

Strongest Mage with the Lust system #Chapter 751

Casualties - Read Strongest Mage with the Lust system

Chapter 751 Casualties

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The Frostclaw demons narrowed their eyes at her before one of them flew forward, his claws glistening with an icy blue light as he asked, "What are you insinuating, rotten corpse?"

The Ashen Fiend didn't back down and stared back at him with equal intensity, cinders of black ash floating around her and some covering her hands as she sneered, "Either you are planning some devious scheme like always, or you have colluded with humans."

Boom!

Swoosh!

As soon as she said this, both of them released their auras and rushed toward each other and attacked.

Bang!

Fwoosh!

The Frostclaw demon clawed at her neck while the Ashen Fiend, her palms covered in a layer of cinders, met the claw, causing it to erupt in flames that were quickly extinguished as a ripple of blue energy erupted from the claw. In this exchange, neither came out on top.

They pulled away and were about to clash again when a Scarlet demon and a horned demon appeared behind them and grabbed them while coldly shouting, "Stop this ugly display. Lord emperors are watching."

Immediately, both stopped, but they still continued glaring at each other with murder in their eyes.

They then rushed toward the human mages and started raining down their strongest attacks on them, wanting to kill as many as they could.

...

Meanwhile, high in the sky, the demon emperors' expressions turned even uglier when they saw Max's transformation.

[I was wrong. The threat this human pose isn't smaller than the domain guy. It's equal, if not bigger.] Matriarch Luen said to Vigil and others.

Vigil, Yshoy, and others nodded in agreement as the gazes of the Frostclaw demon emperors' flickered.

On the other side, the human emperors were equally shocked, especially Alton and Wyomin, who had watched Max use the Death Energy from the beginning. 'He can control it now?!'

Lady Verana glanced at Alton, who was looking at Max with shining eyes, and asked, [You know what energy that is?]

Alton shook his head, [No.]

Lady Verana stared at him in silence, which made Alton sigh in exasperation. [I really don't know. Neither did he tell me, nor did I try asking. I would suggest you also don't become curious about it because once those people arrive, things will be more troublesome if you are entangled with him.]

Lady Verana nodded lightly before shifting her gaze back to Azaroth, deep in thought.

While others were shocked or grim, Wyomin's heart was heavy. Although she knew Max was already in more trouble than he could handle, after seeing him control the Death Energy, she knew those troubles had just doubled at the very least.

It was one thing if he possessed a superior energy but wasn't able to control it, and it was completely different if he was able to control it.

'What should I do? He can't die, at least not before bringing it back to life.' She fell into deep thought, her brows furrowed in concentration.

...

Swoosh!

Max cut through the crowd of demons and arrived beside Martha, who looked at him with a grateful look on her face. Then, she worriedly asked, her voice almost inaudible, "Are... you alright?"

Max nodded and answered through his bloodline sense, not wanting to move his mouth too much before healing. [I am. Don't worry about me. Stay near me and focus on recovering. Also, you fought well.]

Swoosh!

Saying this, he cast a barrier conjured from his fire elemental mana, bloodline, and Death Energy around her.

Martha had expected him to offer his help because she knew he wasn't one to forget favors and grudges alike, but she hadn't expected him to praise her. If anything, she had thought he would scold her for pushing herself too much just to save some people who were most likely going to die later anyway. So, she was caught a little off guard, and couldn't help but feel happy in her heart.

"...Thank you." She mumbled, a small smile appearing on her face.

...

Boom!

Boom!

Bang!

Rumble!

Ahhhh!

After Max arrived beside Martha, the demons stopped targeting the people around him. Though he couldn't fly, if they pushed him, he could use a human Five Star mage's help, and then they would die, which they didn't want.

Without a doubt, Max had filled their hearts with dread, but this only made them even more enraged as their pride and ego were hurt, and they took this anger out on other humans. Max, Armand, and other Five Star human mages did their best to save as many as they could, but as the time passed, their number continued to dwindle.

The dying humans looked in Max's direction with pleading and hopeful looks on their faces. Max, however, ignored them and only focused on saving the people around him with an emotionless look in his eyes, but in his heart, he was becoming more furious.

However...

He forcefully suppressed his bubbling fury. Not only was he fighting and killing the demons continuously and simultaneously defending the people around him, but he was also enduring the extreme pain the Death Energy's continuous tempering inflicted upon him.

...

Hours passed, and soon night arrived, but the battles didn't stop. Both demons and humans were continuously dying.

However, the center of the battlefield had become calm once again.

After the Five Star demons had killed all the humans out of the range of Max's protection, they could do nothing, so they retreated. Of course, before they left, Max had reduced their numbers by half, unable to stop himself.

Now, everyone was resting, but the mood was gloomy.

While over a thousand demons had died, the casualties on their side weren't low either.

Out of over five hundred mages of the three families—Williams, Fuller, and Martell—less than a hundred were alive. Several Five Star mages had lost their lives. Now, the Williams family only had eight, Fuller three, and Martell four Five star mages alive.

Max sighed in his heart when he saw this. Then he noticed a man, covered in blood with his right hand missing, cradling a lady's corpse on his lap. His shoulders were shaking, and silent tears were falling down from his eyes to the now dead lady's face.

This man was none other than Devon.

Max sighed. She had died when he went to kill Count Wiley. Martha had tried to save her but was unable to because a high-stage Five Star demon had targeted her, and she was quite far away from her.

Max stood up and walked toward him.

Chapter 752 The Anguish

"I'm sorry for your loss." He said while sitting down beside him. Devor didn't move his gaze away from Heena's face and just lightly nodded his head in acknowledgment. Max didn't say anything else and just sat there, keeping him company.

After a while, Devor opened his mouth, "She had a short temper, and because I was always doing something stupid, she would get angry. We would bicker and fight all the time, even over the smallest things."

A desolate smile appeared on his face as he lovingly caressed her cheek, "She would hit me every chance she got, even in front of other people, not caring about my dignity, but I liked it. I loved every moment I spent with her. She loved me, and I loved her... no, I love her even now. I..."

Tears flowed down his eyes, and his voice choked, "I wish I was lying here instead of her. I wish I had died instead of her. Why... Why did that demon have to target her? Why?! Why didn't it kill anyone else? Why didn't it kill me instead of her?!"

By the end, he was shouting hoarsely, his eyes red in rage and anguish, his aura and mana exploding outwards, pushing everything away from him.

Max didn't say anything and just listened silently. He didn't even resist when his aura pushed him away.

However...

