

the monarch Chapter 31 - Progress and a surprise

Chapter 31: Progress and a surprise

"Keep moving around, Kayden, one brick at a time builds a house," Heimer encouraged the boy.

"I don't know what happened to him, but I would bet my life that Kayden is a genius, just not a wizard genius," Heimer thought in his mind with a hint of pity.

A few minutes later, and spending almost 3 times more mana than the first time, Kayden felt his heart constrict and his veins quickly dry up. An indescribable pain assaulted the boy's body, but he remained calm. Pain was an old friend.

"Kayden? Are you okay? This wasn't supposed to be painful," Heimer muttered and continued sending mana to the boy. He trusted his friend's judgment.

Watching the progress that spontaneously occurred in his body, Kayden saw his heart getting somehow a little more potent at sending the manas through the loop. At the same time, his veins began to accept a greater amount of mana with the same space.

10 minutes later, Kayden collapsed to the floor exhausted. His heart and veins were unusually painful, similar to the sensation of feeling a phantom limb. When he caught his breath, he got up with the biggest smile he had:

"Pain is necessary for what I want, don't worry," Kayden reassured his friend.

"Don't try to overwhelm yourself for momentary gains, Kayden," Heimer thought the boy was circulating more mana than he should have to force a more powerful rank 2.

This was a theory often used by those who reached the end of their lives, as pushing mana beyond what is needed causes a destabilization of the core's foundations in exchange for more strength than its peers.

"Relax, Heimer, I'm coming back now. I need to digest my progress," Heimer did not continue the discussion. He knew everyone had their secrets.

The advance consisted of two main steps. The first and most basic was to move forward, and the second was to digest what was gained by moving forward. Typically, this should be done after the base has fully stabilized.

Back at the orphanage, Kayden was considering writing a letter to David, sharing his progress. Walking without paying attention, the boy came face to face with the old man. Reflexively, Han cast a mana barrier, causing Kayden a minor accident.

"Watch where you're going, kid..." At that moment, he noticed that Kayden had advanced to the second rank. Not only that, but he felt that the boy's body carried at least twice as much mana as a standard level 2. "Congratulations Kayden on your breakthrough."

Looking at the old man, who didn't even apologize for the accident, the boy smiled and thanked him for the congratulations.

"Come to the living room tomorrow at 9 am. Let's see something interesting." The old man refused to give the boy any more details. Kayden only knew that the government had declared a 3-day holiday, but nothing more.

"I'll be there, Dad." Kayden knew something big was happening. It probably should have been public, but this last month has been spent focusing on one thing. He didn't have time for gossip or anything like that.

He went to his room and started writing the letter to David. Even though cell phones and communication technologies existed, scientists refused to use something like that for this purpose. It was a secret capable of causing wars.

The next day...

The day started normally for Kayden. He ate his breakfast and practiced with his sword. He was getting stronger every day. He had no way of estimating it precisely, but he believed that he had 80% of the strength and speed of a knight of the same rank.

That might not sound like much, but it was insane when you consider that his main class was pretty much that of a conventional mage. That is to say, he was better than a mage of the same level and almost on the same level as a physical fighter.

Returning from his training, he saw the old man arranging several sofas outside the house and using a giant holographic TV on a stone wall. That kind of television was something Kayden had never seen. It consisted of two open bars at each end of an invisible rectangle.

Coming closer, he addressed the old man. "Dad, what's all this for?" It seemed like a lot for something trivial.

"You're too laid back, Kayden. I'll tell you since there's little time left." The old man began to create a table with treats. "For the first time in history, the government will broadcast the Sun Academy admission test."

A slight surprise took over the boy's face, which was soon replaced by curiosity. What is a continental-level genius capable of doing? What's the average? What sets them apart from the rest?

Questions like these popped into his head. Kayden hurried to shower and change into something comfortable. When he returned, he saw several children sitting expectantly on the sofas. His eyes glittered with impossible dreams.

"Kayden, here!" Heimer screamed. The genie had saved a spot for his friend on the front sofas.

Upon joining him, Kayden noticed Ryan and the old man on the same couch. Nobody said anything. Everyone was waiting anxiously. Within minutes, the screen received a different image. There was a man in a room typical of the narration of many sports games.

Dressed in a suit, he introduced himself and began the broadcast: "Good morning everyone, My name is Draven and I will be your narrator for today." Unbeknownst to Kayden, this man was the most famous narrator.

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requested from the kingdom. "I know many must be anxious, so I won't be long."

As he spoke his words, the video was switched to an ordinary room. "Academy entry consists of three phases: the test of innate talent. This will not be broadcast. The second is the 100-Step Ladder." Leaving the image of the room that referred to the first test, he was passed to a huge staircase.

"Made entirely of marble, it is 1 kilometer wide." This caused a ripple of murmurs among viewers. It wouldn't even fit in the recording. "Each step on that ladder represents a different attack on your subconscious, from panic attacks to rage."

A series of examples were demonstrated on the screen. "It sounds simple, but you must remember that you cannot effectively defend against attacks on the subconscious. You can train yourself against pain, but not against anxiety and depressive thoughts."

The image changed to a tiled dais. He was round and there was nothing else around him. "Here is the third test. It consists of a free choice test. You can ask for a battle, make potions, practice healing magic." An example was given for each of his lines. "The most important thing is to demonstrate something that differentiates you from the rest."

"However, only some of the best performances will be recorded. This will not be live, unfortunately." The presenter made a sad face. Kayden had to admit the man was charismatic.

"In the end, you can bet on the highlight of the year and try to get some extra money." The man gave a sly smile. "Without further ado, let's start with the ladder."

The screen changed to an image of thousands of people climbing step by step. At first, most were fast, but the speed slowed down considerably from the 10th step onwards. As the teenagers were shown, a little about them was presented: name, level, and rank of innate talent.

Logically, they could not show all of them, but the main ones were disclosed. The amount of 4th and 5th-rank innate talent was frightening. It made it look like there was one on every corner.

AN: Hello , unfortunately, we did not reach the goal, but today was a very good day for me, so I will release an extra chapter, I hope you like it

the monarch Chapter 32 - Sun Academy and the tests

Chapter 32: Sun Academy and the tests

Considering the academy was the apex of a kingdom, it's not that abnormal. When it got close to 5 minutes, some participants started to float in the air and the narrator appeared again.

"Those who do not reach step 20 within 5 minutes are considered incapable of continuing the selection process." The man was pointing at a blackboard as if explaining a lesson. "About 95% fall at that point."

The test lasted another 20 minutes, and had participants on all levels, with the highest occupied by a boy holding a violin. Strangely, he was not introduced and was on the 80th step.

The vast majority remained on floors below 50. Innate talent and rank didn't help much in this test. Again, the narrator appeared.

"Now that you understand how this test works, let's just go through the main competitors of each wave." The man showed a bored face.

Then several participants were shown. The surprising thing was that most were above apprentice rank 7, and a few even reached the ninth and final rank. That was impressive.

Kayden got a reality check with this performance. His worldview was broadened to varying degrees. He already expected something insane, but not to the point where there were so many eighth and ninth ranks.

The video lasted another two hours and presented several details of the participants and curiosities about the selection process. The number of participants reached 1 million. It was ridiculously loud.

