

# **Strongest Mage with the Lust system #Chapter 861: More Important Than Everything - Read Strongest Mage with the Lust system Chapter 861: More Important Than Everything**

## **Chapter 861: More Important Than Everything**

The traces of Fire Energy in his blood were twice as numerous and though there didn't seem to have any changes in his body and mana veins, he could tell they were now more attuned to Fire Element.

'No wonder I got a stronger boost.' He thought. While he didn't know if others' also experienced the similar changes in their bodies and mana veins, he was sure their Elemental Energy didn't merge into their bloodline. And even if it did, it was not at the [ Whisperer of the Law ] Stage.

"Alright. How long have I been in this place now, over ten days? Even if I wasn't unconscious for long, I should still have around half or maybe a little less than half a month left.'

Counting the time he had left, he closed his eyes and began to sense Rima's presence. After a while, he sighed in relief because she was still alive.

After resting for a few hours, he dived into the magma, this time going even deeper, and activated his cultivation technique.

Just as expected, thanks to his Law Comprehension, his mana absorption speed was now at least three times as fast.

'Alright. Let's begin.' Taking a deep breath, he spread his bloodline sense throughout his mana core and 'grabbed' all the mana tightly.

Then, he divided his focus and making use of the onslaught of surging Fire Mana into his dantian, he shattered a part of the mana core.

BANG!

Immediately, both his body and mind jolted and his 'grasp' on the mana inside his core became slack. However, before the mana could seep out from the broken section, he regained control.

Ignoring the ache in the depths of his mind, he took control of the incoming Fire Mana and began to condense a new layer in the place of the empty section.

Seconds trickled into minutes and soon ten minutes had passed but Max only managed to condense less than a tenth of the tiny section he shattered.

Seeing this progress, he realized that even with Law Comprehension, reconstructing the core with Fire Mana was going to be a long and exhausting work.

...

While everyone was either busy surviving in the minor realm or hunting down as many beasts as they could, in the volcano surrounded by hundreds of rocky beasts Max was submerged into the boiling lava, tirelessly reconstructing his mana core.

Time passed and a whole ten days later...

Swoosh!

Max finally jumped out of the magma, his steps unsteady, and headed straight for his cave where he simply... fell onto the ground.

Thud!

Even before his body touched the ground, he had already passed out.

...

In the Beast Emperor City's plaza, Meredith and the middle-aged Elder simultaneously opened their eyes.

A month had passed since they sent all the participants into the minor realm.

"Please bring them out, Elder." Meredith respectfully told the Elder, who nodded and took out a Golden Plaque similar in structure to the plaque they handed to everyone.

Then with a wave of his hand, he brought out a formation and placed over a hundred Mana Crystals in the mana nodes before placing the Golden Plaque in the center.

Weng!

As the formation activated, it began draining the mana out of the mana crystals and poured all that mana into the Golden Plaque.

When all the mana crystals had turned into grey powder, completely drained of their mana, the Elder made a hand seal and mana gathered to form a strange symbol which the Elder slammed on top of the Plaque.

Buzz!

The Plaque buzzed and the spatial rift in the sky trembled.

Then...

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

One after another, people started appearing on the plaza. Save for a minority, the rest were in bad conditions with many injuries all over their bodies. Some had even lost their limbs.

They looked around as if to make sure they were really out of the minor realm and then relaxed.

"Ahhh! I'm finally out of that hellhole!"

"Yeah, fuck it! I survived!"

"Damn it! I was about to finish that ugly beast. Now I'm short of 10 Merit Points!"

"..."

Countless voices filled the previously silent plaza. Some rejoiced that they were finally out, some felt happy that they didn't die while some echoed the cries of frustration, having failed the trial even after giving their all. As for the remaining, they remained composed and watched others while waiting for the Elders to announce the result of the trial.

Amongst them, Rima anxiously looked around but didn't notice Max.

Inside the Minor Realm, after failing to sense him, she had begun wandering aimlessly. When she came across the beasts she could kill without too much difficulty, she would take action, otherwise she would avoid them.

And after every fifty or so miles, she would sit down cross-legged and try to sense Max's presence. Unfortunately, she was disappointed every time which made her increasingly worried but she kept telling herself that he was in some other corner of the realm and was completely fine. Once the trial was over, she would meet him again.

So, the moment she was pulled out of the minor realm, she began looking for him. When she didn't spot him nearby, she sat in meditation and began sensing his presence. While the minor realm was huge, the plaza was not and she was confident she could sense him.

However...

A few moments later, her face turned deathly pale because she still couldn't sense him.

"No, no, no! This shouldn't be the case. He should be here." She grew frantic and rushed toward Meredith and the middle-aged Elder.

Arriving before them, she conjured Max's image with her mana and bowed deeply, "Elders, please help me find him. I'll be eternally grateful for your help."

Meredith furrowed her brows, about to shoo her away when the middle-aged Elder stopped her. He recognised Max and immediately swept his Divine Sense throughout the Plaza.

When he was done, he sighed in disappointment, "He is not here. I'm sorry for your loss."

BOOM!

Rima felt an explosion go off in her mind when she heard his words and stood there, stunned.

Then, her aura began fluctuating and blood seeped out from the corner of her lips, her nose, ears and eyes.

Meredith and the Elder's expressions changed and they both acted the same.

The Elder knocked her unconscious while Meredith used her Divine Sense to forcibly stabilize her aura and the uncontrolled circulation of her mana.

Once she was done, she cast a dissatisfied glance at unconscious Rima, "Such a weak will! Utterly pathetic! I should have prohibited her from exploiting her elemental advantage during the Trial of Will."

The middle-aged Elder shook his head and sighed, "You are wrong. Her Will is not weak. It's just that he was more important to her than everything else. So, she couldn't endure the blow."

Meredith frowned hearing his words. She parted her lips to retort but then shook her head and closed her eyes.

Seeing this, the Elder smiled wryly and after hesitating for a moment, he transmitted via his Divine Sense.

[Meredith, once the recruitment is over, you should go and live amongst the mortals for a few months.]

Meredith opened her eyes and looked at him in confusion, [Why?]

[It will... help your cultivation.] The Elder answered.

Meredith thought for a moment and nodded, [Alright.]

## Chapter 862: Incomprehensible

"Alright. Those of you have at least 500 Merit Points stay, rest hand your plague to the Elders and leave." Meredith announced after a short while.

Hearing her words, the eyes of those who had more than 500 Merit Points but less than 1000, brightened up.

'We still have a chance.'

As for those who had less than 500, some tried their luck saying they were only short of a few points but they were swiftly escorted out of the city by the Elders.

Meredith checked Rima's plaque and a hint of surprise appeared in her eyes when she saw the number—15013.

Since the beasts in the same realm as the participant only gave 10 points, only those who could battle across realms should have more than 2000 Merit Points. As for the rest, even if they hunted the beasts day and night, they had little hope of touching this mark.

[Not bad, huh?] Just then the Elder's transmission sounded in her ears. She looked over and saw a faint smile on his lips.

She nodded, [Really not bad. As long as she tempers her will, she should have no problem becoming a Core Hall disciple.]

The Elder stared at her, a little speechless, but didn't say anything.

