

Strongest Mage with the Lust system

#Chapter 851: Gratitude - Read Strongest Mage with the Lust system Chapter 851: Gratitude

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As he slowly kissed her, Rima's breathing grew hot and deep with desire but she pulled away, confusing Max.

Rima smilingly pitched his nose, "You are currently too weak. I don't want you to exert yourself too much."

Max felt his body. Though there was no visible injury on him, he realized she was right. He felt weak, drained.

Still, he couldn't help but say, "We can still kiss, no?"

Rima's smile blossomed and she leaned in. Just as Max got happy, she lightly pecked his lips and before he could embrace her, she pulled away, a cheeky smile on her face.

"Just rest you big pervert." She said before adding with a hint of crimson on her cheeks, "When I think you have recovered enough, we can make as much love as you want."

'You little minx. Tease me all you want. When the time comes, I'll make you bite the sheets.' Max thought while glaring at her.

Rima put on a horrified expression on her face and back away, "Y-You rogue. Just what are you planning in that perverted mind of yours?"

Max was struck dumb before he gritted his teeth and looked away. Every movement of this succubus was enchanting. He was afraid he wouldn't be able to stop himself from jumping her. But in his condition, he wouldn't be able to do anything, so it would only torment him.

Rima also had her revenge for making her worry and stopped teasing him. She moved and lay beside him, inhaling his scent.

After a moment, Max asked, "What happened after I lost consciousness?"

"I don't know. I was cultivating in my room when I heard Tower Spirit's voice to take care of you. Then the next moment, I was sent out and saw you unconscious, writhing in pain." Rima answered. "I tried to check what was going on but my mana sense

wouldn't enter your body and even my Echo spell which can scan people and objects was useless. So, I had no choice but to watch as you suffered."

Max could feel the pain in her voice. Knowing how unbearable it was to watch your loved one suffer, he gently embraced her.

"You didn't try asking the Tower Spirit?" he asked after a moment.

"I did but it was as if it didn't answer."

Max frowned hearing this and picked up the broken tower resting on the table beside the bed. His eyes narrowed when he realized he couldn't contact the Tower Spirit.

Soon, he realized the Tower Spirit had fallen in a slumber and the anger he felt for it not allaying Rima's worries vanished.

Though he knew there wasn't much energy left in the tower, he knew there was enough for him to move in and out of the tower space several times. So, logically, the Tower Spirit shouldn't have fallen into slumber just because it sent him and Rima out.

But since it had, the only explanation was that it had used its remaining energy to do something else. For example, making sure the immolation of his mana core didn't kill him.

While he wasn't completely sure, he knew most likely this had happened otherwise how could he be uninjured. In fact, even his mana veins that should have been badly damaged following the destruction of his mana core were perfectly fine.

Gratitude for the Tower Spirit surged in his heart and he silently vowed to try his best to help it recover the tower in future.

"How long was I unconscious?" He asked.

"Not long. Just three days." Rima answered.

Max furrowed his brows before nodding. He was completely out and thus had no idea how long he was unconscious. So, even if it was three weeks, he wouldn't have been too surprised.

"Is Ellie, Ling Ming-er and Ling Han alright?"

A hint of anger flashed in Rima's eyes when she heard Ling Han's name and hurrumphed, "That ingrate... he took his sister and left two days ago without saying goodbye or asking about you."

Hearing this, Max patted her head, "Don't be angry. It's not his fault." As he told her how Ling Ming-er reacted after waking up, Rima calmed down and then furrowed her brows.

"Max... how about you don't use that energy on anyone else before you can figure out a way to make sure they wouldn't suffer from its side effects?" she suggested somewhat hesitantly.

Max thought for a moment before nodding, "Unless it is a matter of life and death, I'll refrain from using it on anyone other than you all."

"Good." Rima nodded. Then after laying in his embrace for a while and talking about a few more things, she sat up and left the bed, "That girl, Ellie, is outside. Just like me, she has been worried sick about you. Spend some time with her and comfort her uneasy heart."

"You can stay here..." Max began to say when Rima smilingly shook her head, "I'm not yet close to her like I'm with sister Belen and Leticia. So, she wouldn't be comfortable with me in the same room."

"I'm fortunate to have you, Rima." Max said, feeling emotional.

Rima's eyes reddened and her smile blossomed upon hearing his words, "I feel the same."

Saying this, she left the room and soon after, a hesitant Ellie entered.

Walking over to his bedside, she stiffly stood there before nervously asking, "H-How are you feeling, M-My Lord?"

"I'm feeling good. Thank you for asking." Max smiled and asked, "You didn't get bored after Ling Ming-er left, right?"

Ellie hurriedly shook her head, "N-No. I did not. Elder sister Rima was with me. We talked a lot and explored the city a little. So..."

As she began telling him what they did for the past three days, Ellie slowly relaxed.

"...the city lord mansion has opened the transportation formation. Anyone who isn't suspicious and can pay 500 High Grade Mana Stone use it to travel to Beast Emperor City."

Hearing this, Max's eyes lit up and he asked, "Do you know how many days are left until the recruitment day?"

"Yes," Ellie nodded, "Including today, there are five days left."

"I see." Max muttered.

'I have to figure out a way to earn 1500 High Grade Mana stones within these five days.'

Just as he was thinking how he could earn enough mana stone for transportation, Ellie looked at him and said in a low voice, "My Lord, you don't have to worry about mana stones. Elder Sister Rima has taken care of them."

"Oh?" Max was surprised and asked, "How did she do it?"

Max's emotions grew complicated when he heard Ellie's response.

"She..."

Chapter 852: Attraction Of A Peak Emperor Power

"My Lord, she sold the protection magic artifact her master had gifted her." Ellie answered. When she noticed Max's expression, she felt guilty because Rima had told her not to tell him because he wouldn't like it.

'I'm stupid. Why did I have to say it?' She felt like pulling her hair out. She was enjoying talking to him so much that before she knew it, she had revealed the only thing she was supposed to keep secret.

'Elder sister Rima would never like me now.' At this thought, she paled.

Though she and Max had yet to make their relationship official, it was only a matter of time. So, as his woman, she was supposed to maintain a good relationship with his other women, especially because she was new while they were his older lover.

Just as Max was feeling useless for forcing Rima to sell her magic artifact and Ellie was dreading her future, the door of the room was pushed open and the person in question walked in.

Ellie stiffened and lowered her head guiltily, not daring to meet her gaze.

Rima looked at her and shook her head before walking over and sitting on Max's other side.

Then looking at his lost expression, she gently smiled, "Don't blame yourself. We are lovers and we share everything. I'm sure if it were you in my place, you would have done the same. Am I right?"

"I would have, but..." Max began speaking but Rima interrupted him, her eyes narrowing, "But what? We are equal in this relationship. If I can rely on you and feel no bad for it, why shouldn't you?"

Max stared at her serious face and smiled, "You are right. I shouldn't feel bad."