'Hm?' A moment later, he noticed his mana seemed to be going out of his control. Frowning, he appeared beside him and patted his shoulder, sending his bloodline energy into his body to calm him down a little and bring his chaotic mana under control.

After a while, he calmed down and reined in his mana before saying, "Thank you."

Max shook his head and sat down. "I don't know what to say because I can't even begin to understand how much pain you must be in right now. However, keep yourself together, brother. She wouldn't want you to lose your mind and die as a result. She would want you to live the best life you can, and you should do it, not only for yourself, but for her too."

"If it's still unbearable, direct all your anger, pain, and hatred toward the demons and kill until you feel a little peace in your heart."

Devor was silent for a while before he nodded, "You are right. She wouldn't want me to sulk like this. Instead, she would want me to take revenge for her."

Saying this, he put Heena's body in his spatial and stood up, ready to rush toward the demons and kill them.

Seeing this, Max sighed and placed a hand on his shoulder, stopping him, "You need to rest and heal yourself first; otherwise..."

Thump!

He stopped mid-sentence, and his heart skipped a beat when he saw the look in his eyes. His eyes were completely lusterless, resembling a dead person's eyes.

He realized he didn't want to live any longer and wanted to die while killing the demons who took the life of the love of his life.

Devor smiled and pushed his hand away. "Thank you, Sir Max. And please don't blame yourself because neither I blame you, nor did Heena even in the last moment of her life. Also..."

He took out his merit plate. "Let me give you my war merits. I hope they can be of some help to you, make you a little stronger, and allow you to kill more demons."

Max silently took out his merit plate and let him transfer them and then watched him walk away. As the distance between them increased, his heart became heavier and his breathing became rough.

"I... shouldn't have left." He murmured.

Slap!

Right then, a slap landed on his shoulder and jolted him out of the pit of regret he was starting to fall into without him realizing it and broke out in a cold sweat, his heart palpitating.

He turned around and saw Armand and Leo standing there.

"Thank you." He told them, feeling grateful. If not for them arriving in time and bringing him back to his senses, he might have formed a mental barrier, more commonly known as a heart demon, which would have affected his cultivation negatively and created many problems for him down the line.

The duo nodded before Armand said, "He told you not to blame yourself and you shouldn't. You are just a single person. You can't be at every place and save everyone."

Saying this, he turned around, but before walking away, he added, "You need to temper your heart more. For us mages, a firm heart is as, if not more, important than good magic talent, mana affinity, and other things."

"I understand." Max nodded, realizing that even though he was stronger, Five Star mages like Armand were more experienced.

Armand nodded and walked away.

Leo looked at Max, a little worriedly, and asked, "Overlord, why haven't you taken any healing medicine yet?"

"Because I'm tempering my body." Max said, and clearly, Leo didn't understand how staying this injured could help him temper his body, but he didn't ask anything.

Instead, he said, with an awkward look on his face, "Then... how about you wear something at least?"

"Hmm?" Max paused and looked down. His little brother, uninjured, was dangling between his legs.

Because he had been fighting until now and also because his entire body was charred black with demonic energy and covered in wounds, he hadn't bothered to cover his body, but by now, the devil's blood had absorbed all the demonic energy, revealing his original skin color, and his passive regeneration had healed his wounds, making him look more human, and therefore, his nakedness was more noticeable now.

Coughing lightly, he took out a set of new clothes and wore them.

Then he noticed Leo grinning at him teasingly and glared at him.

Leo coughed and looked up. "Why do you think King Azaroth hasn't finished yet? Does he not care no matter how many humans die, or is he giving us a chance to fight?"

These two were the most prevalent opinions circulating around right now.

Max also looked up and furrowed his brows, "Not sure, but maybe neither."

Chapter 753 Merit Defensive Barrier

"What makes you say that?" Leo asked, curious.

"I don't know. I just feel that he is deliberately stretching the fight, and perhaps he has already finished dealing with them but just isn't coming down, and it's probably not because he doesn't care about more humans dying nor is it because he wants to give us the opportunity to fight." Max told him.

Leo scratched his chin thoughtfully, "Now that I hear this, I also feel the reason is something different. Maybe it's something his personal?"

"It's possible." Max nodded before saying, "Take me up for a moment."

"Okay." Leo's eyes shone, and he extended his hand. After Max grabbed him, he flew up. When they were over 500 meters above the ground, Max stopped him, "This is enough."

"Oh?" Leo let out a disappointed sigh as he glanced at Azaroth's domain covering the sky. Max rolled his eyes at this and said, "Not to mention we most likely wouldn't be able to see what's happening inside; can you even fly that high?"

Five Star beings had just gotten the ability to fly, but they were restricted in how fast or high they could fly without feeling uncomfortable due to gravity and other factors he didn't know. It was said that the same was true for even the King and higher realm

beings; their limits were increasingly higher, of course. "I can try." Leo grinned sheepishly.

Max ignored him and swept his gaze across the battlefield, taking in the current situation. And as he did, his expression turned heavy.

There were still more than fifteen hours left from the original thirty that Alton told them, but the number of the human army had already been reduced to less than half already.

If not for him, Martha, a few strong independent mages, and the reinforcement that came with Azaroth dealing with most of the Five Star demons, the situation would've been worse.

"Hmm?" Suddenly, he noticed a lone, vague figure fighting at the edge of the battlefield, and his eyes narrowed.

"Oliver..." He muttered before ordering Leo, "Fly in that direction; be quick."

"Oh, alright." Leo didn't hesitate and started flying at his fastest speed.

As the distance between them shortened, Max got started getting a clearer view of him, and his eyes started blazing with killing intent.

Normally, he wouldn't have been able to notice him from such a long distance, but Oliver was using his [Ice God Halo], and it was like a beacon for those who had been it before. Since he didn't know about anyone else from the Ice Sovereign Mountain being present in the Green Leaf apart from Lily and Oliver, he assumed the figure had to be Oliver since Lily was in the war temple.

When they were still more than two miles away, Oliver noticed them and his expression fell.

He instinctively wanted to flee, which made his expression ugly.

'I'm afraid of this bastard?' He questioned himself, and the answer he got made him grit his teeth while murderous rage bubbled in his heart.

'He needs to die!'

BOOM!

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang!

Katcha!

He went all out and in just a few short moments killed all the demons around him before stopping in place.

In the distance, Max couldn't help but feel a little surprised when he saw him stand there and watch as they flew closer instead of trying to flee like he expected him to.