If she could understand human emotions, instead of worrying about Rima's willpower, she should have been thinking about a way to lift her mood and help her find a way to regain her spirit. Otherwise even if she stayed in the Beast Emperor Hall, she wouldn't have a future.

'Maybe we should temporarily seal her memories?'

The moment this thought crossed his mind, he shook his head. It was true the Beast Emperor Hall wanted genius disciples like her, but they could not be emotionless and cruel like other sects that only focused on their benefits.

"Alright, those below 1000 stay here. Rest of you, follow me to the mountain. The Elders will select you there." Saying this, Meredith covered Rima in her mana, flew into the sky followed by the Elder and began flying out of the city, toward the massive mountain range in the distance.

The Elders who were supposed to pick out a few disciples could only shake their heads in exasperation.

"This girl... she is really impatient." An Elder sighed, not knowing whether to laugh or get angry.

"Haha, I think she simply forgot that she was supposed to let us select." Another Elder laughed before they also followed after the group.

...

The Beast Emperor Hall owned this entire mountain range that was equal in size to several small countries.

It housed massive forests, full of magic beasts that disciples could hunt to hone their skills or tame as their companion beasts. And because the Beast Emperor Hall was situated in its depths, surrounded by forests, only the stronger disciples could safely enter and leave the Hall.

Due to this, very few disciples ever came out and interacted with the rest of the world which made it less renowned compared to other peak Emperor Rank Powers.

If not for the fact that the Beast Emperor Hall had deliberately announced their rank to attract the disciples, not many disciples would have come for the recruitment.

After Meredith and the Elder led the disciples who had successfully passed the trials, a sigh faintly echoed up in the clouds, "Sigh, only 3000 disciples passed."

"It's still better than nothing. Besides, there are many talented ones among them."

A moment after the voices sounded, two indistinct figures disappeared from the cloud, leaving behind no traces of their presence.

...

A day later, Rima regained consciousness.

Seeing the unfamiliar ceiling, she blinked her eyelashes in confusion. Then her hazy mind grew clear, the memory of the time right before everything went blank returned and she trembled, her eyes reddening.

"...No." She let out a choked sob but before she could continue to dwell into her sadness and became much too depressed to lose herself, the door of the room she was in swung open and a figure walked in.

"You awake?"

Rima glanced at the figure and recognised her as Meredith. She then averted her gaze, in no mood to talk.

However, Meredith, as if unaware of her current mood, threw an Identity Badge toward her and began speaking, "Here, I have registered you. You are now an Inner Hall disciple. Go get your uniform and the key to your courtyard. There will be a competition at the end of month. If you rank among the top three—"

"Can you please leave me alone for a while, Elder Sister?" Rima interrupted her.

Meredith furrowed her brows and coldly said, "What are you being so depressed about? He was just a..."

Suddenly remembering what the Elder Munrow had told her, she shut her mouth. Then after a moment, she said, "I checked and found that only 100 plaques were unaccounted for, meaning they were completely destroyed in the minor realm. Usually it means the participant is dead but maybe your man managed to survive. So, don't lose hope just—"

Swoosh!

Before she could finish speaking, the previously desolate Rima vanished from the bed and appeared in front of her, grabbing her by the shoulders, "Send me back into the minor realm... please."

Meredith casually removed her hands from her shoulders and said, "It's not easy to enter the minor realm. We need the Sky Rending Claw and at least one Monarch to open the rift. Right now you neither have enough authority to move either for your purpose nor you have the required Merit Points."

Hearing this, Rima stared at her deeply. She could tell Meredith was trying to give her false hope but she believed if someone could survive even though the plague was destroyed, it was definitely Max.

This meant he was still alive in the minor realm and she had to go in to bring him out. So, she asked, her gaze determined, "Please tell me how many Merit Points I need to enter the Minor Realm and how I can obtain the required authority."

Meredith couldn't help but feel that Rima was incomprehensible and beyond stupid.

Was there really a need to behave like this? Did she really not understand that the chances of her man being alive were nearly zero?

But she didn't voice out her inner thoughts and said, "You should be ranked in the Gold Beast Rankings and should have 50,000 Merit Points."

"Alright, now leave. Someone will take you to the Inner Hall." Saying this, she waved her hand and Rima flew out of the room.

...

While Rima was determined to do her best to enter the Minor Realm to look for him, the person in question slowly awoke from his deep sleep and yawned.

"That was some good sleep." He muttered, feeling better than ever.

"But... How long did I sleep this time?" He wondered, not being able to tell the time he was in the dreamland because his mind had completely shut down after he drained himself both mentally and physically while reconstructing his mana core.

'I hope there are still a few days left.' He thought. Though he had reconstructed his core, he needed to refill it and then find Rima. And if possible, hunt down some beasts to collect the required Merit Points.

However...

When he tried sensing Rima, his expression changed.

### **Chapter 863: Ancient Golden Skeleton**

"Fuck!"

Max let out a frustrated roar while feeling a little helpless inside.

Upon trying to sense Rima, he found out that while he could tell she was still alive, he couldn't sense her rough direction. This situation was almost similar to Leticia and Belen's.

Thinking about it for a bit, he realized a month had already passed and she had already left the Minor Realm.

"Am I stuck here now?" He murmured, staring at the circular sky above. He then shook his head, "No. This shouldn't be the case. Since this realm belongs to the Beast Emperor Hall, they probably don't use it just for the recruitment trials."

This made his mood a little better but thinking how Rima must be feeling, thinking he had fallen in here, he felt as if someone was squeezing his heart.

"Please be alright until I return, Rima." He spoke while staring at the sky.

Then, he glanced at the Tower and the Beast Storage Bag.<sup>1</sup> Without the Nascent Energy, the Tower was currently inoperable but... with the boost given by the Law

Comprehension and the traces of Fire Energy in his bloodline, he felt he could try to expel the foreign energies from the Golden Python's body to expedite its healing process.

However, thinking for a moment, he decided to break through the mortal boundary and enter the Spirit Realm first.

At that time, his mana would be more robust and the chances of expelling the foreign energies would increase and in case he suffered a backlash, he could deal with it with more ease.

Not hesitating any longer, he walked out of the cave and jumped into the magma.

Previously, he had only gone 30 feet deep. While the Fire Mana at this depth was more than pure and abundant enough, he decided to dive deeper because it would be easier to break through if he had access to purer mana.

30 feet...

40 feet...

45 feet...

50 feet...

After he reached the depth of 50 feet, he hit his limit as even with the [ Whisperer of the Fire Law ], he could barely endure the heat.

Deciding not to reach for more than he could endure, he began cultivating there.

Two days later, he finished refilling his mana core and was ready to break through.

'Let's do it.' Since he was in a very suitable place for a breakthrough, had converted his mana core into a pure Elemental One, his mana was robust enough and he had also comprehended a Law, he was as ready as one could to break through.

Therefore, he no longer hesitated.

He mobilized all the mana in his mana core and began sensing the invisible shackles of the mortal boundary that restricted him to the mortal realm. Maybe because he met all the requirements for a breakthrough, it didn't take him too long to sense the shackles.

Just as he was about to use up all his mana to shatter them in one blow...

Shua!

He felt his surroundings change and the excited mana in his mana core, on the verge of exploding had inexplicably calmed down—his breakthrough was halted.

But to his surprise, he didn't feel the realm shackles become stronger like he had heard they would if he couldn't break through in one go.