"Good." Rima also smiled. She then looked at Ellie, who still had her head lowered, and coldly said, "What are you sitting there silently for? Shouldn't you apologize?"

Ellie shivered and bit her lip, "I-I'm sorry, elder sister. I shouldn't have told him."

"Hmph! I'll forgive you this once, but if you dare to tell him our secrets from now on, I'll punish you severely." Rima said, her tone stern.

In reality, she didn't blame her because if she was in her place, she would have also told him in that flow of conversation, but it was necessary to warn her. After all, the ladies would also have their own secrets that they wouldn't want Max to know for one reason or another. If she still carelessly let them out, she would lose everyone's trust which would hurt her most.

"I understand, elder sister." Ellie nodded.

"Alright. Now raise your head." Rima ordered and Ellie hesitantly looked up at her.

Rima then suddenly smiled and said, "I'm not angry, so there is no need to feel bad. Now, give me a smile."

Immediately, the tension in the room plummeted and Ellie, seeing she was angry, sighed in relief in her heart, but tears welled up in her eyes.

Seeing this, Rima sighed and went over to her side. Then Max watched as she whispered something in her ear.

Ellie became flustered, looked at him before hurriedly wiping her tears and putting on her best smile.

Max gave Rima a mental thumbs up. If it was him, he wouldn't have been able to coax her this fast and easily.

...

Three days flashed by in a blink of an eye. In these three days, Max did nothing but rest. Far from being bored, with two beautiful women—Rima and Ellie—by his side, he enjoyed the rest and felt peaceful and at ease.

When the sun rose on the fourth day, however, Max's expression was unsightly because while he had recovered physically and no longer felt weak, he still couldn't sense his dantian.

With him unable to use mana, how would he pass the recruitment test of the Beast Emperor Hall?

"Let's give it a try. With your physical strength and bloodline energy, you are easily comparable to a Five Star mage. Maybe you can pass the tests." Rima consoled before smiling teasingly, "Even if you don't, I can still take you in as my servant."

Knowing she was just trying to cheer him up, Max sighed, "Yeah. It seems I have no choice but to rely on my wives for survival now."

"That's not a bad thing, right?" Rima said, leaning on his shoulder.

"Yeah. It's really not." Max agreed, kissing her forehead. On his other side, Ellie blushed a little before nuzzling on his shoulder.

Amused, Max also kissed her forehead, making Ellie close her eyes and smile contentedly.

After having a light breakfast in the restaurant next to their inn, the trio headed toward the City Square where the transportation formation was.

The city was bustling with people and their tamed beasts.

Looking at them, Max patted the beast storage bag hanging on his waist, 'Hang in there buddy. I'll soon find something to heal you.'

Since the Nascent Energy wasn't able to penetrate the Golden Winged Python's tough skin and what managed to do it was unable to resist the foreign energies rampaging inside its body and since he also couldn't buy the higher tiered medicine due to the lack of mana stones, he had been feeling helpless.

After getting the tower, he had asked for the Tower Spirit's help but it told him before it recovered, it couldn't expel the foreign energies, disappointing him.

However, he knew he could find something to heal it in the Beast Emperor Hall since it specialized in beast taming.

So, joining the Beast Emperor Hall was doubly important to him.

...

Because the recruitment was starting tomorrow, a long queue was formed in front of the transportation formation.

Max's trio got in the line and after a few hours, it was finally their turn to use it. Rima paid the mana stones and soon they were transported to the Beast Emperor City along with several other people.

Shua!

Right as they were orienting themselves, A force pushed everyone away from the formation, causing them to stumble.

Max wasn't feeling much discomfort so he quickly reacted and held Rima and Ellie, stopping them from falling.

He then shot a glare at the middle-aged man dressed in a black robe with Beast Emperor Hall's insignia pinned to his chest.

The man was an Emperor Mage but noticing Max's dissatisfaction, he lightly dipped his head in apology and a voice sounded in his ears.

[My apologies, young lad, but as you can see, the formation is flashing, meaning another batch of people is being transported here. So, I have no choice but to move everyone out of the formation.]

Max calmed down hearing him apologise and nodded in understanding.

He then led Rima and Ellie to a slightly open area to recover before glancing around.

The whole city—even though it was several times bigger than Malta City—seemed to be jam packed with people and more and more were arriving via transportation formations or city gates.

He also noticed that only less than one fifth of the people here were from the desolate regions, but be it the desolate region's people or the native of central plains, everyone looked excited and nervous.

'So, this is the attraction of a peak Emperor Rank Power?' He mused, suddenly realizing that he had been severely underestimating the danger he was in because his enemies, be it the elves who snatched his Thunder Sword, Oliver and his father or the Thunder Family after his sword, all of them belonged to powers way stronger than the Beast Emperor Hall.

Chapter 853: Recruitment - First Test

A few moments later, Rima oriented herself and then put her mouth next to Ellie's ear.

'Hm?' Max furrowed his brows and extended his hand to pull Rima back.

Unlike them, Ellie was just an ordinary person, therefore, it would take her a lot more to neutralize the side effects of teleportation. And because the mana had yet to strengthen her mind, any try to help her would most likely harm her.

While Nascent Energy could help her without causing her any harm, he unfortunately had none left and he didn't want to try using his bloodline energy on her because it wasn't as calm and gentle as his Nascent Energy and could harm her. This was why he was just simply waiting for her to recover on her own.

But Rima was trying to help her with her sound magic... a very dangerous move. Even a slight mistake could fry Ellie's brain.

However, before he could grab Rima and pull her back, he noticed Ellie's complexion visibly improving and the murkiness in her eyes lessening.

Surprised, he hesitated for a moment before lowering his hand. Since Rima was doing it without consulting with him, it meant she was confident in herself. Since this was the case, he also decided to believe her. Still though, his worried gaze remained glued to Ellie's face.

Seconds ticked by and a few minutes later, Ellie's had completely recovered and Rima pulled back. Only then did Max sigh in relief and relax. But then he felt Rima's gaze burning into him and smiled bitterly.

When he looked at her, sure enough, she was staring at him with narrowed eyes and asked, "Did you think... I was being reckless... like you?"

"No," Max immediately shook his head and gently circled his hands around her willowy waist, pulling her against him and with a smile on his face, he said, "I was just a little worried because I didn't know you could control your sound magic so well."

"Hmph!" Rima snorted, clearly not buying his excuse.

Ellie looked at them in confusion, not understanding why her elder sister was suddenly angry with Max. Then, she sensibly... averted her gaze and acted like she hadn't seen anything.

Max, who had instinctively looked toward her for help, became speechless. 'This little...'

Taking a breath, he said, "Alright, I'm sorry, my love. I should have believed in you."

"Of course, you should have." Rima grunted before saying, "I'll forgive you if you promise to make it up to me."

"Sure, I promise. What do you want me to do?" Max asked,

A hint of blush adorned her cheeks and she averted her gaze before whispering in a voice that only he could hear, "I want you to make love to me before you do it with Ellie."