After those two hours, another man was introduced on stage. He was mounted on a dragon and dressed in formal golden clothing. The moment he appeared, Han whispered:

"The king's brother." It was low enough that only those close to him could hear it. With a dragon roar, the golden-haired man spoke:

"Hello everyone, My name is Leonardo Sol and I am the director of this academy. Right now and for the next 2 days, we are going to begin the true test of our institution." The man clapped his hands and the dragon began to fly. His face was that of someone in middle age and represented a sense of power to viewers.

"This test has only one goal: to find geniuses. We don't want mere resource-produced mages. Any vermin reach the ninth rank with money. We want the true geniuses among geniuses."

The emotion in his speech was visible, and he managed to convey it to others in a 100% authentic way.

"We want you to show why you are the elite in our society. Only the top 10,000 will be accepted. Good luck." His speech was short, but it accurately represented the wishes of the academy.

Then some battles began to be presented on the stage, and the narrator gave an idea of \ what was going on.

"The academy, through a test, selects those who can go on stage. To do this, they must have had an exceptional result in one of the first tests. Only the best will be seen on national television; the rest will have a normal test."

At that moment, the boy with the violin came on stage. He was dressed in an orchestra conductor's outfit and had a determined look on his face. When he reached the middle of the arena, a voice asked:

"What are you going to demonstrate to us?" the judge asked. Many were curious; mages who used non-standard things were rare.

The screen demonstrated its characteristics. His name was Beethoven and he was in the 8th rank of apprentice magician. His path was marked as a conventional image.

"Before I order my test, I have one request." The green-haired boy knelt. "My king, I know you are watching. Insolently, I ask that you hear my request."

The boy's speech seemed to have been trained several times. There was no hesitation or fear. Against everyone's expectations, the boy received his reply:

"Go ahead." An imposing voice resounded. Seeing that he got an answer, the boy continued. I could see his emotion.

"My king, my mother lost her hearing when I gave birth. She was a music lover like me. We tried different methods, but nothing was able to cure her." The boy's voice shook with emotion. "I won't be humble right now. I know I'm a genius and I want to trade my life for her cure."

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Decision shone in the boy's eyes, a passion that came from the deepest part of his heart.

"I ask that if I surprise Your Majesty with my presentation, your Highness may consider having me as a slave to the kingdom in exchange for my mother's healing." The boy's head touched the ground.

His sentence moved viewers. The love and determination to do anything for her mother moved the audience. You could see tears falling to the ground. There was a deafening silence for a few seconds.

"Very well, as long as you surprise me, a man who has seen many things in this world, I will help your mother heal and I will not charge you anything for it." The imposing voice emerged and relieved everyone who was moved by the boy.

"I want a battle against a peak ninth rank." This phrase surprised many. Normally, a peak ninth-rank mage apprentice was able to fight against 10 starting ninth ranks.

It was a completely different level, and considering Beethoven was ranked 8th, it was a difference of at least 15 times. Some people who had already bet on the boy, trying to get a quick return, were disappointed.

plow. A genius was about to commit the only sin capable of making them lose everything: vanity.

Upon his request, a person covered in black robes and a mask was seen appearing in the arena. He carried a huge axe, making it clear that he was a knight. Perhaps the worst thing a novice could fight, as their spells were time-consuming and mana-consuming.

"Okay, we'll start in 1 minute," the judge proclaimed.

The boy brought the violin to his chin and closed his eyes. Music began to come out of his fingers, conveying a strong emotion of sadness, like that of a sailor lost at sea.

Seeing this, Han muttered, "That boy is a little monster." That sentence made Kayden pay more attention to the video, but he couldn't notice anything. The minute passed quickly. The only sound during that time was Beethoven's violin.

"Begin," the judge ordered. The ninth-rank mage was just a normal person. He wasn't a genius and gambled on his best chance. He removed the ax from his back and stepped forward to begin his run.

The boy continued playing with his eyes closed as if reality couldn't affect his music. The melody had its rhythm increased; she was frantic as if the boy's pent-up emotions were being heard by everyone.

Every step the knight took made people wonder why the boy wasn't reacting. He quickly approached the boy, but he sensed that something was wrong and tried to sense the mana around him. Anything. It was as if the boy had given up.

The knight kept trying to figure something out. The only difference was that the music was speeding up. This caused anxiety for him.

After a few seconds, he finally decided to charge in, leaping in close and bringing his ax down in a decisive blow. Viewers closed their eyes; surely the boy would be split in two.

"Beethoven wins," the judge's voice resounded as the knight was suspended in mid-air.

'What the hell was that?' That was the phrase that at least half of the people thought of in their minds.

the monarch Chapter 33 - Explanations and choices

Chapter 33: Explanations and choices

The boy finally stopped playing and opened his eyes, making a small bow towards the camera. He descended from the arena, and a ripple of murmurs broke out across the realm. That had been a flagrant robbery, hadn't it?

At that moment, the narrator appeared with a smile and said: "I know that many are curious and thinking that this was a scam, but let's demonstrate what happened. What happened is this..." Draven's image was paused and then overlaid with another video of Draven.

"We'll be back tomorrow everyone. Thanks for watching." With a smile that made it clear he knew exactly what he was doing, the presenter ended the program.

As the screen cut to black, the children at the orphanage erupted in conversation about what happened. Was it a robbery? Why did they stop like that? But one thing was clear to them: tomorrow was a day when everyone should be present.

"I don't know what happened," Heimer muttered. If not even the number one genius at the orphanage knew, imagine the other people.

"You still can't see it, but tomorrow they will demonstrate the mana flow of the battle. It will become clearer for you", the old man explained as he left the place.

Kayden didn't say anything and just retreated to his room. He was also curious to know what happened, but more importantly, was for him to assimilate his progress from the day before.

The next day, Kayden started the day with his exercise routine and a good breakfast. At the same time as the previous day, the same set was set up, and Kayden was sitting again in the same position.

Once the correct time arrived, the narrator returned: "Sorry for the suspense, guys. I'm still learning how to use these technologies." It was obvious that this was intentional, but the narrator knew how to hold the audience's attention.

"Let's get started then." As soon as he said that, the scene from the day before was replayed. "Many couldn't see it, but let's highlight the battle mana flow now."

The battle resumed, and for every note Beethoven played, a small transparent string was released from his violin. At first, there were few, but over time, they became dozens.

By the time the knight approached the violinist, there were hundreds of strings in the air. With each step the knight took, more threads joined his body. When the man leaped with the axe, the threads wrapped around every inch of his body.

"Now you could see what happened," Draven chirped in the paused video. "If the knight had taken one more step, he would have been turned into a lump of meat. And luckily for everyone, Beethoven's hearing has returned."

Then several other battles were shown, but none were as impressive as this one. Others also did the same as the violinist, but none managed to deliver such a shocking performance.

Kayden took every minute of the video to learn how the fighters fought, what strategies the geniuses used and other information he could absorb. His conception of the world was rapidly expanding. He didn't even know that apprentice wizards could exert so much strength, nor that swordsmen could be so fast. It was really impressive for him.

The recording lasted another 4 hours and featured about 40 fights, something around one every 5 minutes. By late afternoon, Kayden was reflecting on everything he saw. Many things didn't make sense to him. How did the candidate cast two spells at the same time? How did he move so fast? And questions like that.

With that in mind, he went to the old man's office. He knocked on the door and entered when the old man called him. The place was still the same, with hundreds of books and a study atmosphere.

"Dad, I have some questions about today's battles," Kayden said.