[You shouldn't break through just yet, young friend.]

After calming down, he had just opened his eyes and was about to scan the unfamiliar place he suddenly found himself in when the voice echoed in his ear.

'Mm?'

The sudden voice didn't startle Max because since he was taken away somewhere, there was definitely someone behind it. However, his pupils constricted slightly when he saw the source of the voice—a golden, humanoid skeleton.

When looked more closely, he noticed that there were countless fine cracks running through each and every one of its bones—it looked to be on the verge of shattering but at the same time, Max felt as if it would remain the same for eternity.

'This is a... Supreme Mage?'

Max inhaled a deep breath, slowly stood up and bowed slightly, "Greetings, senior."

[Calm and unruffled, very admirable.] The voice echoed in his ears once again.

Max shook his head, calmly saying, "There is nothing to admire about, senior. The only reason I'm calm is because I know if you want to harm me, I won't be able to resist in the slightest. And if you don't want to harm me, well, then there is nothing to be flustered about."

Once he finished speaking, his eyes narrowed because... he hadn't planned to say this out loud but something had compelled him to speak his mind.

[Please don't mind it, young friend. There is a very powerful seal stopping me from reading your memories, so I have no other option if I want to find out what kind of a person you are and whether you are worthy to invest my remaining little time in.]

"Oh? There is a seal?" Max exclaimed, already realizing it must be the system's doing.

However...

"What's the use of placing a seal on my memories when people can sense your presence in my soul?" He smiled bitterly.

[Haha, so it's really that Soul Artifact's doing.] The voice laughed before continuing, [But you are wrong, young friend. If there wasn't this seal on your memories, anyone with some decent mind controlling abilities could turn you into their slave. So, at least you don't need to worry about someone messing with your head.]

Max sucked in a cold breath upon hearing this. At the same time, he felt even more grateful to the system.

[Alright. I have a few questions I want to ask you to determine whether I should help you. But before that, can you tell me what's the situation of the outside world?] The voice asked.

Even though the skeleton didn't have any apparent ill intentions towards him—he wouldn't be able to sense them since the skeleton was on a completely different level—and wanted to help him, which, given how powerful it was, should be a life-changing opportunity, he didn't like it because the skeleton didn't even bother to ask whether he was willing or not.

"Yeah, no problem." Max nodded and began telling him everything he knew.

After he was done speaking, the voice didn't speak for a while before it sighed, [So, no one capable enough to destroy those devils born in these tens of thousands of years? Is there really no hope?]

Max's eyes flickered when he heard this and he asked, "Senior, can you tell me about these devils? And why did that war happen?"

Initially, while he was curious, he hadn't planned to dig into these old secrets, mostly because he wasn't qualified to, but also because he wasn't interested because he felt there was no use in knowing.

However, as he grew stronger and became the victim of the Human and Demon war that had its origins in the Great War of the past, he realized whether he wanted to or not, if he continued to become stronger, he would be embroiled in certain matters. So, it was better for him to be prepared. Hence, his curiosity.

- It was a typo in the Chapter 859. I have already fixed it. The Beast Storage Bag wasn't incinerated in the magma.

## **Chapter 864: Reason For The Great War**

[First tell me this... If one day this world faced a world-destroying disaster and you had the option to either stay and fight off the disaster or to leave for a safer haven and save yourself, which one would you choose?] The voice questioned instead of answering Max's queries.

Max was first shocked and then his expression became solemn when he heard this.

Though he had felt that things were going to become a lot more chaotic than they already were, he hadn't expected that there might be a world-destroying disaster. So, he was shocked but since this skeleton had asked this foreboding question, it was going to happen more likely than not.

However, he didn't take much time to ponder and directly answered, "Senior, I don't have a savior's complex. If I'm not strong enough and I can take my loved ones with me to this safer haven, I'll leave in a heartbeat."

After he finished, he awaited the skeleton's response, hoping even if his answer displeased it, it would at most not give him 'the opportunity' and send him out instead of killing him.

As the silence ensued following his response, just for a moment, the thought that he should have catered to the skeleton and responded differently crossed his mind but he didn't entertain it.

Not to mention he wasn't able to lie, even if he was, he would have chosen to respond the same way not only because he disdained lying but also because he felt it was cowardly. In fact, the transient thought of lying that crossed his mind made him angry at him because it proved deep down he was still afraid.

'Damn, just how proud was the Garfield Ancestor?' He couldn't help but wonder because his mentality was being affected by the still dormant Garfield bloodline. But unlike other times, he didn't feel frustrated because deep down, he also didn't want to be a coward.

[I see.] The voice echoed in his ears after several excruciatingly long seconds.

[Then how about we make a deal?] It continued.

Max relaxed upon hearing this and then curiously asked, "What kind of deal, senior?"

[It's a simple deal. I'll help you right now and in return, you promise to strive to safeguard this world to the best of your abilities. If even after you think it's hopeless, you are free to leave. How does this sound?] The Voice proposed.

Before Max could ponder over the offer, it added, [Also, if you aren't strong enough to face this disaster and come out alive, you could only go to this safer haven on your own. Only when you are really strong can you take your loved ones with you.]

Max's expression turned sombre upon hearing this.

Though he wanted to think the skeleton was lying, trying to manipulate him to agree to his proposal, he believed someone who was once a Supreme being and was so noble that it cared so much for the world even after their demise would disdain to use such cheap tricks, especially when he would find out the truth about it when he reached a certain level of strength.

'Maybe if I can restore the Tower, I can take others with me to wherever this safer haven is?' He thought this, his eyes lighting up.

But right then, he heard the skeleton say, [Are you thinking about carrying others in that damaged spatial artifact of yours? If yes, I'm sorry to tell you it won't work unless you are really strong. But then again, if you can reach that level of power, you wouldn't need to flee.]

Max took in a deep breath and nodded, "Very well. I promise to do my best when the time comes."

[Good.] The voice sounded pleased.

Max's lips twitched but he could sympathize with it. After all, if he was in its place and saw someone, not to boast, but special like him, he would also try his best to gain their promise.

[Alright, now I shall answer your earlier questions about the devils and the origin of the Great War.] The voice said and Max's ears perked up.

[People in the past used to look at the sky and wonder whether they were the only intelligent people in this universe. Many civilizations rose and fell throughout history but this question persisted.] The voice began after a short pause.

[Then at some point in time, people learned to harness the World Energy—Mana—and started to become stronger. They broke past the human limits and entered what we call the Spirit Realm, they became even stronger and possessed seemingly divine abilities like the Divine Sense and the ability to fly.

This evolution continued and people continued getting stronger. At the same time, they began exploring the vast world and sky. While they conquered the whole world, they couldn't conquer the sky because they couldn't fly past at a certain level what some people call World Prohibition.

But this world prohibition also couldn't restrict them for too long and when the first Supreme Mage was born, they managed to break this limit, left this world and entered the starry sky.

That Supreme Mage must have thought he was going to find a new world but within a few weeks, his seemingly endless energy reserves depleted and he had to return.

After that more and more supreme mages arose and they also began exploring the space. They created artifacts to store the energy needed to replenish their reserves and managed to traverse the void for hundreds of years.

However...]

The voice sighed, [They found no other habitable planet and no sign of life. So, it was deemed that we were alone in this vast universe, so the mages began vying for a piece of this world.

