He bit his fingertip, wrote his name with blood, and pressed his fingerprint.
When he sensed an inexplicable force emerging from the depths of his heart, Holle Viktoria let out a sigh of relief.
He knew his soul was bound.
From then on, his spirit could never find peace.
However, he survived.

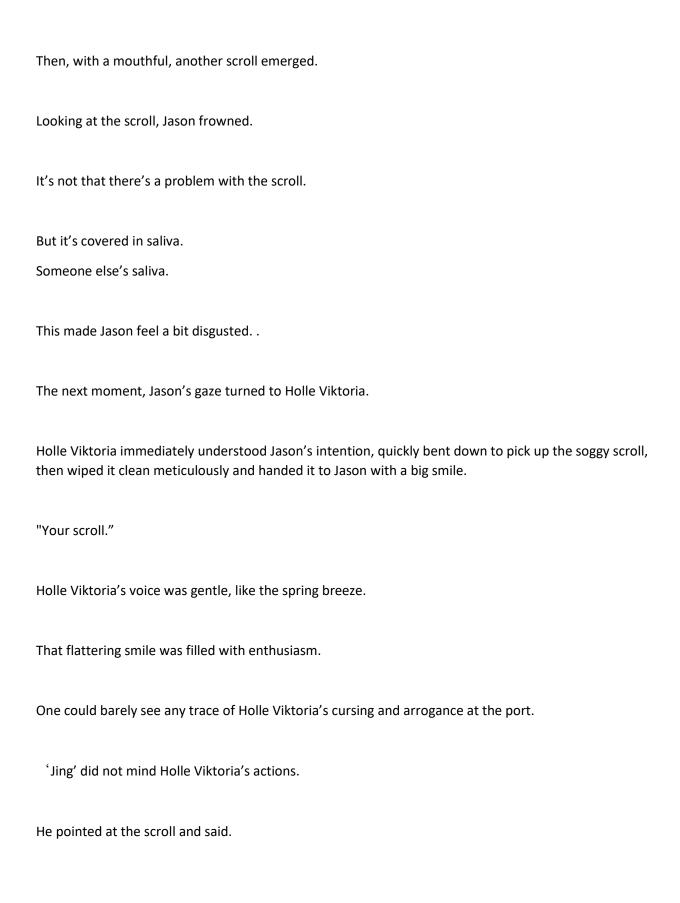


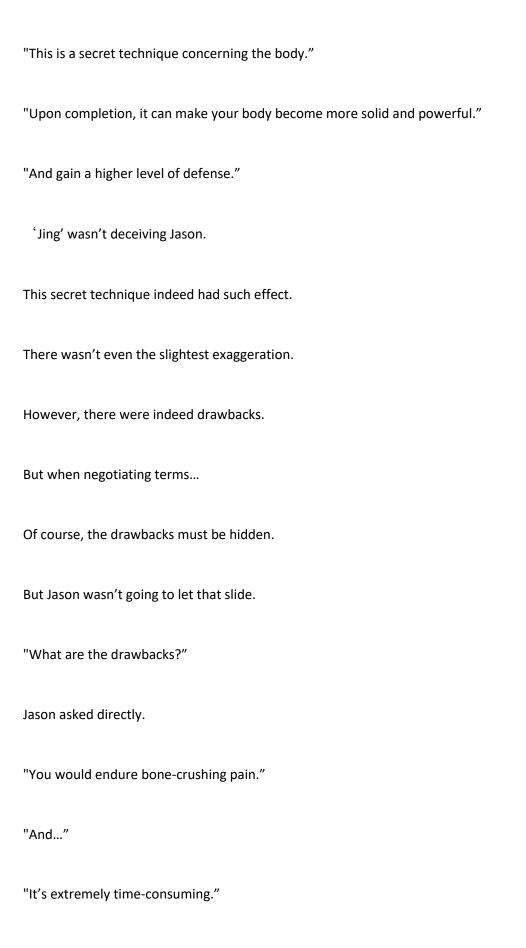




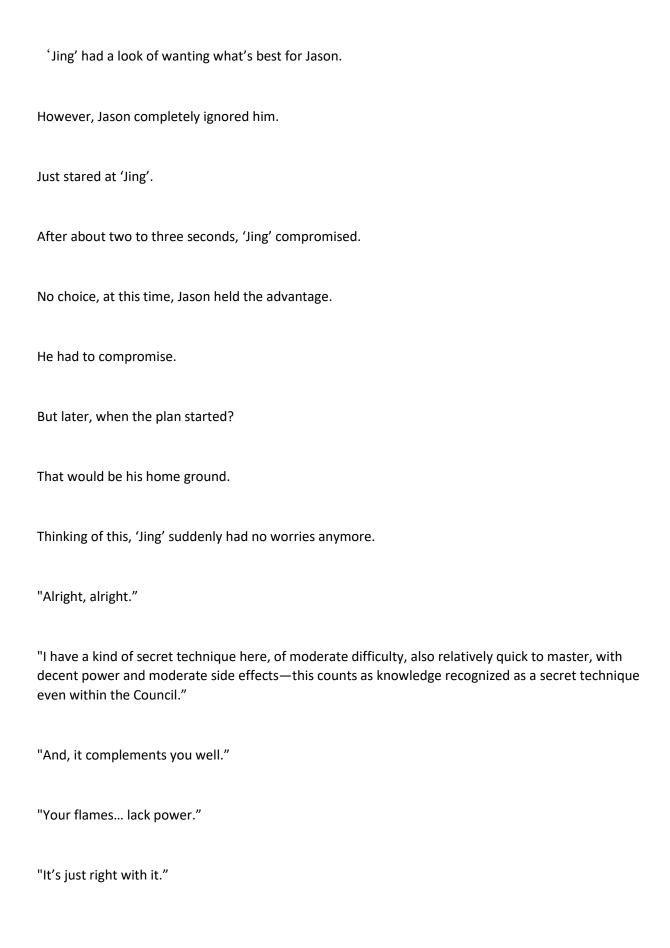


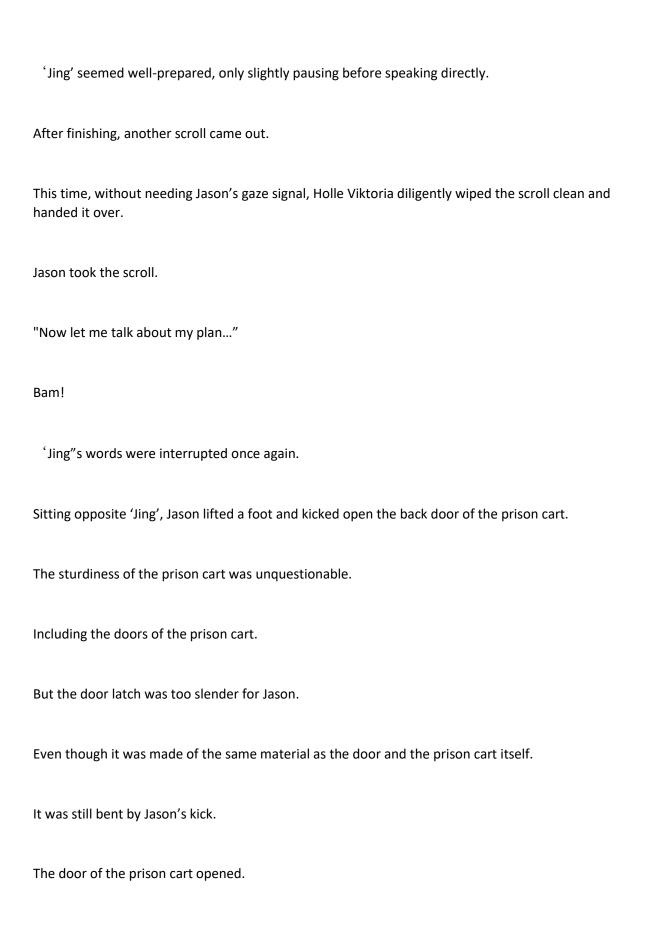


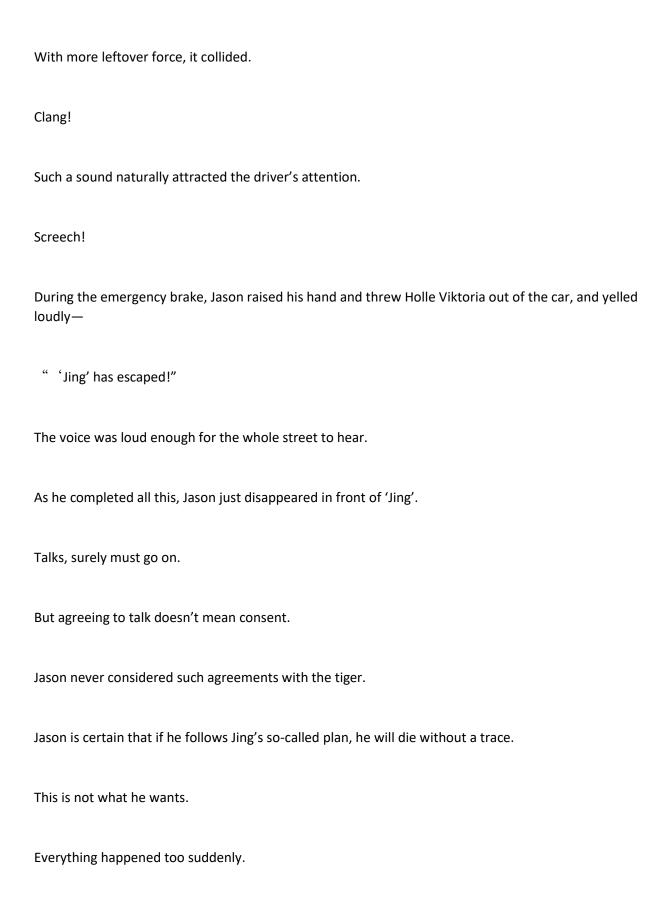




'Jing' spread his hands and paused for a moment, then continued: "But trust me, once you master it, you will feel it is worth every bit."
Jason nodded.
That was as if acknowledging 'Jing"s statement.
Then—
"Not enough!"
Jason said this.
"I need a secret technique that's less difficult, preferably one that can be quickly mastered and has no side effects."
Jason once again stated his demand.
"Do you think there are such secret techniques?"
"You're not new to the Mystical Side, why are you still harboring such fantasies?"