"Sit here", the old man offered the same tea as usual. "I could spend hours explaining what each person did there, but most things are just the basics honed to an excellent level."

The old man seemed lost in thought as he remembered the recording.

"Only one fight was impressive, that of the violinist. He was able to generate a trickle of mana with no element and with energy cost so low that not even a peak ninth rank was able to feel it."

"How did he do it?" Kayden was curious. It was the first time he had seen the old man so amazed by something.

"I don't know," the old man chuckled to himself. "That's the purpose of the test, to find true geniuses, people who are willing to find new avenues of power."

Kayden had a small epiphany over this conversation.

"Genies don't have an increase in the amount of mana or the speed of progress, do they? It's actually about quality," the boy expressed his thoughts.

"Yes," the old man sighed. "It's very easy for a kingdom to cultivate talent to the top, but then what? That's the question. The government is looking for people capable of going beyond the top." This confirmed Kayden's suspicions.

"What level is Beethoven on, Dad?" Right now, that person was the biggest reference Kayden had ever encountered.

"I can't say. It's been a long time since I stopped keeping track of these things", the old man stopped to think for a while. "But I can say with certainty that the boy's mana manipulation talent is at the final levels of the mage realm."

Kayden finally understood that the two were on completely different levels.

, but that was temporary.

'I will catch up and surpass him in 7 years', the boy promised himself and returned to training with rekindled determination.

Two days later, Kayden was finally back in the classroom. He hadn't been there for over a year. The boy was eager to learn as much as possible. The day before, the show had talked about secondary occupations like blacksmiths and alchemists.

This time, Kayden wasted no time watching. It didn't interest him in the least. Instead, he focused this time on fully assimilating his breakthrough. He had managed to completely stabilize himself on the second level.

In the same room, there were several groups of students talking around. His return caused some surprise but was soon forgotten. After all, the boy was seen as a failure, someone who did not deserve attention.

After a few minutes, the teacher came through the door. She was the same person she'd been since Kayden's first day, a small, chubby lady, almost like the teacher in a teen movie. She walked to the board and wrote the words: "Specializations."

"Good morning, students. As we spoke at the beginning of the year..." At that moment, she noticed Kayden. "Oh Kayden, I didn't know you were back. You're welcome, kid. Class, I'll explain to Kayden what we're discussing. Give me 5 minutes."

The teacher called the boy out of the room for a moment. If there was one thing Kayden had to admit, it was that the government did a good job with children's education. It was apparent that educators were instructed to allow all children to develop to their greatest potential, and even those with less talent should be treated equally.

"You've been gone a long time, haven't you, little one?" the teacher said friendly. "Well, what we're learning about is the magical specialization. At the beginning of the year, I asked the students to pick one or two elements that they liked the most."

She began demonstrating various elements and their basic representations.

AN:thanks Saksham_Tomar_3960 and ISEKAI_Fan for the stones

the monarch Chapter 34 - Ray

Chapter 34: Ray

"But why not train them all? The answer is simple. Imagine you are building a city. The more people you have, the easier it is to gather even more. However, people with very different cultures don't get along very well."

Kayden already understood what she meant. It was easier to learn advanced spells of a certain element if you already knew a few things about it.

"It's the same with the elements, Kayden. The more you know about fire, the easier it is to do more fire spells. I'm not going to lock you up here to waste your time", the teacher had a pitying look at the boy. "Go home and think about which element you are going to choose."

Kayden was politely dismissed again, but the message was clear: the teacher didn't think he was up to the task at this point.

He decided not to go home directly, but to stop by the gym. Since he had gone back to level 1, he hadn't been able to train with the trainer again. In a few minutes, he was in place.

Seeing the same door brought back memories for the boy. Time had passed quickly. It had been two years since he had first set foot there. Going down the stairs, he went directly to greet the knight in charge of the place.

"Hello, Coach," the man looked the same as ever and cheerfully greeted Kayden.

"Oh Kayden, long time no see. How have you been?" The trainer slapped the boy on the back, nearly dismantling him in two.

"I'm doing fine," the boy coughed after the slap. "I'm finally ready to get back to training."

"Show me what you've learned during that time, boy." The man picked up a wooden sword from the ground and positioned himself.

Kayden knew this was not the time for words. It was time to show what he had learned, fighting for his life. He began by inaudibly withdrawing his sword from its scabbard. This has already generated a compliment from the coach.

"Congratulations, Kayden. I see you haven't been idle."

Then the boy started with his favorite position, holding the sword raised in both hands. With a quick step, he approached the coach and delivered a side blow.

The blow was easily parried by the wooden sword, but it was evident to the trainer that it was just a blow to test the opponent's strength. Then came many more, but none were strong or intended to harm.

The coach, realizing that the boy was just waiting for an opening on his part, decided to join Kayden's game. Drawing his sword up, he tried to land a horizontal slash towards the boy.

Kayden dodged to the side and, with a swift flick of his blade, sent the trainer's sword crashing to the ground. Before a breath, Kayden's katana was already in the man's chest. It was obvious to Kayden that the trainer had purposely left an opening.

"You've improved, boy. Back in the day, you wouldn't even have been able to draw your sword properly, let alone take advantage of an opponent's opening." A smile appeared on the man's face.

"I can say that you finally entered the path of the sword. Now you can call me by name, I'm Jarvan." The man held out his hand to the boy.

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"Thanks, Coach. Hope you can keep teaching me." Kayden shook the man's hand in a friendly way.

For the rest of the day, Kayden spent sparring with the knight. He couldn't take advantage of any more openings; in fact, he found himself at a disadvantage in every fight that took place.

Upon returning home, he began to think about the elements he could choose. There was a wide variety, but he wanted something strong that could boost his current stats.

What was your fighting style? Neither did he. Was he a magic swordsman or a conventional magician? Thanks to his heart, he could be both, so he needed an element that could deal with damage and add basic attributes like speed or strength.

Fire was pretty much just an attack spell, it wouldn't be much use to him. The land? It would be defense-oriented and low on mobility, something Kayden disliked; it was very average.

The wind would increase his speed and agility, maybe it would be strong in the future, but at the moment it wouldn't be useful. Water was discarded; although her main purpose was healing, make no mistake, she could also perform frightening offensive spells. The problem is that they were in the minority.

He went through the variant options and discarded them one by one. It was clear that he was looking for something that dealt damage and could keep up with his skills as a swordsman. Ice wouldn't do. The heat was a weaker variation of fire. Acid didn't seem very helpful. Magnetism seemed to be more useful on the magic side. Poisons? They required a lot of prior knowledge.

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After a few hours of thinking, he was left with two choices: Lightning or Magma. The first was a pure element, which would increase your damage and speed, but that's about it. Magma would be a mixture of earth and fire, offering some protection from the earth element and some damage from the fire element. However, it didn't feel right for Kayden.

He could also choose to use both, reaching a balance in all four areas. But that was something he quickly dismissed, since very early on he realized something reading novels: balance is the mastery of fools. If you're going to choose something, just do one thing and be the best at it. It is not possible to dedicate yourself completely when attention is divided.

It's a matter of time management.

In the end, he chose lightning. It was a destructive element, which would increase his speed and agility. He could even use it on his katana to deal melee damage. Also, it was a common element, which would make it easier to find techniques.

Kayden came to think of elements like light or dark, but the problem was finding techniques for them. It would be very difficult to progress, and Kayden had no talent or predisposition for them.