But then suddenly, everything changed when some strange lifeforms—The Devils—arrived from the void. They were ruthless, very strong and worse, very bloodthirsty. Wherever they went, they slaughtered everything and everyone.

So naturally, people stood against them and a Great War, that lasted a thousand years, was fought. I was born during the war and because I was talented, the All-Race Alliance nurtured me...]

Max listened in silence, imagining each and every scene.

When the voice finished speaking, Max's brows were furrowed tightly while his sense of urgency to become stronger had reached the peak.

He clenched and unclenched his fists a few times and then exhaled deeply.

"Senior, why did you say I shouldn't break through just yet and what help are you going to provide me?" he asked.

### **Chapter 865: The Sealed Devil**

[It's because you have three bloodlines. While your strongest bloodline is attributeless, your other two bloodlines are not, especially your weakest bloodlines which have a strong Thunder Elemental Affinity.] The voice answered, which left Max confused.

So, it explained, [In the first stage of the Spirit Realm, otherwise known as Five-Star Realm, one's mana transforms into liquid, forming the Mana Sea. This sea is where you build your foundation for the next realms. If someone only has one elemental affinity, then it's no problem, they can go ahead, transform their elemental mana into 'sea water' and then they can use it to build their foundation.

However, the problem occurs when the person has multiple elemental affinities. If he only uses one type of mana in their foundation, he will never be able to break through to the successive realms, or it will be extremely difficult to do so.

For this reason, even if he has to use each of his elemental mana to fill the 'sea'. That way, there won't be friction in the future and he will not have a hard time building his foundation.

In your case, while you only have Fire Elemental Mana as of now, when your bloodlines awaken, you will have multiple affinities which will cause problems.

So, you would be best advised to awaken them first. Only when you have the elemental mana corresponding to each of your affinities in your core will it be alright for you to break through to the Spirit Realm.

At that time, not only will you have no problem in advancing in future, but you will be several times stronger.]

Max pondered over this before he asked, "Can't I add the mana of other elements after advancing to the Five Star? After all, it's not like the moment I break through my mana will liquify?"

He wasn't sure if the help skeleton was going to provide him would help him awaken his bloodlines. Besides, if they did awaken, he would need quite a bit of time to master their respective mana control, let alone comprehend the Laws, though the latter could be achieved after the break through.

As if seeing through his thoughts, the skeleton's voice chuckled, [Haha, young friend, are you asking this because you are afraid it'll delay your break through too much?]

Max nodded in response.

[Sure it'll take some time, but I assure you, it won't be too long given your comprehension speed. At most, it would take a month.] The voice assured.

"A month?" Max muttered and then asked, "Can you send me out of this realm?"

[After helping you, I would barely have any energy left. So, no.]

Max's pupils constricted when he heard this and asked, "Doesn't this mean..."

[Yes. The devil will begin to awaken.] The voice sighed, sounding a bit helpless.

Max took a deep breath.

After telling him about the devils and the war, the Skeleton had told him several other secrets—it also told him about itself, the realm he was in and the reason why all the beasts in this realm had mutated to become evil and vicious among other things.

Firstly, this Golden Skeleton was the Beast Emperor, the founder of the Beast Emperor Hall, a Sovereign Power at its peak.

Secondly, after it rose to prominence and slayed several devils, it became the target of the stronger devils and a group of seven Devil Envoys who were equivalent to the Supreme Mages, attacked him.

Because killing a devil became increasingly difficult the stronger the devil was due to their extremely tenacious life force, it had exhausted itself completely in killing the six Envoys and didn't have the strength to finish off their leader, the strongest amongst them.

Knowing how much destruction it would cause if it let it go and seeing it had injured its foundation which would be very difficult and time consuming to mend, it decided to seal the devil in the minor realm it created with himself.

After tens of thousands of years, it had almost completely exhausted itself to keep the seal intact.

When its end was almost near, its remnant consciousness stirred awake. It wanted to go out, see the state of the world and if possible, do something for the world one last time.

However, right then, Max '*arrived*'.

Just when it was about to save him, it noticed that the extreme heat could no longer harm him after burning his skin.

Surprised, it scanned Max and noticed the extraordinariness of his Lust Overlord Bloodline and the unusually strong seal in his mind that even it couldn't handle without killing Max.

Then it watched as Max began changing his mana, reconstructed his mana core and comprehended the Fire Law in a matter of a few days.

At that time, it decided to use its last bit of power to give Max a helping hand.

Thirdly, the reason why the beasts had mutated in this minor realm was because as its seal on the Devil began to weaken in the past few thousand years, the Devil's energy was beginning to dissipate into the realm, affecting the beasts.

In fact, the Skeleton was initially surprised when Max didn't change when, while unconscious, he absorbed the Fire Elemental Mana mixed with the traces of Devil Energy.

However, after scanning him and noticing the droplet of the devil blood working with his bloodline energy to purify the devil energy, he realized what was going on.

Before it talked to Max, it had even thought of asking Max to produce a method using his bloodline to purify the Devil Energy and make it available to the world so people could fight the Devils more efficiently or at least would not lose their minds due to the Devil Energy's corruption.

However, after seeing Max didn't have the same mindset as him, it didn't add it in their deal.

"How long do you think it would be before it awakens and leaves this minor realm?" Max asked, feeling a little anxious because once the Devil left this realm and entered the outer world, chaos would ensue.

Presently, with no known Supreme Mage alive in the world, no one would be able to stop it and everyone would die, including him and his loved ones, which he didn't want in the least.

[If its consciousness is still completely dormant, you should have a decade.]

The voice responded and noticing the uncertainty in its tone, Max asked.

"What if it's not completely dormant?"

[Then...]

### **Chapter 866: Bloodlines Awaken**

[Then... at most in two years, it'll awaken completely.] The skeleton answered, its voice grim.

Max went silent upon hearing this. After a while, he finally opened his mouth and said, "Alright, senior. I'm ready. We can begin whenever you want."

[Sigh, I'm sorry, young friend. If I was strong enough back then, you wouldn't be under pressure now.] The Skeleton sighed, a hint of helplessness clear in its voice.

Max didn't want to respond because his mind was somewhere else, but feeling its emotions, he said, "Senior, you did the best you could do, so there is nothing to be regretful about. Dealing with the devil is the current generation's responsibility. Whether we survive or perish will depend on our abilities."

Creak!

This time, the skeleton didn't speak, instead, it slightly inclined its head, surprising Max.

[Let's begin.] It said and just as its words fell, the strongest energy Max had ever felt seized him, freezing him place.

Max frowned, a hint of displeasure flickering in his eyes. At this moment, he had lost control of his body, something that made him extremely uncomfortable.

Right then, as if to soothe his displeasure, the Skeleton's voice sounded in his ears, [While I don't doubt your ability to endure extreme pain, I can risk having to disturb the process because the consequences would be serious otherwise.]

Max thought for a moment. Finding its words reasonable, he wanted to nod in understanding, but could not.

"..."

Speechless, he shifted his focus and mobilized his bloodline sense to check any changes happening in his body but... he discovered that he couldn't even use his bloodline sense.

Helpless, he began to wait for whatever the Skeleton was doing to him to be over but just after a few seconds, a sharp pain shot through him but it vanished as soon as it came, almost making him think whether he was hallucinating.