"Which technique with minimal difficulty and quick mastery doesn't come with huge side effects?"
"Unless you don't require power."
"Believe me, it's the best there is."







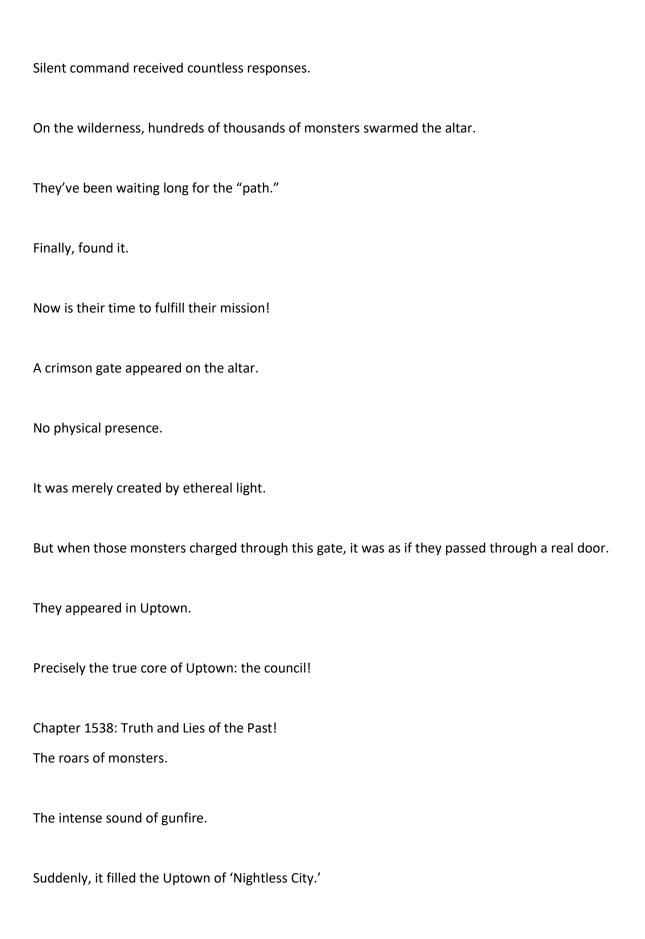
Even Jing was momentarily taken aback.
When he came to his senses, he wasn't angry, just smiled.
Jason's reaction was more intense than he had imagined.
However, it was not beyond his expectations.
The only surprise was that Jason had already acted.
"Alas."
Jing jumped out of the car.
Then, without even glancing at Holle Viktoria, he ran in a direction.
He believed Holle Viktoria would take care of herself.
And him?
He needed to execute the most critical part of the plan.
He named the entire plan—
"Hide and Seek."
However just before leaving Holle Viktoria raised her hand and waved behind her

Bang!
An explosion sent the prison van flying into the air.
The two escorts who had just gotten out of the car were blown to pieces by the shockwave before they could react.