The corner of Max's lips curled up hearing her demand which made Rima, who was peeking at him from the corner of her eyes, redden in embarrassment.

Then, she started getting angry but just before she could open her sweet lips and say something, Max tapped her nose and nodded. "Alright."

Rima blushed and then scoffed, trying to appear nonchalant about it but her reddened cheeks and satisfied smile was unmistakable.

Max chuckled inwardly, finding her adorable.

Now that he had physically recovered completely, he had already planned to find some alone time with Rima and gain some Nascent Energy which he wanted to use in healing his dantian if possible and also remove Ellie's curse.

The taboo feeling of having both a mother and daughter had already made him desire Ellie, but after spending and enjoying the last three days in her company, he found her youthful vibrant energy and innocence that was somehow different from Maria and Lily's innocence quite refreshing and felt himself wanting to make her his woman more than ever.

Moreover, knowing once he removed her curse she would be able to cultivate and become a mage which would give her some ability to defend herself and also strengthen her pure yin energy, he no longer wanted to delay matters with her.

Shua!

Right then, a peculiar sensation washed over him, causing his blood to go cold. It felt as if some powerful beast was eyeing him.

As he turned to the source of the sensation, he realized the previously bustling city had become completely silent and everyone was staring in the same direction as him.

Near the centre of the city, three figures dressed in black robes were hovering in the air. Immediately, he realized they were the source of the feeling he felt or more precisely, it was the white-haired old man who was flanked by a middle-aged man and a young woman.

The old swept his gaze across the city, his murky eyes lightening up occasionally. Once he was done and everyone's gaze was focused on him, his lips moved and everyone heard his voice ring near their ears.

"This old man welcomes everyone on behalf of the Beast Emperor Hall. I wish you young people luck and hope you manage to join my Emperor Hall."

As his words fell, he showed a small, genial and encouraging smile. Then his figure abruptly disappeared.

The duo left behind showed no surprise and the middle-aged man glanced at the young lady, who seemed just a few years older than Rima and Max.

The young lady nodded and said, her voice cold rumbling across the sky, "You have 2 minutes. All those who aren't here to participate in the recruitment of the Beast Emperor Hall, leave the city."

Immediately, those who were accompanying others wished them luck and bade them farewell before leaving the city.

After two minutes, a little more than half of the people were left in the city.

The young lady, expressionless, took out a fist-sized golden bell and announced, "Now, you'll be undergoing the first test. Anyone who can't stay on their feet for at least 10 minutes will be eliminated. You have ten seconds, put away your companion beasts and prepare yourselves."

Max furrowed his brows looking at the bell. 'This test targets our mind, wills?'

There wasn't enough time to contemplate, so he glanced at Rima, "Do your best."

Rima curled her lips and smiled mischievously, "You too, but don't force yourself too much. After all, I can always take you with me as my servant."

"..."

Max was speechless. "You really want me to fail, don't you?" He asked,

"Of course... not." Rima chuckled, causing Max to shake his head.

Tong~

Right then, a heavy bell tong sounded and Max and Rima, just like everyone else, felt their minds rumble.

Chapter 854: Recruitment - Inferior

"Arrrggghhh!"

"Damn it! At least tell us before you ring that damned bell!"

Many pained cries arose along with many complaining voices. Max also felt like shouting because his head also throbbed painfully when the sound reached him but he managed to hold back.

Worried about Rima, he looked at her and saw her face was drained of all colors but her eyes were shining in excitement which made Max raise his brows.

'She... the sound of the attack hasn't messed up her mind, has it?' He couldn't help but think even though he knew this wasn't the case.

Feeling his gaze, Rima glanced at him and asked, "I can block the sound. Want me to help you with the next wave?"

Just as Max took a moment to think whether he should have her help him, the bell lady's cold voice echoed through the sky, "Anyone who helps another will be immediately eliminated."

Rima's expression stiffened at the announcement and she looked at her, wondering if she had heard her.

She then pursed her lips and gave Max a helpless glance. In response, Max smiled, "It's alright. I can endure for ten minutes. Besides I don't think they are testing just our mental endurance, it might be more complicated, so be careful."

Immediately after saying this, he realized there was no need for him to worry about her because with Rima able to block the sound, whatever trickery was behind this test would be of no consequence to her.

"You be careful too, alright." Rima nodded without trying to tease him.

Max only had the time to nod in response before another ring rang out.

Tong~

This time he and everyone else were ready for the mental impact but unexpectedly to everyone, except Max, this time they didn't feel any pain but a sense of primal fear filled their being, making them break out in cold sweat and shudder violently.

Ba-Dum! Ba-Dum!

The fear made Max's chest tighten while his heart began beating like drums, each beat intensifying his fear, suffocating him.

In just a few moments, he was drained of all strength and what was worse was that he could see no hope of survival in front of such fear. For a moment, he even thought that death wasn't a bad thing. At least, once he was dead, he wouldn't feel this fear.

However, right as this thought crossed his mind, Lily, Anna, Emily, Esme, Rima and others' faces flashed in his mind and he immediately forced himself to come to his senses.

Though it was difficult, even as he felt the fear was about to devour him, he kept his thoughts clear and after what felt like a long time, the fear abruptly vanished, leaving him gasping for breath.

Ha! Ha! Ha!

While taking deep breaths, he looked around and noticed just like him, *almost* everyone who was still standing was also covered in sweat, their faces pale with fright as if they had faced death itself. As for those who were lying on the ground, frothing from their mouths, he didn't even look at them.

"Are you alright, Max?" Right then, he heard Rima's concerned voice and looked over, immediately, his eyelids twitched because unlike everyone else, Rima looked calm and at ease, clearly she blocked the sound, so it didn't induce that fear in her.

"I'm alright." He finally said after suppressing the burgeoning envy in his heart.

"What happened?" She asked, sweeping her gaze across everyone around them.

"The second bell was the test of our will. It made us face overwhelming fear." Max answered, his voice low and filled with disappointment with himself.

Ever since he broke through the Four Star realm and was able to fight across the realm as easily as drinking water, he had begun thinking that he was extraordinary.

While he faced several setbacks afterwards which made him feel powerless, he subconsciously thought it was all because his enemies had an unfair advantage as they were hundreds if not thousands of years older than him and thus more powerful. If they were as young as him, he could've dominated them with ease.

But after facing that primal fear, he knew he was still lacking even compared to other Four Star mages because whatever that fear was, he could tell it didn't exceed his realm.

Heck, even if he didn't take that into account, he noticed a few people, still in the Four Star realm, who seemed to have fared better than him.

What did it mean? It meant even if his overall strength was stronger than them, in the aspect of will, he was still inferior.

Noticing his glum expression, Rima felt a pain in her heart but she didn't try to cheer him up because she knew Max needed this.

She had already noticed that despite going through everything, Max still had a somewhat laidback, uncaring and strangely confident attitude bordering on being overconfident which even he didn't seem to be aware of.