A moment later, he suddenly felt his body become hot and his heart rate increase. When he sensed carefully, he realized his blood was heating up and circulating within his veins faster and faster.

If he could see deep within him, in the ethereal space where his bloodline locks and the other two bloodlines resided, he would have noticed that a supremely powerful white energy had appeared here.

The moment it appeared, it began to mix into the all three bloodlines—The Lust Overlord Bloodline, Garfield Bloodline and the Thunder Bloodline.

While the Garfield Bloodline and Thunder Bloodline only stirred a little before they began absorbing the energy, the Lust Overlord Bloodline repelled it and as if the energy had suddenly become sentient, it made sure not to go over to the Lust Overlord Bloodline again.

As time ticked by and both the Garfield and Thunder Bloodlines absorbed the white energy, their glow became more vibrant and they began to expand, slowly pushing against the Lust Overlord Bloodline, encroaching upon the Bloodline Space it was covering.

Fortunately, the Lust Overlord Bloodline didn't react violently and let them push against it, pushing it back.

After a long time, all the white energy was devoured and the Garfield and Thunder Bloodlines had grown from the size of small flames to raging wildfires, covering a vast area of the bloodline space.

However, if someone could see the bloodline space from a bird eye's view, they would notice that even now, the area the reddish pink energy—the Lust Overlord Bloodline—covered was a hundred times more than the combined area the other two bloodlines covered.

...

Max watched as his blood boiled and heart raced to the point he felt it might burst apart but he wasn't worried, in fact, he was excited because he could feel his blood get stronger, which in turn was nurturing his body, making it stronger.

Moreover, he could vaguely feel the presence of another element, Thunder to be precise, in the surroundings, meaning his Thunder Bloodline was about to awaken.

'What's up with the Garfield Bloodline? Does it not have an affinity? No, it should have since the Skeleton said only my Lust Overlord Bloodline is attributeless.' He wondered. Yes, he could now think because the Skeleton was no longer forcing him to speak out his thoughts.

Time passed and a day later, his boiling blood slowly settled and reverted to its previous state. His heart, which had worked too hard for the past day, also settled and Max felt exhaustion wash over him. At the same time, he felt full of energy, giving him contradictory feelings.

Shua!

Silently, the lock on him disappeared and the Skeleton's voice, now extremely feeble, sounded.

[I have awakened both of your bloodlines. Now, I have something to tell you about your... Golden Bloodline. You must be confused why you aren't able to sense its corresponding element, right?]

Max nodded, slowly stretching his body to get a feel of how strong he had become.

[This is because unlike your Thunder Bloodline, the Golden Bloodline isn't an elemental one.] The voice answered.

Max furrowed his brow and asked, "Then I only need to incorporate Thunder Elemental Mana into my mana core?"

[In a sense, yes.] The voice spoke, [However, even though it doesn't have an Element, it's not attributeless. You should be able to feel the clarity and some change in your thought process, right?]

"Yes," Max nodded.

[It's the effect of the Golden Bloodline. It affects the mental realm.] The skeleton said, its voice filled with emotions, [The progenitor of this bloodline must be someone truly extraordinary to be able to create such a bloodline. The human race is truly blessed. I just hope there are more like him right now to give this world a fighting chance.]

[Anyways, while you don't need to worry about incorporating another elemental mana into your core, you need to comprehend and create an Aura unique to your bloodline and then baptize your 'Mana Sea' with it, adding it in your foundation.] The Voice told him.

Then, suddenly information began appearing in Max's mind.

[It's not easy to have multi-elemental mana in a Mana core and even in the foundation. So, I'm giving you the Magic Spell to make it work. One of your human ancestors had created it during the great war to make Supreme Mages strong enough to face a Devil Envoy in one on one battle and dominate.

I'm also giving you the Beast Bonding Technique. Raise the little serpent well and it might become the strongest companion in future. All right, now I'm sending you to a Thunder Rich environment. Take care, young friend.]

Before Max could thank it for the help, his vision shifted and he found himself standing on a tall cliff with dark clouds hanging overhead.

Crackle!

Boom!

Just a moment later, the clouds crackled and lightening struck him.

### **Chapter 867: Rima Breakthroughs**

"Arrgghhh, fuck!" He roared in pain before looking at his left shoulder.

What he saw surprised him. While his skin and flesh was thoroughly charged and even bones had suffered some damage, this injury was nothing serious. Just relying on his recently strengthened natural healing, it would heal completely in a week at most.

Immediately, his lips curled up, "How sweet! I have yet to get familiar with the Thunder Bloodline, but it's already showing its effects."

He was happy. How could he not be when the lightning strike capable of killing anyone below the Four Star and seriously injuring even a High Stage Four Star and maybe even a peak Four Star only managed to superficially injure him and it was when he was completely off guard.

While his already strong physique strengthened once again by the bloodline awakenings also played a significant role in it, his Thunder Bloodline had negated the most impact by absorbing the Thunder Energy in the lightning strike.

Thinking this, he looked inwardly and noticed extremely small pale blue dots in his blood, floating alongside the Fire Energy traces.

This discovery thrilled him. Even though he had awakened his maternal bloodline which should be quite strong seeing this bloodline had produced multiple Emperors and Monarchs, he wasn't sure if his Thunder Affinity would be as strong as his Fire one.

With Thunder traces appearing in his blood, however, he no longer needed to worry about a lower affinity.

'I should first let it absorb more Thunder Energy and solidify the Thunder traces. It would be much easier to absorb the Thunder Mana, increase Thunder Mana control and sense the Thunder Law.' He thought and without wasting any time, he began rousing the Thunder Bloodline to attract more lightning strikes.

His Thunder Bloodline didn't disappoint. As soon as he stirred it, the clouds crackled and two lightning bolts that were going to strike somewhere else headed toward him.

Max clenched his back muscles and shifted slightly to let the bolts strike there.

Boom! Boom!

Because he was ready this time, only a minor wound appeared where the bolts struck.

Looking at his blood with his bloodline sense, he noticed as the Thunder Energy was absorbed by his blood, the previously almost invisible pale blue dots became brighter.

Two minutes later, all the thunder energy was absorbed and he once again stirred his bloodline.

Boom! Boom!

Another two lightning bolts struck him.

Since he only needed to stir his bloodline to attract the bolts, he began to review the Magic Spell the Skeleton gave him to accommodate multiple elements in his mana core.

It took him over an hour to go through it. Once he was done, he smiled because the most important aspect of this spell was to introduce something that could negate the friction between the different elemental mana and he already possessed it—Nascent Energy.

'Arr, mistake. I don't have it right now.' He realized, his expression stiffening.

He fell into deep thought.

After a while, he took a deep breath, "If I can't find a way to leave this realm before I increase my Thunder mana control and comprehend the Law, I'll have to try and use the Lust Overlord bloodline energy. If it works, then alright otherwise... I'll have no choice but to postpone the breakthrough."

Crackle!

Boom!

Right then, two thunder bolts struck again and unlike other times when Max only felt a sting, this time pain was more pronounced and he was even propelled forward.

'Hmm, they are already strong enough to instantly kill an early stage Four Star mage.' He thought, feeling the power of the thunderbolts.

Since the second time, he had already realized the thunderbolts were gradually becoming stronger. As for why, he was clear about the reason.