Holle Viktoria was also thrown a dozen meters away, falling into unconsciousness.
Unable to spot Jason's figure.
"Did he run far away?"
"Alas."
Jing sighed.
Then, he walked away without looking back.
When Jing's figure completely disappeared from sight.
Jason's figure flickered and vanished in the flames on the side.
Explosion.
Flames.
Immediately, the alarms in Uptown sounded.

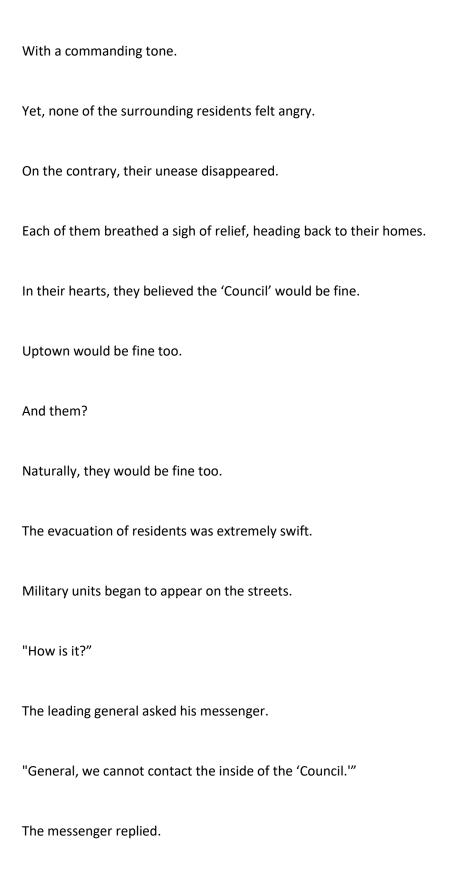
Having just returned to the heavily guarded, barrier-protected council, Yao casually submitted his task.
Then, the councilor received news of Jing's escape the first time.
He was initially taken aback.
His eyes full of surprise.
In Yao's understanding, there was no chance for Jing to resist.
The initial behavior confirmed this.
Wait!
The beginning?
As if realizing something, Yao's face changed.
He instinctively raised his hand, prepared to radiate light.
But, it was too late!
A part of a little finger slipped from his coat pocket.
It was a part of Jing's little finger.
Not the fingertip.
The position of the second joint.