The next day, as soon as he woke up, Kayden went to the library to look for examples of mages who used lightning. Thanks to its flashy nature, there were many examples and spells available. At his level, he was only capable of learning element manipulation. He would need to reach at least third rank to be able to use lightning-related spells. Therefore, he decided to continue cultivating and training. It would be pointless to devote time to anything other than that. Other elements could learn spells at second rank. The elements were fire and wind, among others. Its main feature was the low initial mana cost.

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Another thing Kayden has overlooked lately is the path he heard when he was younger. He knew he had to dedicate a little more time to this or he would have problems in the future.

He decided to start some self-knowledge and meditation exercises. It was the best option he could think of. At that moment, Kayden was on his way to the academy again. He got there and addressed Jarvan once more.

"Hello, Coach. I'd like to train again," Kayden got straight to the point, as usual.

"Hello, kid. Today we're going to do something different. You're going to fight other people of your level. If you're just fighting me, you won't gain enough experience." It was true, the difference in skills between them was too great.

"Could be, but against whom?" Kayden was curious to see how he fared against someone of his level.

the monarch Chapter 35 - Rank 3

Chapter 35: Rank 3

"Yan, come here," called Jarvan, a boy sitting on the ground. He had yellow hair and eyes the same color and carried an ax almost as big as himself. "This is Kayden, he will be your sparring partner for now."

"Hello, Kayden. I'm 12 years old and ranked 5th. My class is Knight," said the boy, holding out his hand with pride for his rank. Kayden shook his hand and replied:

"It's a pleasure to meet you. I'm Kayden, I'm 7 years old and I'm in second rank. I haven't decided on my class yet." Upon hearing Kayden's age and rank, Yan made a small look of disgust.

Normally, if you had a little talent, you'd reach 3rd rank quickly. Only after that would the speed of progress slow down. Yan reached 3rd rank at age 6 but only rose to 4th at age 10.

"You two can start sparring. Don't worry about injuries, I'm capable of healing anything and if it's fatal, I'll stop the battle", said the coach, and the two positioned themselves.

Yan wasn't taking this battle too seriously. His body was at least 2 times stronger than the boy's. Out of respect for the trainer, he assumed the battle stance, but he was oblivious.

Wanting to get this over with, he landed a low-side slash. Kayden dodged back and lunged at the boy. By reflex, Yan managed to dodge a full blow, but still received a long slash on his arm.

For a second, he didn't believe that a mere 2nd rank was capable of hurting him. It infuriated him. His sword came down on Kayden in full force. The boy reflected the sword to the ground, curving its blade, and then placed it on Yan's neck.

Fast, efficient, and deadly. These three characteristics were what defined Kayden's fighting style. When fighting wolves, he slowly got into the habit of making every blow kill his opponent. Every blow had to be quick and deadly.

Even with the difference in strength between the two, Yan lacked something fundamental: battles with the risk of death. He never risked his life. It seemed silly, but it made all the difference in battle.

As soon as Yan came to, he looked at Kayden and said, "Let's fight again. I was distracted on this one." It was obvious to those with experience that the boy fought emotionally and therefore lost.

"Alright, let's go." After the trainer healed the boy, the two positioned themselves again. This time, Yan would take it seriously.

And the expected happened: Yan beat him in just a few exchanges. This time, it was Kayden who asked for a rematch, and... he lost again, and again, and again. It looked like the kid had a burning desire to lose fights.

They fought for about 1 hour. After that, Kayden's body was no longer able to keep up.

"We're going to fight again tomorrow," said Kayden, feeling he learned a lot that day. Every time he lost, he thought about why and what he could have done better. This was an excellent exercise for the boy.

The next day, the same thing happened again. The next week was the same way, and the one after that too. Kayden was having the time of his life. For every day he spent cultivating, his mana veins increased.

The sense of progress was rewarding, something he had never had the opportunity to feel before. At that time, he was also managing to fight Yan with a 50% winning percentage. Considering the age and rank difference, it was simply unbelievable.

Kayden was sure that if they were on the same level, Yan wouldn't be able to catch a move from him. This is all thanks to your heart of mana, strengthening both your body and your ability to cast spells.

Another month passed, and Kayden now had a 70% winning percentage against Yan. He wasn't able to learn anything else useful from his struggles. The boy's victories were merely due to his superior strength.

Kayden asked the trainer for a new opponent and met a spear user. Her name was Samira and she was only 10 years old and ranked 4th. The difference in strength wasn't too big this time.

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The main problem was the spear reach, which was ridiculously high. Kayden started with a 50/50 chance, but in less than a week, he was already winning 80/100. Once again, he went in search of another opponent.

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It had been about 5 months since Kayden moved to 2nd rank and started fighting other people. During this period, he faced melee fighters, clubs, swords, and axes. They all became sparring partners and were slowly surpassed by the boy.

It didn't matter if they were older or of higher rank. Kayden has always compensated with technique and dexterity. None of their opponents had the will to fight to the end of their strength. He attributed this to their lack of life-or-death struggles.

When he realized this fact, he understood that he would have to look for this type of fight over time or he would stay in his comfort zone and stagnate. Today was also a special day: Kayden would finally reach the 3rd rank.

His heart was no longer able to support the amount of mana he was channeling. That was a sure sign that he was going to step forward at any moment. So he took the day off and asked Heimer for help.

In the same clearing, as usual, Heimer was gathering mana for a Kay

den in lotus position. 5 minutes. 10 minutes. 20 minutes. 25 minutes. Close to the 30th minute, Kayden finally felt his heart begin to crack.

He had already used up at least 3 times more mana than would be considered normal for a breakthrough. Heimer considered this normal, given Kayden's talent. It was surprising that he was ready to break through to rank 3 at that age.

Kayden felt the same sensation as before, his heart felt like it was being squeezed and his veins dried up completely. Again, pain spread throughout his body, and a moan escaped his lips, startling Heimer.

As he had already witnessed this, the boy said nothing and just waited. After a few seconds, the process ended, and Kayden was able to feel his heart renewed and pumping out more mana than before. His veins were already coursing through almost all of his upper limbs.

By circling the mana, he felt that he was at least 50% more efficient and estimated that he should be at the level of a 3rd peak rank despite being at the top of that rank. Kayden estimated that he should be able to beat all of his opponents now, without losing once.

"Thanks, Heimer. I made it through," Kayden remembered thanking his friend as he got to his feet.

"No need to thank me, Kayden. We're friends," said Heimer, looking like he was holding back to say something.

"Go ahead," Kayden said, also sensing his friend's embarrassment.

"Kayden, I know you want to progress, but you're digging yourself a hole by accelerating progress like this," Heimer said honestly. His concern for his friend was visible.

An: thanks to ISEKAI_Fan and Louvor_O_Sol_5937 for the stones

the monarch Chapter 36 - New skill repertoire

Chapter 36: New skill repertoire

"Relax, Heimer. I'm doing everything right. I don't want to harm myself," Kayden assured the boy. "Now I'm going to start learning lightning spells in the library."

Saying goodbye to his friend, the boy went to the city library. He needed to find lightning spells for swordsmen or mages. Arriving at the place, he had to ask for a card to access the second floor. It was a quick process, he just had to show his core. The examiners didn't even realize it was a heart. The library was still monstrous, and Kayden walked to the first elevator on the right and went up.