He wasn't being arrogant, but even if he hadn't seen him battle all this while—which he doubted was the case, or he wouldn't have been fighting so far away from him, at the edge of the battlefield—he should still fear him because the last time they fought, he had almost killed him, and that time he had to stabilize his cultivation after the breakthrough, which he again was sure Oliver, being a peak Five Star mage, must have noticed.

'What's giving him the confidence to face me?' He became more alert, and when they were over five hundred meters away from him, he told Leo to stop.

"You move back and stay alert." Saying this, he let go of his hand, activated Phoenix Wings, and glided across the air before landing a few meters away from Oliver.

Thud!

Small pieces of earth and dust flew from his heavy landing, which he could control if he wanted, but since his bones were undergoing tempering, it was for the best he exerted himself as much as he could, so he didn't.

Oliver's eyes flickered when he noticed this.

"You are—" He began to say something when...

Swoosh!

Max shot toward him, and his hand covered in Death Energy, which he then clenched into a fist, ready to kill him with a punch.

Unlike Oliver, he had no interest in talking to him and just wanted to kill him as soon as he could and take his revenge.

Oliver seemed to have expected this and immediately slapped the merit plate hanging on his waist.

Max was confused, not understanding what he was trying to do. But his confusion lasted only for an instant because...

Weng~

Bang!

A ripple of energy erupted from it and created a barrier around Oliver, which repelled him when he closed in on him.

Max's eyes widened in surprise, not only because he didn't know the merit plate could do this, but also because his punch wasn't able to destroy it.

Since Lady Verana and others hadn't informed them, he and everyone else didn't know this, but the merit plate could create this defensive barrier, but there were conditions to its activation. Only those at and above high-stage Five Star could activate this ability, and it could only be activated when you were being attacked by someone who also had a merit plate and was stronger than you. Also, it was a one-time-use ability and would only activate if you had at least 100,000 war merits. When activated, it would wipe away all of them, and if you had more, it would take half of them too and in return, would make the defensive barrier stronger.

Gulp!

Oliver planned to mock him after he was repelled, but then he noticed the barrier had grown a lot dimmer. The emerging smug look on his face froze, and he gulped in fear.

Chapter 754 Sudden Shout

'Fuck! Why has he become so strong?!' He cursed inwardly.

He could see Max had only used that grayish energy to simply reinforce his punch, nothing more, but he still managed to exhaust one-third of the barrier's energy. This meant he could shatter it with just two more punches.

He had gained over 200,000 war merits until now and hadn't tried to save them when he activated it, meaning the barrier was as strong as a defensive spell cast by a mid-stage King mage, and he had thought Max wouldn't be able to do anything to him for a while, giving him time to either use his trump card or attract the human emperors' attention. Once he told them his identity, they definitely wouldn't let Max kill him; however, now it seemed he wouldn't be able to do either.

After a few moments, Max suppressed his surprised, deciding to ask Martha or someone else who knew about how he was able to activate this barrier with his merit plate. With his bloodline sense, he could tell he only needed to strike it with the same force just two or three times and the barrier would crumble. Therefore, without wasting any time, he clenched his fist, ready to strike again.

Seeing this, Oliver hurriedly said, "Wait! If you break this—"

Bang!

Max punched the barrier, causing it to ripple. Then, as he pulled his hand back and covered his fist with a bit more Death Energy, he asked, "What will happen if I break it?"

Oliver's face was dark. Not only the fact that he was afraid of him made him feel angry and disgusted, but his blatant disregard also made him feel humiliated.

Even though he could see Max didn't care what knowing the consequences of breaking the barrier was and was going to shatter it, he still gritted his teeth and said, "This barrier is the war temple's protection granted to people of value against betrayal by fellow humans. Once you break it, the emperors will investigate and punish—"

BANG!

Once again, before he could finish speaking, Max punched as hard as he could. The barrier rippled violently before shattering, the energy dispersing in the air.

Swoosh!

"Let them punish me then." Max sneered and appeared in front of Oliver, his other hand punching toward his head.

However, right then...

"HOW DARING!"

A shout rang in his head, disorienting him. At the same time, the death energy from his fist was forcefully dispersed by an overwhelming force, and even his physical strength seemed to be sapped away because his punch struck true but didn't even as much as bruise Oliver.

Thud!

Although Oliver didn't understand why Max suddenly became powerful and dazed, he didn't hesitate to deliver a hard punch to his gut, sending him flying back before taking out a three-inch-long ice dagger and starting to channel his ice elemental mana into it, a ruthless expression on his face.

Just then, however...

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The sound of many people flying rapidly filled the atmosphere, and he turned around to look. Immediately, his eyes shone with delight and relief, and he stopped channeling his mana before putting the ice dagger back into his spatial ring.

...

A few moments earlier...

"Hmm?" High in the sky, the emperors' noticed something and turned their heads in the direction of the Green Leaf. Immediately, their expressions changed. While the human emperors' eyes lit up with relief and joy, the demon emperors' expressions turned as dark as they could get.

"Fuck! Why did they come so soon?" Yshoy cursed openly, revealing his frustration.

Vigil glanced at Empress Luen, who sighed and said through her divine sense, [Give the retreat order. We will fight again after our reinforcements come.]

Vigil nodded, his face expressionless as his aura burst out and broke the isolation barrier.

"Retreat!"

...

"Retreat!"

As his voice thundered, all the demons stopped battling or resting, and perplexed, they hurriedly started retreating.

The humans were equally perplexed by the sudden order of retreat, but more than that, they were relieved, especially those who were about to be killed.

They simply watched the demons retreat, not wanting to take advantage of the situation.

"Our reinforcements from the central plains are here!"

Even after this voice sounded, informing them of the reason why the demons were retreating, save for some, most stayed put.

"We survived!" Someone shouted, feeling overly emotional. This person, like most others, had thought he would die today. So, seeing he had survived, he couldn't help but become emotional.

"We survived!" Someone near him echoed his sentiment in a loud voice, and then everyone started chanting it.

"We survived!"

"We survived!"

"We..."

...

Swoosh!

Once the order of retreat sounded, Leo immediately flew over and landed beside Max, who was still lying on the ground, disoriented, and glared cautiously at Oliver, who was walking over, his eyes filled with killing intent.

"The battles are over. You should back away now." He said in a deep voice.

"Heh!"

Oliver sneered and suddenly disappeared before appearing in front of him, his hand already gripping Leo's neck.

"How are you to order me, peasant?!"

Saying this, he was about to break his neck and freeze his brain when a dense and chilling killing intent enveloped him.

Oliver felt his heart stop and looked down, only to see Max staring back at him.

Shua!

Without any hesitation, he released Leo and retreated as fast as he could, his face pale and a terrified look in his eyes.

