Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 901: Suicidal?[1,128 words]

Chapter 901: Suicidal?

Sanya's expression darkened when she heard the voice, Velerie and Meredith furrowed their brows while Isolde, her brother and several others' eyes lit up.

Since this person, whoever they were, dared to speak up in front of Sanya, it meant they weren't afraid of her. This meant she wouldn't be able to force Isolde now?

Everyone's gaze flicked to the entrance of the hall, but before they could see how it was, they saw Rima, who had been calm all this while, tremble from head to toe and then...

Swoosh!

She dashed towards the entrance, the rims of her eyes reddening and crystalline tears welling up on her eyelids.

Velerie narrowed her eyes in confusion and the Grand Elder was about to stop her, thinking she was trying to flee, but Sanya's eyes flashed and she raised her hand, stopping him.

Right then, a figure appeared at the entrance of the hall and Rima threw herself at it.

Thud!

Their bodies collided, creating a muffled thudding sound.

Rima wrapped her arms and legs around the figure, who was none other than Max, like a koala, tears streaming down her eyes unceasingly.

Max wrapped his arms around her, feeling bittersweet in his heart.

"I'm sorry, my love, for worrying you." He gently apologized while caressing her back soothingly.

"I missed you." Rima sobbed on his shoulder.

Max's heart clenched when he heard this.

"I missed you too." He said after a moment, hugging her more tightly.

Right then...

"Stop this unseemly play. This is the sacred Disciplinary Hall, not your house."

A discordant voice sounded, interrupting their emotional reunion.

Max's eyes glinted coldly and he looked at the person who had spoken, a green-haired man.

[You'll die for this.] He sent him a transmission.

The green-haired man, Isolde's elder brother, stiffened when he saw Max's murderous gaze lock onto him. He felt as if some extremely ferocious beast had sat his sights on him, sending chills down his spine.

Then he heard the transmission and his heart fell. But a moment later, when he gathered himself, his expression twisted in rage.

He was the son of a powerful Monarch, someone who wielded vast authority within the Beast Emperor Hall and outside of it too.

People should fear and respect him, but someone was threatening to kill him here? How humiliating was this?

He really wanted to growl 'If you have guts, repeat what you said.' but after a moment, he suppressed his fury. Things were already complicated thanks to Isolde, if he also got involved and things became troublesome, his father was sure to punish him.

However, this didn't mean he was going to let Max off.

'Just you wait. I'll have you killed for this impudence.' He thought, a sinister glint flashing in his eyes.

Max ignored him after sending him the transmission and gently caressed Rima's back a few times more before he let her down on her feet, "We'll talk after we are done here."

"Mm." Rima obediently nodded.

Holding her hand, he entered the hall and stopped a few feet away from Isolde. He then swept his gaze across the hall.

He could see most of the people inside the hall were displeased by his sudden and disrespectful entrance. The only reason they hadn't said anything about it was because Sanya and the Disciplinary Hall Master, Velerie, had kept quiet, silently appraising him.

"Greetings, Hall Master and Elders. I'm Max Garfield, a new Inner Hall Disciple." Max greeted them, then he glanced at Rima beside him and said, "I'm also her man."

Velerie glanced at Sanya and seeing she was only watching him with interest, she nodded, "Mm. Since you are her man, it's only appropriate you would come here. But make sure to ask for permission before entering the hall next time."

"I'll do that. Thanks for not punishing me for it." Max nodded politely. Just from this, he could tell this Disciplinary Hall Master wasn't against him and Rima.

Velerie nodded, "Now, tell us what you meant by what you said earlier."

"I meant exactly what you think." said Max before glancing at Isolde, "I think the battle to death my fellow disciple has proposed to resolve the enmity between her and my Rima is the most effective way. Therefore..."

While speaking, he took out his identity badge, dropped a drop of blood on it before taking Rima's badge hanging from her waist and having her drip a drop of her on it, he pressed them together.

Weng~

A blood radiance erupted from the badges and covered them.

Everyone present in the hall was familiar with most of the Beast Emperor Hall's rules. So, they understood Max was creating a bond with Rima based on which he would be eligible to fight for in his stead.

Of course, not anyone could create this bond with one another. The first and foremost requirement was for both parties to be in the same realm and the same hall.

Fortunately... Max had successfully broken through an hour earlier and was in the same realm as Rima—the Five Star Realm.

'Is he suicidal?' Several people in the hall this thought.

A few moments later, the blood radiance disappeared and the bond was successfully created.

As everyone watched on, Max gave Rima her badge, dropped another drop of blood on his badge and raised it in the air before looking Isolde dead in the eyes and slowly but clearly enunciating each word,

"I, Maxwell Garfield, an Inner Disciple of the Beast Emperor Hall accept Inner Disciple, Silver Ranker Isolde Grimheart's invitation for a battle of Life and Death on Inner Disciple, Silver Ranker Rima Garfield's behalf."

Isolde had an indifferent expression on her face all this while, but when he finished speaking, her expression finally changed—her lips curled up in a disdainful sneer and mocking glint flashed in her eyes.

"When do you want to fight?" She casually asked. "I can give you a few days to stabilize your cultivation if you want."

Max's lips curled up. He understood she wasn't taking him seriously at all, but it also made sense. In her eyes, he was a newly ascended Five Star Mage.

Even if he was a genius, was he comparable to her? Even if he was, she was a Five Star Mage, a whole two minor realms higher than him. She could easily trounce him. This was why she didn't mind giving him some time to stabilize his cultivation and get used to his new strength so she could convince him of his inferiority before she killed him.

"There is no need." He shook his head before calmly saying, "But if you need some time to say your goodbyes, I can wait."

Isolde's expression darkened.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 902: Can't Control Everything[1,159 words]

Chapter 902: Can't Control Everything

"Very well." Isolde nodded, dense killing intent flickering in her beautiful eyes. She turned to Velerie and said, "Hall Master, please take us to the Silver Arena."

Velerie glanced at Max, then at Sanya for a brief moment before nodding at Isolde, "Very well."

Swoosh!

Saying that, she stood up, waved her hand and disappeared from the hall along with Max and Isolde.

Immediately after her, Sanya glanced at Rima and smiled, "Shall we go too?"

"Yes, Elder." Rima hurriedly nodded.

Swoosh!

As soon as Rima nodded, they disappeared from the hall.

"Sigh! Let us also go and bear witness to the battle." The White-Robed Grand Elder stood up, sighing. Before his voice finished ringing, he had disappeared from the hall.

Several of the Elders' lips twitched.

Didn't he sound like he was going to take them along?

Shaking their heads, one after another, all of them left the hall.

On the way, Isolde's elder brother, after hesitating for a bit, took out a communication talisman.

Taking a breath, he activated it and with his Divine Sense, he relayed a message to the other party, [Lord Father, a few days ago, younger sister Isolde...]

After he was done, he pursed his lips, an annoyed look on his face.

He was already a King Rank Mage, nearing the Peak of the realm, and because he was the son of the Inner Hall Master and held a Junior Elder's position in the Inner Disciplinary Hall, countless people respected and admired him.

However, despite all that, he had to be careful about everything while Isolde did whatever she wanted. It was completely unfair.

...

Rumble! Boom!

A battle was currently ongoing in the Silver Arena and everyone was watching it with rapt attention because unlike usual, this battle was being fought between high-rankers—25th and 26th rankers to be precise.

The battle was reaching its climax when one after another, a group of three appeared in the sky above the arena.

Swoosh!

Save for the battling duo because they were cut off from the outside words by the formations, everyone in the coliseum noticed the trio and even before they recognised them, their hearts thudded in their chests because just the fact that they could stay afloat *above* the Silver Arena was enough to tell them that these people were very powerful and were of high status.

Then, they saw Velerie and immediately shot to their feet, and respectfully bowed towards her, "Greetings, Hall Master!"

"At ease, everyone." Velerie gave them a light nod in acknowledgement, allowing them to relax.

Just when the audience was thinking why she had appeared here and were considering whether they should ask, a duo appeared in the sky—Sanya and Rima.

Several in the audience, most of whom were high-rankers, recognised the crimson-haired woman and their breaths hitched. Once again, they bowed deeply, "Greetings, Elder Blood Flower!"

Those who had failed to recognise Sanya earlier shook when they heard the title ’Blood Flower’ and also shouted out their greetings.

Sanya just waved her hand before flashing to the stands and taking a seat there, one leg casually but gracefully folding over the other.

She then glanced at Rima, who was orienting herself after the extremely fast travel just now, "Come, sit."

"Yes, Elder." Rima nodded and sat down beside her before raising her head and looking at Max, her emotions surging.

’If I knew he would return, I wouldn’t have taken this master this far.’ She thought, sighing inwardly.

She was regretting her actions right now, but it was not because she was afraid Isolde would kill him—she knew no matter how strong Isolde was, she was ultimately a Five Star Mage, so she wasn’t a threat to him, especially because he was also a Five Star Mage now—but because she wanted to hug him tightly, kiss him and vent her emotions. But because of the imminent battle, she had to wait.

Though she didn’t show these emotions on her face as she stared at him, Sanya, who had looked over to comfort her a little, looked at her strangely.

"You aren't afraid for him? Why?" She asked, "You should know Isolde is a Peak Five Star Mage, and a genius at that. I wouldn't be surprised if she could fight an average Mid-Stage King Mage with her current strength. And if she were to use her trump card, I believe she can even fight, if not defeat, a Late-Stage King Mage."

Rima pursed her lips in response to her question and hearing how powerful Isolde could be, a hint of concern finally appeared in her eyes.

"I'm sure even if she is as powerful as you say she is, Elder, she still can't harm him. So, there is no need to be afraid." She said, then her brows furrowed, "But I'm annoyed at myself for dragging in this mess. Since she is Inner Hall Master's daughter, he wouldn't be able to kill her, but even if he killed her somehow, things would just become more complicated and dangerous for us."

Sanya stared at her, her lips slowly curling up in a grin. "You aren't half bad, girl. Trying to take advantage of me, huh?"

Rima's expression became a little sheepish and inwardly she was a little surprised because instead of believing she had said what she did just now was out of concern for their predicament like everyone would have believed, Sanya saw it as her trying to make *her* say that she wouldn't let the Inner Hall Master cause trouble.

"You can't blame me for this, Elder." Rima said, "I believe if anyone can make sure the Inner Hall Master doesn't make things hard for us because of this matter is you and the other six Monarch Mages of the Hall. But since they don't know us, only you can help us."

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Ignoring the arrival of more people in the coliseum, Sanya stared at her with interest and asked, "And why do you think I would help you?"

"Because you seem to care for Max for some reason." Rima answered without hesitating, though she found her heart becoming heavy.

"Hm. You are right. I do care about him because he is an extraordinary talent." Sanya nodded, and hearing this, Rima was just about to sigh in relief when she saw Sanya give an amused smile and continue,

"But even such people need to face adversities to grow into their full potential. Otherwise, they would be just another greenhouse flower, withering in the slightly turbulent atmosphere. Therefore, I'm not gonna interfere anymore in future."

Rima's face fell. After a moment, she asked, "You'll at least interfere if the Hall Master unjustly tries to kill him, right Elder?"

Sanya looked away and said, "We strive to make sure no disciple faces any injustice in the Beast Emperor Hall but... we can't control everything."

"I understand, Elder." Rima said, her expression sombre.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 903: A Crisp Slap[1,129 words]

Chapter 903: A Crisp Slap

While they conversed, the Grand Elder of the Inner Elder Hall and others arrived one after another, causing the crowd to erupt in hushed conversations.

They were shocked by so many important figures' sudden presence in the coliseum, but were also excited because it told them something monumental was going to happen.

They watched as everyone but Disciplinary Hall Master, Velerie, Isolde and the Blue-Haired young man took their seats. So, they focused their attention on the trio.

"Are they going to battle to death?" Suddenly someone asked, but no one replied because Velerie was starting to speak.

"Today, Disciple Isolde Grimheart and Disciple Maxwell Garfield are going to have a Life and Death battle. Elder Blood Flower, Grand Elder, I and all of you are going to be witnesses to it."

Boom!

Just as Velerie finished speaking, a boom sounded out from the arena and one of the combatants was sent flying and smashed onto the ground along with their companion beast.

On the stands, Rima had just finished talking with Sanya and finally paid attention to the arena. Immediately, her brows furrowed because the one who was just smashed into the ground was none other than Kayla, her friend.

The next moment, her brows furrowed deeper because even though Kayla was clearly unable to continue, her opponent, a girl in pink robes pointed towards her and her companion beast—A black mantis—rushed over, raised its front-blade-like legs and slashed towards Kayla and her companion beast, clearly intending to cripple or at least seriously injure them.

Rima instinctively turned towards Sanya, wanting her to stop the battle, but then she realized that unless Kayla passed out or admitted defeat, her opponent was allowed to attack. Since it was not against the rules, Sanya most likely wouldn't interfere.

Sanya noticed her anxiety and faintly smiled. It was true she wouldn't interfere, but there was someone else who would.

Right then...

"It's enough! You have won." A cold voice penetrated the arena's formations, causing them to ripple, and froze the black mantis in place.

The pink robed girl frowned in displeasure, but shock flickered in her eyes because she was aware no ordinary person could interfere in a ranking battle like this.

Therefore, she immediately smoothened her displeased frown and looked up. Even though she was ready to see someone important, the sight of Velerie shook her. Hurriedly, she bowed, "Yes, Disciplinary Hall Master."

A moment later, the formations opened. After taking a last glance at Kayla, the pink robed girl walked out.

Swoosh!

"Hm?" Above the arena, Max raised his eyebrows in surprise when he saw Rima fly into the arena and land next to Kayla who was struggling to get up.

'So she made a friend...' Max thought, his eyes flickering.

If it was him of a few months before, he wouldn't have felt anything, but right now this was not the case.

After the minor realm episode, his thinking had changed.

All the while he was stranded in there, he was deeply afraid that Rima might do something drastic thinking he had died because as far as he knew, she didn't have anything else to anchor her to the world of living.

So seeing she now had a friend, he felt happy.

He then shifted his gaze to the pink-robed girl, and memorized her appearance.

Soon, Rima took Kayla away before helping her put away her companion beast.

Velerie waved her hand and a formation on the arena's ground flickered.

Swoosh! Shua!

Immediately, the destroyed ground mended itself to become smooth and pristine.

She then ordered, "Go down."

Both Max and Isolde nodded and flew down, landing on the ground fifty meters away from each other.

"Disciple Isolde Grimheart and Disciple Maxwell Garfield are going to have a Life and Death Battle. All of us are going to be witnesses. No matter who comes out of the arena alive, their grudges would end there. They are not allowed to cause any further troubles for the other party's related people."

Valerie's calm but cold voice echoed throughout the Inner Hall. She then waved her hand, causing all the formations to thrum to life.

"You can start whenever you are ready."

She said this right before the formations completely cut off the arena from the outside world and flew over to the stands, taking a seat beside Sanya.

In the arena...

Isolde and Max stood facing each other.

When Max didn't do anything, Isolde frowned, "Take out your companion beast and get into your battle form. I want you to be completely satisfied of your defeat before I kill you."

Max patted his beast storage bag hanging by his waist and shook his head, "My companion beast is severely injured, so I'm going to fight you without him."

As Isolde furrowed her brows, he smiled, "But don't you worry, I'll make sure you won't feel his absence."

Isolde's eyes blazed with fury when she heard him.

"Are you trying to provoke me so I would give you a quick death? If so, you are wrong. I wouldn't do that. I'll torture you and make you kowtow and apologise for your impudence." She said while slowly walking towards him.

Max's smile didn't waver and he curiously asked, "Are you sure you don't want to take out your companion beast?"

"A puny worm like you isn't—"

Swoosh!

Slap!

Before she could finish her sentence, the wind in front of her shifted, causing her pupils to constrict and heart to skip a beat. She began to retreat but before she could, a loud and crisp sound of slap rang out before she felt searing pain on her right cheek.

"Let's quit the trash talk, shall we?"

Max calmly said. He had put just enough force on the slap to make her feel pain and cause the swelling but not enough to send her flying, so she stayed in her place, staring at him in dumbstruck silence.

"You... Did you just..." She murmured, lightly touching her rapidly swelling cheek. Then, her eye turned red and green mana surged out of her in a violent explosion, causing the air around her to distort.

Boom!

Then, her aura surged out, causing the ground several meters around her to sink half a foot.

'An Aura Sphere?' Max's eyes flickered, 'No, it's still an Aura Field, but has the signs of turning into a nascent Aura Sphere.' He thought.

"I will..."

Isolde was so angry that she was shaking from head to toe, dense killing intent oozing out from her. But then she saw his thoughtful and almost careless expression, and became even more enraged and roared:

"I'll slaughter you, you whoreson!"

Max's expression fell and his previously concealed killing intent became visible in his eyes.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 904: Battling Isolde[1,152 words]

Chapter 904: Battling Isolde

Swoosh!

Flame Wings unfurled behind him and he disappeared from the place, appearing several meters away.

Boom!