In her opinion, this attitude needed to change otherwise it might cause something bad to happen in future. And this test of will seemed like the catalyst needed to this change.

After all, if a man had a firm will, he could control himself even in the worst of the situations, stay calm and come out victorious and more importantly... alive.

So, despite feeling pain seeing him down like this, she stayed silent.

...

The middle-aged man and the young lady furrowed their brows when they saw more than half of the participants hadn't been able to endure the second toll and fell unconscious.

[Sigh! What a disappointment! While the number of participants was good, their quality is lacking too much.] The man transmitted to the young lady, feeling dejected. He then added, [Meredith, how about we conclude this test here?]

Meredith, the young lady, was silent for a moment before she gritted her teeth and nodded, about to put away the bell.

[No need. Go ahead with the final bell.]

Right then, a voice sounded in their ears which made her stop.

The middle-aged man looked up at the clouds and seemed to see the old man from before standing there with another figure. After hesitating for a moment, he transmitted, [But Grand Elder, that will eliminate even more participants, leaving us with very few disciples.]

[You are right, Elder. So, do this...]

After hearing the old man's suggestion, the middle-aged man, one of the Elders of the Beast Emperor's Inner Hall, shook his head silently, clearly not liking it, but Meredith went ahead with the suggestion.

After waiting for a short while for the elders to send out the eliminated participants and let the standing ones recover slightly, she swept her gaze across everyone and spoke, her cold tone carrying clear disappointment.

"In every recruitment, disciples have to face three bell chimes before they can proceed to the second half of the test. But seeing your lot's display, very few of you will be able to

pass the third toll. Unfortunately, we are in need of manpower, so we don't want to eliminate more of you before the final assessment."

While her words stung many of the disciples, they also felt relieved because they weren't sure they could endure the third chime. So, they were happy with her decision to—

Just as everyone was starting to celebrate in their minds, Meredith continued,

"However, it doesn't mean we'll let even the trash join us. So, as long as you stand still for half a minute after the third chime, you'll be allowed to continue, otherwise you are eliminated. Now, prepare yourself."

Tong~

Immediately, everyone stiffened.

Chapter 855: Recruitment - Lost Control

Tong~

Max's mind jolted the moment the bell chimed. By the time he recovered from the impact, he found himself standing on a chaotic battlefield.

Countless demons were battling against humans and were slaughtering them one by one.

'Hm? Am I supposed to kill demons to pass?' thought Max, confused about the objective of this test.

But right then, a familiar but desperate voice called to him.

"Max, save me!"

Before he even looked toward the source of voice, his heart started racing and when he looked over and saw Leticia, drenched in blood, facing a dark-skinned winged demon who had pierced her abdomen with its claw, his eyes turned red.

Immediately, he began circulating his mana to cast [Phoenix Wings] to rush over to help her but to his horror, he couldn't feel his mana.

Remembering his dantian's state, he turned to using bloodline energy to enhance himself and started rushing over but then he realized his bloodline energy couldn't enhance him and he was running at the speed of an ordinary human.

'What's this? Even if bloodline energy didn't boost my attributes, with my current physique, I should easily match a Four Star or at least a Peak Three Star mage's peak speed.' This thought had just crossed his mind when he saw the dark-skinned winged demon look over, a cruel and sadistic grin appearing on its ferocious face.

Then under his gaze, it raised Leticia in air and swiped its other clawed hand toward her neck.

"NOOOOOO!!!" Max's temple throbbed, his eyes widened and he let out a hoarse roar while pushing himself to his limits, wanting to arrive in time and save her but everything was useless.

Pak!

Under his horrified gaze, Leticia's head flew through the air and landed in front of him, her widened eyes staring at him with a resentful look in them while her lips moved.

"You didn't... save... me..."

BANG!

Max froze in place, staring at Leticia's severed head with bloody red eyes.

"AHHHHHHH!" He then let out a manic roar. His blood boiling within his body and blood mist started oozing out of him along with tangible killing intent that twisted the space around him.

Staring at the dark-skinned winged demon, he uttered in a low, guttural voice, "I WILL SLOWLY TEAR YOU FROM LIMB TO LIMB AND BURN YOUR SOUL IN HELL FIRE FOR ETERNI—"

"MAX!! Wake up!"

Right then, he heard a shout and the vision in front of his eyes shifted.

The first thing he saw was the middle-aged man who was by the bell examiner's side standing in front of him, staring at him with narrowed eyes.

The second thing he noticed was that his hand was raised toward the man's neck, seemingly about to grab him.

The third thing he noticed was that he was covered in gradually dissipating blood mist. He also noticed Rima standing a few feet away from him, looking at him with concern in her beautiful eyes.

He glanced over at her and calmly said, "I'm alright." Then he looked at the middle-aged man and bowed slightly, "Thank you, Elder, for helping me just now."

It wasn't difficult for him to figure out what had happened after seeing the blood mist that had appeared around him in the vision. Clearly, he had lost control and subconsciously used a self-harming ability of his bloodline.

Thankfully, this middle-aged man seemed to have acted on time and helped him snap back to his senses, otherwise...

Feeling weakness in his body and seeing he only had less than half of his bloodline energy left, he took a deep breath and glanced at Meredith still hovering in the sky at the center of the city, causally looking at him.

"Are you blaming her for showing you whatever vision you saw and lost control?" Right then, the middle-aged man spoke.

Max didn't answer but his expression told everything. The man shook his head and disappeared, leaving only a single sentence. "It's the weak and cowards who blame others for their shortcomings. I expect better from you."

Max watched him leave, his eyes flickering in thought.

He then sighed, 'You are right, Elder. Only weak and cowards blame others for their shortcomings. If my will was strong, that vision wouldn't have pulled me in like it did and I even might have been able to destroy it.'

"Max, what happened?" Rima arrived beside him and used her mana to clean him.

"I couldn't differentiate between illusion and reality and almost lost my mind." answered Max, his tone even.

He then asked, "Were you able to block the sound?"

"Yes." Rima nodded.

"Good." Max hummed before asking, "How many seconds did I last before losing control?"

Rima pursed her lips, not wanting to answer because she feared it might give him a blow harder than he could endure, but under his insistent gaze, she sighed and raised two fingers.

"Twenty seconds, huh?" Max muttered, disappointed. "But it's alright. Now that I know what I'm lacking in, I'll find a way to—"

Just as he was trying to cheer himself up, he noticed Rima had an odd look in her eyes and his face immediately fell.

"Don't tell me I only lasted two seconds?" He asked, incredulous.

Rima averted her gaze, not answering.

Max fell into a dumbfounded silence. It was only after Meredith announced that the test was over and they had half an hour to rest did he finally speak, "Damn..."

"It's alright, Max. As you were saying, now that you know your weakness, mending it wouldn't be too difficult." Rima consoled as she gently held his hand and leaned on his shoulder.