Max slowly stood up, a terrifyingly calm expression on his face as he stared at Oliver, who had already retreated over hundreds of meters, for a few seconds, before moving his gaze away from him to look at Leo.

"You alright?"

Gulp!

Leo's face was pale just like Oliver's as he stared at Max in horror. Hearing his question, he heavily shook his head, "Sir Overlord... your killing intent..."

"Hmm?" Max frowned slightly before reining his killing intent in.

Thud!

Ha! Ha!

As it disappeared, Leo fell to the ground, gasping for breath.

"Whoa! That was... too terrifying." Leo said, his heart still palpitating. He had been fighting alongside him for several hours and had witnessed his killing intent before, but compared to what he just felt, it was extremely subdued. He couldn't help but wonder what Oliver did that made him so furious.

Max ignored him and looked in the distance, watching dozens of people flying over; his gaze locked on the five people wearing pure white robes.

Chapter 755 41 Emperors

Even though they were still out of his bloodline sense's range, Max could tell all these dozens of people—41 to be exact—were emperors.

He realized the Green Leaf Kingdom was going to become one of the main battlefields of this war. This meant the average strength of the people fighting would increase, and therefore, the danger would also increase.

However, he wasn't thinking about all this right now. In fact, he wasn't thinking anything at all. His mind was blank. No... that wasn't accurate because it was filled with a very intense murderous intent. The intent he released a moment ago, which had petrified both Leo and Oliver, was nothing in comparison.

Despite that, however, neither his face nor his eyes—that had now returned to their original sapphire color, without any hint of pink, crimson, or gray—showed it. They were as calm as a still lake as he stared at the five people in distinct pure white robes among the group flying over.

A few moments later, the group of five in white robes broke off from the group and flew in his direction while the rest went toward the war temple.

The moment he had laid his eyes on them, he had realized they were from the Ice Sovereign Mountain, and the man in the middle, who had similar hair and eyes to Oliver and was most likely his father, was the one who had attacked him, stopping him from killing Oliver.

Swoosh!

The group stopped right above Oliver.

The silver-haired man, Julius, Oliver's father, after seeing his son was fine, glanced at Max. When his divine sense scanned him, his pupils constricted, shock flickering within them. The others had the same reactions.

The next moment, Julius' shock turned into killing intent as he announced in a cold voice, "For committing the crime of attacking your fellow human on the battlefield with the intention to kill, I hereby sentence you to death."

Boom!

Saying this, he released his aura to kill Max, but before his aura could reach Max...

Swoosh!

The woman who had been standing beside him, her hair as white as snow, appeared in front of Max and released her aura to protect him. She was none other than Lily's master—Rose Dawn.

"What do you think you are doing, Rose?" Julius' eyes narrowed while an exasperated look appeared on his face.

"I should be the one to ask you that." Rose coldly spat. "You are trying to kill him without hearing what happened? Why? Just because he was about to kill your useless son?"

A hint of killing intent flickered within the depths of his eyes when he heard her and said in a chilling voice, "Try not to push your luck, Rose. Otherwise, I may forget you are family."

"Family?" Rose sneered, "Do you think I'm a kid? When did you treat me like family? If not for faction rules..."

Speaking until here, she stopped, not wanting to continue on the topic as it would only anger her, and turned to Max, "Tell us what happened. Why were you two fighting?"

Max glanced at Julius and others hovering in the air and then at Oliver, who was glaring at him resentfully while flying up toward his father. Only then did he look at Rose and slowly tell her everything.

When Rose heard Oliver had tried to force himself on her disciple, her expression became even colder while her eyes were filled with dense murderous intent.

[Too bad you failed to kill him.] She spoke to him through her divine sense. Sighing, she continued, [With Julius and others here, you most likely wouldn't get another chance. So, listen to me and forget about it for the time being.]

When she saw Max narrow his eyes, she added, [I want to kill him as much as you do, but we really can't do it unless we want to die. So, listen to me. I don't want my disciple to lose the man she loves more than everything.]

Max was silent for a few moments before he nodded and replied via his bloodline sense, surprising Rose, [I understand. I won't be reckless.]

Hearing her say that even if she tried to kill him, she would also die, he realized the seriousness of the situation. He wasn't a fool who, despite knowing the consequences,

would stupidly try to kill him again. Though it would be hard for him to control his impulses, he would wait, and the moment he got another chance, Oliver would die.

'I should take the opportunity and see if I can find a way to fight off my bloodlines' influence.' He thought. Then he asked, [How are you going to resolve the current situation, Lady Rose?]

Hearing his question, Rose suppressed her surprise and said, [You don't need to worry about it. I'll handle it.]

She then raised her head, looked at Julius, and started communicating with him.

Max watched as Julius frowned, his face darkened before he wore an icy expression, grabbed Oliver, and flew toward the war temple with the three emperors.

[You be careful from now on.] Rose said before following after them.

Max stood there, his gaze flickering and his brows furrowed in thought. In the end, he sighed, "No matter how careful I try to be, trouble will still come knocking my way."

He knew the newly arrived emperors would soon find out about him, his bloodline, and the extraordinary Death Energy. And more likely than not, they would come after him, if not openly, then covertly. Wyomin and Alton had already warned him about it, and he could also see it clearly.

For a moment, he thought about leaving, but could he escape the emperors? Fat chance! So, he decided to stay, hoping the alliance and war temple's rules would be enough to keep him safe for the time being.

...

When he returned to Martha and others, all the demons had left.

He was about to say something to Martha when he felt someone tap his shoulder.

Swoosh!

Instantly, he turned around, the Death Energy circulating in his mana veins, ready to use at a moment's notice.

"Whoa! Calm down! I'm no enemy!" The person said in an amused voice.

"You...!" Max raised his brows in surprise, recognizing him.

Chapter 756 Reunion

"Heh, at least you haven't forgotten me." The handsome man in fiery red robes grinned before looking him up and down. "You have completely changed, man. You were just a naive kid back then, but now... you have become a confident man. Not bad. I knew you were something when I saw you. That's why I tried to motivate you."

"..."

Max stared at him, speechless.

After a moment, he said, "I have to say the same to you. You have completely changed too. Back then, although you were arrogant and acted as though everyone was beneath you, at least you weren't shameless, but now..."

He shook his head while saying this.

This man was none other than Aaron, the arrogant prince who had mocked him in the Crimson Monarch's Legacy trials.

The corner of Aaron's lips twitched when he heard this and hurriedly looked behind him. Seeing his junior brother and sister weren't here yet and therefore hadn't heard him, he sighed in relief.