As soon as the door opened, he was faced with only one floor full of bookshelves. No doubt there were fewer books than on the first floor. This was obvious, considering that the more knowledge you have, the less you have of it. Kayden began to navigate the elemental symbols on the shelves. The problem was that the place was huge. It took him a few seconds to find the shelf of lightning. In it, there were spells from the 1st to the 9th rank of apprentice mage. Kayden chose the book "The 10 Spells Every Lightning Mage Should Know". It took the boy 2 hours to read it all. Spells were mostly attacking and focused on explosive damage.

Of the 10 spells, Kayden found only two useful. One was called "Concentrated Lightning", which was nothing more than a single beam launched at the opponent. The other was a cloud of lightning that would deal area damage. The problem was that at level 3, the second would be ridiculously weak and waste a lot of mana.

The boy realized that finding what he wanted would not be easy. Life wasn't going to hand it to him on a platter. Kayden spent the next week just reading the books and looking up spells. He read at least 50 books in that time. In the end, he listed the top 3:

- 1) Concentrated beam
- 2) Acceleration
- 3) pop flash

He studied at least 400 spells; many of them were too cumbersome to be useful in the short term or not very efficient. After choosing between the options that would be most useful for his fighting style, he was left with these 3.

The concentrated beam was something that would deal you damage from a distance and with a good amount of force. Acceleration could increase your speed by 5% if used correctly. It seemed little, but it was one of the most basic spells of this element. Pop flash was meant to be more of an auxiliary tool. Its function was to cause a small blinding in the opponents. It was something very simple: Kayden needed to use two beams together so that they collapsed and caused a strong flash.

1

His set is designed to maximize his current best skill: sword fighting. He was eager to see how much better he would get by using these tricks. Today, he started practicing the spells in the same clearing as usual. It was difficult at first, but over time he got the hang of it. It started with the simplest and most useful, pop flash. The hardest part was compressing the two beams enough for them to collide.

It took Kayden 3 days to get this done. He considered it to be an average time, as his mana manipulation was way beyond his rank. Then he decided to use concentrated lightning. Since his body was constantly being improved, he didn't need speed at the moment, but rather something to attack from a distance. He felt that, as he had learned to use another lightning spell, this one was slightly calmer. It took Kayden 2 weeks to master the concentrated ray. What was to be an easy task became difficult when he discovered that he had no control over the beam when casting it, that is, the mana needed to be dosed correctly for it to reach the desired target.

1

Lastly, Kayden decided to learn acceleration. In the same clearing as always, he was sitting in the lotus position. This time, he went by the book and got it on the first try, but something didn't feel right. He got up and started doing some basic exercises. Quickly, he realized what was wrong: every part of his body was accelerated differently. When trying to run in one direction, he ended up falling to the ground. Heimer, who had just arrived, witnessed the scene and started laughing:

"Slipped Kayden? Want help?" I could see the boy's hidden smile.

"No need, I'm learning a lightning class spell. The problem is that it accelerates my body differently," Kayden explained to the boy.

"That's normal, you just need to practice more," Heimer knew that it wasn't easy to learn spells initially. Experience was lacking to connect the missing dots.

Kayden kept trying, but it was just too weird. His muscle memory couldn't keep up with his body's new speed. He tried to speed it up a bit at a time to get used to it and it got a little better.

The improvement at first was minuscule; this acceleration barely reached 1%. However, when he focused on a specific limb, he was able to reach 2%. He arrived at these conclusions through simple tests of the time it took to do an activity before and after accelerating.

Kayden decided not to focus entirely on accelerating practice, but to introduce it into his morning workouts. In time, he would get used to using the spell automatically. Today,

he also decided to finally go back to school. Teaching was very free for students. The school offered

1

size and that's it, but it didn't oblige anyone to learn. Kayden went back to school only to practice fighting conventional mages.

Arriving in the classroom, he went to his desk and waited for the teacher to arrive. Seconds later, a chubby woman was seen walking through the door. As soon as she walked in, she started calling out various names on the list.

"Any questions, Antony? No? Everything is in order." As he spoke, he was scratching on the clipboard. "Elizabeth? Neither, very well." It took a few minutes and some doubts cleared before it was Kayden's turn. "Kayden? It didn't come again..."

"I'm here, Professor," Kayden held up a hand.

"Oh, didn't see you there, boy. What do you need?" she asked with a smile on her face.

"I need to fight conventional mages." The answer surprised the teacher. The boy didn't seem to be able to do much.

"Are you sure, little one?" Kayden nodded. "Then go to the gym in the first basement and tell them I sent you."

1

Kayden grabbed his things, or rather just his katana, and headed towards the gym. He had never been inside and didn't even know there were floors there. Walking a little way, he arrived at a giant rectangle with an oval cover. It was a typical high school gym. Kayden walked through the door and looked for a teacher. He spotted a middle-aged man teaching a group some sword moves. He waited for the man to finish talking and asked for directions. The man pointed to a door at the end of the gym and said it was just down one flight of stairs. As soon as he went down, Kayden was faced with several circles of mana raised to prevent spells from leaking.

the monarch Chapter 37 - Emotions

Chapter 37: Emotions

He was probably in the right place. Looking again for a teacher, he found a woman who looked like a witch out of a fairy tale. She wore a purple tunic and a pointed hat. Kayden approached her resting spot. The area had several couches and some snacks for the students to eat. Indeed, it was a very professional government service.

"Hello teacher, my name is Kayden, I'm here to spar against conventional mages," the teacher was surprised by Kayden's rank. Normally, students would wait for rank 4 to start.

1

"Okay, just head to one of the arenas, and on the next rotation, a mage will enter it. You just have to leave when you lose." The rules were quite simple: defend your position and if you lose, attack one to take it for yourself.

Kayden thanked him and walked to one of the circles. After waiting a few minutes, he saw another child appear in front of him. There was no conversation or introduction, the circle simply turned red and the opponent started shooting gusts of wind at it.

Kayden was surprised and didn't even manage to withdraw his katana before having his arm cut deeply. When that happened, he dropped his sword and the circle considered him to have lost. All wind spells were nullified in mid-air and Kayden's arm began to heal with the naked eye. Kayden recovered from the shock and watched as his arm healed. It was a strange process.

"Hey kid, get out of the arena," his opponent called. Kayden was lost in thought and didn't even remember it. When he left, he headed for the nearest arena. In it was a teenage girl wielding a staff. It was the first time Kayden had seen a wizard using an instrument.

"Hello," Kayden greeted amiably. There was still time before the next rotation.

"You're Kayden, right?" the girl smiled.

"Yes, but how do you know?" Kayden was surprised.

"How could I not know the name of the biggest trash in our school, or rather, in the city?" the girl gave a disgusted laugh. "A level 1 talent should be killed in order not to proliferate."

Kayden was shocked by the girl's aggressiveness. Heimer had already told him that there was an extremist group that believed in purification by talent. It was a crazy idea, but it was quite strong in the noble mages group. The boy didn't take it seriously and just started ignoring her. He has lived long enough to have good emotional control. He decided not to use acceleration yet, it might do more harm than good.

Withdrawing his katana, Kayden waited for the circle to turn red. He was deciding what to do when he heard the girl say:

"I'll hit you hard enough to put you in a coma and spend the rest of your life like a vegetable in bed." That phrase triggered memories in the boy. What he thought he had

overcome came back with a vengeance, each day spent in solitude, each week without talking to anyone. His death, Nicolas's death. Everything came back like a whirlwind. Without realizing it, his breathing became heavy and his hand tightly gripped the katana. Anger. An indescribable feeling of anger swept over his body. But not an explosive rage, but a cold one.