"You are right." Max nodded and then took out the pill bottle from his spatial ring which the middle-aged man had put there before leaving.

Even though he hadn't told him what it was for, since he had given it after he burned his bloodline energy, it most likely helped it recover.

As put the pill in his mouth, it immediately slid down his throat and dissolved into mist which rapidly merged into his blood.

Rumble!

His blood began to boil and strands of bloodline energy started to appear in his blood veins. Within half an hour, all his exhausted bloodline energy recovered.

"As expected of an Emperor Rank Power, they have such wonderful pills." He muttered. If he could have more of these pills, he wouldn't have to worry about using up his bloodline energy when fighting.

"Alright, rest is over." Just then, Meredith's voice rumbled, "Elders, distribute the trial plaques."

Chapter 856: Recruitment - Final Assessment Begins

Soon all the participants who managed to stay on their feet for thirty seconds after the third bell chime were handed obsidian plaques.

Although Max had only lasted two seconds in the vision, he hadn't fallen to the ground, so he was considered passed.

Max didn't feel happy about it but it was what it was. So, like everyone else, he waited for Meredith to announce what the next test was going to be.

Meredith didn't waste time and announced, "This time, we have eliminated all other tests, leaving only the final one. As long as you pass it, you will be taken in as Outer Hall Disciples. Not only that, if your performance catches any of the Inner or Core Hall Elders' eyes, they might take you as their disciple and allow you to join Inner and Core Hall, so do your best."

Pausing a bit to let the information sink in, she continued, "For this final test, you'll be sent into Beast Emperor Hall's minor spatial realm where you'll hunt down the mutated beasts. Each beast of the same cultivation realm you hunt will give you 10 Merit Points. If it's a realm lower than you, it'll give you 1 Merit Point and if it's a realm higher than you, it'll give you 100 Merit Points.

The trial will last a month. If by the end you have at least 1000 Merit Points, you'll have passed the trial, if not, you are eliminated."

'Oh?' Max raised his brows in surprise upon hearing this.

Beside him, Rima frowned, "Someone who hunts a Low-stage beast will get equal Merit Points to the one who hunts a Peak Stage beast of the same realm—that's not fair. They should give the different Merit Points based on the beasts' strength."

"Do you think they don't know this?" Max said, shaking his head.

Rima fell silent upon hearing this.

Similar murmuring arose in the crowd and someone couldn't hold back from crying out the unjust of the rules.

To everyone's surprise, Meredith immediately waved her hand and sent the one who cried out flying out of the city, shattering his plaque.

"The rules are rules. They won't be changed just because you feel jealous of others having an easy time. If you are capable, you can also find Lower stage beasts."

"Aside from this, I have a warning for you all—there is a good chance that you'll die in the minor realm because there won't be anyone to save you. Now, with all this said, you have two minutes, anyone who feels dissatisfied with the rules or is afraid of dying can leave the city."

Saying this, Meredith closed her eyes.

Hearing this, many of the participant's expressions fluctuated and soon someone left the city with their head down.

With someone taking the lead, over ten percent of the total remaining participants left the city.

After two minutes were up, Meredith opened her eyes and swept her gaze across those who stayed and nodded approvingly.

"You all are not bad. Talent and all else can be compensated for but courage can't. As long as you survive this trial, with Beast Emperor Hall's nurturing, I'm sure most of you will break past your limits and become stronger than you had ever imagined of becoming."

Hearing such encouraging words from her, everyone was moved, even Max.

"Alright. It's time." Meredith glanced at the middle-aged Elder, who nodded, took out a white boned claw and after injecting his mana into it, he swiped it across the sky.

Rip!

Under everyone's gazes, a rift was torn open in the sky, revealing a dense jungle within.

"Stabilize it!" Meredith shouted and started making hand seals. The middle-aged man did the same.

One after another, many complicated patterns appeared in front of them which they sent into the rift. Slowly, the rift's fluctuations stabilized.

At this moment, Meredith and the Elder's auras had considerably weakened.

Meredith waved her hand, "Go in. Try to kill as many beasts as you can because the more Merit Points you have when you enter the Beast Emperor Hall, the easier time you will have."

Hearing this, Max and others', who were confident in themselves, eyes lit up, understanding what she meant.

"Thank you for the advice, Senior. I'll try my best." A woman dressed in white bowed in thanks, then summoned her companion beast—a three-meter tall, white furred wolf—and jumped into the rift.

Others followed and entered one after another.

"Let's go." Max held Rima's hand and started moving toward the rift.

Rima nodded but couldn't help asking, "Are you sure you are alright?"

"Yeah. Except for the fact that I can't access my dantian, I'm in top shape." Max assured her before adding, "Moreover, aren't you with me? With us joining forces, we should have no problem fighting against weaker Tier 5 beasts."

Rima nodded, "Yeah. But let me be the vanguard this time, alright?"

"Sure." Max agreed, putting a smile on Rima's face. She finally had the chance to help him, to be useful to him.

...

"..."

A short while later, Rima, with a blank expression on her face, was standing at the bank of a river with a large crocodile beast's corpse lying in front of her.

Just a few moments ago, she had entered the rift with Max but when she arrived here, she found herself alone.

Before she could even think why Max wasn't with her, this crocodile attacked her.

Shua!

Right then, a figure suddenly appeared atop the river and started plunging down.

It was a girl who looked to be the same age as Leticia. She had entered the rift with her elder sister just now and appeared here.

"Ahhhh! Sister, save me."

Noticing a crocodile suddenly appear where she was about to fall, she cried out in terror.

Rima snapped back to her senses when she heard the cry. Taking a breath, she concentrated her elemental mana in her throat and cast one of her magic spells, producing a sharp keening sound.

The crocodile, about to open its mouth and jump up to devour the falling girl, stiffened and the light vanished from its eyes.

Plop!

Swish!

Not wasting any time, Rima waved her hand and a rope conjured from her mana tied around the girl's waist right as she fell into the river and pulled her out.

"Cough! Cough! Damn it. Why did I appear in such a dangerous location? Is the Beast Emperor Hall trying to kill—Huh? Who are you? Where is my sister?"

The girl coughed out a mouthful of water and started complaining as she stood up. But amidst her ramblings, she saw Rima, who she didn't recognise, and put her guard up before looking around to find her sister but failed.

"I'm Rima and you appeared alone here. Your sister... she seems to have been sent to some other place." Rima said distractedly, her heart heavy from worry.

"What?!" The girl cried out before her face turned red in anger, "This damned Emperor Hall is really trying to kill us. How am I supposed to survive without my sister?"

Rima furrowed her brows in annoyance. Not wanting to stay near her any longer and hear her nonsense, she turned around and rushed away.

After finding a safe place, she sat down cross-legged, closed her eyes and began concentrating.

'Please stay safe until I find you, Max.'

Chapter 857: Recruitment - Shapeshifter

"Hey, stop!"