It was due to the pale blue dots representing the Thunder Energy in his blood becoming more pronounced—they were already one-tenth the size of the Fire Energy traces—so his bloodline's attraction power was becoming stronger.

In fact, for the last few times, when he stirred his bloodline, he had noticed a third thunderbolt forming but it would disperse before it could land.

He looked down the mountain he was on and seeing there was no beast nearby, he sighed in relief.

Fortunately, there were no beasts in the vicinity, otherwise he wouldn't have dared to continue because he knew if he did, given the speed the thunder traces were strengthening, in just two or three days, he would get injured to the point where his combat power would be significantly impacted.

Thankfully, most of the beasts were inherently afraid of fire and lightning and this was more true for the mutated beasts of this minor realm—they seemed very afraid of the thunder, most likely because the thunder had quite a powerful deterrent and cleansing effect of the Devil Energy.

...

Time passed.

Two days later...

Huff! Huff! Huff!

Max was lying on the cliff, all the skin on his body was gone and his flesh was charred. In some places, bones were even visible.

However, there was a big, satisfied grin on his still intact face.

"Just two more and the Thunder Traces will catch up to the Fire ones." He muttered, raising his hand toward the sky and clenching his fist.

A short while later, he sat up and began circulating his bloodline energy to heal faster.

'I wonder how she is doing?' Max thought, sighing in his heart. Then he shook his head, cleared all the distracting thoughts and focused on healing.

He did not want to think about Rima because every time he thought about her, his longing to leave this realm would become stronger. Not only it frustrated him because he wasn't able to leave but also because it decreased his cultivation efficiency.

...

Half a month had gone by since the recruitment.

Whizz!

The isolation formation covering one of the Inner Hall courtyards suddenly flickered and was deactivated, revealing the previously hidden courtyard.

Shua!

Then the door swung open and Rima with an expressionless look on her face walked out.

On the first day after she took her identity badge and inner hall disciple robes, she threw herself into cultivation.

In the Beast Emperor Hall, only the strongest 1000 disciples in the Four Star realm could be listed on the Bronze list while only the strongest 500 disciples in the Five Star realm could be listed on the Silver list.

As for the Golden List, only the strongest 100 disciples in the Six Star realm—King Mages—could be ranked on it.

Furthermore, only if the disciples were younger than 30 years old could they be listed on any of the three lists, otherwise even if they were strongest in their realm, they wouldn't be able to hold the prestigious title of the ranked disciple.

Since Meredith had told Rima that she needed to be on the Golden Listed to be able to enter the minor realm, she had been trying to break through to the Five Star realm so she could step on the Silver Arena and begin the ranked battles.

In the Silver Area, not only would she be able to enter the silver list by defeating opponents which would give her more resources, each battle would give her some Merit Points, something she needed a lot of.

Today, after exhausting all the resources she had with her to begin with and the monthly resources she got from the Beast Emperor Hall, she finally managed to step into the Five Star realm.

Her gaze determined, she headed toward the Silver Area.

However, right then...

Step! Step! Step!

"Milady, please wait for a moment!"

## **Strongest Mage with the Lust system #Chapter 868: Maid Nia, Issuing A Challenge - Read Strongest Mage with the Lust system Chapter 868: Maid Nia, Issuing A Challenge**

### **Chapter 868: Maid Nia, Issuing A Challenge**

"Hm?" Rima stopped in her tracks, turned around and saw a young girl in servant's earthy yellow robes running over.

"You are?" Rima found her somewhat familiar but didn't recognise her.

Huff! Huff!

The servant girl took a few deep breaths before respectfully bowing, "Greetings, Milady. I'm your maid, Nia, reporting on duty."

"Oh, so you are the one they assigned to me." Rima nodded in realization. When she got her identity badge and other things, the lady in charge had told her she would get a maid to handle some minor tasks for her."

"Yes, It's me, Milady." Nia nodded.

"Sorry, I was in a hurry to begin my cultivation, so I didn't wait for you to arrive." Rima apologized, realizing she had made her wait outside her courtyard for several days. Seeing her disheveled self, she knew she hadn't probably eaten or bathed for several days now because she couldn't risk leaving and missing the chance to report to her.

Nia hurriedly waved her hands in a panic, "No, no, Milady. Please don't apologize. It's my fault that I couldn't report in time." She then bowed deeply again, "Please forgive—"

"It's alright." Rima shook her head and Nia found herself rising up and standing straight. Her eyes widened because she was sure Rima hadn't used mana to help her up.

"Come with me." Rima said, turned around and resumed walking, each of her seemingly slow steps taking her several meters away.

Nia hurried to catch up with her.

Not long after, they arrived in front of a large, silver building with a silver plaque hanging above its main gate—Silver Arena.

This building was a coliseum with the capacity of several thousand people and the area, constructed from several durable magic alloys and reinforced by multiple formations, was strong enough to bear the multiple attacks of a peak King Mage. Due to this, the disciple fighting for the Silver Ranking could go all out.

Beside the main gate was a counter where a grey-haired old man was reclining in a chair, his eyes closed—at first glance, he appeared to be sleeping but if one looked carefully, they would notice he was breathing in a strange rhythm which indicated he was cultivating.

On his lap was a black cat that didn't look any different from a house cat, but Rima knew this wasn't the case.

When she approached the counter, the cat opened its eyes and looked at her. A moment later, a broken voice sounded in her head.

[Are you here to watch, or challenge the rankings?]

"Challenge." Rima responded.

[Alright. Give me your identity badge.]

Rima took the badge hanging on her waist and placed it on the table. The cat jumped on the table, took out a silver badge and pressed it onto Rima's before throwing the latter back to her.

[I have registered you. Whenever you are ready, drip a drop of your blood on your badge and it'll issue a challenge. But remember, if your opponent has already fought a battle in the last three days, they can reject the challenge. Now, go on, nya~]

The cat jumped back onto the elder's lap, yawned and closed her eyes.

Rima nodded and walked toward the gate. Nia followed her.

Just then, the cat's voice sounded in Rima's ears, [Servants aren't allowed inside the ranking coliseum. So, unless you pay a fee of 5 Merit Points, she stays outside.]

Rima furrowed her brows hearing this. While she had over fifteen thousand Merit Points—15,013 to be exact—and paying 5 out of them wouldn't be much, she didn't want to spend even one of them before she had enough for the minor realm.

This was why, even when she was preparing to break through, she only relied on the resources her master had given her and the monthly resources she got from the Beast Emperor Hall.

But then she looked at haggard Nia and sighed.

At the gate, the disciples on the guard duty stopped her. After seeing she was an Inner Hall disciple and was here to participate in the ranking battles, they allowed her entry but stopped Nia.

"She goes in with me." Rima said and gave them her identity badge. One of the disciples took it, scanned it on a box type magic artifact which ejected a wooden badge, similar in shape and size to Rima's.

The disciple handed it to Nia and said, "Keep it on yourself at all times while you are inside the coliseum and this is valid for just one day. You have to pay again if you want to extend your stay."

"Yes, I understand, sir. Thank you." Nia nodded and accepted the badge. She then followed Rima inside the coliseum.

Immediately, the air around them shifted. It went from being calm and peaceful to being charged with tension and excitement.

BOOM!