A short while ago, when they were still some distance away from the battlefield, his senior sister Margaret Adler had suddenly told him that she had noticed Max.

Understanding what she wanted, he had left the others behind and rushed over.

"Haha," He laughed and put his hand around his shoulders, ignoring the fact that Max was injured. "It seems Schwartz has influenced you quite a bit. You have started joking like him."

He then glanced at Martha and others and said, changing the topic, "Why don't you introduce us?"

Max nodded, "This is the princess of Green Leaf, Miss Martha Williams. This is her uncle, Armand Williams..."

He slowly introduced them to him before gesturing toward him, "And he is an old acquaintance of mine, Aaron Beruno. He is a prince of..."

Speaking until here, Max glanced at him, wanting him to tell which kingdom or empire he belonged to, but Aaron smiled wryly and shook his head, "I'm no longer a prince. Our kingdom fell just yesterday."

Saying this, he stepped forward, leaned down, gently grabbed Martha's hand, and kissed the back of it, "It's a pleasure meeting you, my lady. I have heard a lot about you and now finally got the chance to meet you, though the time and place aren't good."

Martha looked at him, "Beruno? From the White River Kingdom?"

Aaron nodded as he stood back and released her hand.

Martha asked with interest, her lips curling up in a teasing smile, "I wonder what you have heard about me, Prince Aaron?"

"Huh?" Aaron was speechless. He hadn't heard anything about her. In fact, apart from King Azaroth, who was hailed as a prodigy, he didn't know anything about the Green Leaf Kingdom and had said that just for saying' sake. Fortunately for him, just then...

"They are here!"

Someone shouted, and everyone looked into the distance, where thousands of mages, some flying and some running on the ground, could be seen rushing over.

"How many are there?" Max asked,

"Not sure, but there should be over 15,000 at least." Aaron said, and seeing everyone frown, he smiled, "Don't worry; more will come. Besides, the average strength of these 15,000 is a lot higher than the people currently present here, as the weakest of them is at the peak Four Star, while most are in the Five Star realm."

Everyone nodded.

Max then swept his gaze across everyone present and said, "Now, I believe all of you must have gathered enough war merits. So, follow us to the war temple and book a training room there."

Aaron raised his brows in surprise when he saw him address everyone as though he was their leader, and when he saw that no one seemed to find it odd, including Martha, Armand, and other Five Star mages, and they even nodded obediently, looking at him with... respect, he became even more surprised.

Leo, standing beside Max, noticed his expression and grinned, [You are thinking why everyone is obeying an early-stage Four Star mage, right?]

Aaron glanced at him and nodded. He waited for him to tell him the reason, but Leo just chuckled before ignoring him.

His eyelids twitched at this. If it was before he participated in the Crimson Monarch's trials, he would have been extremely angry right now and most likely would have

attacked, but now, he just sighed before asking, [You are Leo, right? Why don't you tell me what's going on?]

[Nah. I don't want to spoil the fun for you, sir. Just wait and you'll find out.] Leo said.

Aaron raised his brows, but just then, he noticed Max and others were leaving, so he hurriedly said, "Hey, Max. Why don't you wait for a bit? Senior sister Margaret is here. Meet her before going."

Max frowned, but after thinking for a moment, he nodded.

Seeing him stop, Martha and others also stopped. Only after he waved his hand and said they should go without him did they leave, leaving Max, Aaron, Leo, and old man Juan, who, although had gotten seriously injured earlier, was lucky enough to survive.

Max glanced at him silently, which made Juan straighten his spine. Seeing this, he sighed in his heart and glanced at Leo, "Go, take him. First, buy whatever resources you need to cultivate, and from the remaining merits, rent a training room for as many days as you can afford to."

Saying this, he added via his bloodline sense, [Since you have just broken through, you won't need as much mana. Therefore, it would be better if you two shared a room.]

Leo gave him a funny look. [That didn't sound right.]

Saying this, he grabbed the old man, said goodbye to him, and flew away, leaving a stunned Max. A moment later, he chuckled, shaking his head.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Just a short while later, several people flew over, causing the duo to look over.

"They are here." Aaron smiled.

The one leading the group was the familiar, beautiful figure—Margaret.

When she entered the range of his bloodline sense, he realized she was now an early-stage King mage, which didn't surprise him at all as she was already a peak Five Star mage back then. He also noticed that everyone in the group wore fiery red robes similar to Aaron's.

"You all from the same institution?" He asked Aaron, who puffed up his chest and wore a proud expression as he nodded, "That's correct. We all are the disciples of the Fire Valley."

"Hmm? Fire Valley? One of the sovereign rank forces?" Max asked, surprised.

After Lily joined the Ice Sovereign Mountain, he had found out about the sovereign rank forces, and if not for the sudden demon invasion, he was entertaining the thought of joining the Fire Valley since it specialized in the fire element.

"Yes. That's the one." Aaron nodded. He then turned to Margaret, who was floating down, and nodded in greeting before stepping away from him.

He didn't know the reason, but he knew Margaret was interested in him. So, he left his side to let them talk. He was even about to order his fellow disciples to give them space, but Margaret swept her gaze over him, and he immediately dropped the idea.

Tap!

Margaret gently landed in front of Max, looked him up and down before saying in a neutral tone, "Master was right about you. You are indeed an extraordinary person."

"Oh?" Max raised his brows in confusion. "Master?"

Margaret narrowed her eyes slightly. "Crimson Monarch. Since we got his legacy, he can be considered our master."

"I see." Max nodded in understanding, but this made Margaret frown.

She then scanned him with her divine sense, and her frown deepened as she asked, "You haven't started cultivating Crimson Dragon Spell yet?"

Chapter 757 Lucky Guy

"Not yet." Max shook his head, and seeing Margaret seemed too emotional about it, he added, "I'll start practicing it soon."

Margaret stared at him with a still look in her eyes for a few seconds before she said, her tone calm but serious, "I know you are already very strong and can easily dominate Five Star mages. So, you mustn't feel any need to cultivate it. But believe me, you should cultivate it."

Max met her gaze and nodded with equal seriousness, "I understand. I will start practicing it soon."

Margaret slowly raised her hand and placed her delicate finger on Max's forehead, who didn't stop her even though she was doing it without asking his permission because he could tell she wouldn't harm him.

Margaret's expression mellowed slightly seeing he didn't try to resist and closed her eyes. A moment later, she opened them and moved her finger away.

"These are my experiences of practicing it. They should help you." She said,

Max felt many flashes of memories appear in his head, and upon reviewing them, he nodded at her gratefully, "Thank you, Senior Sister. They will definitely help me."