2

The moment the circle turned red, Kayden used Pop Flash. The girl was startled and momentarily blinded, using a concentrated ray that hit the girl's exposed chest squarely. He advanced to finish the service. His sword came down hard on the girl's arm and opened a deep wound. The girl hadn't let go of her staff and Kayden aimed for her neck. His bloodlust was palpable. He's never felt like this before.

Before Kayden's sword could touch it, he found himself upside down in the air. When he recovered, he saw the girl crying on the floor. There was a pool of blood on her body, but the circle was healing her quickly.

"I see you've lost it a bit, Kayden. Don't worry, that's part of Yasmin's spell," the teacher appeared in the arena out of nowhere. "Yasmin, remove yourself from the arena." The teacher saw everything that happened and didn't blame Kayden for it.

Kayden grabbed his katana and left the arena as well. Even though he won that round, he still felt like he came out hurt more than the girl. His memories came back very strong. He needed to do something to vent these feelings. Something that would stop you from thinking. Anything. Training wouldn't help. Reading would be even worse. He needed to fight again, but these controlled fights were pathetic. It lacked emotion. They didn't have that sense of achievement when they won. His opponents were mere children with powers. Kayden wasn't thinking very well. His thoughts were clouded.

Before he could leave the gym, the teacher submerged him in a bubble of water. Like magic, his thoughts gradually returned to normal. Your memories became less frightening.

"You needed to clear yourself of the mana spell. You had a little trace on you, boy," the woman warned him with a smile.

Kayden pulled himself together and replayed the situation in his mind. It was a strange moment, it felt like his emotions were magnified thousands of times. He headed to another arena. He started to fight again. This time, everything went smoothly. It was a fire user. Kayden received

some burns on his arms, but he managed to win. His speed was far superior to the other opponent's reaction time.

In his next fight, he couldn't do anything. The opponent simply rained blades of ice in his direction. Kayden didn't have time to take a step forward. Another fight was with an earth element wizard, he created giant barricades and threw boulders at high speed at the boy. Again he lost. Kayden realized that if he let mages use his spells, he would lose. The boy needed to take the initiative or he would be swallowed up before he could react.

After several fights, Kayden returned to his home. The time sitting in the wagon brought thoughts of his second fight back. Why did he react so strongly? Was your past still a trauma? What is the meaning of uncontrolled anger? To whom was his anger directed? Your uncle? No, he had already realized this before, but he buried it deep in his mind, the hatred that he still carried, the bitterness, all those feelings that he thought he had overcome in limbo. None of that had been overcome. He just learned to live with it. But one question kept repeating itself in his mind over and over.

2

'Why?'

'Why?'

'Why?'

'Why?'

He got home and went up to his room with the same thought reverberating in his mind. What's the point of seeking strength if things so far away and small come back to haunt your mind?

Did he hate life?

God or gods? The hospital staff?

2

His mind went through everyone he'd ever met. Where did so much hate come from? The girl's magic should only increase existing feelings and not create them. Who did he hate?

Minutes turned into hours, hours into days. That question was on his mind. It didn't matter if he was training or studying, his mind came back with that loose end. Sitting in the lotus position, just listening to the sounds of nature on a random hill, Kayden thought about his two lives so far and how he magically discovered the answer. His hatred, his anger, and all his feelings had only one culprit.

Just a person who couldn't change anything. A slave of fate. Doomed to just observe everything against his will. His hatred had a name and a face.

'it is me'

It's always been him. Since your past life. It was never your uncle or some random god. He was always the source of all his negative thoughts.

AN:this is a chapter that I really enjoyed writing, I like to deal with my main character's psychology and how situations change him

1

the monarch Chapter 38 - rank 4

Chapter 38: rank 4

5 months later

Kayden spent his entire fourth year just fighting non-stop in the arena. His day would start with early morning training and then about 10 to 12 hours at school. His progress was insane, he learned how to fight different types of elements.

He still wasn't able to win most duels. Unlike fighting melee fighters, Kayden couldn't use his experience to beat ranks above him. His technique wasn't very useful either, as if he approached, the fight was over, and students usually gave up at the slightest sign of pain. He also hasn't learned any other lightning spells.

He preferred to specialize in the ones he had at the moment. Which proved to be the ideal choice. His Pop Flash was able to be instantly performed anywhere on his body. His mana control allowed him to choose, for example, above his head, so he wouldn't be caught in the light. Another achievement of the boy was being able to use acceleration at full strength, he gained 5% in full body now.

He no longer had imbalance issues, not only that, he was able to alter the technique to cause an overload for a brief moment and achieve 10% additional speed. The concentrated lightning was mixed with his sword for him to be able to deliver a slash at the same time as unleashing lightning. It could be said that Kayden didn't have anything spectacular in his repertoire, but every skill was being utilized to the fullest to be the best effect.

2

His mana heart was also finally ready to reach 4th rank, the problem was that Heimer was busy training, and Kayden practically never found him at home.

He would go to David, the scientist had already offered his help before, and this time the boy accepted. His relationship with David was very good, a secret capable of causing a continental war was a good bringer of people.

1

After asking his father's permission, Kayden resumed on a path he hadn't taken in over a year. The trip was strangely the same as usual, it seemed like nothing had changed since he first came two years ago.

When he arrived at the station, Kayden saw David waiting for him. The scientist was still the same, with hair like a mouse's nest and wearing an impeccable white lab coat that didn't match his body.

"Hello, Kayden, come on, hurry up, the taxi is waiting", the scientist could barely stand to test everything he could with Kayden. He didn't even let the boy speak until he got in the car.

"Hi David, how are you?" Kayden tried to talk to the scientist, but the other was too anxious and any talk from him would be about their secret. So he held on until he reached the foot of the mansion.

As soon as the two passed through the door David activated the alarm and security mechanisms of the house. Turning quickly to Kayden, the man said:

"Come on, show everything, cultivate, use mana, everything you can do, I want you to show me", Kayden came ready for that and had already asked to stay here for two weeks.

Your second objective in coming here was to have some real battles against beasts. Only the mock ones were starting to stall his progress, Kayden missing the real danger of a battle.

"I just need to eat first, David," Kayden's stomach rumbled in agreement with his statement.

"I only have leftovers from... someday", the scientist said and this statement caused Kayden to feel déjà vu.

1

...

The two spent the rest of the day trying out different things with Kayden's heart. Total storage and mana release speed, restoration speed, and how much the body has been fortified.

The tests lasted about three days, and hundreds of data were collected, some strange that Kayden had no idea could exist, such as the speed at which hair grows, his was slightly faster than the average human.

Finally, the day came when he reached the 4th rank, It took a long time if you consider the boy's entire 8 years of life, but if you consider it with a new heart, he went from the 1st to the 4th realm in 1 year, that was completely absurd if compare with the cultivation speed of other children.

Kayden was sitting in the lab at the same experiment table where he had the surgery a year ago.

"David, I need at least 3 or 4 times more mana than a mage of my rank", Kayden repeated to the scientist.

"I know, kid. Do you think I would forget something simple like that?"

Kayden said nothing more and began the process. He felt ready to pass, it was the same feeling as other ranks. Mana began circulating through his heart and veins at an accelerated pace.