Right then, the place he was standing at exploded. Amidst the dust and shattered mana fluctuations, Max caught the glimpse of a dark-green, tentacle-like vine before it disappeared into the ground.

He then looked at Isolde, who was still standing in her place, trembling in rage but now there was a surprised look in her eyes.

"You are really a good actor." He said, his voice rife with mockery. While she was genuinely angry at being slapped, it wasn't to the point of losing her mind like she showed. She only did that so he would underestimate her and she would be able to take him off guard and attack from beneath the ground.

Unfortunately for her, Max had his Bloodline Sense, which had only gotten stronger after his breakthrough to the Five Star realm, and could read her emotions. So, her plan failed.

While Isolde was surprised that he managed to see through her plan, Max was also a little surprised and grew more serious because not only was she stronger than he expected, she was also very cunning—he knew such people were the most difficult to deal with.

Die!

Boom!

Isolde shouted and rushed toward him. Her speed was so fast that she broke the sound barrier and instantly appeared before him, her hand, covered in small green vines, slamming toward his head.

The vines didn't look anything out of ordinary but they gave Max a faint sense of danger.

Given his current physique, he was confident even if he took this attack head-on, he wouldn't be killed or even seriously injured. He, however, had no plan to do that.

Therefore, he raised his hand and thrust his palm towards her hand.

Isolde’s gaze flickered with a hint of confusion when she saw he was meeting her attack with a simple palm attack. However, she didn’t feel any derision for him or felt complacent, instead, she became even more serious and activated another spell.

Her palm flashed and a grey-white light covered the vines, enforcing them.

After she was done, she focused on Max, waiting to see how he would react. However, Max kept the same expression on his face and continued with his seemingly simple palm attack which only made Isolde more solemn and caused her to up her guard even more.

She knew Max wasn’t here to die, so he was certainly planning something.

All these thoughts flashed in her mind in a fraction of second and the next instant right before their palms met, her pupils constricted because Max’s palm was suddenly covered in dark crimson flames. She also noticed there were extremely small flickers of white lightning within the flames.

Sizzle~!

As their palms met, the flames surged forward and sought to incinerate the vines but gray-white light appeared on the vines and resisted them while they tried to pierce his hand. However, before they could overcome his physical defenses, the flames extinguished the gray-white light and burned the vines.

Isolde circulated her mana, about to reinforce her hand so she wouldn’t take much damage but before she could...

BOOM!

Max pushed his palm forward and slammed it into her hand, causing the air around them to explode and sent Isolde flying.

"Hm?" Max’s eyes flickered with pleasant surprise. But he didn’t get distracted and pressed his advantage by rushing after her using the Phoenix’s Wings.

Boom!

As the wings flapped behind him, the air exploded, propelling him forward at breakneck speed.

Isolde’s eyes narrowed seeing him close the distance between them rapidly. She began circulating her mana to activate her movement technique, but suddenly had a premonition which made her activate her defensive spell instead.

BANG!

Her pupils constricted into pinholes and heart palpitated as she watched her wooden shield—that could easily block a High Stage Five Star mage's full powered attack and give even Peak Five Star mages a tough time overcoming it—shatter into pieces.

'Oh?' Max raised his brows, 'She got good battle instincts.' He praised her in his heart.

Isolde stared at him, or to be exact, at his wings where she could sense law fluctuations, her eyes wide in disbelief, "Thunder Law?! How is this possible?!"

"It's just initial law comprehension. Do you really have to be so shocked?" Max casually asked while looking down at himself, noticing the tears in his robes and small marks on his skin.

'I'll have to spend some to get used to my current strength.' He mused.

Right when he activated the Phoenix's Wings, he felt he could go even faster if he added some Thunder Mana into the wings and covered them with his Thunder Law.

Therefore... he did just that and his speed increased several folds—he became so fast that despite his powerful physique and natural mana protection, the wind resistance pricked his skin and tore his robes.

"You...!" Hearing his casual tone and seeing his nonchalant expression, Isolde felt stifled even though she knew he was doing it deliberately to provoke her.

The reason she was ranked third on the Silver Rankings was because she had yet to comprehend a Law unlike the two ranked above her.

This was also the cause of her frustration. She was a Monarch's daughter and was supposed to be superior to everyone. But she wasn't... There were two above her.

And now... a third had appeared.

She could still understand the two had managed to comprehend the Law before her because they were really talented and had good backgrounds, not much worse than hers.

But...

What about Max?

Why was he able to achieve the same?

After her confrontation with Rima, she had her people do a background check on her and found out Rima and her companion, who was none other than Max, had come from now completely destroyed desolate wasteland.

Even if he was some kingdom's prince, he surely hadn't received the same resources and guidance that she had while growing up nor should he be more talented than her for no reason than other that she was the daughter of a Monarch and Peak Emperor.

"Die! You need to die!" She let out an animalistic growl filled with intense jealousy and murderous intent.

The mana exuding out of her turned more and more dark green and the same was true for her hair and her aura that became almost solid.

Whizz! Whizz!

The space around her started vibrating and seemed to contort and expand.

...

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Outside the arena, as soon as Isolde's transformation began, Sanya and Valerie shot to their feet, their expressions ugly.

"This is unacceptable!" Valerie shouted and took out her badge, wanting to deactivate the formations and stop the battle, but right then a faint voice that sent shivers down everyone's—who heard it—spine sounded.

"Pipe down, Young Lady."

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 905: ...Was Wrong[1,062 words]

Chapter 905: ...Was Wrong

"Hmph!" Sanya hurrumphed in displeasure and placed a hand on Valerie's shoulder.

"Ha..." Valerie staggered slightly and gasped for breath for a moment before quickly regaining her composure. Though, one could still notice her face was paler than it was a moment earlier.

Taking a breath, she nodded at Sanya, conveying her gratitude.

Right as the voice had sounded earlier, an immense pressure had enveloped her and looked her in place. Her heart had stopped beating and even her blood was frozen in place and her connection to her dantian was cut off.

Even though Sanya had promptly acted and freed her, the helplessness she felt in that fleeting moment was really unpleasant.

She raised her head and fixed her gaze at the green-haired youth, floating there with his hands behind his back. Two people were flanking him but his presence was so overwhelming that everyone unconsciously ignored them and focused on him.

Everyone looked at him in awe, transfixed. It was only when they heard Sanya's cold snort that they snapped back to their senses. Hurriedly, they bent their backs into deep bows and echoed: "Greetings, Lord Grimheart!"

The green-haired youth swept his gaze across the crowd, and a small smile appeared on his face.

Then his gaze fell on Rima, who was still sitting on her chair, staring at the arena, completely unaware of her surroundings and a hint of dissatisfaction flickered in his eyes.

Following that, he glanced at Sanya and Valerie before raising his hand and calmly saying, "At ease everyone."

While the disciples began sitting down while communicating amongst each other with animated looks on their faces, a sneering, cold voice sounded out, "Aren't you getting a little too overbearing, *Inner* Hall Master?"

Everyone looked over and seeing it was Sanya who had spoken, they fell silent.

Lord Grimheart looked at her, and smiled, "What do you mean by that, Elder Blood Flower?"

Sanya furrowed her brows seeing he showed no intention of coming down. Therefore, she disappeared from her place and appeared in the sky a few meters away from him.

Now standing one meter higher than him, she looked down at him and pointed at Valerie, "She is a respected Hall Master of the Inner Hall. Not only did you not address her properly, you even dared attack her. Do you think the Beast Emperor Hall's rules no longer apply to you now that you are a Monarch?"

Lord Grimheart stared at her in silence.

Just when the disciples were starting to feel uneasy, he glanced down at Valerie and said, "I hope I didn't frighten you too badly, Disciplinary Hall Master. I saw you were about to interfere in the Life and Death battle, so I had no choice but to be a little forceful to stop you from violating the *rules*."

Under his gaze, Valerie took a deep breath and nodded silently.

Sanya stared at him, impressed by how effortlessly he turned the situation around but also irritated because she no longer had an excuse to cause him any trouble.

Still...

She glanced at Isolde, who was still undergoing the transformation despite Max's efforts to stop her, and fixed her gaze on him, saying, "She is using your source power. Shouldn't she be stopped?"

While everyone stared at Lord Grimheart, waiting to see how he would respond, the man in question revealed a mocking smile and the next instant...

Bang!

A muffled bang was heard right above the arena.

When everyone looked over, they saw... Lord Grimheart, standing in front of Sanya, with one hand behind his back and the other outstretched in front of him.

Reflexively, the disciples looked at the place they were standing at before and saw their afterimages slowly dispersing.

"Though I shouldn't need to tell you this, since your mind isn't working properly, I will." Saying this with a smile that made Sanya gnash her jaws in irritation, he glanced at the arena, and continued, "They are having a *life and death* battle—Their lives are on the line. They are naturally allowed to use everything at their disposal. No power they can use on their own is against the rules."

Finished saying this, he glanced at her and with a smile, he gestured toward the seats, "Now, how about we go sit over there and watch like everyone else?"

"Hmph!" Sanya hurrumphed coldly and returned to her seat.

Lord Grimheart also floated over and sat down with the two who came with him.

Right then, Isolde finished her transformation and sent Max flying.

'Hm?' Lord Grimheart's eyes flashed.

…

Bang!

The moment Isolde's transformation began, he knew whatever she was doing, he could not let her succeed otherwise she might become more powerful than he could handle, therefore, he attacked her without hesitation and a punch to her gut sent her flying.

Unfortunately, instead of interrupting her transformation, his attack only hastened it.

Moreover…

He looked down at his knuckles and saw the dark-green mana trying to enter him through his pores.

Frowning, he circulated his mana and flames covered it.

Sizzle!

As the flames began burning it, Max's frown deepened because the mana was resisting his flames.

Curious why it was able to do it, he enveloped it with his bloodline sense and immediately, his heart skipped a beat.

Fwoosh!

His expression grim, he covered the flames with the Fire Law and incinerated it into nothingness.

Once again activating the Phoenix Wings, he rushed over to Isolde, activated the [Calidus Brachium] and smashed his flame covered fist into her chest.

Crack!

Her ribs cracked beneath his fist but Max's expression didn't improve because unlike before when his punch strengthened by [Calidus Brachium] had shattered her one of the strongest defensive wooden spells into pieces seemingly with no effort, this time, it barely managed to break one of her ribs despite the fact she hadn't used any defensive spells—the dark-green mana swirling around her had sapped most of his punch's strength away.

As if this wasn't bad enough, his attack had hastened her transformation even more and before he could attack again, it was finished.

Boom!

A slender hand flashed before his eyes and he was sent hurtling back, a sharp pain flaring in his chest.

Ignoring the pain and without trying to stop himself, he stared at her in astonishment.

'...The skeleton was wrong.'

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 906: Changing Situations[1,330 words]

Chapter 906: Changing Situations

Earlier, when she had begun to transform, he had an uneasy feeling which was why he had tried to stop her for the first time. But then her dark-green mana stuck to his knuckles and he tried burning it off.

When his normal mana flames that were potent enough to burn even peak Five Star and even quasi-King materials failed to instantly burn it, he became curious and scanned it with his bloodline sense.

The result?

He found the aura of it vaguely familiar. Upon thinking for a bit, he realized he had exuded similar, and on a deeper, intrinsic level, the same aura when he was possessed by the devil energy.

'She is using the Devil Energy to power up?' The thought arose in his mind, but he knew it wasn't entirely true because while Isolde seemed to be getting more and more angry and losing composure, he could tell she was still sane and showed no struggle of battling dark, corrupted thoughts induced by the devil energy.

'Maybe it's not the devil energy?' He thought and sincerely hoped this was the case because if it wasn't, things were way too dangerous.

To verify his speculations, he attacked her once more and took the opportunity to study her dark-green mana closely.

The result proved that his speculations were... right. Her mana indeed had the same devil energy from the minor realm and for some reason, she was able to control it. As if...

'As if she is a devil himself.' He thought, his mind buzzing in disbelief.

’The skeleton was wrong and so was I. Its seal on the devil has long since loosened and I getting possessed wasn’t among the first instances when the devil had made contact with people via his energy.’

Just as this realization hit him, an intense sense of foreboding welled up within him. Instinctively, he shifted his gaze away from Isolde, who was rushing over at him, and looked at the stands.

Ba-Dum!

Immediately, he made eye contact with a green-haired youth, who was looking at him with an inscrutable gaze, and his heart skipped a beat.

’A Monarch?’ He thought and knew he was right because no one, not even the Crimson Monarch’s lingering will body that had released his aura had given him such a sensation. He felt as if he was completely seen through, and his life and death were in the man’s hands.

The sensation was crippling and he... didn’t like it even a bit.

And as if this wasn’t bad enough, he felt the compulsion to kneel down to him.

Kacha!

He bit down on his tongue, hard, and used the pain to take control of his emotions. Immediately, he felt a burning sensation in his blood—the Garfield Bloodline was provoked and to his dismay, it *wanted* him to thrash the green-haired youth.

"..."

Despite his rage, he found himself becoming speechless.

Was a Monarch someone he could thrash at will?

Heck, he couldn’t even get close to one if the person in question didn’t want him to.

’While I can’t beat him...’ He shifted his gaze back to Isolde, who was now upon him, and his eyes turned cold with dense chilling killing intent. ’I can beat her.’

Bang!

As soon as he thought this, Isolde’s figure flashed and he was smashed into the ground.

"..."

Swoosh!

"Die!" Isolde snarled and shot down behind him like a meteor and punched.

Bang!

Crack!

The punch landed squarely on his chest and broke several of his ribs, injured his internal organs and made him spat out a mouthful of blood while the force behind it pushed him a meter deep into the ground.

Shua!

Crackle!

Isolde flew back up and pointed her index finger at him. The dark-green mana began condensing at the tip of her figure and rapidly solidified into the thin, serpent-like wooden shard, radiating an ominous aura.

Lying in the pit, Max's pupils constricted when he felt its aura and realized this spell could definitely seriously injure if not kill him outright. Therefore, he instinctively raised his hand and began circling his bloodline energy to use his bloodline ability, [Annihilation Finger].

However... the faces of the green-haired youth, Sanya and other Emperors flashed in his mind and he stopped himself—he could not afford to reveal his Nascent Bloodline.

But what was he going to use to defend against this incoming deadly attack? He knew he couldn't dodge it for sure because it had already locked onto him, something he was experiencing for the first time.

His eyes flickered and without hesitation, he tapped on his Fire Elemental Mana reserves and Nascent Fire Law and began casting a spell.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

As he raised his hand and pointed at Isolde, pure Fire Mana surged out of his core and was devoured by some invisible force. A moment later, over half of his mana was devoured and an indistinct outline of a fiery, scaled serpent with large wings on its back took shape in front of him, roaring and hissing at Isolde.

He had met the minimum criterion to use this spell when he broke through to Four Star realm, but for one reason or another, he never got the chance to use it. So, now, for the first time, he was using it, the magic spell he inherited from the Crimson Monarch—The Crimson Dragon Spell.

’What a powerful spell!’ He exclaimed in his heart. The moment the serpent’s outline had become barely discernible, the sense of crisis induced by Isolde’s spell had been reduced to minimal level and by the time he poured half of his mana and *Law Force*, it had vanished altogether.

...

An expression of sadistic madness was on Isolde’s face as she began casting her deadliest spell—Viper’s Fang.

She was fully confident it would be able to kill Max. In fact, she knew for a fact that it could kill even a mid-stage King Mage, and not the average one, but a talented one because this was a Tier-Seven magic spell and one of the strongest offensive spells among the tier.

Outside the arena, Sanya, Valerie and others recognised it and it wouldn’t be an understatement to say they were surprised because it was extremely difficult to mages to cast higher tier magic spells.

After their surprise, Sanya’s became worried and was about rush over to stop Isolde, but before she could, an aura locked her in her place and Lord Grimheart glanced at her with the small smile that seemed to be perpetually hung on his lips, "What do you think, Elder Blood Flower? Don’t you think my little girl is being too wasteful right now? She had the initiative and could have finished off her opponent even without using this draining spell."

Sanya’s expression darkened and ignoring his words, she coldly said, "Make her stop."

"Oh? What do you mean, Elder Blood Flower?" Lord Grimheart asked, raising his brows.

Sanya gnashed her jaws, glanced at the arena and said, "Do you really want such a talented disciple, who can become a very useful asset for our Beast Emperor Hall, to die?"

"No, I don’t." Lord Grimheart shook his head, but then he sighed, "But what can I do? Rules are rules. No one is allowed to interfere in a Life and Death battle between dis..."

Before he could finish speaking, he saw fire elemental mana surge in the arena and his expression changed drastically when he saw Max cast the Crimson Dragon Spell.

Being a Monarch, Sanya noticed the change almost at the same time as him and her soulful eyes widened in shock.

Then, she saw Lord Grimheart about to act and released her Aura Sphere without hesitation, locking him in the place.

Her lips curling up into a beautiful smile, she batted her eyelashes and nodded, "You are right, Inner Hall Master. Rules shouldn't be broken. So... let's just sit here and watch, shall we?"