An inconspicuous place on the entire arm.
Yao knew it was placed in his pocket when he grabbed Jing's arm.
Not knowing what method was used, he never noticed.
And it was lethal!
Yao tried his best to retreat, isolating this power.
But the outcome would not change.
Bang!
The section of the little finger exploded.
A small mist of blood appeared.
The blood mist spread.
Yao's hand shimmered with light.
The blood mist was instantly dispelled.
However, Yao's face was somber.
In his perception, a peculiar power emerged here.

Not strong.
Yet tenacious.
And, clear.
That's right!
Clear!
Yao could even feel the ripples it released.
Like waves, heading toward the Lower City District.
Skipping zones 16, 17, 18, and so on.
Until
Deep in Zone 30.
There, a long-standing altar rose slowly from the ground.
Twelve Black Knights lined up, watching the slowly ascending altar.
Then, they drew the long swords from their waists.
Charge!
Roar!

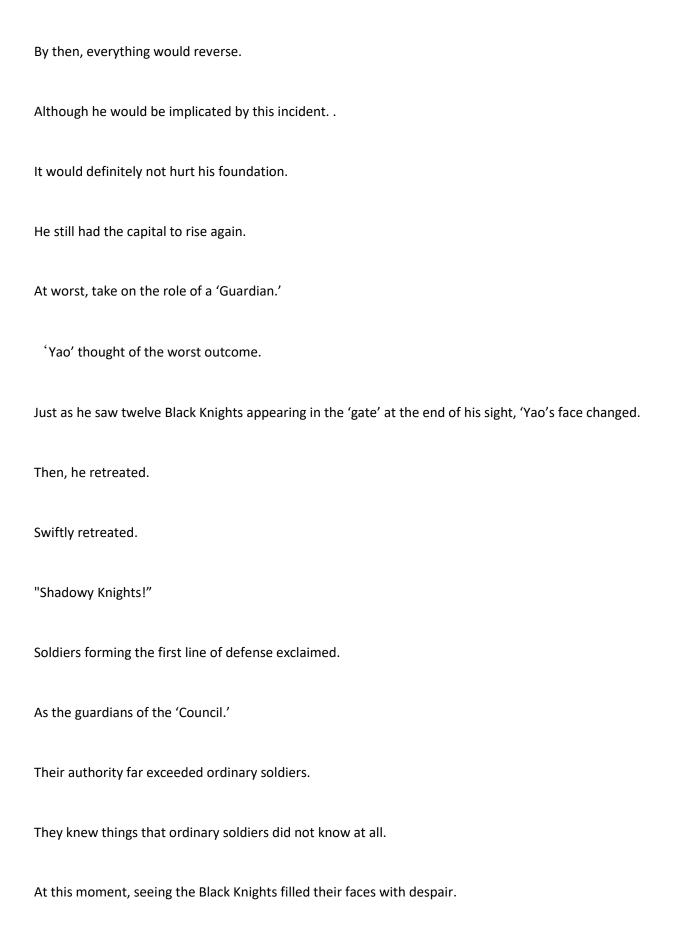




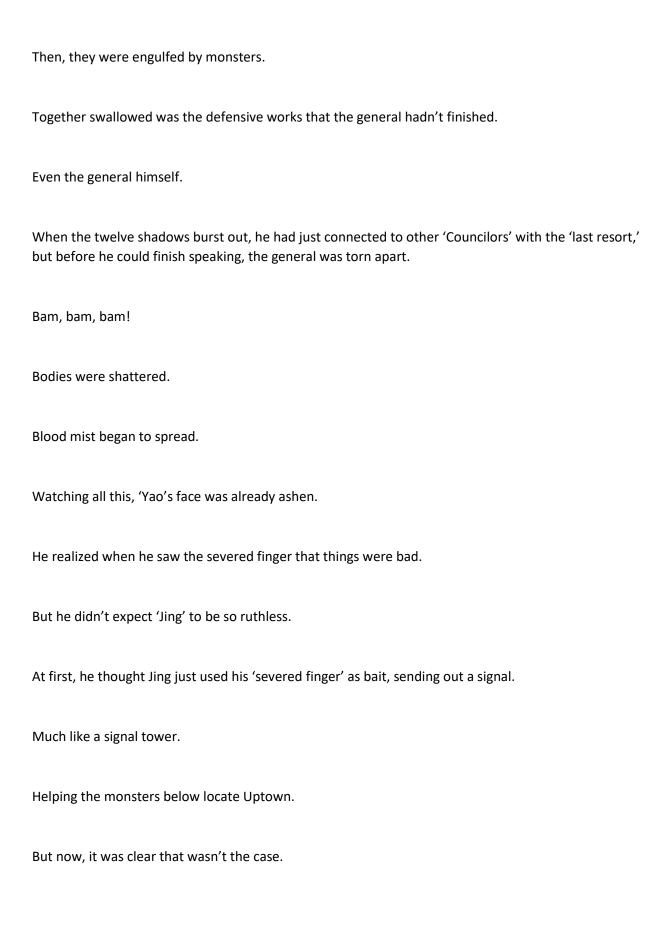




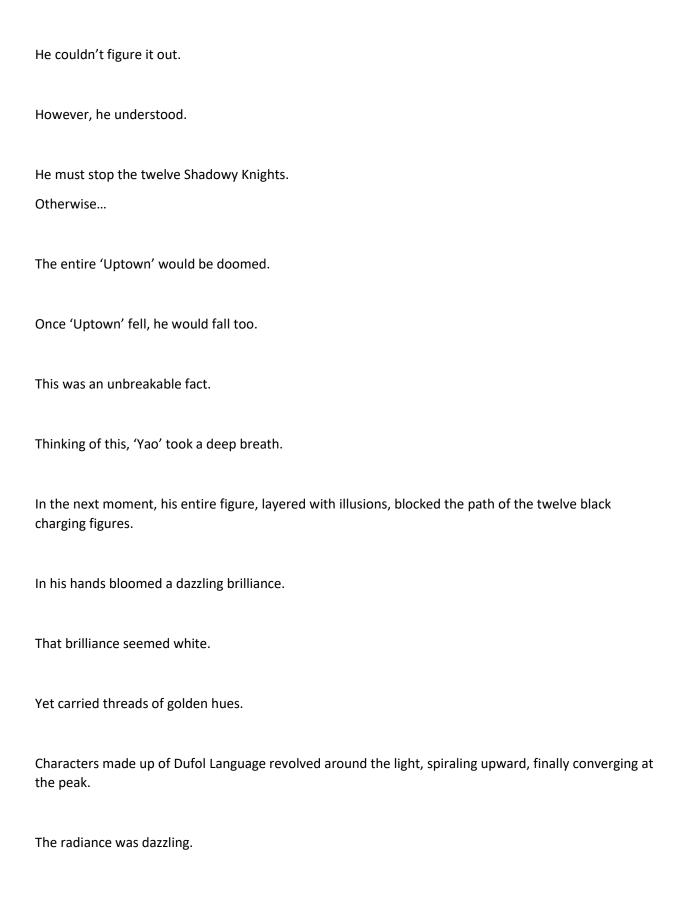
Then, turned and headed towards a military jeep nearby.
There was a radio on it.
A radio that could contact other 'Councilors.'
And just as the general began contacting other 'Councilors,' the 'Council,' wrapped in layers of Barriers, broke open from the inside like a fortress breached from within.
'Yao' slaughtered wave after wave of monsters.
But the monsters seemed endless.
Like a tide, surging continuously.
Relying on 'Yao's strength.
Hundreds of Uptown soldiers formed a simple defensive line.
Their guns poured bullets.
Combined with endless secret techniques, this seemingly simple defensive line stood firm like a rock in the tide.
'Yao' knew clearly that as long as he held on for a while, more soldiers would come from the four barracks within Uptown.
At the same time, his colleagues would also return to Uptown.