The girl hastily called out when she noticed Rima leave and tried to follow her. But she was just a peak Three Star Mage and therefore was way too slow compared to Rima. So, she soon lost sight of her, causing her to stamp the ground in frustration and fear.

"How heartless! How could she abandon me like this?" She grumbled in anger, but as she looked around and noticed the silence of the forest, she shivered and muttered in regret,

"Big sister was right. I shouldn't speak too much in front of others and annoy them. Mm, maybe I can still find her. If I apologize, she might be willing to protect me until my big sister find me."

Just as she was about to continue moving in the direction Rima had left, a soft sighed sounded behind her followed by a voice, "It's alright, little sister. I have already found you."

The girl froze for a moment before her expression grew ecstatic and she turned around. Seeing a girl who looked similar to her standing there, she cried out 'sister' and jumped toward her, wanting to embrace her and vent the fear and frustration she felt earlier to her.

However...

Crack!

Before she could embrace her, her sister raised her hand, grabbed her neck and twisted it.

The girl looked at her sister with a confused look in her rapidly dimming eyes, not able to understand why her beloved sister would harm her.

Her 'sister' smiled and before she died, she transformed into a white-skinned, long-limbed and hunched-back humanoid beast with a wolfish head. It had mutli-coloured pupils and triangular eyes which seemed to suck in the soul of people.

"Now go in peace, little lamb." The beast grinned. Seeing it, a glint of relaxation and relief flashed in the girl's eyes.

As long as her killer wasn't her sister, everything was alright to her.

'Sorry, big sister. I was too stupid. If there is another life and I once again become your younger sister, I'll make sure to listen to you and not cause you... so much... trouble.' With this final thought, her body went limp and light in her eyes completely disappeared.

"Keke, if everyone who came this time is an easy prey like her, it would be a great feast." The beast chuckled before it opened its mouth wide, revealing sharp teeth and started devouring the girl's corpse.

Once it was done, it smacked its lips, "This lamb, although delicious, didn't have much energy, but.."

It looked in the direction Rima had left and grinned, "I'm sure that one is more nutritious and will help me cross the threshold to the next realm."

...

Swoosh! Swoosh!

In a far away place in the minor realm, a girl dressed in green holding a long sword was standing atop her flying mount which was rapidly rushing away.

If Rima saw her, she would feel she looked familiar because she resembled the girl she saved and who unfortunately died to the strange beast.

Suddenly, a bad feeling arose in her heart and almost at the same time, a faint crack echoed in her spatial ring.

Her heart fell.

"Cloud, stop." She said, causing the bird beneath her to slow down and stop.

Then taking a deep breath, she accessed her spatial ring and took out a cracked jade pendant.

Staring at it, her eyes turned cloudy with tears and grief, "Little Amy..."

After a while, she gathered herself, slit her thumb with her sword, dropping her blood on the pendant before making a few magic hand seals.

Shua!

When the last seal was imprinted onto the pendant, it shone with a brilliant light and the last few scenes her younger sister saw replayed in front of her.

"Illusion demon beast..." Looking at the grinning face of the white-skinned humanoid beast, a chill flashed in her eyes.

"You'll pay for this." She muttered, her voice low. Then Rima's image she saw just now flashed in her mind and her gaze darkened further. "And you too."

...

Rima, unaware that just a few moments after she left the girl was killed and her elder sister had marked her as an enemy just because she refused to protect her further, continued to concentrate, wanting to feel Max's presence.

But after a while, she failed to sense anything and furrowed her brows.

During the past three days, they talked about many things. During conversation, Max had revealed to her that he could sense their presences as long as they weren't too far away and even if they were, he could still tell whether they were alive or not.

She had asked him how he could do it and after he truthfully told her it was related to his bloodline, she had experimented to sense his presence through the Nascent Energy in her body.

Though she wasn't sure, since the Nascent Energy she absorbed all this while contained Max's mark, she should be able to sense him. So, she tried and indeed, she sensed him.

Then she moved several miles away from him and tried again. This time, while she once again succeeded, the feeling wasn't as clear as before. She could only vaguely feel out the direction he was in, but it was already a win.

Now, she wasn't sure how far the rift had sent him away from her, but she entertained the hope that she might be able to feel his rough direction and then she could track him down.

However... she was unable to sense him, which disappointed her greatly. Knowing Max wasn't at his peak, she couldn't rest easy.

'What do I do now?' She thought, opening her eyes.

Suddenly, she felt someone approaching her and looked to her left.

Rustle!

A moment later, the leaves rustled and a figure appeared in her sight. Her pupils constricted and a look of surprise appeared on her face because this figure was none other than... Max.

"I finally found you." Max smiled, looking relieved.

Rima stood up, also smiled and asked, "Why were we separated?"

Max shook his head, walking over, "I'm not sure, but it must be because they don't want us to stay in groups."

"Heh, I can't understand what is going on in their minds. They can separate us via rift but what's stopping us from forming a group in here? Completely useless."

As she spoke, she had arrived in front of Max and opened her arms for a hug.

Max smiled indulgently and took a step forward to embrace her, "Let's not bother with them. We should—ahhhhhh!"

Mid-sentence, he let out a blood-curdling cry and looked at Rima, who was barely half a foot away, in horror and disbelief because before he knew it, she had stabbed a dagger in his heart and executed a sonic spell, shaking his mind.

'Max' stared at her, wide-eyed and as his mind became muddled, he transformed into the white-skinned humanoid beast.

"How did you... see through my illusion?" It asked even as its mind became hazy and its life started slipping away.

Rima didn't answer. Instead, she infused mana into the dagger, shattering its demon core. Then, she pulled the dagger out and stabbed it into its forehead, completely ending its life.

"You deserve to die ten thousand times for daring to take on my beloved's appearance." She coldly said, rage burning in her eyes.

Then as she stared at its corpse, her expression turned grim. This minor realm was turning out to be much more dangerous than she expected.

'Max... please don't die.' She looked up at the clear sky through the canopy of the trees, clenching the dagger in her hand.

Chapter 858: A Blessing In Disguise

Shua!

When his vision cleared, Max found himself standing in a volcanic region.

Just like Rima, he was also stunned to realize they were separated and also became worried for her.

Unlike her, however, he could roughly sense the direction she was in and knowing that as a mage nearing the absolute peak of Four Star, she could handle herself as long as she didn't face opponents higher in realms head-on, he didn't become too distressed and looked around the place he was in.

Immediately, he realized two things.

One, this region had highly condensed Fire Elemental Mana and therefore was a wonderful place for a Fire Elemental Mage.

Unfortunately, his dantian was *locked* so he couldn't cultivate. Still, he could try to comprehend Fire Elemental Law, but unfortunately again, he only had one month in which he needed to collect at least 1000 Merit Points and find Rima.

Second thing he realized was that... he was surrounded by some strange beasts that seemed to have taken this territory as their home. Luckily, they seemed to be hibernating and hadn't sensed his presence yet.