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 907: Crimson Dragon Dominates[1,060 words]

Chapter 907: Crimson Dragon Dominates

A chilling killing intent and a hint of madness flashed in Lord Grimheart's eyes which made Sanya's pupils constrict and made her go into her combat form.

Lord Grimheart stared at for a moment, his killing intent intensifying. Right when it appeared he would attack her, he sighed and gaze became calm as still water, "You'll regret this."

He then sat down and watched as Max activated the Crimson Dragon Spell.

Sanya stared at him, not lowering her guard because she was afraid he wanted just that and the moment she did so, he would attack Max.

However, even as Max finished casting the Crimson Dragon Spell and sent it flying toward Isolde, he showed no signs of doing anything. So, she relaxed a little and took her seat, but just as she did so, her pupils constricted because...

Whoosh!

One of the two following Lord Grimheart had suddenly burst into action. Before she could stop her, she had entered the arena, bypassing the formations as if they weren't there at all and sent a palm strike toward the partially visible, crimson serpent, the manifestation of the Crimson Dragon Spell.

"How dare you?!"

...

'Hm?' Isolde's expression darkened when she felt a hint of threat from the spell Max was casting. Without caring about damaging her mana core or mana veins, she madly pulled

on her mana and forcefully accelerated her spell-cast, finishing it a moment before Max did and hurled the Viper's Fang toward him.

Whis!

The wind whistled and the space rippled as Viper's Fang flew towards Max, carrying a savage aura of corruption and destruction.

Max's expression turned grim and even though he hadn't activated the Crimson Dragon Spell fully, he sent it flying upwards toward the incoming wooden spike.

...Roar!

A faint sound that seemed the mixture of a roar and hiss sounded as the indistinct spell serpent flapped its wings and took off.

A split second later, both collided but there was no dramatic explosion because at the last moment, the serpent opened its mouth and... *swallowed* the wooden spike before continuing its flight toward Isolde who stood frozen in the air.

'Die Bitch!' Max roared inwardly, a cold murderous glint flashing in his bloodshot eyes.

He was already full of rage due to her targeting his woman, and seeing she was somehow connected to the sealed devil in the minor realm, he wasn't going to hold back even if her father was here.

However...

As the spell serpent flew towards Isolde, Max's complexion turned pale white and his pupils dilated because the moment he had the snake swallow the spell wooden spike, almost seventy percent of the fire mana and law fluctuations in the serpent were destroyed.

To keep the spell active, he had to pour more mana into it and permeate it with law fluctuations once again. Even then, the spell serpent didn't stabilize and was on the verge of exploding, but he couldn't let it happen before it reached Isolde's vicinity, so he burned his mental power without regard for anything else and forcefully stabilized the spell serpent.

A split second later, it reached Isolde and he activated the final phase of the Crimson Dragon Spell. The fire mana rapidly compressed inside the serpent along with the law fluctuations.

’Explode!’ He shouted in his mind, keeping his eyes focused on Isolde despite his swaying vision.

Right then, however, he saw a figure suddenly appear before Isolde and slapped the spell serpent that was on the verge of exploding.

Bang!

The sound of an explosion sounded, but it was very low and muffled unlike one would have expected from the culmination of a Tier-8 Magic Spell, even if it wasn’t cast at its full potential due to Max’s realm being too low.

Seeing the figure hovering before Isolde, Max’s expression darkened. He wanted to say something and see the figure’s face so he could seek it out later for this transgression against him, but his vision blanked out and he fell unconscious. The last thing he noticed was the figure raising its hand and launching an attack at him.

...

After an undetermined amount of time, the darkness slowly receded and Max regained consciousness.

The first thing he felt was... Pain, extreme pain.

The second thing he noticed was that he was alive. The figure had failed to kill him. Though it was not unexpected because he knew since someone had broken the rules of a Life and Death battle, from what he knew about them after their short interaction, Valerie and Sanya wouldn’t just sit back and watch.

Well, pain wasn’t unexpected either as he had received a beating from Isolde and had been reckless in using the Crimson Dragon Spell.

"You awake, Milord?" He heard a familiar voice.

Opening his eyes, he saw a young man in white robes walk into the room he was lying in. This man was the one who had shown him the way to his cave residence on the Violet Peak.

"Yeah. Thanks for looking after me." Max said while sitting up.

The young man shook his head, "I’m your servant, so it’s only expected of me, Milord. No need to thank me."

"Oh? Grand Elder assigned you to me?" He asked and the young man nodded.

"You awake, Disciple Max?" Right then, another familiar voice sounded and the grey-haired Elder, Elder Milo, entered the room.

"Yes, Elder. Thanks for your care." Max said.

"Haha, I didn't do anything. No need to thank me." Elder Milo laughed, then said, "Good job back there. You almost killed that girl."

Max just smiled in response.

Elder Milo sighed, "Too bad she was saved."

Max's eyes flashed and he asked, "Who it was that interfered, Elder?"

"Mm?" Elder Milo looked at him, a hint of surprise flashing in his eyes when he saw the glint of concealed rage in his eyes. Then, he smiled, "The one who interfered was an Elder of the Inner hall, Inner Hall Master's subordinate. But you don't need to trouble yourself over her because Grand Elder has already punished her."

"Grand Elder Rowan had to get involved?" Max was surprised. He didn't think it would come to that with Sanya there. Unless...

"Yes." Elder Milo said, his expression turning sombre, "Lord Grimheart turned out to be more troublesome than we initially thought..."

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 908: Bad News[1,293 words]

Chapter 908: Bad News

By the time Elder Milo finished speaking, various expressions had flashed on Max's face. In the end, a calm expression settled on his face.

From what Elder Milo said, after the Inner Hall Elder, a high-stage Emperor mage, interfered to save Isolde and tried to kill him, Valerie and Sanya had burst into action.

Sanya forcefully stopped Lord Grimheart and immobilized the other Emperor Mage who was with him, giving Valerie a chance to rush over and save him.

However, Lord Grimheart had turned out to be more than Sanya could handle despite the fact that both were Early-Stage Monarchs.

Due to Sanya going all out from the start, he couldn't stop Valerie, but just a moment later, he had broken free of Sanya's Aura Sphere.

Then, as if he was overcome with madness, he dealt Sanya a hard blow, killing several disciples nearby at the same time. Following that, he took the advantage of Sanya trying to contain her injury, he rushed into the arena, seriously injured Valerie and was about to kill him.

Fortunately, right then, Grand Elder Rowan appeared.

Enraged by his blatant disregard of rules, innocent disciples' lives and the fact that he was actively trying to murder another disciple in cold blood, a disciple he valued quite a bit no less, Grand Elder Rowan attacked, dealing him a serious injury before capturing him and taking him to the Core Hall Master, the true authority figure of the entire Beast Emperor Hall.

Max stayed silent for a few moments after hearing all this. He then looked at him and asked, his voice coming out lower than he intended, "Where is my wife?"

Elder Milo's expression hardened when he heard this. Though Max's expression was calm, he could see through it and tell Max was very anxious and even afraid now.

How could he not after hearing Lord Grimheart's attack on Sanya had claimed several nearby disciples' lives? After all, Rima had been sitting right next to Sanya and Valerie.

'It's going to be troublesome.' Elder Milo resisted the urge to rub his forehead in frustration after realizing Max *really* cared for his wife.

"Elder. Where is my wife?" Max asked again when Elder Milo didn't answer, blood red veins appearing at the edges of his pupils.

Seeing Max was about to lose his mind, Elder Milo sighed and said, "She... is alive."

As soon as he spoke...

Bang!

The bed Max was sitting on exploded into pieces which then erupted into flames before turning into black ash that floated in the room.

A suffocating atmosphere enveloped the room. Let alone the servant who was just an early-stage Three Star Mage, even Elder Milo felt the pressure in his lungs.

At the same time, they felt a chill seep into their bones. While the servant looked around in confusion, trying to locate the source of this strange chill, Elder Milo stared at Max, his pupils constricting because he knew this chill was nothing but Max's killing intent.

'But how is this possible?!' He couldn't believe it. Max wasn't releasing his killing intent at all. So, how could it manifest into this chill that affected them?

"Take me to her." said Max, his voice calm without any ripple.

Elder Milo felt regretful inside even as he led Max out of the room and towards the place Rima was.

'I messed up. Perhaps I should have acted sad and should have told him about Rima right at the start instead of acting all cheerful.' He thought, heaving a sigh in his heart. 'But she isn't dead. It wouldn't have looked good if I did that.'

'Forget it. At least I was the one who brought him out of the minor realm. This connection is enough for now.'

Normally, an Elder of Milo's caliber trying to get closer to an Inner Hall disciple would seem odd, and him feeling regretful over a blunder that couldn't really be called one, would seem even odder.

But...

Those who knew about Max, they would beg to differ because Max wasn't *just* an Inner Hall disciple.

He was a genius who had comprehended not one, but two Laws before breaking into the *Spirit Realm*. He was a genius, who had successfully cast a Monarch-Level Magic Spell in the Early-Stage Five Star realm.

Either of the two was enough to grant him the title of a 'Top Genius' and would mean he was most likely guaranteed to rise to the level that countless would even dare to dream about and those who would dare, would never be able to reach those levels.

Was trying to curry favor with a man with such bright prospects was anything to be shameful about? No, it was most definitely not.

...

At the foot of Violet Peak were several large buildings. Each had their own use but since usually there wasn't much activity in the Violet Peak due to the lack of people, most of them remained empty.

Today, one of those buildings—the Healing Hall—wasn't quiet like always. There were several people in green robes moving about.

An elderly woman in similar robes sitting in front of a closed room. Every so often, someone would bring some herbs or medicine. She would take them and cast several magic spells, purifying them, extracting their essence before condensing them into liquid form which she would store in jade bottles.

Then, every half an hour, she would enter the room, come out a few minutes later, looking slightly exhausted and then bark the orders to the people around her to bring more herbs and medicine.

"Is her condition not improving, Elder?" A female disciple in similar green robes cautiously asked.

"It should, but it isn't for some reason." The elder said, frustration and confusion clear in her voice.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

The female disciple was about to say something when two figures suddenly barged into the hall and rushed toward them.

"Halt! No one but..." The elder shouted to stop them after seeing they weren't her people. But her words got caught in her throat and her hair stood on end when the young man in lead glanced at her and those emotionless blue eyes swept over her.

Swish!

Only after the young man entered the room did she snap back to her senses.

She lightly bowed her head towards Elder Milo and asked, "That boy... was he... her husband?"

"Yeah. Who but him will I allow to enter that room without your consent and Grand Elder's orders?" Elder Milo nodded.

"He seems even more outstanding than what the rumors say." The medical elder muttered, recalling his gaze earlier and her reaction to it.

Elder Milo nodded in understanding before letting out a quiet sigh.

...

Inside the room, Max stood frozen at the door, staring at Rima lying on the bed in a daze.

Her entire body was covered in medicinal bandages and she was lying there, completely motionless as though she was...

Though she was alive since the elder outside was still trying to heal her, the moment he saw her, he had a really bad premonition.

He took a step forward and stumbled. Suddenly, there was no strength in his legs. His hands were trembling, just like his heart.

Suppressing his fear, he walked over to her. The few feet distance felt like hundreds of miles.

He could barely see any of her through the bandages.

Taking a breath, he covered her in his Bloodline Sense.

Immediately, his face turned pale, his heart almost stopped beating and vision swayed.

"No... No... Please No..." He violently shook his head and bit his lip hard as if to jolt himself awake from this nightmare. But it did nothing apart from making his lip bleed.

Thud!

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 909: Sacrificed[1,067 words]

Chapter 909: Sacrificed

Thud!

Before he knew it, he had fallen on his knees, tears streaming down his face.

Rima was indeed alive at the moment, but it wasn't going to be the same for too long.

Her dantian had been destroyed and a very overbearing energy had severely injured her internal organs.

Though this energy had been neutralized by another energy and only faint traces of it remained, there was another destructive energy present in her body, constantly damaging her organs.

If not for the energy that seemed to have neutralized that other overbearing energy and endless streams of medicinal energy that kept trying to heal her, her organs would have completely pulverized by now and she would already be dead.

Max was familiar with this destructive energy. It was similar to the Devil Energy and this explained why it wasn't extracted from her body yet.

The reason he became hopeless upon seeing it was because even though someone—most likely Sanya or Grand Elder Rowan—had neutralized Lord Grimheart's energy—the overbearing one—they had apparently failed to extract it, and Max himself knew he wasn't capable of doing it. After all, no matter how powerful his bloodline was or how miraculous Nascent Energy was, they were still too weak in front of an energy that came from a Monarch Rank Being.

"M..ax..."

Suddenly he heard a faint voice. Hurriedly wiping away his tears, he took a deep breath, put on a normal expression and stood up, gazing down at Rima, who looked at him with her barely open, swollen eyes.

"Yes. It's me, babe. I'm here." He crouched beside the bed, gently taking hold of her hand.

Rima's bloodied lips moved slightly: "...I... love... you."

Boom!

Suddenly, it was as if a nuclear explosion had gone off in his head. His ears started ringing, his vision swam, his heart slowed to a crawl and bloody tears poured down his eyes in unending streams.

...

Within his bloodline space, the Thunder and Garfield bloodline sources churned violently. But in the end, they fell silent.

After what seemed like an eternity...

Sigh!

A faint sigh echoed and the vast Lust Overlord Bloodline's source shook and a small stream of pure energy disappeared, appearing within his heart before rushing up into his head, quickly stabilizing Max's mind.

At the same time, a small part of this stream of energy entered his dantian.

...

Twenty minutes after Max entered the room...

Clack!

The door opened and he walked out.

The Medical Elder and Elder Milo both were aware of Rima’s condition, so they knew Max must be devastated. Therefore, they were prepared to console him and keep him company until he felt better if necessary.

However...

Their words remained stuck in their throats, and their pupils constricted when they saw him.

Ba-Dum!

Both Elders were over five hundred years old, the medical Elder was even nearing a thousand year mark. In their long lives, they had seen and experienced all kinds of things and their hearts had long become stable like mountains. But upon seeing Max now, their hearts quivered.

His face was pale white as if not even a single drop of blood was in his body. His previously enchanting sapphire eyes were now blood-red and emotionless as if they didn’t belong to a human but a devil.

Two dried up dark-red bloodied trails were clear on his cheeks which told them he had cried tears of blood.

Just how much agony he must have felt to do that?

His hair, previously luscious and vibrant light blue, were now seemed dry and lifeless and several streaks of grey could be seen within them.

Not only that, he was clearly a lot thinner and his steps were unstable as if he would fall the next moment.

"Elder... Please go heal her." Ignoring their stunned looks, Max bowed to the Medical Elder and requested, his voice hoarse and low.

"Ah, yes. I’ll go." The Medical Elder pursed her lips, feeling really bad for him.

After she entered, Max turned to Elder Milo.

"Elder... Please help me get back to my cave..." Before he could finish, he lost consciousness.

Shua!

Elder Milo hurriedly caught him, preventing him from falling.

’You foolish child...’ He sighed and left the medical hall with him.

He was midway to Max’s cave abode when he got a message from the medical elder.

’Is she...’ Immediately, he thought that Rima had passed away and sighed. ’Rest in pe...What?’

He stooped in his tracks, his eyes opened wide.

After a long moment, he exhaled deeply and looked at Max in his arms, ’Just who are you?’

The message he received from the medical elder wasn’t about Rima’s passing, but...

[Elder Milo, I don’t know what the boy has done, but she is rapidly recovering now. That strange energy is gone.]

A moment later, he informed Grand Elder Rowan about what had happened and took Max to his cave abode.

...

Swoosh!

Not long after medical elder informed Elder Milo, Grand Elder Rowan appeared in the Medical Hall.

After checking Rima’s condition, he fell in thought. After a while, he said, "Show me what happened while he was in here."

"Yes, Grand Elder." The Medical Elder, standing behind him, said respectfully and took out a formation disk. After she tapped it a few times, a translucent screen appeared in the room.

Both watched as Max entered the room...

After a while, Grand Elder Rowan pointed at the formation disk in Medical Elder’s hands and it shattered, turning into dust.

"Forget what you saw." He faintly said.

"As you command, Grand Elder." The Medical Elder bowed.

"Make sure no one else finds out that she is recovering. You can dismiss others if you want. Keep only your trusted ones with you." After saying this, he paused before adding, "Take care of her properly."

"Yes, Grand Elder." By the time the Medical Elder responded, Grand Elder Rowan had disappeared from the room.

A moment later, he appeared before Max's cave abode and saw Elder Milo sitting in a chair and Max's servant standing to the side.

Without them noticing, he slipped into the cave and watched the unconscious Max for a while.

"...He is as foolish as you, Raylus. He didn't hesitate to sacrifice his future prospects." He muttered, a gentle look appearing in his eyes.

A moment later, dark murderous intent pooled in his eyes, "...Grimheart."

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 910: Beast Emperor Hall's Dilemma[1,238 words]

Chapter 910: Beast Emperor Hall's Dilemma

A few days later...