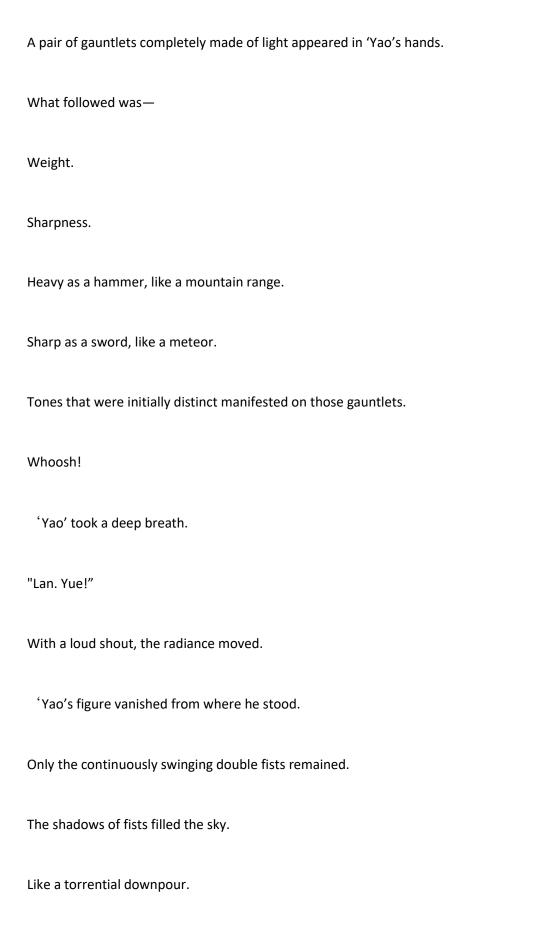


Clatter!
The sound of hooves was crisp.
The twelve Black Knights lined up in a row.
Their black warhorses seemed to trot slowly.
But in an instant, they reached the scarlet gate outside.
Boom!
The twelve Black Knights crashed into the makeshift fortifications.
Shattered!
Whether it was the fortifications or the people inside!
All shattered!
Along with the remaining Barrier.
And this was like the last gate holding back a fierce tiger being broken.
The surging monsters roared ferociously.
The 'Uptown' residents, completely ignorant of what was happening, looked in horror towards the direction of the sounds.



Sending out a signal was definite.
Yet being able to quickly establish a path for 'Shadowy Knights' to pass wasn't simple, not even with the monsters in Sector 30 preparing for a long time.
This required a mutual process.
One side's effort alone was not enough.
Simply put, it seemed like just a severed finger, but in fact, it was a 'medium.'
A 'medium' using its own vitality as 'fuel.'
Chapter 1539: Truth and Lies of the Past! (part 2)
To quickly open the passage, 'Jing' used his life as the price!
At this time, 'Jing' was probably not just growing old.
His strength was less than a tenth.
He was completely disregarding his life.
"Using his life as the price I underestimated you!"
'Yao' muttered harshly to himself.
This 'Councilor' from 'Uptown' still didn't understand why 'Jing' did this.





Dense.
Layer upon layer.
Transforming into
A mountain range!
A peak appeared out of nowhere, so heavy it felt oppressive.
As if people were looking up at a towering mountain top.
Breeze!
The mountain wind blew past.
The substantial peak moved.
It blocked the path of the twelve black figures charging forward.
Bang bang bang!
The sounds of impact rang out.
Endlessly.
Once, twice, thrice

A total of twelve times!
After twelve sounds, the twelve black figures stopped, revealing the true faces of the Shadowy Knights
Meanwhile, that mighty peak became shattered.
Bits of stone still occasionally fell.
Panting heavily, gasping.
'Yao' was already pale, breathing hard.
But, immediately, he swung his fists again.
Because—
The twelve Shadowy Knights launched another charge.
Near the 'Council', the ground shook and the mountains trembled
'Uptown' became tense and anxious.
However, 'Jing' was leisurely walking.
Even though
He became old and feeble.

Occasionally, he'd cough.
At this moment, 'Jing' was already with grayed hair and a wrinkled face, completely different from the previously gentle middle-aged man, with whom someone would believe is seventy or eighty years old.
But, 'Jing's condition was very good.
One could even say it was unprecedentedly good.
It was a state of untying a heart's knot.
The fulfillment of a long-awaited wish.
So much so that 'Jing' hummed a tune as he walked.
His destination was clear.
Thus, even though he walked and stopped along the way, he soon arrived at a corner of 'Uptown'.
Here was
A cemetery.
Not a public one.
A private burial ground.
A place he purchased under another identity.

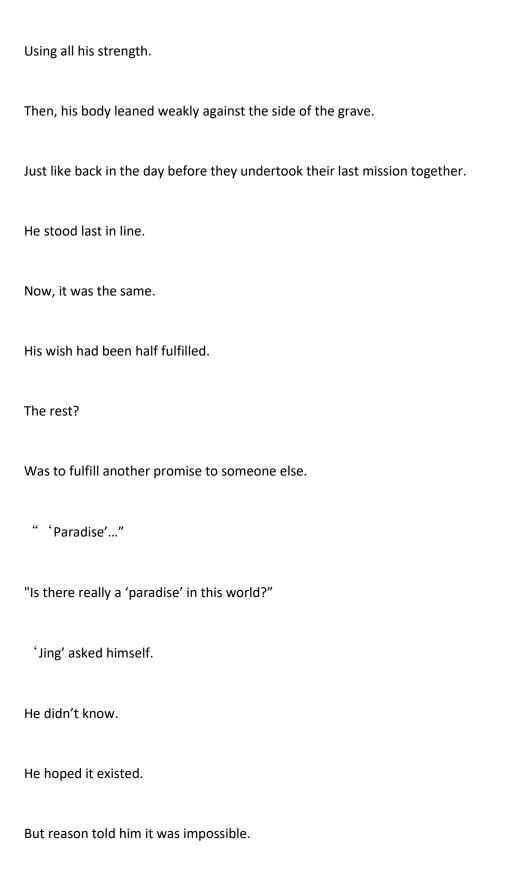
A small cabin stood at the entrance of the cemetery, inside lived a Tomb Guardian.
Upon seeing 'Jing', he silently opened the cemetery.
The entire process was dazed, wooden.
As if soulless.
In fact, it was true.
When 'Jing' returned to 'Uptown', certain means had already been triggered, making seemingly regular people and things become irregular.
Just like the Tomb Guardian before him.
The counterpart, like Holle Viktoria, had signed a contract.
However, unlike coercing Holle Viktoria.
Back then, the counterpart volunteered.
He gave the counterpart a choice.
Then, collected the corresponding compensation.
It was reasonably fair.
But to Holle Viktoria?