A small, almost unnoticeable smile graced Margaret's lips when she heard him address her as 'senior sister.'

On the side, Aaron, Eve, and others were shocked when they heard her say Max was strong enough to dominate Five Star mages because... he was just an early-stage Four Star mage. But they didn't doubt her, fully believing her statement, and their gazes they looked at Max with changed from haughty and indifferent to surprised and curious. Among them, Aaron was the most shocked and also confused: 'If he is so strong, why did she send me to help him earlier?'

What he didn't know was that the reason Margaret sent him ahead of everyone wasn't to help or save him, but to tell the people from the Ice Sovereign Mountain, Oliver, Julius, and others, that he wasn't alone. Although they were quite some distance away from the battlefield, because she was familiar with Max's aura, she had noticed him having a face-off against Oliver and others. Though they had left, she could tell their grudge hadn't ended.

As for why she didn't come herself, well, there was no need to since Aaron, though weaker than her, had almost the same status in the Fire Valley. So, it didn't make a difference whether he or she went. Besides, she needed some time to digest her shock, which she got after noticing Oliver, who she had recognized as the emerging genius of the Ice Sovereign Mountain, looking full of fear when he looked at Max. The only reason he could react this way was that Max was way stronger than him and had terrified him.

She then noticed Martha and others seemed to listen to him and act as though he was their leader and realized Max, despite his cultivation, was indeed stronger. And just now, when she said he could dominate the Five Star mages, he didn't refute her, confirming her guess.

Aaron was just wondering this when he saw the smile on Margaret's face and his eyes widened in shock. The others had similar reactions. In fact, the shock they felt seeing her smile was higher than what they felt upon hearing how strong Max was.

Why?

Because this senior sister of theirs was famous for her indifference and always serious personality. Though she smiled a few times when speaking to her junior sisters, those smiles were forced. But right now, the smile she had was natural and was one of happiness and satisfaction.

After thanking her, Max left. He didn't try telling them about the current situation and anything else because he could tell they were already aware of everything.

One of the female disciples, Eve, looked at Margaret and asked, "Senior sister, that guy also has Crimson Monarch's legacy?"

Everyone perked up at the question, though they already knew the answer since they had heard their conversation.

"Yes." Margaret nodded. She wasn't worried any of them would do something to Max, firstly because they couldn't given his strength, and secondly, she had already promised to give the Crimson Dragon Spell to the Fire Valley after she mastered it, and everyone knew it.

"Lucky guy. But it's a pity he hasn't started cultivating it." Eve said,

On the side, Aaron couldn't stop himself from asking even though he knew she hadn't lied, "Senior sister, is he really as strong as you said?"

"Yes." Margaret nodded. "Though I don't know just how strong he is, he should be as strong, if not stronger, than you."

Hearing this, Aaron realized why he could order Martha and others. At the same time, his shoulders slumped as he muttered, "So, I'm the weakest among everyone who took part in the legacy trials."

...

Though the war temple had reopened just a few moments after the demons retreated, there were already many people in the temple. Fortunately, though, because most were still celebrating their survival outside or were looking at their reinforcements and busy talking with each other, it wasn't as congested.

He first messaged Wyomin and asked about Lily's trio. But he didn't get the reply for a while, so thinking she must be busy with the arrival of several emperors, he went to the resource trading hall.

[War Merits: 1060,000]

Nodding in satisfaction upon seeing his war merits, he exchanged for 200 mana crystals, bought a portable teleportation formation, some escape, illusion, and other kinds of talismans, bought a grade 5 fire-attuned magic sword, hired Alton for 2 hours for the next day, and rented a grade six recovery room for 6 hours.

For all this, he spent 960,000 war merits and was left with just 100,000 that he was going to use to rent the training room.

Satisfied with his purchases, he left the hall and headed toward the recovery rooms.

A while later, he was floating in the white room, his eyes closed while the healing energies of the room rapidly surged into his body.

The healing rooms could be rented in two ways. First, you could rent it only for the time it would take to heal you completely—the option most people chose. The second, you could rent it for a fixed duration; this one was more expensive, but Max had chosen it as it suited his needs perfectly.

He didn't want to leave just after he was done healing. No, he planned to use it to temper his body.

Chapter 758 Transformation

All these hours, while fighting, he had been constantly tempering his bones and could feel them becoming stronger. But because he wasn't completely focused on it, the speed of tempering was very slow. Also, he realized that even though the third level of the [Barbarian God Physique] needed him to temper his bones mainly, he couldn't ignore his inner organs, muscles, blood, and even skin. Because if he did, he wouldn't be able to reach the third level.

This meant he needed to heal his body first. He could use the Nascent Energy and his bloodline energy to do that, but he didn't want to waste the Nascent Energy because it was the most scarce and vital resource for him.

Besides, why would he use it when he could pay some merits and rent a recovery room to do the same?

...

Feeling the gentle healing energies entering his body and healing his broken muscles and tissues and regenerating his skin, Max felt so comfortable that he almost moaned in pleasure. Of course, the reason he could enjoy it was because he had stopped forcing the Death Energy into his bones for the time being.

Minutes ticked by, and Max started feeling drowsy, but he didn't dare to sleep because he knew if he did, he would be out for several hours, and all the war merits he paid to rent this room would be wasted.

An hour later...

Thud!

He was completely healed, and therefore, the room's healing energies vanished, causing him to fall to the ground, which jolted him back to his senses.

Lying on the cool floor, he stretched his slightly stiff body and yawned, "It was nice."

He then sat down cross-legged, closed his eyes, and started pulling out strands of Death Energy and pushing them into his organs, flesh, blood, and bones. Save for his brain and bone marrow, he pushed the Death Energy into every part of his body, though in limited quantities. After all, he didn't want to overwhelm himself... too much.

"Arghh!"

Immediately, a stabbing pain shot through his body, overwhelming his pain receptors and causing him to clench his jaws. However, this wasn't enough to suppress the pain, and a moment later, he started sweating profusely and his body started spasming.

'Tch! I still overdid it.' He clicked his tongue in frustration, but he didn't stop pushing the strands of Death Energy into his body.

A while later, his pained whimpers and occasional cries filled the room.

...

Six hours later, the door of the grade six healing room opened, and Max, dressed in a neat sky-blue robe, with his hands behind his back, his spine straight, his chest puffed out, and a calm look on his face, walked out.

The torture... The tempering session was a success. He managed to reach the peak of the early stage of the third level of the [Barbarian God Physique].