Bang!

A figure dropped down onto the Violet Peak like a meteor, causing it to shake violently. The disciples, servants and some weaker Elders panicked, not knowing what was happening.

"Why are you creating a commotion?" A faint voice echoed from the top of the Violet Peak.

Sanya, who had arrived just now, scowled and opened her mouth, but before she could speak, the voice sounded again, "Come up."

"Hmph!" Sanya hurrumped and vanished from the place, leaving only a crater behind that slowly recovered after a landscape formation activated.

...

A moment later, Sanya was standing in front of Grand Elder Rowan, who was sitting cross-legged on a silk-mattress, his eyes closed in meditation.

"What's the meaning of this, Grand Elder?" She coldly asked,

Grand Elder Rowan opened his eyes and calmly asked, "What do you mean?"

"Why aren't you doing anything? Are we supposed to let that bastard go scot-free?" Sanya gnashed her teeth, murderous rage simmering in the death of her eyes.

Grand Elder Rowan stared at her without saying anything, just watching her.

When Sanya saw his gaze, she became startled because this was the same, gentle gaze he looked at her with when he first met her.

"W-What is it, Master?" She said, suddenly feeling nervous like a little girl.

Grand Elder Rowan didn't frown like he used to when she called him Master in the past. Instead, he smiled before letting out a sigh, "Because of me, you are shouldering too much pressure, too many responsibilities that you didn't want to carry in the first place. I'm sorry."

"What are you saying? You never asked me to do anything. Everything I have done has been my decision." Sanya said, her voice cold.

Seeing him look so *vulnerable*, she felt her heart squeeze. He was like her father, who she could not bear to see in this state. She would rather he act cold and distant like always.

Grand Elder Rowan didn't argue seeing her reaction and said, "It's not that I don't want to do anything, it's just that... I can't."

"You mean...?" Sanya's eyes narrowed.

"Yes, seeing he has two Grand Elders' support, the Venerable Hall Master has decided not to punish him too severely." Grand Elder Rowan nodded.

"Those selfish geezers. Do they really not know what's going on with that bastard? They do, but they are still siding with him, and the Hall Master is being too passive. She should kill him and everyone else who dares to support him. It'll be only beneficial to the Beast Emperor Hall." Sanya raged.

Grand Elder Rowan eyes narrowed and in a cold tone, he warned, "Not a bad word about the Venerable Hall Master."

"Hmph." Sanya grunted, dissatisfied.

Seeing this, Grand Elder Rowan sighed, "You don’t know how much the Venerable Hall Master has sacrificed for the Hall or how much she has endured. If not for her... the Beast Emperor Hall would have been a thing of the past by now."

"What do you mean?" Sanya asked, confused. She usually didn’t pay much attention to the ongoing events within the Beast Emperor Hall but still, she always kept tabs on the important happenings. But until now, she hadn’t noticed the Venerable Hall Master do anything of significance. She always remained cooped up in her cultivation chamber.

’...Wait?’ Her brows furrowed.

Why would a High-Stage Emperor Mage, rumoured to be powerful enough to rival Peak Emperors, always stay in her cultivation chamber, extremely rarely stepping outside to oversee the Beast Emperor Hall?

Was it really because she had been focusing on trying to become a Peak Monarch and didn’t have time to do anything else?

She had believed this to be the case, but seeing what Grand Elder Rowan had just said and how she wondered in the past what’s Venerable Hall Master cultivating with that she hadn’t left to gather resources in hundreds of years...

"She... doesn’t dare to leave the Hall?" she asked, hoping for this to be not true.

However...

Grand Elder nodded, "Yes."

"Why?" Sanya’s expression hardened.

Grand Elder Rowan shook his head, a helpless look on his face, "You are one of the eight Monarchs of the Beast Emperor Hall. How could you have not figured it out until now. How embarrassing! Even Valerie knows about it all."

Sanya didn’t show any embarrassment and just stared at him. So what if she didn’t know earlier, she would know now.

Moreover, she believed in strength. If there was some problem, there was no need to use her mind to find any other solution because her fists were the best and most effective one.

Grand Elder Rowan shook his head. After a moment of silence, he said, "You are aware that our Beast Emperor Hall used to be one of the Sovereign Rank Forces, right?"

Sanya nodded.

"Our Beast Emperor Hall is one of the oldest forces. It was established by our founder when the war with the devils was being fought. We survived the war and prospered for a long period of time, but then came a time when we started declining.

When the other forces noticed this, they became greedy and began coveting our legacy since it's quite unique and can make them even stronger.

They started moving in shadows and our top experts began vanishing. When the contemporary Venerable Hall Master noticed that, they devised a plan to protect the Beast Emperor Hall.

They destroyed the main Minor Realm which held our legacy and headquarters. It was a crippling move, but it was necessary to keep those hyenas away.

Unfortunately, while the plan was good and it was executed flawlessly, some powers became suspicious that we had already moved our legacy away before the minor realm was destroyed. So, they continued targeting the Hall.

The Venerable Hall Master was decisive. They directly opened the Hall to everyone so they could come and verify whether we had lied or not. Once they came and checked, they found that the minor realm, along with our legacy, has indeed been destroyed. Only then the suppression of other powers began to diminish."

Sanya's expression turned frigid upon hearing this.

She was *aware* the reason the Beast Emperor Hall had yet to give birth to any Peak Monarch and Quasi-Supreme in tens of thousands of years was because the Hall had lost a major part of its Legacy in an unfortunate accident. But it turned out it was not an accident... they were forced to destroy it to endure the Hall's survival.

After a pause, Grand Elder Rowan continued, "But maybe the fate of our Hal had become too weak. The peace we bought with such sacrifice didn't last long. For close to two thousand years now, several major forces have started targeting the Hall once again. Fortunately, they aren't strong enough to deal with the Venerable Hall Master, and haven't done anything over the top because they are afraid if they did that, the Venerable would lose her mind and they would suffer severe losses."

"Do they still believe we have our legacy?" Sanya asked, blood mist churning around her.

"Not really." Grand Elder Rowan shook his head, "What they want this time isn't the legacy, but the Hall and resources it controls."

"I see." Sanya nodded, "So, the people I have been killing all this while... they are sent by these forces?"

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 911: A Tear[1,091 words]

Chapter 911: A Tear

"Some of them are." Grand Elder Rowan nodded before shaking his head with a pitying look on his face, "The others are a greedy, misinformed lot."

Sanya nodded in understanding. Then, asked, "So, the Grimheart family is one of the former forces?"

"Yes," Grand Elder Rowan said and as if he knew what she would say next, he continued without giving her the chance, "But it's not the Grimheart family that we are wary of. It's the force backing them. If we punish Micheal too severely, they would have a justifiable reason to openly attack us."

"Which force is backing him?" Sanya asked,

She knew what he said was true. While the Grimheart family was powerful with two Monarchs, the strongest being Micheal, the inner hall master, it couldn't compare to the Beast Emperor Hall that had seven Monarch, excluding Micheal. And four of them were strong enough to wipe out the Grimheart family.

"Ironcrest Fortress."

...

Sanya left Grand Elder Rowan's cultivation chamber after a short while, her expression dark.

She felt really... stupid.

It's been quite a long time since she had become the elder of the Beast Emperor Hall, but she wasn't aware of reality until now. It was really embarrassing, especially because she had been handling those waves of enemies trying to encroach on the hall's territory.

Of course, she had felt something fishy was going on, but thinking her strength could resolve all situations unless someone more powerful than her appeared, she didn't bother investigating.

’Strength is important, but it isn’t everything.’ She recalled Grand Elder Rowan had told her this when she entered the Beast Emperor Hall all those years ago, but she had never paid the latter half of this sentence any importance.

’No wonder the Master held more expectations for senior sister and not for the stupid me.’

Swoosh!

She stood there in silence for several seconds, her eyes flickering. Then, she disappeared without a trace.

...

Over a week later...

Outside Max’s cave abode...

Swoosh!

Elder Milo arrived and asked, "Has there been any improvement in his condition?"

The servant boy bowed, "Unfortunately not, Elder."

Elder Milo nodded and entered the cave abode.

There, on the bed, he saw Max lying motionless. His face still pale white, his body still thin, almost skin and bones, and several patches of his hair still grey.

"Sigh! Just what did you do, boy?" Elder Milo sighed. In the last ten or so days, he had given him all kinds of healing medicine that he could afford, but all of them had been ineffective.

When he had seen him walk out of Rima’s room that day, he had thought he had burned his vitality to perform some sacrificial or taboo magic spell to heal her. But now he knew it wasn’t as *’simple’* as burning vitality because if it was, the medicine he had given him would have helped him, no matter how little.

A moment later, he walked out, gave a bottle of pills to the servant boy. "Grind one down into powder, mix it in water and give it to him every hour."

"Yes, Elder." Though the servant boy felt doing this wasn’t going to make any difference, he couldn’t express his opinion, so he accepted the pill bottle.

…

Unbeknownst to them, Max's condition was no longer the same. Not long before Elder Milo came, he had regained consciousness, but couldn't wake up no matter how much he tried. It was as if his consciousness was shackled within his head and he could no longer control his body.

He didn't panic and waited. As time passed, the *'shackles'* began to loosen and he slowly regained control over his body. However, he didn't rush to wake up. Instead, he activated his Bloodline Sense, or rather… tried to, but failed to get any reaction from it.

Having already prepared for the consequences, he didn't panic and calmly sensed his body.

Soon, he found out:

→ He seemed to have become too weak physically. His tempered body was no more. Now he only had a physique that was barely any better than an ordinary mortal.

Moreover, his entire body was numb.

→ His dantian was stable, but he got a hollow feeling from it as if it was empty.

→ He couldn't sense his bloodlines.

Max's emotions didn't ripple. As stated before, the moment he realized he could save Rima, he had prepared himself for the consequences. Well, he hadn't, he just hadn't cared because Rima's life was more important to him.

'The people in those romance movies… They weren't cringe, I just couldn't understand them.' Max thought, wanting to smile, but his face was numb, so he could not.

'I wonder how dad is doing? After not hearing from me, he must have rushed over into the city and got the news of my death, no? I hope he doesn't get too depressed.' Maybe because he was feeling something he had yet to feel ever since he transmigrated over to this world, his thoughts shifted to Earth, to his father.

'I… really miss him.' He sighed, and unbeknownst to him, a tear slipped out of his right eye, sliding down his gaunt cheek.

The servant boy had just entered the cave abode to give him the last of the pills and noticed this. His eyes widened and he quickly took out his communication crystal and informed Elder Milo.

Elder Milo had given him his contact information, so he could inform him if he noticed any improvement or anything strange in Max.

Swoosh!

A few minutes later, Elder Milo rushed into the cave abode like a gust of wind, slightly out of breath.

Glancing over, he immediately saw the wet, tear trail on Max's cheek and heaved a deep sigh of relief. The worst hadn't happened, he could still recover.

"Elder, Is Milord Sir Maxwell waking up?" The servant boy cautiously asked after noticing his relieved look.

"Not yet." Elder Milo replied, "But his consciousness has sparked again. So, it's only a matter of time before he wakes up."

The servant boy nodded, also feeling relieved.

Max was his first master. If he had died or become a vegetable, no one else would have accepted him and his aspiration to become stronger would have been buried. For this reason, he was among the few who wanted Max to survive and recover the most.

'Boy, I hope you wake up and recover soon, otherwise it'd be a pity...' Elder Milo thought as he gazed at Max.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 912: Sanya's Strange Actions[1,023 words]

Chapter 912: Sanya's Strange Actions

'I wonder if that bear killed those two too?' Max thought, remembering Jacob and Alison.

He didn't know exactly what he should feel about them.

Just as he was about to get lost in thoughts, he felt the presence of people nearby, and snapped back to his senses.

Then, he began trying to open his eyes, but failed.

...

’Hm? I lost consciousness again?’ Max thought after regaining consciousness after an undetermined amount of time later.

He felt his body once again and to his relief, found that he was no longer feeling numb all over.

Immediately, he began trying to open his eyes.

A few moments later, he was able to move his eyelids that seemed to have been glued together and slowly opened his eyes.

After adjusting to the dim light of the cave, he opened his mouth and called out, "Hello?"

Swoosh!

Just a moment later, his young servant boy rushed in, a happy look on his face. "You woke you, Milord. Let me inform Elder Milo."

"Mm. Help me sit up first and give me something to eat" Max said, forcing a smile.

"Ah, right away, Milord."

...

Half an hour later, Max had a light meal and felt a little energised.

"Should I inform Elder Milo now, Milord?" asked the servant boy, standing to the side with his hands folded in front of him.

Max glanced at him and asked, "What’s your name?"

"It’s Dan Davoch, Milord."

"Dan, from now on, don’t call me Milord. Call me young lord or something." said Max.

"As you wish, Mi–Young Lord." Dan promptly changed the address.

"Go ahead. Inform him." Max ordered.

He initially wanted to ask him news of the past two weeks, but he hadn’t left the vicinity of the cave abode and was thus not up to date with the things.

Not long after, Elder Milo arrived.

Seeing him, he smiled, "I have good news for you. Disciple Rima is almost completely recovered."

"Mm. Thank you for your care, Elder." Max nodded, a longing to see her rising within him. He knew, while she might have recovered, she mustn't be feeling well at the moment.

Elder Milo lightly nodded in acknowledgement. Then, he carefully asked, "Can you... recover to your peak?"

Max smiled, "Yes. It won't be a problem."

Elder Milo's brows furrowed, "You sure?"

"Yes," nodded Max, but inwardly, he sighed.

After what he had done to save Rima, he wasn't sure if he could recover fully because he didn't even know what exactly he had lost, but the peak Elder Milo was asking was the prowess he had shown in the battle against Isolde.

No matter what might have happened, he knew regaining that strength shouldn't be too difficult. After all, he had mainly utilized his Laws and Crimson Dragon Spell... not his Lust Overlord Bloodline.

"That's good. Otherwise it would have been a pity." Elder Milo breathed out, looking relieved.

Max smiled, appreciating his concern for him.

"No rush, but try to recover within two weeks if possible." Elder Milo said,

"Why? Is something going to happen in two weeks?" Max asked, curious.

"Yes." Elder Milo nodded and elaborated, "For some reason, a few days after your battle, Elder Blood Flower suddenly attacked a few families and organizations, and killed all their top experts. She then issued the mission for the disciple to hunt down the survivors. The rewards she offered were very generous. Thanks to them, several disciples who had been stuck at some bottleneck, broke through them. Even several core disciples had made significant progress."

"She has announced that she will be issuing another mission in two weeks and everyone should be ready to move at a moment's notice." Continued Elder Milo, "If you can participate it in, your strength should also increase drastically thanks to the rewards."

"I see," Max nodded in understanding. Then, with a thoughtful look on his face, he asked, "You don't know why she attacked those forces, Elder?"

"No," Elder Milo shook his head, "Only the Grand Elders and Venerable Hall Master might know."

"Has the Inner Hall Master done anything out of the ordinary after my battle?" Max asked,

"No." Elder Milo said, but then seemed to have remembered something and added, "Oh, right. I heard he condemned Elder Blood Flower for reckless actions after she attacked those forces, but I don't know if that's true or not. After all, after what happened earlier, he should be keeping a low profile."

Max kept silent. He didn't know much about what was going on behind the scenes, but he felt Sanya wasn't attacking forces randomly. These forces might have some relationship, direct or indirect, with Lord Grimheart and she was *attacking* him by annihilating them.

The reason he thought was because he didn't believe Sanya would endure the humiliation she faced that day when she failed to stop Lord Grimheart from interfering in the Life and Death Battle.

'It would be best if I'm right.' He thought, his eyes glinting coldly. He wasn't strong enough to deal with him himself, but he didn't want him to be at ease. If Sanya was creating some trouble for him, he was all for it.

That said...

He looked at Elder Milo and said, "Elder, can you relay a request of mine to Grand Elder Rowan?"

"Oh, sure. Tell me what it is." Elder Milo nodded.

"To recover, I need Mana Crystals and something that can nourish and replenish blood energy." Max said.

"Haha, no need to bother Grand Elder with such a small matter. I'll handle it for you." Elder Milo laughed, then offered, "How about I take you to the medical hall. While you meet disciple Rima, I'll gather the things you need."

Max shook his head, "I can't meet her just yet, Elder. So, please just go ahead and arrange the resources for me."

"Sure." Elder Milo nodded in understanding and left.

Just as Max was about to get lost in his thoughts, he heard Dan's voice.

"Mm. Young Lord, I have something to tell you."

"Hm? Tell me." Max looked at him, curious.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 913: Recovering the Bloodline Sense[1,280 words]

Chapter 913: Recovering the Bloodline Sense

"For over ten days now, Elder Milo has tried giving the Young Lord all kinds of medicine to help you. All of them were Spirit Realm medicine. Unfortunately, they didn't have any effect." Dan told him.

"I see." Max's expression turned grave upon hearing this.

If none of the medicine worked on him, would the Blood Nourishing medicine he had requested be of any use?