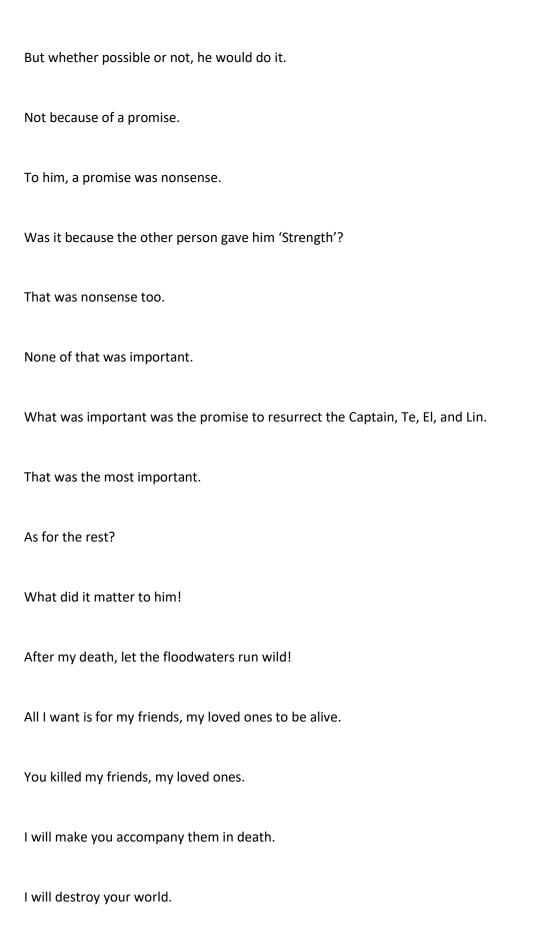
There wasn't much fairness.
"People always change."
'Jing' murmured softly.
Then, instead of walking directly into the cemetery, he headed towards the Tomb Guardian's room. Half a minute later, he came out,
Holding a bouquet of fresh flowers and
A pot of wine.
The flowers were white gardenias.
The wine was a famous strong liquor.
Holding these, 'Jing' walked into the cemetery.
He first bowed towards the tombstones around.
Even if the people in these graves were not the ones he wanted to pay respects to, their existence protected the one he did want to honor.
He felt he needed to bow.
"Thank you."

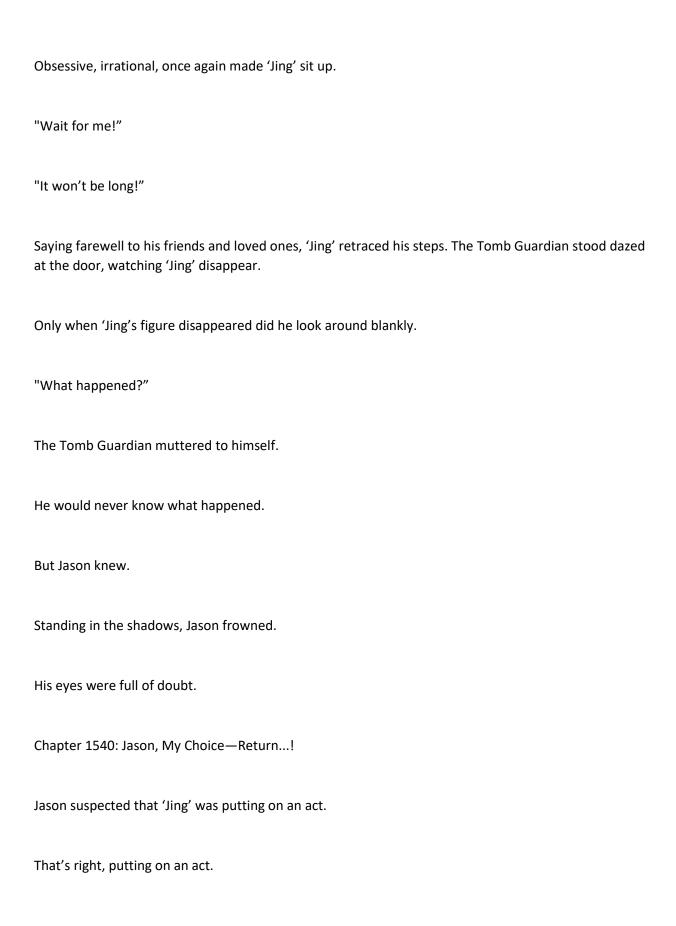
Saying this, 'Jing' passed through the gravestones that served as a cover and reached the depths of the cemetery.
Four graves without tombstones appeared there, overgrown with weeds.
This was intentional.
'Jing' placed down the flowers and wine and began to pull out the weeds.
Then, he fetched a bucket of water and started cleaning the worn-out stones in front of the graves.
Only then did he place the flowers in front of the four graves.
"Old friends, I've come to see you."
'Jing' said quietly.
Then he pointed in the direction of the 'Council'.
"Did you hear that sound?"
"They are your best offering."
"Traitors"
"Deserve to die without a complete body."
As 'Jing' spoke, he uncorked the bottle and began to pour the strong liquor evenly before the four graves.