Minutes passed and Kayden was still on the same landing. 10 minutes and 2 times more mana used than a normal mage. 20 minutes. 30 minutes and 3 times more mana. The process was still far from over.

Kayden knew it wouldn't be simple this time. Advancement every 3 ranks was a micro-realm advancement. It was a quality difference. Close to 40 minutes, Kayden had already used 4 times the normal mana.

His body was heating up, it felt like he was going to catch fire. His heart was like a drum. The pain came before he could make progress. Kayden bit his teeth and continued.

He had already come too far to give up now. Every second he felt he was closer to breaking through. His body burned more and more. 45 minutes. The pain was unbearable.

When he reached 50 minutes, he used the equivalent of 5 times normal mana. His body heated up to the point where smoke started to come out of his skin. His heart squeezed painfully.

This time, he couldn't even sit still. Kayden dropped to the floor like a rag doll.

"Kayden!?" David was startled and went to hold the boy, his skin was burning to the touch. Still holding the boy, he felt the boy's body begin to progress.

His veins dried up to the last drop of mana. This time, his heart began to transform differently. It felt like it was expanding at an accelerated rate, its mana vessels were also stretched beyond what it was.

His body started to develop the vessels for his legs and they only stopped when they reached his thighs. He had at least a 30% increase in the size of his vessels. This was very gratifying, it was becoming more and more difficult to increase the size of his pots.

Finally, Kayden felt his body stop heating and aching. The process was a success. His veins were smaller and stronger. His heart was able to pump out much more mana than before.

He still hadn't tested his body, but he believed that it was at least at the peak of rank 4 in terms of strength. And if it used acceleration, it could reach the base of the fifth realm for a few seconds.

When the boy came to, he noticed a sour and disgusting smell, it looked like an animal had died at the scene. Looking at his body, he noticed a black goo impregnated on his clothes.

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"Go clean up, Kayden. This is the impurity of the advancing process of knights and swordsmen. We'll have to burn the clothes", David explained to the boy with his nose plugged to avoid the stench.

A few minutes later, Kayden returned wearing a new outfit. The boy had to admit that that goo was persistent, he had to rub it several times to get it off. It felt like he would be glued to his body for the rest of his life.

"David, I'm going to take today to stabilize myself in the fourth rank. Tomorrow and the following days, we can carry out the tests", Kayden expressed before the scientist wanted to place him as a lab rat indefinitely.

David agreed and left to do other things of interest. Seeing the man leave, Kayden sighed in relief. He feared that the scientist would confine him. David's excitement was simply unnatural.

Kayden began to farm and watch his gains from this breakthrough. In a matter of hours, he had already theoretically stabilized his rank. Now, there were only a few fights left to effect its stabilization and practical form.

Over the next few days, the two measured various data again. Some had a considerable increase and others did not change at all. After the tests, Kayden was in the lab with David.

"David, can you explain to me the differences between geniuses and normal people? Or talented people? Quantitatively, the same as we did in the tests?"

He had always heard that a genius was worth 10 ordinary people, but how far that was true, the boy had no idea.

"Let's get some lunch, this conversation might be a little long", David was ready to give the boy an expert-level lesson.

The two took a pizza prepared by David from the fridge. Since the boy taught the scientist the process of this delicacy, he practically transformed his diet into something based almost 100% on pizza.

the monarch Chapter 39 - Plans for the future

Chapter 39: Plans for the future

He reminded Kayden of a modern teenager. Sitting down at the table, David began:

"Well, first you should know that the amount of mana in the dash doesn't mean much." This was something he had asked before. "Normally, a talented or genius person uses 2 times more mana than an ordinary person when advancing." David stopped talking.

The man continued his irritating habit of pausing in his lines.

"But that doesn't have any direct facts with the strength that the person has. We have cases of people using 10 times more mana and having the same strength progress as a person who used the usual amount." This time the man stopped to open the wine.

"What we consider as a factor of genius and talent is the amount of mana a person can store more than one of the same rank. Usually 2-3 times is talented and 3-6 is genius."

"But does that alone help with rankings?" Kayden had his doubts. If someone cultivated a technique that expanded the core, he would be considered a genius even though he wasn't.

"Not. We also have the comparison in average strength, casting speed, and mana expenditure per spell." This time, the man didn't stop and vomited dozens of times more than he normally did.

"David, David, stop. You are confusing me." Kayden had to pinch the man to get his attention.

When the scientist got excited about something, he didn't pay attention to anything else around him.

"I wanted to know if there's any way I can spot a strong opponent as soon as I see one." Kayden voiced one of his main concerns. It reminded David that the boy was still an apprentice.

"Mana Sense," David said without expressing doubt. "Right now, you might not even know what that is, but once you reach mage rank, you'll be able to feel the vibration people cause to the mana around you. The more she causes, the stronger she is."

It sounded simple in theory, but Kayden knew that a lot of what David said couldn't be taken literally.

"Not much to explain to you." David noticed the confused look on the boy's face. "Believe me, it would be like explaining what colors are to a blind man. You have no basis for imagining."

David paused to swallow a piece of pizza, then resumed his monologue:

"But you won't find genius people. Usually, they go to the big 10 universities..." David was interrupted by Kayden.

"I'm going to Sol Academy, David," Kayden said without a hint of doubt. That was a decision he made in his heart when he reached the 4th realm at that age.

At his age, Heimer was ranked 5th, but Kayden knew it was only a matter of time before he reached higher ranks. His determination would do that and if she couldn't get him where he needed to be, his obsession would.

"A Tier 3 university is a really good goal, Kayden..." At that moment, David realized the boy's words. "SUN ACADEMY!!?? Fuck boy, that's a very high level. It's not enough just to have rank."

The number of teenagers reaching the ninth rank was not so absurd in just one city, but if we consider that the kingdom has thousands of cities and each one easily reaches a few million people. Just a few dozen per age already make the number reach the hundreds of thousands.

"I have no doubts, David. What we created here is enough for me to enter on research merits, but I want more, I want to pass on my skills." The boy's eyes seemed to be on fire, there was no doubt about it. David felt a feeling that Kayden always passed on to him again:

Do or die trying.

"You're going to have to work hard for that, Kayden." David sighed.

"I will make it happen." Kayden reaffirmed.

"Very well, then I have some tips." David retrieved everything he knew about the subject in his head. "First, you should try to participate in the national grassroots championship." David was interrupted by a question from Kayden:

"What is it, David? I never went or paid attention in class." Kayden expressed in an embarrassed manner.

"Jesus, kid, what are you going to do there? Eat free lunch?" David snapped at Kayden and squeezed his temples. "Well, in short, every town has a championship between the schools in different fields, yours is combat, I believe."

"Yes, no doubt," Kayden confirmed to David.

"Five students per college are chosen between the 5th and 10th grade, below that most don't even know what they're doing." David seemed to be deep in memories. "It's a group battle between the different schools in the city in the first half of the year, and in the second half it starts between the states."

Kayden was at base school number 7, as far as he knew, in his city there were about 400 schools, not counting private ones like Heimer's. But even though it was private, Heimer paid nothing, exceptional students were exempt from fees.

Considering it was just one school in a state with thousands more, the number was frighteningly large.

"I don't think you have any difficulties, David. I have already fought other students in my school who are ranked 5th or 6th, usually I only lost by strength and sometimes I even won." Kayden foolishly expressed his confidence, which earned David a smack in the head.