He hoped they would and would be able to help awaken his Bloodline Sense at least so he could take a stock of his situation.

Otherwise...

'I might have to ask Grand Elder Rowan's help.' He thought.

He knew Grand Elder Rowan was favoring him and seemed to be a decent person, but he was rather unwilling to expose his secrets to him because the chances of him developing other ideas were always there.

That was why, he really hoped that whatever was making the medicine ineffective on him had already subsided.

...

An hour later, Elder Milo returned with 50 Mana Crystals, and three bottles of medicine.

"These Mana Crystals should be enough for you to recover your mana, but if they aren't, don't hesitate to tell me. I'll arrange for more." Elder Milo said while handing the things over to him before pointing at the three medicine bottles.

"These are Beast Spirit Blood Pellets. They are a specialty of our Beast Emperor Hall and are 50% more effective than best Tier 5 Blood Nourishing items available in the market outside. Each bottle has 10 pellets. Don't take more than one at a time and take another only after you have completely digested the first one to avoid possible complications."

"Mm?" Max raised his brows and looked at him strangely.

Didn't he just say it was Beast Emperor Hall's *speciality*? How could a force's specialty product have any glaring side effects?

Elder Milo shook his head, "Don't doubt me. This pellet is really very good. The only downside is that since it is created from the magic beasts' blood, if the medicinal energy in your body crosses a certain limit, the mixed beasts' blood can turn violent and cause injuries."

"I understand." Max nodded. "I will be mindful of that."

"Good." Elder Milo handed him a communication crystal, "Contact me whenever necessary."

Then, as he was about to leave, Max spoke up, "Elder..."

"Hm, What is it?" Elder Milo curiously looked at him.

Max took a breath and bowed lightly but sincerely, saying, "Thank you for everything you have done for me. I won't ever forget that."

A hint of satisfaction flickered in Elder Milo's eyes. After letting out a quiet 'Mhm', he left.

...

Max had Dan leave the cave before he activated the cave's formations, sat cross-legged and placed the Beast Spirit Blood Pellets in front of him.

He then closed his eyes and began meditating to enter a focused state. A few minutes later, he opened one of the bottles, took out a Pellet and placed it in his mouth before chewing it a few times and swallowing it.

Buzz!

Metallic medicinal energy burst forth within his body and began to run amok within his stomach. Because he couldn't connect with his dantian and his Bloodline Sense was dormant, he had no choice but to let it do whatever it desired.

Cough!

Just a moment later, he coughed out blood, pain spreading throughout his body along with the medicinal energy.

Seeing this, Max couldn't help but let out a somewhat bleak sigh in his heart. If his physique hadn't degraded to the mortal level, even if this medicinal energy was more violent, apart from some discomfort, it wouldn't have done anything, let alone make him cough out blood.

Time slowly passed. Two hours later, pain began to subside.

After a while, he wiped the sweat off his face, again calmed his mind and *felt* his condition.

He was no longer feeling as weak as before, unfortunately, however, his Bloodline Sense was dormant.

Thus, after waiting for another hour for medicinal energy to completely calm down, he took another pellet.

Once again he coughed out blood and felt intense pain. Then a little more than two hours later, the pain began to subside again.

He checked his condition... his Bloodline Sense remained unmoving. So, he took another, then another and another.

Each time, the duration of pain increased and it became increasingly unbearable—the berserk medicinal energy was injuring his internal organs. If he could look inside himself, he would see his stomach, the first place to endure the energy's onslaught, was almost completely shredded.

Despite the pain and his hazy consciousness, there was a smile on his bloody but pale face.

After endure the medicinal energy's torture for two days and finishing two bottle of Beast Spirit Blood Pellets, his Bloodline Sense had finally... awoken.

'Let's see...'

Thud!

He was about to activate it and scan himself, but just as the thought formed in his mind, his vision blanked out and he fell back, unconscious. Blood still trickling out from the corner of his lips, pooling underneath his head.

A day later, he regained consciousness, feeling extremely feeble. He didn't even have the energy to sit up, so he remained lying there and slowly activated his Bloodline Sense.

...

Phew!

A short while later, Max exhaled softly and stared at the ceiling with a blank look in his eyes, his mind shifting to the memory of the day he removed the devilish energy from Rima's body.

...

After realizing Rima was going to die, it was as if something had shattered inside him. He had lost all senses and couldn't feel anything but grief, overwhelming grief.

Then after what seemed like a long time, his mind cleared up and he felt something unusual in his dantian.

When he looked inside, he saw a cloud of swirling pink and dark energies—Nascent, Death and Devil Energy. At some point, the Death Core had shattered and merged with the remaining Nascent and Devil Energy and formed this cloud.

He was startled.

Both the Death and Devil Energies were very destructive and violent. And the amount of Nascent Energy he had in his dantian wasn't enough to forcefully stop them going berserk, let alone when they had merged like this. But now, except from some occasional undulations, the energy cloud was completely calm.

Before he could think what was happening, he found himself believing that he could use this energy cloud to extract the devilish energy from Rima.

Without hesitation, he went over and placed a hand on Rima's chest and carefully poured in the energy from the energy cloud, connecting it to the devilish energy within her.

Right as both energy came into contact...

BOOM!

The devilish energy rushed out of her and entered his body through his palm in an unstoppable torrent.

Unlike the Death and Devil Energy that had become docile within the energy cloud, this devilish energy was violent and began damaging his body as it followed the energy of the energy cloud towards his dantian.

For a moment, he thought before it reached his dantian, he would explode and die, but right then, the energy cloud's energy fluctuated and... his refined physique began degrading rapidly.

By the time all the devilish energy was extracted, he had become too weak, his senses going haywire—he had become incapable of even staying conscious, let alone assessing his condition. That was why, the moment he walked out of the room and told the Medical Elder to heal her, he passed out.

...

Sigh!

He sighed and looked within him again... within his dantian which now looked completely different than it used to be.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 914: The Price He Paid[1,030 words]

Chapter 914: The Price He Paid

Previously, it housed his Mana Core in the center, the Death Core hovering around it. Then there was Nascent Energy and Devil Energy. It was like a house with several family members.

Then, the Death Core was shattered and the Death, Nascent and Devil Energy had formed the Energy Cloud.

Still with the lively Energy Cloud and the Devilish Energy he extracted from Rima, it shouldn't look so desolate and empty.

The Energy Cloud and the Devilish Energy were nowhere to be seen, and his Mana Core floated in the center. But it no longer looked pristine like before. Instead, it looked like an egg covered in countless cracks, on the verge of collapsing.

Also, there wasn't a trace of mana inside. All of it seemed to have seeped out from the cracks and disappeared.

One would wonder, the dantian was a close place, even if the Mana Core shattered, the mana shouldn't escape from it, at least not without a trace like this? After all, even if it seeped out of his dantian, it would enter his body first, then evaporate in the environment.

Dan had been taking care of him, closely monitoring him ever since Elder Milo brought him back from the Medical Hall. So, if that had happened, he would have noticed and he would have told him. He hadn't even mentioned it, however.

It clearly meant no mana *escaped* from his body.

Therefore, one might ask, how did it disappear and why weren't there any residual energies left of the Energy Cloud and the Devilish Energy? Even if those energies destroyed each other, there should be a trace of them left, no?

Well, Max knew what had happened after taking a look, and the answer to these questions was worse—his dantian had suffered some damage, some minor but clear cracks had been forced on its boundary.

All the mana and remaining energy might have escaped from those cracks because strangely enough, even though he couldn't sense what was outside these cracks, he knew they didn't lead to his body but to some other space.

The realization made Max freeze.

He always thought, though very ethereal and mysterious, the Dantian was part of a human body even if some unfortunate people didn't have it.

But if it was a part of human body and was inside humans, there shouldn't be any empty, strange space outside it.

'Just what's going on? Is it the same for everyone else, or is it just me?' He thought, his brows tightly furrowed and an uneasy feeling taking hold of his heart.

'I have to consult Elder Milo and, if necessary, Grand Elder Rowan too.' he decided.

But before doing anything else...

"...I should first heal my injured stomach." Max sighed, gulping down some blood.

Soon, he ingested a few Tier Four healing medicine he had.

Ordinarily, lower tiered medicine weren't much effective on mages, but his physique had degraded so much that they were hundred percent effective and quickly began healing the injuries.

Seeing this, he didn't know whether he should feel sad or happy about it but he did heave a sigh of relief because whatever it was that had been making the medicine ineffective had indeed subsided.

A few hours later, all of his injuries had healed and he was once again sitting cross-legged, looking at the cracks in his dantian with his Bloodline Sense.

Healing a Dantian Injury was extremely difficult but Max already knew of a method—Nascent Energy could heal it. The only problem was... he didn't have a shred of it at the moment. He could regain it by having sex, but Rima...

He sighed.

A moment later, he shifted his attention to his Mana Core.

"Let's recover it first." Taking a deep breath, he took a Mana Crystal in each hand and began absorbing the mana within them. Then, instead of sending it in his dantian, he began using it to recover his Bloodline Energy. While it wouldn't be as effective as Nascent Energy, it would be extremely helpful in healing his Mana Core.

A few hours later, he finished absorbing fifteen Mana Crystal and finally recovered his Bloodline Energy.

Sensing it carefully, his brows furrowed in confusion. His Bloodline Energy was... t*he same as before.*

'It wasn't the Lust Overlord Bloodline that helped create that Energy Cloud?' He thought and shifted his attention to the Devil's Blood in his heart. Other than the Lust Overlord Bloodline, it was the only thing that could have done that. Of course, the Lust System could also do it, but it was already dormant.

'There is no use thinking about it. I'll find out the truth in due time.' With this thought, he stopped thinking and began directing the Bloodline Energy into his dantian, then into his Mana Core.

"Hmm?" As it seeped into it, Max saw traces of Devil Energy. However, it seemed somewhat different from the Devil Energy he had gotten in the Minor realm or from Rima. It was still destructive and violent, but it didn't feel... sinister and evil.

No bothering to why this was so, he quickly suppressed it with his Bloodline Energy and began extracting it from the Mana Core. Sadly, he was rapidly burning the Bloodline Energy to do this because it didn't have as much suppressive effect on it.

By the time he finished extracting the last trace of this Devil Energy, less than ten percent of his Bloodline Energy remained which he used to keep the traces of Devil Energy—which had merged and turned into a dark, shimmering liquid—contained.

Soon, he realized, there was no need to contain it because unlike the ordinary Devil Energy, it didn't try to wreck havoc and instead floated in place.

'Is this the result of Energy Cloud refining Rima's Devilish Energy?' He thought while *staring* at it.

Gulp!

Suddenly, the sound of him gulping his saliva snapped him back to his senses. Then, to his astonishment, he realized that every cell of his body seemed to crave it.

Not only that, the Drop of Devil Blood in his heart also stirred and emanated signals of hunger.

His eyes lit up.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 915: Good Stuff[1,096 words]

Chapter 915: Good Stuff

"Good stuff." His eyes lit up.

After thinking for just a moment, he decided to use it.

Pulling it out of his dantian, he moved it to his heart and let it dissolve into his blood and slowly spread throughout his body. Of course, he did this while suppressing the Devil Blood that wanted to devour it badly, constantly emanating suction power.

'Mm.'

As the drop's devil energy spread throughout his body and strands of it began assimilating into his blood, his muscles, and bones, essentially every cell, he felt extremely comfortable and almost moaned out loud.

With his eyes closed, he enjoyed this sensation and *watched* in amazement as his frail body rapidly strengthened.

Within a few moments, it went from Mortal level to One Star level, then Two Star, Three Star...

A few minutes later, it reaches Four Star Level. It was only the speed of strengthening slowed.

Early Stage Four Star...

Mid Stage Four Star...

High Stage Four Star.

After it reached High Stage Four Star level, all the devil energy was exhausted and the improvement stopped.

Phew!

Max exhaled a long breath, and opened his eyes, astonishment clear on his face.

He clenched his fist tightly to gauze his current physical strength and the result left him more than satisfied, even shocked.

"How incredible!" He softly exclaimed.

The reason for his astonishment was because unlike before, he hadn't cultivated the Barbarian God Physique technique but he was still more powerful than he was at this stage when cultivating the Barbarian God Physique.

'Since it has been strengthened thanks to the Devil Energy, can I call it Devil Body?' He thought ideally. Then a thought crossed his mind and he frowned.

'How come Isolde's physique wasn't powerful?'

This bit of Devil Energy came from Lord Grimheart and Isolde also possessed the same, though a much weaker version of it. Still, since she could control it, shouldn't her physique be a lot more powerful than it was?

'Hm? Maybe because theirs isn't refined like this drop was, so she can only use it to battle?' He thought, his pupils flickering. 'If it's true, maybe even using it to battle should be troublesome for her and even for Lord Grimheart, just like the Death Energy was for me?'

He felt the truth should be somewhat similar to this and let out a sigh of relief. If they could harness the Devil Energy properly, maybe even Grand Elder Rowan wouldn't have

been Lord Grimheart's match and neither would he have been Isolde's without tapping into his Bloodline, Nascent and Death Energies.

However, while they probably couldn't harness the Devil Energy, someone could—The Devils.

Just how strong they would be?

His expression hardened thinking this.

After a while, he stopped thinking about them and began using Mana Crystals to recover his bloodline energy, using up another fourteen crystals which left him with just twenty one.

'This consumption is too high.' He sighed. 'I'll have to find a way to earn a significant amount of resources. Otherwise, it would take a very long time to reach the King Realm.'

There was a saying: Mortal Realms were Earth and the Spirit Realms the Heaven. And that the latter realms relied more on comprehension.

While it was true that comprehension was the major factor in the Spirit Realms, the importance of resources couldn't be undermined. In fact, compared to the Mortal Realms—One Star to Four Star—the Spirit Realms required countless times more resources. The higher one progressed in the Spirit Realms, the more and more resources one needed.

The major thing one needed to do in the Five Star realm was to liquify all the mana in dantian. When one liquified all the mina one had the moment they break into the Five Star realm, one would progress to the Middle Stage of the Five Star Realm.

When one submerged the shell of Mana Core or the now-empty Mana Core in the resulting lake of liquid mana, one would be considered to have reached the High Stage of Five Star Realm.

To reach the peak of the Five Star realm, one would have to increase the quantity of the liquid mana in the dantian to the limit.

All of this required a truckload of resources.

'This is all too troublesome.' He rubbed his forehead in frustration. Then, after a while he exhaled and began pouring the Bloodline Energy into the Mana Core.

1%... 2%... 5%

Even after he had infused five percent of the Bloodline Energy, the Mana Core didn't show any signs of recovering.

7%... 9%... 10%

After ten percent, he noticed the minor cracks had begun to close, but their speed of closing was very slow.

After half of the Bloodline Energy had been consumed, the smallest cracks had fully closed, but Max's expression had hardened and he stopped infusing more energy into it.

Seeing how it had taken so much Bloodline Energy to repair even the smallest cracks, he could barely imagine the total amount he would need to heal the Mana Core completely.

Sure, he could recover it by using Mana Crystals, but, first, he didn't have nearly enough Mana Crystals and, second, even if he had, he wouldn't have done this because after recovering the Bloodline Energy through this method for a certain number of times, his lust would become uncontrollable.

With Esme and others locked in the Tower, Lily, Emily and Sera missing and Rima in her condition... he didn't have anyone who could have sex with at the moment. Therefore, he couldn't afford to go into Lust Overdrive... until he could.

'Only if Lily, Emily and Sera were here. Oh, Belen and Leticia too.' He thought. He really missed them after not seeing them for such a long time, especially Belen and Leticia.

'Those two, just where have they gone to?' He thought, his brows knitting together. Earlier, he had confirmed that they were alive and were possibly in some minor realm. But which realm was it? How was he supposed to find them?

Then there were Lily, Emily and Sera...

"Why haven't they contacted me yet? Or could it be that they had returned from the desolate region and tried reaching out to me but because I was stranded in the minor realm, I missed them?" He muttered, "I hope it's the latter."

If they had missed him, they should have gone to the Ice Sovereign Mountain. He just needed to go there to find them.

However, if they hadn't returned from the desolate region yet...

His expression became grim.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 916: Visiting[1,050 words]

Chapter 916: Visiting

’I’ll have to find out what it is.’ He thought, and without wasting any time, stood up and deactivated the cave’s formations and walked out.

"Greetings, Young Lord. I hope your cultivation session was good." Dan greeted him with a bow. Only then did he notice Max’s complexion had improved significantly even though he was still as thin as before.

"Yes, it was good. Thank you." nodded Max, then took a seat outside the cave on a stone chair and said, "Tell me how the Beast Emperor Hall works."

"Yes, Young Lord." Dan nodded, thought for a moment, then told him everything he knew about the Beast Emperor Hall.

The main and most powerful was the Core Hall where only the Core Disciples, or someone like him who was favored by some high ranking Elders, were allowed to cultivate.

Then, there was Inner Hall and Outer Hall where Inner disciples and outer disciples cultivated.