'The third level is way stronger than the second level.' He thought while walking toward the transference hall, his steps slow and unhurried, almost careful.

The moment he entered the third level of the [Barbarian God Physique], his body was bursting with energy. His blood had become more viscous, filled with bloodline energy that had become purer due to the breakthrough—a pleasant surprise. His muscles seemed to have become as hard as steel but were still flexible and were more refined.

His internal organs also became stronger and more resilient, especially his heart, which was beating slowly and powerfully. His skin had become clearer and more radiant, making him look more handsome and younger. His entire skeletal frame had evolved in strength and stature, and his blue hair had grown longer, reaching his upper back.

If someone saw him, they would see an extraordinarily handsome young man standing 6'2" tall with a well-defined, robust body and long, flowing hair, exuding an unmatched confidence and charm.

'Maybe I should have stopped after entering the third level, gotten used to my transformed body and bursting physical strength, instead of pushing onwards.' He thought, sighing inwardly.

A few minutes in, the Death Energy had started breaking his muscles, veins, skin, and even the internal organs while the Barbarian God Physique Refinement technique was healing and reforming them. At that time, he had felt thankful for his decision to use the recovery room because the natural healing of the Barbarian God Physique Refinement technique wouldn't have been enough to keep up with the destruction the Death Energy was causing throughout his body. It was only with the recovery room's healing energies that things stabilized and he could continue the tempering.

This was why, even after he entered the third level of the [Barbarian God Physique], he didn't stop, wanting to take advantage of the recovery room as much as he could.

The result... Though he managed to push to the peak of the early stage of the third level, his body became too strong for him to handle. This was why, despite his outward calm and confident appearance, he was feeling miserable inside because even simply walking was a chore. He was worried he might harm himself if he made any hasty movements.

On the way to the transference hall, he came across several people, all of whom looked at him with fascination at first, but when they noticed how slow he was walking, their expressions became curious.

At this moment, he appreciated the Garfield Bloodline's influence because he didn't feel embarrassed by their gazes and continued on his way with confident steps.

It took him over an hour to reach his destination, and there he saw a long queue of people, causing him to sigh. "Just amazing!"

For a moment, he wanted to release his aura and attract their attention. Once they recognized him, they would most likely let him go first, but not wanting to give Julius, who he was sure must be watching him and waiting for him to make some mistake to punish him, any excuse, he joined the queue. A few minutes later, there were just a few people remaining in front of him. However, just then, he heard a commotion behind him, and when he used his bloodline sense to see what was happening, he noticed a group come barging inside the hall. When he saw their leader, he sighed.

'How troublesome!'

Chapter 759 Sovereign Forces

Six hours earlier...

The group of 36 emperors from the central plain, since Julius' group of five had gone to confront Max, was heading toward the war temple, knowing the demon emperors had already retreated with their army, but right then, they noticed Azaroth's domain.

They had seen it from afar too but hadn't paid it much attention, thinking someone had used some kind of formation. Now, however, they were close and could tell this sphere hanging in the sky wasn't the result of some formation, but it was...

"A domain?!" One of them exclaimed in shock and disbelief, "I didn't know someone among the people in charge of setting up the war temple had formed a domain."

"This shouldn't be the case because if they had, the alliance would have known about it, and they wouldn't have them here so early." Someone else commented.

Then,

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

They all disappeared one after another, appearing in the sky near Lady Verana's group, looking down in the domain with their divine senses.

Immediately, their shock turned into disbelief when they saw Azaroth.

"A King mage has formed a domain?!" A middle-aged lady in elegant yellow robes exclaimed in disbelief.

"This is indeed shocking."

"Who is this guy? Someone from the alliance?"

A man in green robes asked Lady Verana after nodding at her in greeting.

"Unfortunately, no, Sir Hugo." Lady Verana shook her head.

"Oh?" The man named Hugo raised his brows slightly and curiously asked, "Then what force does he belong to? Why haven't I heard a king mage from the seven sovereign forces forming a domain?"

Other emperors also looked at Lady Verana with curious expressions, wondering exactly the same.

Lady Verana shook her head yet again and said, her voice carrying a hint of amusement, "He isn't from any of the sovereign forces."

Lady Verana gave her an indifferent glance. All of these emperors were from the sovereign forces or monarch-ranked forces and didn't fear the alliance, mainly because their forces were a part of it too. Therefore, they didn't fear or respect her.

The redhead narrowed her eyes when she saw her look, but instead of saying anything, she just scoffed. Although Verana didn't have any force backing her, she was close to many people in the alliance.

While everyone was surprised by her words, a red-haired woman in blood-red robes furrowed her delicate brows as she coldly said, "Just tell us who he is."

Lady Verana gave her an indifferent glance. All of these emperors were from the sovereign forces or monarch-ranked forces and didn't fear the alliance, mainly because their forces were a part of it too. Therefore, they didn't fear or respect her.

The redhead narrowed her eyes when she saw her look, but instead of saying anything, she just scoffed. Although Verana didn't have any force backing her, she was close to many people in the alliance.

"He is the king of the Green Leaf Kingdom we are in right now." Lady Verana announced, surprising them yet again.

"Interesting!" Hugo muttered, rubbing his chin thoughtfully.

"What's he doing, though? Training? Testing his physical prowess?" Someone commented, seeing Azaroth fighting the only two demons alive right now without using his mana.

Just then,

Weng~ Weng~

Two leaves materialized on Azaroth's either side and shot toward the demons, who couldn't dodge in time, and pierced their foreheads, killing them.

Phew!

He then exhaled deeply, his body relaxing. After that, a wave of wood elemental mana surged out and covered his body. When the mana disappeared, there was no sign of blood or any injury on his body, and his clothes were tidy and sparkling clean.

He then glanced back at the king mage of the Williams family, who now had recovered quite a bit from his injuries, and then the old man who had killed the two demon kings on the battlefield before here, and nodded.

After that he swept his gaze across the other six king mages, who promptly gave him a ninety-degree bow, "Thank you, my King, for saving us."

Azaroth nodded, a hidden gleam flashing in his eyes hearing their sincere 'My King' address. He then shook his head and sighed, "It's unfortunate that I came late. Otherwise I could have saved more of you."

Among these six king mages, one was an independent mage, two were from the Martell family, and one each from the other three families. When they heard this, their expressions fell, but they shook their heads and said, "No need to feel pity for them, my King. They lost their lives while defending our motherland and must be proud."

The independent king mage, a woman who looked to be around 50 years old and had streaks of gray hair, glanced at them, looking amused.

Azaroth nodded before saying, "Alright, you guys go, rest, and recover."