But Max wasn't a slightest bit relieved because the weakest of these beasts, who looked to be made from volcanic rocks and numbered several hundred, was a mid-stage Tier 4 beast and the strongest seemed to have reached peak Tier 6, equivalent of a Peak King Mage.

One wrong step could startle them awake and he would definitely become their food because without him able to use mana, he didn't have any hope of escaping them.

Even though his physical strength was quite high to the point that he wouldn't be afraid to engage a mid or even a high-stage Five Star Mage in close combat even now, against magic beasts who possessed superior physical bodies, he was afraid he might not be able to compare with even an Early-stage Tier 4 beast let alone deal with these stronger beasts.

Taking a quiet breath, he turned around and started walking away but just as he took the first step, his heart skipped a beat because someone had locked onto him.

Turning his head in the direction of the active volcano, he saw one of the rocky beasts—the peak Tier 6 one—had its eyes open and was staring down at him.

Bang!

A split second after their gazes met, Max stomped the ground and bolted at his current top speed while cursing his bad luck.

However... he hadn't fled even ten meters when...

Shua!

Bang!

A large, hill sized shadow appeared in front of him and before he could react, a sharp pain shot through him and his consciousness flickered like a candle in a fierce storm.

A moment later, he blacked out.

...

An unknown amount of time later, Max felt as if he was being cooked alive from inside out. He wanted to groan but couldn't make any sound.

Moment by moment, his consciousness grew clearer along with the burning sensation and the pain became increasingly unbearable.

'I'm not dead?' Temporarily ignoring the pain, he thought, relieved but confused.

'Don't tell me the beast didn't want to eat raw meat so it's cooking me?' He wondered in a daze because he couldn't think of any other reason why he was still alive.

Then suddenly, he had a flashback.

Right before he blacked out, he seemed to have seen a figure in white clothes clashing against the rocky beast.

'So that guy arrived to save me from the beast but I was still struck and lost consciousness?' He mused. Right then, his other senses became clear and he realized he was floating on some stimy material that was very hot and the air around him was toxic.

'Wait!' His eyes snapped open and the sight of black stone walls stretching into sky along with the boiling sound from beneath him confirmed the thought he just had, 'I'm in the volcano.'

'When the beast was about to kill me, that guy appeared but I was still struck and was sent flying... into this volcano?' He mused.

'Did that guy die? Or maybe he thought I was dead so he didn't bother checking the volcano and left?'

He couldn't hear the sound of fighting so he guessed the battle must have already concluded and either the guy was dead or left thinking *he* was dead.

'Forget it. I should first leave the volcano or I would melt into nothingness in a short—' He stopped thinking about what might have happened and focused on his current plight. Then suddenly, a thought struck him.

'Why aren't I already dead?'

The temperature of this volcano was so high that he should have melted within a few seconds after he fell here, but not only was he still alive, only his skin was burnt and flesh was slightly charred. This didn't make sense.

Ba-Dum! Ba-Dum!

Suddenly, he noticed something and his heart started racing.

'This is... fire elemental mana?' He thought, feeling an incomparably pure fiery energy enter his body.

This energy was also the reason why he was feeling as if he was being cooked because as it entered him, it permeated all his organs before converging toward his dantian.

Suddenly, his pupils constricted because he could now feel and access his dantian.

Not wasting any time, he sent his bloodline sense into it and let out a sigh of relief because his mana was still there even though countless cracks marred its surface.

After he observed his dantian for a while, joy flashed in his eyes. 'Truly a blessing in disguise!'

He had thought he was done for when he was transported into the volcanic beasts' territory but what he thought of as a disaster turned out to be a blessing because not only he was able to access his dantian once again, but his almost destroyed mana core was now healing—the cracks on it were closing—as the Pure Fire Elemental Mana from the volcano entered it.

Immediately, he discarded the thought of leaving, suppressed his pain receptors and dove deeper into the volcano.

Feeling the Fire Elemental Mana become denser, he was overjoyed. Activating his cultivation technique, he started to greedily absorb the mana.

Chapter 859: A Pleasant Surprise

Second trickled into minutes, minutes into hours and hours into days.

In the joy of watching his mana core heal, Max forgot the time completely and it was only after all the cracks healed did he take stock of time, realizing over a week had passed.

He was hungry and sleepy after cultivating tirelessly for a week. Although he wanted to ride the momentum and fill his mana core with the Fire Elemental Mana in one go, he decided against it, and climbed out of the magma.

Apart from the broken tower and somehow the beast storage bag, the magna had already destroyed all his possessions—his clothes and spatial ring.

With his spatial ring that had some food in it destroyed, he had no choice but to use his mana to alleviate his hunger.

Then he found a good place on the volcano wall, dug out a cave and fell asleep.

...

A day later, he woke up, feeling refreshed and ready for another intense cultivation session.

As he sat up, he noticed his burnt flesh and skin had already healed.

"Hm? The passive healing effect of my bloodline has been strengthened?" He murmured, pleasantly surprised.

When he used his bloodline sense in his body, he realized what was going on. In his blood, there was a trace of Fire Energy and this trace had strengthened his bloodline.

"This is..." He didn't know what implications it had but nor was he in a rush to find out as long as it didn't negatively affect him which it clearly did not.

So, calming his mind, he jumped into the magma and this time he went deeper than before and continued on until he could barely bear the heat.

"How wonderful!" Even though his hair turned into ashes and his skin started melting, causing him a lot of pain, Max felt happy and excited because the Fire Elemental Mana here was even denser and a bit purer.

Suddenly he paused and a thought crossed his mind, 'Since magma contains many types of toxic materials, shouldn't the Fire Elemental Mana be contaminated and not so pure?'

This was only logical. However, since things were the other way around, it meant there was something that was causing this anomaly and whatever it was, it should be deep within the volcano.

'I'll check it if I can. Right now, though, I should focus on cultivating.' Thinking this, he activated his cultivation technique and began absorbing the Fire Elemental Mana.

At this moment, his core was only less than one-tenth full, but fortunately, it was all Fire Elemental Mana and was only a little less pure than what was available in the magma, so there was no real need to waste time in refining it to match magma mana's purity.

Because Fire Elemental Mana was plenty in the magma and his cultivation technique enhanced his mana absorption and refinement speed, it only took him over ten hours to fill half his core with Fire Elemental Mana.

He wanted to continue and completely fill his core but he faced another problem.

While his union with Garima had transformed all the attributeless mana in his mana core into Fire Elemental one, his mana core itself was still made of attributeless mana. Even though it was very strong thanks to the system's parting gift, if he completely filled it with Fire Elemental Mana of such purity, it wouldn't be able to endure the pressure and would either fall apart or ignite into flames.

His non-existent brows furrowed tightly in concentration and in the end, he found two solutions.

First, he could slowly replace the attributeless mana with the Fire Elemental one in the mana core's structure.

However, it would take a very long time, possibly several months and even a year or more. Even if he was willing to stay in the Four Star realm so long, he wouldn't have access to such pure Fire Elemental Mana because this minor realm would in less than a month.