Generally, every disciple below the Five Star realm was an outer hall disciple.

When they broke through to the Five Star realm, they could apply to become inner hall disciples. Of course, there were exceptions—some talented disciples could be directly recruited into the Inner Hall or even the Core Hall even regardless of their cultivation realms.

Every disciple was allowed to take some monthly resources from the Hall. If you need more resources, you have to buy them with Merit Points.

→Merits Points could be earned from two prominent sources—the missions and ranking battles.

Each hall has a ranking leaderboard.

Outer Hall→Bronze Rankings

Inner Hall→Silver Rankings

Core Hall→Gold Rankings

Those who were ranked in their respective rankings not only received a fixed amount of Merit Points monthly and were respected, they also received various kinds of other privileges such as right to speak in the internal matters of the Hall and a discount when buying resources.

Hearing this, Max felt a pang of regret. If his identity badge hadn't been destroyed, he would have quite some merits at hand.

He shook his head at the thought and looked at Dan curiously, "Are you an Outer Hall disciple?"

"That's correct, Young Lord." Dan nodded, "The Hall doesn't allow disciples to bring in those unaffiliated with the Hall as their servants, but since some Inner and Core disciples and Elders need servants to take care of several minor matters for them and the Outer Hall disciples have limited ways to earn Merit Points, especially those less talented ones like me, the Hall let us become your servants. We get paid for our services with Merit Points that fuels our cultivation."

"I see." Max said, feeling admiration for their determination. If he was in their place, he doubted he could let go of his pride to lower himself in a servant's position. After all, the servant here was really a *servant*, not like the employees in companies on Earth .

'Well, now that I think about it, they do get treated almost the same.' He sighed. Life wasn't easy.

"Go, take a rest or cultivate. I'm better now. No need to be here all the time. If I need you, I'll call you." Max said, throwing a communication crystal along with one Mana Crystal toward him.

Dan caught the both and his breath hitched seeing the Mana Crystal. Unlike Max and others who only came to know about their existence during the war, he already knew what it was.

Ba-Dum! Ba-Dum!

His heart rate increased. Just how valuable a Mana Crystal was? He could convert it into more than ten thousand mid grade Mana Stones.

"Young Lord..." He looked at Max, his eyes turning misty. Then, he bowed deeply, "Thank you very much."

Seeing he didn't try to turn it down, a smile appeared on Max's face.

When someone knew you were clearly in need of something and they give you that thing, but then you go and act as if you couldn't accept it because it was too valuable and other sh*t, it more often than not annoy or displease the other party.The best thing to do in such a situation was to just gratefully accept it.

He was pleased to see Dan was sensible enough. He lightly nodded, "Mm. Go ahead. Work hard on your cultivation. It's very important that we get as strong as possible."

"Yes, Young Lord." Dan bowed again and departed.

Max watched him leave, his emotions of excitement making his mood light.

Withdrawing his bloodline energy, he took out his communication crystal and sent a message to Elder Milo, telling him about the situation of Lily and others and asked what was going on the desolate region.

Soon, he received a reply from him.

[The situation in the desolate region is stable and Rose and others have returned to the Central Plains.]

Phew!

He exhaled in relief hearing this.

Then, he hesitated, thinking whether he should ask him to find some resources that were effective in healing Mana Core. But after a moment, he just thanked him and apologized for disturbing him before putting the communication crystal away.

Elder Milo was a dignified peak Emperor. Just because he had been kind and helpful didn't mean he could take him for granted. Besides, it wasn't good to rely on others for every little thing.

He stood up, locked his cave abode with a formation and began descending the Violet Peak. Now that he had recovered and no longer looked to be on the verge of death, he could finally meet Rima without worrying her.

...

Half an hour later, he entered the medical hall and noticed that compared to the day before, there were very few people here—only three that he could see. One was a guard in the medical hall's robes, and the other two were the Medical Elder and a female disciple in the same robes.

When they noticed Max enter the hall, the young female disciple looked at him, her eyes flickering with curiosity and a hint of awe.

As for the Medical Elder, she had her eyes closed, which she opened, took a deep look at him and said, "It's good that you have come on your own. Otherwise, I was about to send someone to fetch you."

"Why? Something's wrong?" Max asked as his pupils constricted and breathing slowed.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 917: Guilt and Reflection[1,100 words]

Chapter 917: Guilt and Reflection

The Medical Elder nodded, "We have healed all her physical wounds, but she is getting more and more depressed with each passing day. She isn’t eating or drinking properly either."

"Why didn’t you inform me about this earlier?" Max asked, a chill seeping in his voice.

"When she woke up, she asked about you and we told her you were alright and were in secluded cultivation so she wouldn’t worry. Then, as her mental health began to deteriorate, she asked us not to tell you anything. Moreover, Elder Milo told me you weren’t ready to see her yet." responded the Medical Elder calmly.

"Is she awake?" asked Max, not in the mood to care whether his tone had been rude let alone apologize for it.

"Yes, she is." nodded the Medical Elder.

Swoosh!

Max rushed in as soon as he saw her nod.

After the doors closed after him, the female disciple standing beside the Medical Elder muttered under her breath, but loud enough for her master to hear, "What an ill-mannered person."

The Medical Elder smiled, "He is young still, and too concerned for his loved one. Don’t mind him."

"Yes, Master." The female disciple nodded, recalling the moment Max had walked out of the room, looking like an empty husk and much of her displeasure vanished.

Still, she inwardly thought, ’If Master was as strong as Grand Elder Rowan, no matter what was happening to him, he wouldn’t have dared disrespect her like that. Strength... is ultimately most important of all.’

She silently clenched her fists, then glanced at her master before lowering her head.

"You want to go and cultivate, don’t you?" asked the Medical Elder suddenly.

"I... yes, Master." she wanted to deny instinctively, but admitted the truth after composing herself.

The Medical Elder reached out and gently ruffled her hair, "Little Kae, just listen to me and wait for another two months, okay?"

Kaelin, took a deep breath, "I can master the Medicinal Codex in one month, Master."

"Ha, then wait just one month." chuckled the Medical Elder, patting her head.

Kaelin nodded. ’Just one month.’

...

The moment Max entered the room, he was hit with stuffy, depressing air. Then, he saw her, sitting on the bed, dazedly staring in front of her. She hadn’t even noticed him.

As he took in her appearance, which was no better than his before he consumed the drop of refined Devil Energy, he felt his heart clench.

Taking a deep breath, he composed himself, put a smile on his face and walked over to her and sat on the bed beside her.

It was only when Rima felt the movement near her that she came back to her senses, her eyes focused, and woodenly turned her head toward Max.

From how the look in her eyes changed to pleasant surprise, she clearly hadn’t expected to see him, but then she seemed to have thought of something and panic flashed in her eyes and her already colorless face paled even more.

She lowered her head and clenched the bedsheet tightly, not uttering a word.

Max opened his mouth to say something, but then leaned forward and gently pulled her into a hug.

He hadn’t used his Bloodline Sense, but he could tell how deeply insecure and afraid she was. He also realized the reason she had told the Medical Elder not to call him was because she was afraid that he would no longer love her like before if he found out... she had become a cripple.

"I love you, Rima." He softly said, his one hand caressing her back and the other her hair. Then, he pulled away, lifted her chin and made her look at him before he said, "Do you want to marry me?"

Ba-Dum!

Rima's heart skipped a beat when she heard this and saw the sincere look in his eyes.

"I do. I... do." She muttered, a smile appearing on her lips even as tears streamed down her cheeks.

How much did she long to hear him say this one day? How could she not want to marry him?

However...

She cupped his face in her hands, "But I can't. I'm..." She bit her lip, drawing blood, "...No longer worthy of you... your love. I'm sorry, I ca—"

Before she could continue, Max gently removed her hands from his face, cupped hers in his hands and placed his lips on hers, tasting her blood and tears and through them, her emotions.

He continued kissing her very gently, trying to convey his feelings to hers. And perhaps he was successful in doing so because he felt Rima's taut body slowly relax.

After a while, he pulled away, wiped her tears and said gently but sternly, "I know your condition, and never again think that I won't love you the same as before because of it."

Rima didn't respond and just stared at him through her teary eyes. In the end, a soft, satisfied smile appeared on her face and her eyes blinked close—she fainted in his arms.

Max gently lay her down on the bed, pulled up the quilt and sat beside her, stroking her head.

He was feeling extremely guilty and bad at the moment.

Just how much of a beast he was that she thought he would no longer love her after finding out about her condition?

He always thought, especially in the last few months, that he had expressed his love and feelings to her, Esme and others properly and they would never feel insecure about it.

But...

’I was wrong. How could they trust me wholeheartedly when they know the main reason I started the relationship with them was for Nascent Energy... to get stronger?’ he thought, he sighed, ’How truly foolish of me!’

He sat there for a long while, lost in thought, reflecting.

Finally, he snapped back to his senses.

’There is no use regretting the past.’ he thought, ’I’ll just have to show her and others that what I truly value isn’t what they give me, but them.’

This was the truth.

While at the start, he only wanted to use them to get stronger and felt no guilt doing so. After all, weren’t they also benefitting from him? Moreover, he wasn’t going to throw them away after they were no longer of any use to him, so it was all alright.

But over time, his lust turned into real love and at this moment, he was willing to give up all his power, his everything if it could keep his wives safe and happy.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 918: Ways To Earn Resources[1,098 words]

Chapter 918: Ways To Earn Resources

After getting his thoughts and emotions in order, he placed his hand on Rima’s abdomen, activated his Bloodline Sense and scanned her dantian.

It was in the same condition as it was that day—completely ruined. Compared to it, the few minor tears his dantian had weren’t nothing. Additionally, there was no Mana Core in her dantian. It must have shattered and dissipated when she was injured.

He let out a breath and opened his eyes.

While Rima was fortunate enough to survive Lord Grimheart’s strike, she was completely crippled and this was the reason why she was so depressed and was having all kinds of thoughts.

"Grimheart..." muttered Max, murderous intent boiling in his heart.

...

"Thank you very much for taking care of her, Elder." Max bowed to the Medical Elder after walking out of the room, expressing his gratefulness.

This surprised Kaelin, but not the Medical Elder, who smiled, "No need for thanks. She is my patient. So, it's only right I take care of her. You just make sure to come meet her often."

"I'll do that." nodded Max. Then, after giving Kaelin a nod of thanks, he walked out of the medical hall, contemplating his next step.

How should he earn resources?

He couldn't rely on his combat power since he had no mana and without it, his Fire and Thunder Law comprehensions were all but useless. Then there was his Bloodline Energy which he couldn't afford to expose. This left him with just his physical strength.

However...

He doubted he could match, much less defeat, a slightly powerful High Stage Four Star Mage by relying on just his High Stage Four Star body.

Moreover, even if he could, it was useless. After all, the missions of Inner Hall required Five Star strength, not to mention the Silver Rankings where even the last place was at least a Mid-Stage Five Star and quite strong in that realm at that.

'I can't sell those realmbreaker magic spells either as it would bring me more trouble than benefit.' he thought his brows furrowed, 'It would have been good if I had mastered some skill.'

Suddenly, his eyes flashed.

What were the most profitable professions in this world?

Weapon smithing, Talisman Making and Alchemy.

He knew nothing about them, but... if he wasn't wrong, the most important thing in all of them was... *control*. And he wasn't lacking in this regard thanks to his Bloodline Sense.

Moreover, his Fire Law comprehension made it so that weapon smithing and alchemy would be even easier to him.

The same was true for talisman making as he could craft fire and thunder elemental talisman more easily thanks to their corresponding laws.

Also, after he recovered completely, he could once again utilize his Divine Sense (The Divine Sense was Soul Sense in earliest Chapters). When he fused it with the Bloodline Sense, his control could improve even more. Then, it would be even easier for him to craft weapons, talismans or medicine.

"It’s worth a try." he muttered. If he could truly master any of these professions, he would never lack resources again probably until he reached Monarch Realm.

The more he thought about it, the more he felt this was worth giving a try.

Thus, soon, he headed toward the Inner Hall. He had yet to visit the Hall’s library and use up the chance—he got upon becoming an Inner Hall disciple—to select two magic skills.

The moment he left the Core Hall’s area and arrived in the Inner Hall, he felt several gazes land on him. Some looked at him with curiosity, some in wonderment and awe and some with hostility.

He ignored all of them, and spotted a Disciplinary Hall’s disciple in the distance.

Walking over to him, he asked him where the Hall’s library was. Just like others, he had also recognised him and since their Hall Master—Valerie—seemed to be on the same side as him, instead of just giving him the directions, he led the way himself.

After they arrived, Max stared at the five story tower for a few moments—it was huge.

The disciplinary hall disciple smiled when he saw this and remembered he had the same expression he saw it the first time.

"It’s even bigger inside," he commented.

"Spatial magic?" asked Max, surprised. He had yet to even hear of someone possessing Spatial Affinity.

"Yes. It’s said founder had asked one of his friend to do it." The man said.

Max nodded. Then, he thanked him and entered the tower.

Immediately, he realized what the guy had said was true. Inside was even bigger than it seemed from outside.

This First floor was as big as a medium sized village.

After an enquiry, he found out that the first floor was for disciples in the Mortal Realm.

Second floor was for Five Star disciples, Third floor for King Mages, Fourth Floor for Emperor Rank disciples and Elders, and the Fifth floor was for the Hall Masters—Monarchs.

This tower wasn't only a library to store the magic spells and techniques, there were specialized rooms to enhance comprehension where one could comprehend their magic spells since taking them out of the library wasn't allowed.

Also, except for the first time, disciples had to pay Merit Points if they wanted to buy any spell, technique or notes of seniors.

"Since it's your first time, you can select any two skills on the second floor and use the comprehension room for two hours." explained the receptionist.

"Just two hours?" asked Max, his brows raised. Wasn't this duration too short?

The receptionist, a pretty Inner Hall disciple, forced a smile, "The disciples need to pay 500 Merit Points for one hour in the comprehension room on the Second floor. So, two hours free is actually very good."

"I understand. Thank you for explaining." nodded Max in understanding.

Two hours not enough to comprehend your magic spell? Alright, pay Merit Point and comprehend as long as you like.

Of course, he knew this arrangement wasn't to extort disciples but most likely due to the large number of disciples and limited number of comprehension rooms.

A short while later, he arrived on the second floor. It wasn't as large as the first floor, but it was still quite large.

"Hello, welcome to the second floor. How would you like me to assist you?" The receptionist asked when he walked over.

Max nodded back in greeting, then said, "Can you tell me where I can find information related to Magic Weapon Smithing, Talisman Making and Alchemy?"

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 919: Choosing A Profession[1,022 words]

Chapter 919: Choosing A Profession

"Yes." The receptionist nodded, rummaged through the records for a moment to confirm, then said, "Alchemy is in 7th section, Magic Weapon Smithing is in 11th and Talisman Making is in... 13th section."

Max swept his gaze across the floor and noticed one to fifteen sections clearly labelled. Beyond them were rows of rooms—Comprehension Rooms.

"I see. Thank you." nodded Max and was about to leave when the receptionist spoke up.

"Fellow disciple, let me tell you the rules as required by me..."

Max waited until she finished telling him what he already knew, then after nodding in acknowledgment, he walked over to the sections.

The first section had non Elemental spells and techniques and second to sixth had major elemental ones—Earth, Water, Wind, Wood, and Fire.

After taking a look at them, he stood in front of the seventh section—Alchemy—a surprised look on his face.

The contents of this section exceeded the elemental sections.

'With so much information, why is the Beast Emperor Hall not known for its alchemy.' he briefly thought before glancing at the 11th and 13th sections.

He could take only two books or scrolls of any magic spell, technique and information. Therefore, he had to decide which two professions he was going to focus on or whether it was better to focus on just one.

After a few moments, he walked away from the Alchemy section—he decided not to pursue it despite the fact that it was the most profitable profession. After all, mages could do without magic weapons and talismans, but they definitely needed for various purposes.

However, an alchemist needed to master various kinds of refining techniques and medicinal recipes before they could stably produce medicine and earn. This required a significant amount of time, which he couldn't afford to spare at the moment.

...

Unbeknownst to him, a trio stood not far away from him watching him with interest. When he stopped in front of the Alchemy section, one of their eyes lit up and he laughed, "Haha, he is going to choose my Alchemy Hall."

The two standing beside him pursed their lips and sneered, "Don’t be happy so soon. He had yet to decide."

The member of the Alchemy Hall nodded, but his confidence didn’t waver. After all, Alchemy was the most lucrative profession. Most of the disciples would give it a try if they had talent for it.

And he knew Max was a genius Fire Mage. With his talent at controlling fire, he only needed to learn some refining skills and he could become a beginner alchemist.

’Hall Master would definitely reward me generously if I could have this monster become a member of the Alchemy Hall.’ the man thought, getting more and more excited, his smile widening.

The other two, a man and a woman, clicked their tongues in annoyance seeing this. But inwardly, they felt helpless because Max was most likely to...