As he said this, the domain covering them disappeared, and he flew up to where the emperors were, his hands behind his back and a calm look on his face.

Azaroth nodded before saying, "Alright, you guys go, rest, and recover."

As he said this, the domain covering them disappeared, and he flew up to where the emperors were, his hands behind his back and a calm look on his face.

He swept his gaze across them, which made everyone frown in displeasure. Sure, having a domain in the king realm was incredible, and it probably made him as strong as most of them here, but he was still a king mage and one without any backing. So, his arrogant behavior was inexcusable. But before any of them could say anything...

Azaroth unfolded his hands and bowed his head lightly toward them, saying, "I thank you all for coming here. With you here, I'm sure my small kingdom will be safe."

Again, before they could respond, he continued, "However, I wonder why the Central Plains Alliance has decided to make it an official battlefield."

The emperors could see he was dissatisfied and somewhat angry, but they didn't feel anything wrong with it because he was the ruler of the kingdom, which the alliance's decision of designating it as one of the official battlefields would definitely negatively affect.

They stayed silent because he didn't have an answer for him. In the past wars, the smaller kingdoms would be just minor battlefields, and the strongest people who fought there wouldn't be any stronger than kings. But with the Green Leaf becoming a main battlefield, emperors and even monarchs would most likely fight here. One reckless

move from their end while fighting and the kingdom would be wiped off the face of the earth.

Hugo stepped forward when no one spoke up and said, "We aren't aware why this decision was made, but I have an offer for you that, if you accept, will ensure your kingdom's safety throughout the war."

"Oh?"

Chapter 760 Nuisance.

"Oh?" Azaroth looked at him, curious. He could tell this man was a peak emperor and was as strong, if not stronger than Lady Verana. So, his expression mellowed slightly as he asked, "You are, sir?"

"You can call me Hugo. I'm from the Woodland Sanctuary." Hugo introduced himself, "I can see you are a wood elemental mage, and your bloodline belongs to the wood element too. You are extremely suited to my Woodland Sanctuary. Therefore, I officially invite you to join us. You'll be an elder there, just like me. If you accept, I will request the Sanctuary to safeguard your kingdom."

He had just finished speaking when a mocking voice sounded, "What a surprise, Sir Hugo! I never thought you would be the first to extend an offer to him. I thought your sanctuary had a rule not to go out of its way to invite someone to join. Maybe the rule has changed?"

Hugo's expression remained the same as he turned around and saw a man in fiery red robes flying forward. He smiled lightly, "You are not aware of the rules of my Sanctuary it seems, sir Amish. We were never prohibited from actively recruiting people. It's just that we usually didn't need to."

Saying this, he asked, "Also, don't tell me you want him to join your Fire Valley even though he isn't a fire elemental mage?"

Amish's lips curled up in a sneer, "The fact he has a domain is more than enough to qualify him to join my Fire Valley."

"That's understandable." Hugo nodded. He then put on a curious expression on his face and asked, "But... How will joining the Fire Valley be any beneficial to him? You, after all, don't specialize in the Wood Element. And not to mention, the hellish atmosphere of your Valley will negatively affect him and stop him from progressing smoothly."

The corner of Amish's lips twitched when he heard this. He then glanced at Azaroth and said, "He isn't wrong. Still, you are welcome to join the Fire Valley. We'll be happy to have a domain king."

"Heh! Who wouldn't?!"

Swoosh!

A lady in aquamarine robes appeared beside him but completely ignored him and looked at Azaroth. "Even though my Vast Ocean Institute doesn't specialize in wood magic and can't help you as much as Woodland Sanctuary can, our water specialization will be helpful to you and will aid your growth."

Azaroth sighed hearing this. He then noticed that more emperors seemed to want to extend their offers too and hurriedly said, "Thank you for your offers, but unfortunately, I can't join any organization right now. But if I do in the future, I will most definitely consider yours."

...

'How troublesome!' Max muttered inwardly when he saw the leader of the group causing the commotion as they forced their way inside the hall—the female king mage of the Seidel family who had attacked them a few days earlier at the entrance of the war temple.

Currently, she was staring at him with a crazed look in her eyes, which confused him at first. After all, without most of their king mages now dead, they shouldn't try to bother him, but she clearly was intent on doing so. In fact, it seemed she would attack him disregarding everything. However, then he noticed a group standing at the back, watching her and him with amused and anticipatory expressions on their faces, and he understood it was their, or more accurately, Oliver's, who was standing with the group, looking at him with a malicious look in his eyes, doing.

His plan was simple. He wanted Max to fight within the war temple. Then, Julius would have a valid reason to punish him.

Realizing this, he, of course, wouldn't let it happen. So, he released his aura and started walking forward. Because most of the people from the central plains hadn't the war temple, most of the people present were from the Green Leaf and the nearby kingdoms and were familiar with Max.

Though his body had undergone a transformation, he was still recognizable. Some who didn't, they recognized his aura, and their expression became respectful and wary.

When he arrived near the start of the queue, he calmly asked the person standing there, "Can I go first?"

This person was a peak Four Star female mage. She looked at him dazedly and nodded, "Y-Yes. You can."

"Thank you." Nodding, Max glanced back at the Seidel King mage and then at Oliver before stepping onto the teleportation formation leading to the Grade Two training room after paying the merits, reserving it for 25 days.

Swoosh!

"Stop—"

As he was teleported away, he saw the Seidel king mage hysterically rushing toward him while Oliver wore a dark look on his face, which made him grin devilishly.

...

Swoosh!

He appeared in the training room, and his grin slowly faded, replaced by a cold expression.

"This guy is going to be a nuisance as expected." He muttered. But knowing he couldn't do anything but be careful and not give Julius any chance to act against him, he sighed in frustration.

'Maybe I should ask Alton's help?' The thought appeared in his mind, but he doubted Alton could help him. As for Wyomin, who was both weaker and seemed to have a slightly lower status than Alton, he knew she would be even more helpless to do anything. Julius, after all, was from a sovereign force.

A short while later, he stopped thinking about it and took off his robe. "Let's start training."

He was going to do some physical exercises to get used to his increased physical strength and evolved body until it was time to meet Alton.

As he started exercising and felt his muscles stretch and relax, stiffness leaving his body, he started feeling good and soon lost himself.

...

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Hours later, Max, drenched in his sweat, was zooming across the room, doing some intense shadow boxing and kicking and sometimes punching and kicking the sturdy walls of the room that didn't as much as tremble.

Suddenly, he froze in place when he heard a voice.

"Tsk! Tsk! Training naked, some weird habit you have."