So, this idea wasn't feasible which made him turn to the second solution which was to increase his mana control to Superior Mana Control as soon as possible and then use this Fire Element rich environment to comprehend the Fire Law.

If he managed to gain even a slight understanding of the Fire Law, it would no longer be a chore to replace his mana core structure with the Fire Elemental Mana.

However, this solution was also not without any problems.

While his mana control had become increasingly refined thanks to all the fighting in the past months and he felt he was on the cusp of reaching Superior Mana Control, he wasn't sure he could reach it and then comprehend the Fire Law within the little time he had left in this minor realm.

'No use thinking about it too much.' Inwardly shaking his head, he decided to go ahead with the second plan and came out of the magma.

"Let's begin." He muttered, closed his eyes and began pulling on mana in his core and the surrounding mana.

Shua! Shua!

As the mana heeded his call and started converging around him, his eyes snapped open, astonishment, surprise, confusion and glee flickering within them.

'I have already attained Superior Mana Control?'

He took a deep breath. Though this was a pleasant surprise, he didn't know why he suddenly achieved superior mana control.

He began thinking about what had happened.

'Unlike before, the mana I controlled wasn't attributeless or mixed but Fire Elemental Mana. However, I have controlled Fire Elemental Mana before but I never had this level of control over it, so what changed?'

Suddenly his focus shifted to the traces of Fire Element within his bloodline and his gaze flickered, 'So, this trace of fire element in my bloodline has boosted my Fire Element Affinity to the point that controlling Fire Element has become effortless?'

Ha!

He exhaled deeply, feeling surreal.

After a while, he got his emotions under control.

Since he had already reached the Superior Mana Control stage, it was time to begin comprehending the Fire Elemental Law.

So, without wasting any time, he sat down cross-legged, closed his eyes and pushed his mana control to the limit and began sensing the presence of Fire Law around him.

Chapter 860: Whisperer Of Law

Time ticked by and soon three days had passed since Max began trying to sense Fire Elemental Law, but he didn't sense anything, not even a trace.

However, he didn't let himself become frustrated because he knew comprehending a Law required not only talent, affinity and other things, it also required a lot of patience and a calm mind.

From what Esme had told him, unless someone had a very high affinity with the element of which Law they were trying to comprehend, it would usually take them months if they were lucky if not years.

Even those who had an exceptional affinity would need at least a month or two even in a law-rich environment to just touch the boundary of the Law.

He was in an environment which should be rich in Fire Law and his Fire Elemental Affinity was now off the charts. So, he was confident that as long as he stayed calm and kept trying, he would soon sense the presence of Fire Law—he just hoped it would happen before the minor realm closed.

Two days later, he suddenly felt his bloodline sense, controlling the Fire Elemental Mana around him, ignite and an overwhelming heat and intense burning sensation enveloped him.

Ba-Dum!

Max's heart skipped a beat and fear arose in his heart because he smelt an unmistakable sense of death and his instincts told him if he didn't escape and dodge this calamity, he would die for sure and no power in this world would be able to save his life.

Just as he was about to withdraw his mana sense and rush out of the volcano to save his life, the deepest part of his bloodline where his bloodline locks and other two bloodlines existed tingled.

This tingle was extremely vague. If not for the fact he was deeply immersed in meditation and could distinctly feel every part of his body, he would have undoubtedly missed it.

Upon sensing the 'tingle', he immediately stopped himself, forcibly ignored the distracting thoughts and the warning of his instinct and focused on feeling the heat and burning sensation transmitted to him via his bloodline sense.

With each passing moment, the sensation of heat and burning became increasingly intense, making his heart palpitate and instincts scream at him to run for his life.

Initially Max remained steadfast but as seconds turned into minutes, his resolve began to waver. Just as he was finally unable to hold on, the heat and burning sensation vanished as if it was all an illusion and an extremely pleasant sensation washed over him.

If mind orgasm was a thing, he was having it at this moment.

While he was lost in euphoria, the Flame Elemental Mana surged into his body before breaking off into three streams, one big, one medium and one small.

The smaller stream surged towards his mind, the medium stream permeated his whole body while the biggest stream surged into the traces of Fire Energy in his bloodline.

As more and more Fire Mana was absorbed in the Fire Energy traces, they started breaking off into two.

Similarly, a transformation was also occurring in his mind and body. The only difference was that they were unseen.

Time passed and it was only when half an hour passed by did the mana stopped surging into him and Max snapped back to his senses.

When he opened his eyes, a hint of dissatisfaction flickered within them.

The pleasure he felt was unlike anything he felt before and he wanted to feel it for a while longer. This was why he was dissatisfied.

If others who had comprehended a Law knew he was in that state for half an hour but was still dissatisfied, they would want nothing more than to slap him to death because most people enjoyed that elemental baptism just for 5 to 10 minutes.

Only extraordinary geniuses enjoyed it more than 10 minutes but most of them never exceeded 20 minutes. Even so, they would feel very proud and content by the achievement.

But here was Max, even after enjoying the baptism longer than them, he still dared to show his dissatisfaction.

Max didn't know this but even if he knew, he might have still felt dissatisfied because... well, he really liked the pleasant feeling from earlier.

Shaking his head, he curbed his emotions and raised his hand.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Immediately, all the remaining Fire Mana was thrown in turmoil as it surged towards him.

"How amazing!" He couldn't help but exclaim seeing how effortless it had become to control the Fire Mana now.

His thought shifted and raised a finger.

Swoosh!

Immediately, the mana gathered in front of his finger and began solidifying into a long fire arrow.

He then waved his hand and the arrow dissipated into Fire Mana.

After that, he closed his eyes and began to cast his Fire Elemental Spells, [Calidus Brachium], [Phoenix Wings] and [Death Rain], one by one.

After a while, he was done and exhaled a deep breath. Even though he tried to stay calm, from the look in his eyes, anyone could be he was very happy and excited.

But how could he not be?

Thanks to his Law Comprehension having stepped into the [Whisperer of Law] stage, he was now able to cast his spells two times faster and if necessary, he could lessen the cast time even further while ensuring his mana veins didn't get hurt.

This means he no longer needed to rely on his bloodline and Nascent Energy to speed up the spell casting and protect his mana veins. This in turn meant he could save a significant portion of his bloodline and Nascent Energy and use it when necessary.

Moreover, his Law Comprehension also brought another benefit—he could now absorb Fire Elemental Mana a lot faster. Meaning, his cultivation speed would be faster and he wouldn't need as much time as he previously did to replenish his mana reserves.

These benefits were the more apparent ones. He was sure there were more that he would find as he explored further.

However, after checking out his Law Comprehension for a while, he became curious about something.

'Wasn't the Whisperer of the Law stage supposed to increase the overall battle power by 10%? Then how come I feel that my battle power has increased... a lot more, maybe 20 or even 30%?'

When he scanned himself with bloodline sense after thinking this, he realised why this was the case.