"He is moving." Their eyes lit up when they saw Max walk away from the Alchemy section while the Alchemy Hall disciple’s smile froze.

"Hehe, told you not to be happy too soon." The female disciple chuckled, teasingly batting her eyelashes at him.

"Hmph!" The Alchemy Hall disciple snorted, "Don’t be so smug. Maybe he is just exploring his options and would choose alchemy in the end."

"You would wish so, won’t you?" The female disciple laughed, but she no longer had that teasing, smug look on her face. The same was true for the other disciple.

...

Max didn’t know the moment he asked the receptionist about the information related to three professions, people had begun paying him attention.

Of course, he felt some gazes on him, but this was nothing out of ordinary as he had also felt them when he was outside the library.

Thus, not paying them any attention, he walked over to 11th section—Magic Weapon Smithing. Then... he continued and finally stopped in front of the Talisman Section.

Just like in the case of the Alchemy, one needed to master some refinement techniques and it was labour intensive and time taking task. For example, a tier-one Magic Weapon Smith usually spent days to finish creating a magic artifact.

Max wanted something that wouldn’t take much of his time and would give him good returns.

Thus, out of the three, he felt the talisman making was the best for him as it took very short time to create a talisman and profit from selling it was quite good.

Without hesitation, he entered the Talisman Section, perused through the scrolls, books and memory crystals' introduction.

Based on the information he got from them, he chose a booklet titled *'Introduction to talisman making'* and a memory crystal *'Thunder Runes for Talismans'*.

Since it was placed on the second floor, the Introduction to Talisman Making not only had all the information one needed to become a Tier Five Talisman Master, it also had a comprehensive talisman making technique.

As for the memory crystal, it had Thunder Runes which he could inscribe on the talismans.

...

As soon as Max walked out of the Talisman Section, carrying the booklet and the memory crystal, he saw a young woman in elegant pink robes with a bronze insignia etched on her chest, looking at him with a warm smile.

"Hello, Mr. Maxwell. I'm Inner Disciple Ryuna from the Talisman Hall." She introduced herself and asked, "Would you like to join the Talisman Hall?"

Max raised his brows and asked, "Doesn't one need to be a talisman master to join your hall?"

Ryuna's smile didn't waver.

"This is correct, Mr. Maxwell. But as long as you want to join, I can recommend you to the Talisman Hall." She said,

Then, like a good saleswoman, she went on to describe the advantages of joining the Talisman Hall.

"There, you needn't worry about finding material for talismans and if you get stuck somewhere, you can ask seniors for advice too. Moreover, you wouldn't need to waste time finding the customers for your talismans as you could sell them to the hall directly. The hall doesn't shortchange anyone."

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 920: Blocked[1,071 words]

Chapter 920: Blocked

Max thought for a bit.

Joining the Talisman Hall seemed to be quite beneficial, but... he couldn't make a hasty decision.

Lord Grimheart was his enemy, after all. What if the hall master of the Talisman Hall or some high ranking member turned out to be his person? Wouldn't they cause trouble for him?

Therefore, he said, "Give me some time to think. Then, I'll get back to you if it's alright with you."

"Of course, it's no problem." Ryuna said with a smile, but then she asked, "Though approximately how much time would you need to think things through?"

'She would make a very good saleswoman indeed.' Max thought wryly.

"I'll contact you tomorrow and give you my answer." he said and extended his hand.

Ryuna stared at his hand and blinked in confusion.

'Well, maybe I was too hasty in my assessment of her.' he sighed and said, "Your communication crystal. Give it to me."

"Ahh, I see." Ryuna exclaimed and quickly nodded her head. Then, just as it seemed she was about to access her storage ring and take out a communication crystal, she took her Identity Badge hanging by her waist instead.

"Wouldn't it be better to use our Identity Badges for communication?." she said and proffered her badge.

Max stared at her for a moment, then took her badge and added his contact information before handing it back to her.

Ryuna's smile widened.

In case he threw her communication crystal away, she would have no way to communicate with him. It wasn't easy for Inner Hall disciples to go into the Core Hall where he was living, after all.

However, once she got his contact information, she could always remain in touch with him unless he lost his badge. Of course, the chances were that he could block her on the badge, but which mature person did that in this day and age if the other person wasn't bothering him too much?

...

Max went to the receptionist, gave her the booklet and memory crystal along with his Identity Badge.

After a short while, she handed them back to him, saying, "Mr. Maxwell, since it's your first time in the library, you can have these two for free. You also use a comprehension room for 2 hours. Would you like to use it now or later?"

"I'll use it a while later. Thank you." said Max before finding a comparatively secluded spot where some disciples were sitting cross-legged, studying their spells.

He sat down there and regulated his breathing to enhance his focus. Then, opening the booklet, he began reading it.

The booklet was thin and at a glance, people would think they could easily read it within a few hours.

However... It took Max almost a day before he finished it and found himself mentally drained.

Phew!

He exhaled, closed the booklet and then his eyes to digest everything he read.

As stated in its introduction, the book had all the information one needed to become a Tier Five Talisman Master along with a talisman making technique called Hoover Technique.

An hour later, he opened his eyes.

'Now I only need to apply everything I learned and practice until I become a Talisman Master.' he thought. Then, he glanced at the memory crystal. 'Let's rest for a bit first.'

While resting, after thinking for a while, he sent Elder Milo a message, telling him his decision to become a Talisman Master. Then he told him about the invitation he received and asked whether it would be a good decision to join the Talisman Hall.

An hour later, he received Elder Milo's reply.

[You can join it, but be careful of people from the Inner Hall Master's faction.]

This response made Max raise his brows.

Shouldn't he advise him not to join since there were people from Lord Grimheart's faction there?

But then he realized that the chances were his people were everywhere in the Beast Emperor Hall. So, he couldn't possibly avoid them all. Thus, he could only be careful.

Putting away his communication crystal, he grabbed the memory crystal and slowly injected his Bloodline Sense into it.

For a while, he only saw darkness, but then a silhouette of a faint blue rune appeared before him, faintly glowing with flickering arcs of thunder.

He focused completely on it, but while it grew clearer in his mind, it was completely incomprehensible to him.

As time passed, his head began to ache. After a while, the headache became too intense and he had to pull his Bloodline Sense out of the crystal and meditate to recover his mental energy which helped with the headache.

'Let's see how useful the comprehension room is.' he thought.

After telling the receptionist that he was to avail his one time, two hour free comprehension room, she took his Identity Badge and returned it a moment later.

"Just find an unoccupied room and place your badge at the door to enter." she told him.

Max nodded and walked over to the rows of rooms.

To his disappointment... all the rooms were occupied.

'It seems everyone is working hard to increase their strengths for Elder Blood Flower's incoming mission.' he thought and was about to find a place to sit and wait when the door of the room next to him opened.

Immediately, Max felt dozens of gazes on him. Everyone wanted to enter the room and he was their biggest competition thanks to his proximity.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Before the door even completely opened, several disciples were already rushing over, but Max's expression didn't change as he calmly stepped toward the room and stood in front of the opening door.

A moment later, the doors opened and the others were still a bit away.

Smiling lightly, he was about to put his Identity Badge and claim the room, but right then...

Slap!

His hand was slapped away.

Swoosh!

This gave the person nearest to the room opportunity which he took, whoosed over and placed his badge on the door.

"Thanks, brother." The disciple nodded at the man who just walked out of the room and entered it.

Click!

The door clicked shut a moment later.

Some of the disappointed disciples returned to their places while others stood where they were and watched Max and the guy who came out of the room stare down each other with interest.

Heavy silence hung in the air between them.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 921: Curiosity[1,061 words]

Chapter 921: Curiosity

"What are you looking at, pretty boy?" The man sneered.

Max watched him calmly before asking, "You are one of Grimheart’s underlings, right?"

"You disrespectful scum. You still haven’t come to your senses." The snarled in anger and it seemed like he wanted to attack, but then he just snorted and walked away.

Max didn’t stop him, after all it was prohibited to fight in the library, and even if it wasn’t, he couldn’t fight in his current condition.

Thus, he memorised his appearance and returned to his place and began waiting, his Bloodline Sense trained on the comprehension room. The moment any showed signs of opening, he would be the first to react.

Half an hour later, another room opened and this time, he managed to claim it and entered.

He glanced around the room and saw it completely empty save for a cushion in the middle of the room.

He focused his Bloodline Sense on the ground and walls, trying to find out the formations but he failed to detect them.

When he walked over and sat down on the cushion, immediately, his mind jolted before extreme clarity washed over him.

"This is really useful." He muttered and closed his eyes. Before trying to comprehend the Thunder Runes, he wanted to go over the theoretical knowledge he received from the booklet.

It only took him less than 20 minutes, and he felt his decision to do it was good because he had absorbed that information more deeply and understood the talisman making technique better.

’Alright, it’s time to comprehend the runes.’ With this thought, he injected his Bloodline Sense into the memory crystal.

First came the darkness, then a rune flickered into existence before his senses. It was extremely clear and unlike before, he could feel a very faint connection to it.

He soon realized it was thanks to his Law Comprehension. If he didn’t have it, no matter how miraculous this comprehension room was or how much time he spent in here, it would have been nearly impossible to make any connection to the rune.

Quickly calming down, he focused all his senses on this faint connection and through it, he began trying to comprehend the rune.

As he immersed himself into it, time ticked by and soon only ten minutes were left before his two hours were up.

Max wasn’t aware of this and continued sitting motionless, not even breathing.

Soon, the final ten minutes passed and right on the dot, the heightened clarity slowly diminished before vanishing completely.

Suddenly, Max found the rune becoming a lot harder to understand.

Fortunately, he hadn't wasted these two hours and even though he couldn't comprehend the rune, he had strengthened the connection to it—it was no longer very faint, but strong enough to be sensed as long as he focused.

'With this, I no longer need to rely on the comprehension room,' he thought.

He knew his speed of comprehension would be severely impacted if he wasn't in the comprehension room, but he could still comprehend. This was more important.

Of course, when he had enough Merit Points, he was going to return here. If he could lessen the time it took to comprehend the rune, he would absolutely do it. Time... it was extremely important and he couldn't afford to waste any.

...

Max walked out of the room and looked around. After not finding the one he was looking for, he took out his Identity Badge and sent a message before descending the second floor and leaving the Library Tower.

Swoosh!

The moment he left, a figure appeared before him—Ryuna.

"I'm glad you have decided to join our hall, Mr. Maxwell. Now, please follow me." she said and began walking away.

After glancing in a particular direction, he followed after her, his expression calm.

Ryuna seemed to have noticed something and sent him a Divine Sense Transmission, [Mr. Maxwell, due to your enmity with Isolde Grimheart, people of Grimheart Faction have been looking for you. Now, they already know you have been to the library and will be going to the Talisman Faction.

I wish I could say our Talisman Faction will be a safe haven for you, unfortunately, those vermin have already unfiltered our hall. Thus, it won't be safe and they would most definitely target you.]

After this transmission, she looked at him and seeing no change in his expression, she knew he was already aware of everything and she couldn't help but admire him.

If she was in his place, even with Grand Elder Rowan's backing, she wouldn't have dared to venture into a place full of her enemies. After all, while Grand Elder was strong, what if the enemy decided to disregard everything and kill her.

Grand Elder could avenge her afterwards, but what good it would be... she was already dead.

[Can they attack me directly?] asked Max as she stared at him.

Hearing his transmission, she snapped back to her senses and sneered, [They wouldn't dare.]

[Oh?] Max was surprised by her complete confidence.

[Our Hall Master has publicly said this: you might get away with violating the Beast Emperor Hall's rules outside, but within my hall, no matter who you are or who stands behind you, you'll be killed without a trial.] Ryuna explained, a proud look on her face.

Max raised his brows. This was even more surprising.

How could this Hall Master be this domineering?

Was he just putting on a false front to scare everyone or...did he truly not fear anyone?

The latter could only be true if...

[Is the Hall Master a Monarch?] he asked.

Ryuna's lips curled up into a smile, [I know why you would think that after hearing this, but no, she isn't a Monarch. She is a Peak Emperor Mage, still some distance away from the Quasi-Monarch stage.]

[Then...] Max frowned but before he could ask, Ryuna cut him off. [No, no Monarch is backing her. In fact, because she is quite taciturn and reclusive, she doesn't even have many friends.]

[Then what gives her confidence to say that.] Max truly couldn't understand.

[This... you will only understand when you meet her.] Ryuna said, a complex look appearing in her eyes.

This made Max curious enough to want to meet her.

Just what kind of person this Hall Master was?

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 922: Under Investigation[1,294 words]

Chapter 922: Under Investigation

Half an hour later, they arrived at the Talisman Hall. It occupied quite a large area with mountains and several large buildings where disciples and Elder of the hall cultivated, lived, traded or did other things.

Ryuna led him to one building where disciples could apply to join the Hall.

Normally, it was mandatory for a disciple to take two exams, one where the disciples' theoretical knowledge would be tested and in the other, the disciples had to show their talisman making abilities. Only when they passed both tests, especially the latter, would they be admitted into the Talisman Hall.

However, there was an exception. Tier 5 or above Talisman Master of the Talisman Hall had a single opportunity to let someone join the hall without taking the exams.

Ryuna was a Tier 5 Talisman Master and she was going to use her opportunity to let him join the hall directly. Of course, since she was recommending him, if he couldn't reach the minimum required standard of the hall, which was a Tier 4 Talisman Master, within the specified time, she would be punished and he would be expelled.

When Max heard this, he couldn't help but ask, "Why are you willing to take this risk for me?"

This was a genuine question. Not only was he a complete novice in this field, he had a large target on his back. Those associated with him would most likely end up suffering. Therefore, logically, she would be running away from him.

Her response to the question was this:

"Everyone knows you are a monstrous genius who almost killed Isolde Grimheart despite having broken through to the Five Star realm recently. People like you can do well in most of the fields as long as you put your heart into it.

Since you chose to learn talisman making, there must be a reason behind it. Therefore, you won't do it half-heartedly and will most likely succeed. Even if you don't, I just wouldn't receive any support for a while. No big deal.

As for your enmity with the Grimheart Faction, well, they haven't forbidden anyone from interacting with you. Besides, as long as my Hall Master is here, I'll be safe as long as I'm not at fault."

After hearing this, his impression of her became better.

"Wait here for a bit. Let me go talk to him." Ryuna said after entering the building. Max nodded in understanding and began looking around.

There weren't many people here, just some staff members and them. Therefore, as soon as they had entered, they had become the center of everyone's attention. A moment later, some refocused on their work, but others who recognised him didn't and instead began talking among themselves.

Max noted that everyone had different expressions on their faces, but most looked as if they were looking forward to an interesting show.

This made him sigh.

'It seems they aren't going to give me a breather. How troublesome!' he thought, suppressing his killing intent. It wasn't time to go all out.

"Mr. Maxwell. Come over here." Just then, Ryuna called him.

She had already informed the receptionist about everything and had put down her name as her recommender. All that was left to do was to register him and he would become the Talisman Hall's disciple.

"Give your identity badge to him quickly." Ryuna urged while glancing toward the entrance of the building.

Max nodded and handed it over to the receptionist.

Just as he was about to register him...

"Stop right there."

Swoosh!

A voice echoed from outside and the next instant, someone entered, their aura spreading out and freezing the receptionist.

Ryuna’s eyes narrowed. Glancing at the entrance, she recognised the person and coldly said, "What’s the meaning of this, Elder Shu?"

Max also looked over and saw a middle-aged man with oriental features and a goatee striding into the building with two disciples following after him. Coincidently, he knew one of them—the guy who prevented him from claiming the Comprehension Room earlier today.

Elder Shu fixed his gaze on Max for a moment before he looked at Ryuna and coldly said, "You were going to let him join without taking the exams? Do you have no respect for my Talisman Hall’s rules?"

Ryuna’s pretty face frosted over, "*Your*? Since when did you become the leader of the Talisman Hall? And how come I didn’t know about it?"

"Hmph!" Elder Shu snorted, "Don’t twist my words, girl. You know very well what I meant. Now, answer."

Ryuna put her hands on her hips and sneered, "What’s there to answer? I am using my recommendation opportunity. Don’t tell me you are going to stop me from doing so?"

"You used to be such a well-mannered child. Now... sigh." Elder Shu shook his head and sighed which made Ryuna scoff. "Just spit it out if you have anything to say."

Elder Shu’s eyelids twitched, anger flickering in his eyes. But then he shook his head, "I won’t bicker with you. Just know that you can’t recommend him to the hall."

Ryuna’s gaze turned cold.

"You going to stop me forcefully?" She asked, but then sneered, "I doubt you have the guts to do it. So, I’m curious. What makes you say that?"

Elder Shu put his hands behind his back and smiled, "You remember the time when you tried to create the High Stage Tier 5 Earth Talisman and ended up destroying the crafting room?"

Ryuna’s brows furrowed.

Hadn’t she already settled that mattered already? But his expression told him this wasn’t the case.

And indeed, a moment later, he revealed, "The supervisor of that crafting building has lodged a complaint against you, saying that you didn't pay for damages and instead threatened him to pay it himself and settle the matter."