"Idiot, you've only fought useless students so far, the real challenges are those who are in the institution's closed training, Moreover, you've probably never fought those from private schools." At that moment, Kayden realized something, he was always fighting expendable students, that is, he never faced the real cream. Seeing his understanding expression, David continued.

2

"With your strength and talent, you should be able to enter closed training now in the 5th year even, but only in the next few years should you be part of the chosen 5."

'Did Heimer participate in this?' Kayden thought in his mind. It seemed quite possible, he until now had never seen another free scholarship student from elite schools like his friend. Probably Heimer was even training to fight in that championship. His friend was always busier this January period. Kayden had never really paid much attention to anything other than his training.

"Your focus here is to gain experience, and fight hundreds of talented people from different places, This will be your best gain, don't care about victories or titles." David finished talking to Kayden.

The two finished their lunch in silence, each lost in their thoughts. Kayden wasn't sure how he would go about what David proposed, but he was willing to try, this action would probably make a huge difference in the future.

A few hours later, the two could be seen outside waiting in the sunshine. Strangely, the day was similar to his first fight against wolves years ago. The wind was constant and the sun pleasant.

The difference is that this time his hand wasn't sweating, his heart was still beating fast, but it wasn't from nervousness or anxiety anymore. His body yearned for the fight, for the feeling of being alive that only when facing something with the danger of life he was subject.

the monarch Chapter 40 - An old friend

Chapter 40: An old friend

A few minutes later, a wolf similar to his first opponent appeared. The wolf was about four feet long, reaching three feet in height. It was an adult wolf for its dimensions.

Its only difference was tiny white streaks in its fur. They looked similar to small lightning bolts running through their fur. Kayden voiced this observation to the scientist and the man explained:

"This is an authentic 2nd-rank gray wolf, your species has evolved to control lightning like you, and this causes your body to be slightly altered. Wolves in ninth rank have small lightning bolts swirling in their orbit." David looked excited as he explained.

The two opted for a second rank this time, as Kayden was already more developed in the mana path. They decided to start low, as normally magical beasts were insanely strong for their ranks. Hardly an apprentice mage can fight on an equal footing. This issue only goes away at mage rank with the addition of fast spells.

The wolf approached where they were. Its tail was lowered, showing submission to Cerberus. Within seconds, the two were standing ten meters from Kayden.

"Are you ready boy?" Kayden already had his katana drawn and nodded. "Then come on, Cerberus, send the beast to attack Kayden," David ordered his mate.

Hearing his order from Cerberus, the wolf cautiously advanced. It started circling Kayden and slowly got closer. The boy was already used to this technique and waited for the wolf to get closer.

In the past, he used false strikes and various cuts to win the fight. But time has brought significant changes to his fighting style, and his time against conventional mages has made those changes even more evident.

When the wolf was 5 meters away, Kayden used the focused beam to distract the animal. From the distance, the wolf managed to dodge smoothly, but when he turned to Kayden, the boy was already 2 meters away from him.

The wolf knew this was not a time to cower. He prepared a lunge for the boy. Its teeth were bared and its paws pushed the ground for its leap. At that moment, Kayden used a Pop Flash that caused the wolf to go blind.

The animal yelped but continued the attack with determination. Unfortunately for him, Kayden wasn't irrational enough to go head-to-head. The boy used acceleration on his legs, and for a moment, he surpassed the normal 4th-rank speed and dodged to the side.

His speed hadn't even reached rank 5 yet, but he was in an impressive middle ground. David couldn't remember seeing someone on his level with such high speed. Logically, if you consider families with high-level techniques, the boy was far behind. However, that was just his body being used with a low-level technique.

Like a breath, Kayden's katana swept across the wolf's neck and sliced thinly. The boy didn't need to damage an opponent he had already lost. The animal fell to the ground yelping and began to run away. Wounded and blind, his last concern was with that fight, his survival instinct screamed louder than anything else.

"Wow, that was fast Kayden, he didn't stand a chance against you." David was impressed, it was evident that Kayden had spent a lot of time gaining battle experience to get the most out of every skill he had.

Keeping the katana in its sheath, the boy thanked the scientist for his compliment:

"Let's try a 3rd rank now, David." Kayden wanted to go straight for the beast's fourth rank but decided not to try to bite more than he was capable of. Arrogance was the most deadly disease on the face of the earth.

David ordered Cerberus to bring another wolf. While they waited, he approached Kayden with questions about the heart's performance. Finally, he asked about his abilities and the element chosen by him.

"Lightning gives me damage for conventional mage spells and speed mixed with damage for swordsmen. I believe it was my best option. All my skills are the most basic of my element."

That was true. The Pop Flash could be made by an idiot with a little practice. Concentrated ray was also at the same difficulty level. His hardest skill was acceleration. But it just required a little more practice.

"You planned every detail, didn't you boy? Your fighting style and skills are almost like a killing machine." That was true at one point. Kayden only made investments in things that would pay off.

A few minutes later, the next wolf was brought before the two. Its body was practically the same as the previous one, the only difference being that its fur had even more white streaks.

"Kayden, be careful. At this level, they can use lightning on their paws and teeth. That's their only ability, but it can cause massive damage to your body." David warned as he ordered Cerberus to release the animal on Kayden.

Kayden didn't respond and concentrated on his battle. The inexplicable feeling was felt again. His heart sped up. The wolf was getting closer. It was pretty much the same battle mode as the previous ones.

Kayden has fought this type of beast hundreds of times. Using the same strategy, he went after the animal. It was practically a repetition of the previous fight, everything was going well. Kayden used the Pop Flash and the wolf was blinded.

So far, everything was running smoothly. But the world is not a strawberry. The wolf was much faster than the last one and was there before Kayden could dodge. Kayden had to abandon the idea of attacking him.

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This caused the wolf to be able to regain his vision in time to see the boy approaching again. When Kayden's sword came down, the wolf was already springing against his arm.

By Kayden's minor miscalculation, the animal's teeth sank into his arm, breaking bone and muscle. This feeling was not strange for the boy. But even though he'd been through it dozens of times, he wasn't a fan of the situation.

Also, this time the boy felt his arm going completely numb. His sword still caught the wolf's side and threatened to cut him in two. The wolf backed away and began circling the boy.

Kayden had his heart pounding like crazy. His arm hurt like hell, even though it was numb. His head and instinct forced him to run. But he stayed. Your sword in just one hand. Incredibly, Kayden was having one of the best moments of the last year.

The adrenaline. The danger. Being close to death and feeling so alive was intoxicating. With an insane smile on his face, the boy advanced with just one arm. Using the same strategy as before, he attacked the wolf.

The beast was not an idiot and understood what was happening. It was even possible to see his eyes closing. Unfortunately for him, Kayden already had another plan. A concentrated beam shot from his knee toward the animal.

Out of his sight, he was hit squarely by the spell. This caused a small collapse of his movements. his mind lost control of his muscles by milliseconds. When he came to, he turned to Kayden in a panic and received a Pop Flash right in his eyes.

Maddened, the beast attacked the last position Kayden was in. It was easy for the boy to dodge and cut the animal's neck. Like the first one, this one ran wildly in a random direction.

Kayden collapsed to the ground and David rushed Daisy to heal the boy. Without the adrenaline, pain assaulted Kayden's body. He was unable to speak or think for a few moments. The pain was like an old friend that always comes back the same way. It didn't matter if you knew her deeply, it would always be like the first time.