The next second, a loud explosion rattled their eardrums. Rima's expression turned a bit solemn because based on the sound, she could tell this explosion could easily kill a mid-stage Five Star mage.

Behind her, after Nia's ears stopped ringing, she looked at the Arena in front of her with bright eyes and murmured, "It's really true. The Arenas are really durable. Even such a powerful explosion didn't cause any harm and even blocked the shockwaves from leaving it."

"Let's go up, Milady, and watch the battle." She added excitedly, looking like she was about to rush away.

Even though mages had better eyesight and they wouldn't miss anything even if they watched the battles from several hundred meters away, many still liked to be as near as possible.

Due to this, to prevent people from crowding the coliseum entrance hallway and the area around the arena, there was a specialized formation in the arena which obscured the sight of everyone below the Emperor realm if they were within a hundred meters of the arena or were in the entrance hallway where Rima and Nia were currently.

This was why, even though they were less than a hundred meters away from the edge of the arena, they weren't able to see anything.

Rima concentrated her mana on her index finger's nail and slid it across her thumb. Then she squeezed out a droplet of blood and dropped it on her badge.

Weng!

Immediately, it shone with a dim light and vibrated.

[You have issued a challenge. Please wait half an hour for your opponent to respond.] A voice sounded in her ears.

In the resting section reserved for the Silver Rank holders on the coliseum stands, a thin young man with triangular green eyes was watching the ongoing battle on the arena felt his identity badge vibrate and injected his Divine Sense into it.

Immediately, a voice sounded in his head.

[Rima Garfield, the new Inner Hall disciple, has issued the ranking battle challenge. You have half an hour to respond.]

Immediately, a voice sounded in his head and a surprised look flashed in his eyes briefly before his expression became overcast.

"What is it, senior brother?" A beautiful woman sitting beside him, noticing this, asked in a coquettish voice. Others sitting around them also looked at him, curious.

Before he could respond, a man suddenly asked, "Has someone else challenged you again, senior brother? A newbie?"

The triangular eyed man nodded, a ruthless glint flashing in his eyes.

Then his lips curved upwards into a malevolent smile and he muttered, "It seems I went easy on the previous two."

Hearing this and seeing his smile, everyone felt chills run down their spine and pitied the unfortunate soul who just challenged him.

### **Chapter 869: Beast-Man Synergy**

Rima wasn't the first one from the newly recruited batch of disciples who challenged the Silver Rankings. There were two before her.

Because this triangular-eyed man, Midas Burrow, was ranked last on the ranking, he had to accept the challenges of every newbie.

While every win gave him 50 Merit Points, for him, this tiny amount wasn't worth the trouble. Not to mention, every challenge was a sign that the newbies thought they could defeat him. This underestimation was a humiliation for him who dreamt of rising on the rankings and making the entire Inner Hall respect him.

This was why he never went easy on the challengers and always made sure they had to lie in bed for a few weeks at least. If not for the rules, he would have liked to kill them to make a statement and cow the future challengers.

There was silence around him for a few moments before the man who had asked the question shook his head and mockingly said, "These newbies really overestimate themselves. Do they really think they could become Silver rankers so easily? How truly delusional!"

"It seems this one didn't see how the senior brother almost crippled the previous two challengers, otherwise he wouldn't have dared to issue the challenge." Someone else chimed in.

The woman sitting beside him also laughed, "Hehe, ignorant are truly fearless! But I think this challenge is an opportunity for us."

"Oh? How so?" Someone asked.

The woman leaned against Midas' hands and blinked her long eyelashes at him before saying, "Aren't we all curious to see the new spell senior brother has been practicing. Maybe senior brother can show a hint of it to us in the battle?"

The triangular-eyed man looked at her and slapped her ass, "You little vixen, I haven't mastered it yet, but even if I had, I wouldn't have revealed it so easily. It's one of my trump cards to defeat that bastard Marcus."

The woman showed a disappointed look and others also felt that it was a pity. Smirking slightly, Midas dripped a drop of his blood onto the badge, accepting the challenge.

[The challenge has been accepted. The battle will begin in two hours.]

...

On the other side, Rima and Nia had just found their seats in the almost packed coliseum when Rima's badge vibrated.

[100th Silver Ranker, Midas Burrow, has accepted your challenge. The battle will begin in two hours. Be prepared.]

Rima heard the message and put away the badge before focusing her gaze on the ongoing battle.

In the arena, two women and their companion beasts were engaged in an intense battle. One of the women was flying around on her scarlet winged eagle, constantly casting spells while also directing the eagle to attack.

Facing her, the woman was standing on top of a green turtle, standing in place on the ground.

Given the situation, one would expect the woman on the scarlet winged eagle to have the upper hand since she had the advantage of flying, but here, the woman on ground was dominating the fight because while the eagle and its companion were supporting several wounds, the woman and her turtle didn't even have a scratch.

After watching for a while, Rima realized the woman on the eagle was a fire elemental mage and her eagle was also a fire elemental beast. Alone, both were comparable to a high-stage Five Star mage but when working together, they could display the strength of a peak Five Star mage.

As for the woman and her turtle, their prowess was similar to their opponents', only their elements were different—they were Earth Element users.

But while they had elemental advantage as fire wasn't as effective against the Earth, it shouldn't make them invincible like they were now.

Rima raised her brows and muttered, "It seems her synergy with her companion beast is higher than her opponent's."

Before coming to the Beast Emperor City, she had collected whatever information she could about the Beast Emperor Hall.

So, she knew the reason the Beast Emperor Hall was stronger than its fellow peak Emperor forces was mostly thanks to its core secret technique which could strengthen the bond between the human and magic beast and over the time and through practice, it could increase their synergy.

Then somehow it leveraged their synergy through some mystical law and made it so that the higher their synergy, the stronger the human and beast would become when fighting together.

Seeing how despite them being similar in their overall strength, this technique could make the party with higher synergy so much stronger, Rima was in awe.

Then a thought crossed her mind and her brows furrowed. Looking to her left side, she saw a woman in white dress. From the identity badge hanging by her waist, Rima knew she was also an Inner Hall disciple even though she wasn't dressed in Inner Hall's robes—other than some official occasions, it wasn't mandatory to wear the disciple robes.

"Excuse me, Miss?" She called out.

"Hm?" The white clothed woman looked over and asked in a voice that was neither friendly, nor unfriendly, "Yes?"

"Sorry to disturb you, but if you don't mind, can you tell me what their rankings are?" Rima politely asked.

The white-clothed woman gave her another look before she nodded and told her, "The one on the Scarlet Wing Eagle, Miyuri, is ranked 57th and that turtle woman is ranked 55th."

"Thank you, Miss." Rima thanked her and her slightly tense heart relaxed.

Before she knew their rankings, she was worried that they might be ranked near the 100 which would mean most of the rankers were peak Five Star mages, which in turn meant she wouldn't be able to climb too high this time.

But after realizing they were ranked near the upper half of the rankings, she believed she wouldn't have a hard time entering the top fifties.

As a challenger, if she won the first battle and was ranked 100th, she would get 100 Merit Points. Then each successive battle would give her a bit more Merit Points. If she could fight everyone from rank 100th to rank 50th, she could easily earn over 20,000 Merit Points.

Adding the Merit Points she already had, she would have more than half the points required to enter the Minor Realm.