This simple act made his breathing become rapid.
Especially when he straightened up, his joints creaked noisily.
So much so that 'Jing' had to support his waist to stand up straight.
"Alas."
"I originally planned to see you in a better state."
"Ended up meeting a bastard."
"Had no choice but to become like this."
"If you want to laugh, just laugh."
"I'm used to it anyway."
As 'Jing' spoke, his gaze turned to the first grave on the right.
"Captain, you said I was the weakest and youngest and should survive."
"I didn't agree with you."
His gaze moved left.
"Te, you told me not to seek revenge, to find a place to live incognito for the rest of my life."











With conventional means, he was clearly lacking.
If it were just 'Yao' alone, Jason wouldn't mind using his trump card for a brawl.
But for beings like 'Yao', there were twelve in 'Uptown'.
Above these twelve, there were three more.
Jason knew clearly that even if he used all his trump cards, he wouldn't be a match for the twelve 'Councilors'.
Let alone those above the 'Councilor' level.
Aside from the forces in 'Uptown', 'Jing' himself could not be underestimated.
Despite trying to overestimate the adversary each time.
But when it came down to it, his overestimate still proved to be an underestimate.
Especially 'Jing', who was unlike any other enemy he'd encountered before.
The kind that didn't rely on brute strength.
But preferred using 'brains'.
Such an enemy was particularly troublesome to Jason.
Enemies aren't scary.



It wouldn't make him mindlessly rush up to feast, becoming a fool waiting to be slaughtered.
It gave him enough time to think.
To think about what he should do next.
Unconsciously, Jason's hand reached into his bosom.
His fingertips touched the black notebook.
When leaving Ter Street, Jason had already made up his mind that unless necessary, he wouldn't use this black notebook for the time being—only, plans never kept up with changes.
Three days later, he had no choice but to use this black notebook again.
Quickly distanced himself from the graveyard.
When he arrived at a park where no one was watching, Jason observed his surroundings.
This should be a park where nearby residents exercised.
Exercise facilities could be seen in the distance.
Not to mention other things, the basic infrastructures in 'Uptown' were really countless times better than those in the Lower City District.
Not only was the environment beautiful, but the living standard also significantly improved.
At least, in the Lower City District, Jason had never seen vending machines.

Let alone facilities like fountains.
In the Lower City District, getting clean water wasn't an easy task.
A cup of clear water and a piece of black bread could get you a young man working for a day in the Lower City District.
Stepping into the bushes.
Jason leaped onto the street park's large tree.
The whole body hidden in the tree crown, confirmed that he couldn't be seen from outside, he took out the two scrolls obtained from 'Jing' from his bosom.
[Discovered inheritance item 'Titanium Body', spend 300 points of satiety to learn?]
[Discovered inheritance item 'Dragon Flame Technique', spend 400 points of satiety to learn?]
"Learn."
When Jason took the two scrolls from 'Jing's' hand, such prompts had already appeared.
Because of these two prompts, he could confirm 'Jing' hadn't played tricks on the two secret techniques.
Of course, it was just that no tricks were played in the two secret techniques.

As for the rest?
Jason checked.
He didn't find any problems.
However, he remained cautious.
Before his eyes, an illusion appeared!
Click!
Click, click!
In the turning of mechanical gears, potions began injecting into his body.
Jason could feel the fierce power within these potions.
In fact, as soon as they entered his body.
His heart was torn apart by this force.
However, Jason had long been accustomed to it.
Didn't care at all.
Once.

Ten times.

A hundred times.
After a hundred times, this force became steady, starting to adapt to Jason's body.
Immediately, Jason's body became more robust, powerful.
Even with a faint special metallic sheen.
[Titanium Body: Once a very mysterious inherited 'Secret Martial Arts', but it's not complete; currently, you've only obtained its incomplete first layer, the path ahead requires self-exploration; Effect: Your entire body gains explosive-level defense (uniform total body defense, no weak points, if there are other defenses, this effect will stack).]
[Titanium Body] appeared under [Barehanded Combat (Master)]'s additional mastery.