Moreover, the Beast Emperor Hall gave the ranker more generous monthly resources. If the resources of the person ranked 100th on the Silver Ranking were to be compared to a normal Inner Hall disciple, the difference would be astronomical.

This was also the reason why it was extremely difficult for someone to replace someone on the rankings.

Anyways, after she was ranked in the Silver Rankings, she could use the privilege of a ranker to withdraw up to 6 month's monthly resources in advance which she would use to increase her strength rapidly.

The stronger she became, the faster she could climb the ranking. Then, with her talent, it would be just a matter of time before she could break through to the King Realm, enter the Golden Rankings and become eligible to enter the Minor Realm where she could find Max.

As she thought all this, her breathing rate increased and she unconsciously clenched her fists, a determined and impatient glint flashing in her eyes.

Sitting next to her, the white-clothed woman's eyes flashed with surprise when she saw this... unusual response. She then asked, "You are a newbie, right? Here to challenge the rankings?"

### **Chapter 870: Change Of Plans**

Hearing her voice, Rima snapped back to her senses, took a deep breath and nodded in affirmation, "Yes."

White-clothed woman's eyes flickered and she extended her hand toward her, "I'm Kayla, a silver ranker."

Rima looked at her, a little surprised. She hadn't expected her to be a ranker because most of the rankers usually sat in their reserved section.

She then also extended her hand and shook hers, "Nice to meet you, Miss Kayla. I'm Rima Garfield."

Kayla glanced at the identity badge hanging on Rima's waist and asked, "When are you fighting?"

"In two hours." Rima answered while watching the ongoing battle.

Kayla also shifted her gaze to the arena upon seeing this, a hint of displeasure flashing in her eyes, but it soon turned into a self-mocking look.

After a short while the battle became stagnant because Miyuri had stopped attacking, seemingly realising she couldn't defeat her opponent.

While Miyuri, to her frustration, was contemplating whether she should give up, Kayla asked Rima, "If you were fighting that turtle woman, could you win?"

Without looking at her, Rima nodded taking no time think, "Yeah." She then looked at Kayla, who looked surprised by her answer and asked, "What about you, miss Kayla?"

Kayla smiled and said, "I'm ranked 25th."

This time, Rima was surprised, but soon her expression returned to normal and she nodded silently.

Kayla raised her eyebrows slightly before a small smile appeared on her face. 'I can't wait to see how strong you are.'

After the duo stopped talking, Nia looked between them, astonishment clear in her eyes. She found it incredible that Rima, a newbie, was able to speak casually to a 25th ranker without showing any sign of being overwhelmed. In fact, she even seemed a bit... disinterested?

Similarly, she also found it hard to believe that the 25th ranker was speaking to and showing interest in becoming friends with a newbie.

'Milady... she seems to be an extraordinary person.' She thought and began feeling excited. If she served her well, maybe she would help her with her cultivation. Not only that, as Rima's status rose, her status would also rise among the servants.

'Heh, I'll see if you guys will still laugh at me.' He muttered in her heart, her eyes gleaming.

"Hmm?" Both Rima and Kayla noticed the shift in her mood and looked at her with raised brows.

Nia's face turned red and she hurriedly ducked her head, "I-I'm sorry, Milady, young miss. I was thinking about something and... Sorry for disturbing you."

"It's alright. No need to panic." Rima shook her head and shifted her gaze to the arena. As for Kayla, since Rima didn't mind, she also didn't say anything.

Right then...

After hovering in place for a while, Miyuri finally sighed and said, "I admit defeat."

The woman on the turtle checked her identity badge and seeing the newly added Merit Points, she nodded in satisfaction before she raised her head and smiled at Miyuri, "Don't be depressed, Junior Sister. You are stronger than before. Maybe after a few more tries, you can defeat me."

Miyuri glared at her in response before flying out of the arena.

The turtle woman chuckled and then swept her gaze across the sitting area of the Silver Rankers. "Do any of you want to challenge me? I welcome anyone below 55."

Those who were ranked above her smiled in derision while those below her snorted before ignoring her.

On the stands, Kayla glanced at Rima and said, "Why don't you challenge her? You won't have to waste time challenging others to raise your ranking if you win against her."

Rima seriously considered it. Though the plan of earning the Merit Points by defeating as Silver Rankers as she could was good, she didn't know the challenge could reject her challenge if they had fought a battle in the past three days.

Since she couldn't challenge other multiple ranks above her—well, she could, but high ranker liked to accept the challenge of a low ranker unless there was some substantial benefit to it, she would have no choice but to wait for the three day period to pass to issue another challenge to the person ranked above her.

But there was another problem... What if before she issued the challenge, they accepted someone else's. Though the chances of this happening weren't high, if it did happen, she would have to waste a lot more time than she could afford.

Seeing her frown, Kayla asked, "What is it?"

She could tell she wasn't frowning because she was afraid to challenge the turtle woman, but because of something else entirely.

Rima looked at her, and after some hesitation, told her what she had intended.

"So you are really confident in making it to the top 50, huh?" Kayla muttered before asking, "You said you can't waste too much time rising through the ranking, but you also can't miss out on the Merit Points, right?"

"Yeah." Rima nodded.

"If you don't mind, why do you need so many Merit Points?" Kayla asked, but thinking Rima might think she was prying into her matter, she added, "I'm just curious because I can see you have just broken through to the Five Star. Apart from some realm stabilizing medicine, you should have no other expense."

"I need to enter the minor realm we entered for our test." Rima briefly explained.

"Oh?" Kayla was surprised, "So, you currently need over 50,000 Merit Points, huh."

"Well, there is a shortcut to earn quickly and a more substantial amount." She said after a moment.

Rima's eyes brightened, and she eagerly asked, "What is it?"

"Betting." Kayla smiled, "However, I would only suggest to take this route if you are sure you can defeat that turtle woman."

"I am sure." Rima said without missing a beat, "Where can I place the bet?" She asked while looking around, but saw no booth.

"Calm down." Kayla smiled before shifting her gaze to the turtle woman who was ready to leave the arena after no one fell for her offer.

"My friend here wants to challenge you, do you dare accept?" Kayla asked, her voice reverberating throughout the arena.

The turtle woman stopped in her tracks, her eyes lighting up. But then she saw Kayla and her excitement was dampened.

Kayla, as if knowing what she was thinking, smiled, "Don't you worry. Whether she wins or loses, it wouldn't do anything about it. So, what is it going to be?"

The turtle woman shifted her gaze to Rima and feeling her unstable aura, her expression fell.

"Miss Kayla, you want me to fight a newbie and the one who has just broken through to the Five Star? Are you trying to insult me?" She asked, her voice carrying a chill.

She knew she wasn't Kayla's match neither in strength, nor in background, but within the Beast Emperor Hall, she wouldn't accept anyone insulting her, regardless of their strength and status.

So, what if she offended them? At most she wouldn't leave the Beast Emperor Hall and would become an elder in charge of internal matters after she broke through the King Rank.

Kayla shook her head, "No. I'm not trying to insult you, nor I'm going to force you. It's all up to you."

"Since that's the case, I'm not—"

Before she could reject, Rima stood up and said, "If you defeat me, I'll pay you a thousand Merit Points."

"Ah, Is that true?" The turtle woman asked, her eyes lighting up.