Ryuna stared at him, her expression growing colder by the second.

After a while, she said, "You do realize what you are doing, right?"

Elder Shu's eyes flickered with hesitation. He understood her implied meaning, but he was from Grimheart Faction and had to do things for them when ordered, even if they were dangerous.

"I'm not doing anything wrong." He shook his head, calmly saying, "Just letting you know that since you are now under investigation, your privileges, including the privilege to recommend someone to the hall, have been suspended."

"Good. Very good." Ryuna nodded. Then she turned to Max and bent her waist in a deep bow, "Mr. Maxwell. I'm really sorry for wasting your time. But as you can see, I can no longer recommend you to the hall."

She then stood up, and continued, "To compensate you, I'm willing to teach you everything I know about Talisman Making."

Max watched her in silence for a moment, then shook his head, "You don't need to apologize, Miss Ryuna. And thank you for your offer. I'll be sure to ask you for your guidance whenever needed. But for now, I'm going to try joining the Talisman Hall through official means."

Before Ryuna could react, he turned to the receptionist and said, "Please arrange the things for my entrance exams."

The receptionist was still frozen as Elder Shu hadn't retrieved his aura, but when everyone's attention shifted to him and they saw this, Elder Shu apologetically said, "Oh, my apologies, little fellow. I completely forgot about you. Here, take this talisman for the discomfort I caused you."

With a wave of his hand, he sent a talisman flying toward him.

The receptionist took it, bowed to him before quickly responding to Max, "Yes. Please wait a moment. I'll put in a request for one of the seniors to come over."

"No need. Since I'm here, I'll take his exams." Elder Shu interjected.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 923: First Exam[1,094 words]

Chapter 923: First Exam

"You...!" Ryuna raged upon hearing this, but before she could begin cursing him, Max told her, "It's alright."

"It's not. This shameless old man will set your exams at the highest difficulty possible to make you fail." Ryuna glared at him.

[I just need to prove I'm at least a Tier 4 Talisman Master to pass, right? I think I can do it. So, don't worry.] Max mentally transmitted.

[What do you mean you 'think'? You haven't create—]

"I'm ready." Ignoring the incensed Ryuna, Max finally spoke to Elder Shu, who didn't feel good under his gaze for some reason.

His eyes narrowed, he stared at him for a moment, then softly snorted and glanced at the receptionist, "Give me a pen and paper."

The receptionist did as ordered and Elder Shu scribbled several questions on it before handing it back to the receptionist. "This is the first exam paper I have prepared for him. Put it in records, then hand it to him so he can begin."

The reception took a look at the questions on the paper and sighed inwardly. 'I wish I wasn't on duty today.'

After recording the exam paper in records as per the rules, he handed it to Max along with an answer sheet and pen, saying, "This is a theoretical exam and you can score a maximum 100 points if you answer every question right. The passing score is 60 and you have two hours to finish the exam. Please begin."

Saying that, he produced a chair and table for him to sit and write.

Max nodded in thanks, sat down and began reading the questions.

Despite the fact that he had thoroughly memorised the content of 'Introduction to Talisman Making', he realized he didn't know the answer to many questions and the others' he knew only in parts.

This realization made him glance at Elder Shu, who stood there with his eyes closed and hands folded in front of him.

’He surely thinks I would fail. Heh.’

...

Two hours later, he stopped writing and put down the pen.

Before handing over his answer sheet, he asked the receptionist, "Is the old man going to evaluate it?"

Elder Shu’s slightly wrinkled face turned cold. It was one thing Ryuna didn’t respect him, but now even he was doing the same?

However, he suppressed his anger and did not comment because he could see Ryuna was ready to jump out in his defense.

"...Yes." The receptionist nodded before adding, "If you aren’t comfortable with Elder Shu evaluating it, you can request for someone else."

Elder Shu shot him a cold look when he said this, the receptionist ignored it. His earlier act of suppressing him with his aura had clearly offended him.

Before Max could respond, Ryuna spoke up, "No need. I’ll evaluate it with him."

After saying this, she looked at Max, "...If you believe me enough for it, Mr. Maxwell."

Max nodded silently which made Ryuna smile. Then, she looked at Elder Ryu and her expression turned cold.

With a wave of her hand, she sent the answer sheet flying toward him, "Go ahead. Evaluate it. I dare you to undervalue his answers."

"Hmph!" Elder Shu snorted and just as he was about to catch it, one of the two extended his hand and caught it.

"Master, you don’t need to bother yourself with it. I’ll evaluate it." the man said.

Max glanced at him. He wasn’t the same guy who he encountered in the library, but the other one.

Elder Shu thought for a moment, then nodded, "Alright, you do it, Jun’er. Give the points his answers deserve."

"Rest assured, Master." The man, Mi Jun, nodded before glancing at Ryuna, "You don't have any objection, Miss Ryuna, right?"

"Tsk! If you are going to do it, start right away. I don't have time to waste like your lot." Ryuna impatiently said.

Elder Shu took a breath and closed his eyes and ears. He was afraid if he continued to see and hear her, he would lose control and attack.

Mi Jun began checking his answers one by one. At first, he had a confident, almost smug, look on his face but as he checked more and more questions, his expression slowly changed.

Half an hour of thoroughly checking later, he raised his head and looked at Max, a question echoing in his mind.

'Which bastard said he knew nothing about talisman making?'

The look in his eyes gave Elder Shu a premonition and confused Ryuna, who looked between him and Max.

"Quit staring at him and just spit it out. How much did he score?" she snapped.

Mi Jun took a breath, then ignoring her, he glanced at his master, who nodded after a moment.

"Mr. Maxwell has passed this theoretical exam with a score of 63 points." Mi Jun announced.

Max showed no surprise, but Ryuna's head snapped toward him. After a moment, however, she composed herself and thought, 'He must have learned theoretical knowledge before, this was why he decided to become a talisman master now.'

"Here, check if you want to." Mi Jun made the answer sheet fly over to her just then.

She didn't want to check since he had already passed, but wanting to see if he had undermarked Max somewhere, she ended up going through it.

She did it because it would give her an excuse to make things difficult for them and also allow her to give Max a more easier second exam.

However...

'Hm?' After she had read through half of his answers, she recognised something. 'All the topics he answered correctly to are explained in the 'Introduction to talisman making' he took earlier.'

After she finished going through the whole exam, she had confirmed this and couldn't help but feel a bit surreal.

'Is this how geniuses' minds work? They need but a few hours to thoroughly understand all the knowledge we take weeks if not months to comprehend?' she thought, suddenly feeling a little depressed.

She could be considered somewhat of a genius in talisman making, but it had taken her a little over a week to comprehend all the knowledge pertaining to the tier 4 back in the day. As for Max, if she wasn't wrong, he didn't only understand and memorised the knowledge of tier 4 but all the tiers till tier 4 and possibly even tier 5.

Hu!

Exhaling softly, she handed the answer sheet to the receptionist, "It's alright. You can register it and proceed to the final exam."

Chapter 924: Creating a Tier 4 Elemental Talisman

Chapter 924: Creating a Tier 4 Elemental Talisman

As Elder Shu tried to come up with something difficult to make sure Max would fail the practical exam, Ryuna had an anticipatory look in her eyes.

She wanted to see if Max could really pass this exam too. But she was aware that while it was easy to memorise or even gain understanding of something, putting it into practice was a lot more difficult.

For example, after she had all the knowledge of tier 4 talisman master, it took her three months and countless failed attempts before she finally produced a low quality tier 4 talisman. This was when she was already a top Tier 3 Talisman Master and familiar with the process of preparing material, her inscribing technique etc.

Max, however, was a complete novice. So, logically, it should be impossible for him to create a tier 4 talisman today.

However, deep down, she wanted him to succeed and also did not.

She wanted him to fail because if he passed, it would undermine her talent and all the hard work she had put in in the talisman making. But she wanted him to succeed because

she wanted to see if such a thing, almost a miracle, was really possible. And when she compared them, she realized she wished to see him succeed more.

Max could feel her gaze boring into him and he couldn't help but lightly shake his head. Fortunately, he had only *told* her that he wasn't a talisman master. If others also knew it, he would have to endure all their looks.

After a few moments, Elder Shu scribbled the task for the second and final exam and sent it flying toward him.

Max caught it and read the single sentence written there.

"Make a Tier 4 Elemental Talisman."

Ryuna glanced at it. Immediately, her expression turned cold and she shot Elder Shu a death stare.

"We would like to change the examiner." she told the receptionist.

Before the receptionist could respond, Elder Shu chuckled, "Haha, you know that won't happen since I have not broken any rules. So, why don't you quit it and let the boy proceed with the exam. As you said earlier, I have got no time to waste."

As Ryuna glared at him, Max stepped forward and gave the exam paper to the receptionist, who took a look at it, noted it down and asked, "Which element materials do you need?"

"Fire." answered Max after thinking for a moment.

Since he was trying to comprehend the Thunder Rune, it made more sense to try to create a thunder talisman, but since it was more difficult to replenish thunder energy compared to the Fire, he chose the latter.

The receptionist nodded and handed him the needed materials for the exam.

Max took them and asked, "Can I have some privacy for this exam? I don't want everyone to see my technique."

The receptionist glanced at Ryuna, who nodded.

"Of course." He said and led him to an empty chamber behind the counter.

"Is this place alright? All the formations have been deactivated already." he informed, then gave him a disk, "You can activate the concealing formations with this."

"Yes, thank you." nodded Max in thanks.

"No problem. You have 12 hours to complete this exam. All the best." Saying this, he walked out of the chamber.

"Do your best, but don't feel any pressure. Even if you fail, I'll teach you everything I know." Ryuna said before walking out.

Max looked at the formation disk in his hands and sighed. Without mana, he couldn't activate it, so it was all but useless.

'Let's finish it before anyone tries to take a look.' With this thought, he sat down cross-legged and spread the materials in front of him.

There were two main things a Talisman Master needed to create a talisman—A carrier and talisman ink.

Anything that could hold mana could be a carrier. Normally it was the talisman paper and magical beast hide. As for talisman ink, it was made from some magical beast blood and a mixture of different kinds of herbs and sometimes even metals and other minerals.

He dipped his finger into the talisman ink.

Then,

Hu!

"Here goes nothing." He exalted deeply and circulated his Bloodline Sense throughout his body, extracting the Fire Elemental Energy from the Fire Energy Traces in his bloodline and slowly pouring it into the Ink.

Once it was saturated with the pure Fire Energy, he split his focus into two, picked up the talisman paper with the other hand and sent another stream of his Bloodline Sense into it and began preparing it according to the technique he had memorised from the 'Introduction of talisman making'.

A moment later...

Snap!

The talisman paper splintered.

Unbothered, he picked another talisman paper from the stack—he was given ten papers.

This time, he went ever slower than before, wanting to succeed because while he had eight more talisman papers, he had to finish creating the talisman before his Bloodline

Sense was fully depleted. From the current rate of depletion, he guessed it would be completely exhausted in half an hour.

If someone was watching them, his act of saturating the talisman ink with the Fire Energy would have already stunned them because this talisman ink was already a finished product. If someone tried to add something into it, it would become imbalanced and be ruined.

Normally, the Talisman Masters mixed the elemental materials into it, they would wrap them with their divine sense to stop them from fully mixing or use an elemental talisman ink—Since it was an exam, and Max was already a Five Star Mage, he wasn't given the fire elemental Ink. Of course, there was another reason behind it and it was that the ink might not have enough fire energy concentration he needed to create his talisman.

However, Max had completely integrated his fire energy into it without any side effects, though he hadn't done it easily because even now, he was using his Bloodline Sense to keep it stable.

If this still wasn't enough, the fact that he wanted to finish creating a Tier 4, Elemental Talisman in half an hour would surely make them incredulous. After all, even Tier 5 Talisman Master couldn't say they could create such a talisman in half an hour.

...

Snap!

Just when he was about to finish preparing the second talisman paper, it suddenly snapped.

His brows furrowed this time.

Taking a deep breath and wiping the droplets of sweat from his forehead, he took the third talisman paper.

Chapter 925: Hope You Are Not An Ungrateful Person

Chapter 925: Hope You Are Not An Ungrateful Person

Minutes ticked by as Ryuna, Elder Shu, Mi Jun and the other disciple waited outside the chamber.

"Mm?"

When ten minutes had passed everyone frowned because Max hadn't activated the formations.

"The formations do work, right?" Ryuna shot a look at the receptionist who hurriedly nodded, a wry smile on his face, "They work properly, Miss Ryuna. You had seen me deactivate them just a bit earlier."

Ryuna nodded, and muttered, "Then why isn't he activating them?"

No one had an answer.

Soon, another ten minutes had passed.

Suddenly...

Swoosh!

Ryuna turned to the second disciple beside Elder Shu and threw a talisman at him.

Bang!

Elder Shu acted but it exploded a moment too early and all he could do was to contain the damage, but it made him grunt and his face turned a shade paler.

"Arghh!" The disciple cried in pain and staggered backwards, clutching his head.

Elder Shu glanced at him, then roared in rage, "How ruthless of you, Ryuna! How dare you use a *Spirit Destruction Talisman* on someone within the Hall. You should be—"

Before he could finish, Ryuna took out another talisman, identical to the one she used just now, and coldly said, "Try spying on him again and I'll use a second."

Elder Shu shut his mouth, but then said, "Still, you have violated the rules of the hall—"

"Yeah, I know. Go ahead and report me." Ryuna uncaringly said before closing her eyes, the Spirit Destruction Talisman still in her hand.

"Give him a Spirit Calming Elixir and send him away." Elder Shu coldly said while glancing at the guy who Ryuna attacked.

"Yes, Master." Mi Jun nodded and gave him a small bottle of golden liquid. The man drained it in one gulp, and his complexion slowly improved. No longer he was clutching his head.

"That was very stupid, Matt." Mi Jun commented, "Let me escort you out."

Matt glared at him, but didn't respond. Before turning around to leave, he glanced at Ryuna, a venomous look in his eyes.

Ryuna lightly waved her hand holding the talisman and his expression stiffened.

[She is a very unreasonable, hot-headed woman. It's better you don't provoke her unless you are confident of killing her in one go and without anyone finding out, otherwise you will be in a lot of trouble.] Mi Jun sent him a transmission while pushing him toward the exit.

Matt nodded, and just as he was about to leave...

Creak~!

Suddenly, the sound of the door opening echoed in the silent building and he stopped in his tracks before turning around to look at the chamber behind the reception desk along with Mi Jun.

"Hmm? He gave up?" Matt muttered, his lips curling up in a derisive smirk, but the next moment, it froze on his face.

Elder Shu and Ryuna also had similar expressions, the only difference was that Elder Shu's expression mirrored Matt and Mi Jun's while Ryuna's expression was more of sympathy and pity.

But a moment later, all their expressions changed along with Matt because they saw Max throw a talisman toward the receptionist who reflexively caught it. When he took a look at it, he became stunned.

"T-Tier 4 Talisman?" he muttered while staring at Max in astonishment. He didn't know Max was a novice in talisman making, he was astonished because Max had finished creating it in around half an hour. How fast was that?

Suddenly, Elder Shu's eyes flashed and he moved to snatch the talisman from the receptionist's hands.

Swoosh!

Ryuna's eyes narrowed. She was weaker than Elder Shu who was a peak King Mage and thus knew she wouldn't be able to outrun him, especially since he had moved a moment

before her. However, she couldn't allow him to snatch the talisman because he could temper it within a second which would lead to Max failing the exam.

Therefore, without any hesitation, she replaced the Tier 5 Spirit Destruction Talisman in her hand with a Tier 6 one. Then, activating it, she threw it at him.

Immediately, Elder Shu's pupils constricted and sense of danger washed over him.

'How ruthless!' He was both surprised and furious.

He knew she was a very ruthless person and when angered, she tended to disregard most things. Still, he hadn't expected her to attack him.

Attacking Matt was one thing because he wasn't a member of the Talisman Hall. So, she might only receive a light punishment, but attacking him, an official Elder of the Talisman Man with a *restricted* talisman no less, would surely result in very severe punishment. She might get expelled from not only the Talisman Hall, but from the Beast Emperor Hall too.

Moreover...

His eyes flashed.

If he let the talisman injure his spirit a little, he could use it to have her crippled.

However...

Without hesitation, he took out multiple talismans capable of defending one's spirit, and activated them.

While seeing her become a cripple would be very satisfying, the spirit injury, even a minor one, would take him a lot of time and resources to heal.

Moreover, he wasn't confident in limiting the injury he would receive. If something went wrong, his spirit would be destroyed and he would end up a vegetable. The gains weren't worth the risks.

BANG!

The Spirit Destruction Talisman exploded and released a powerful wave of destructive spiritual energy.

Fortunately, Ryuna had locked onto Elder Shu, thus the wave was focused on him, otherwise, if it had spread out, Max, the receptionist and she, herself, might have ended up dead.

One after another, Elder Shu’s talisman was destroyed. When the last one was destroyed, the wave had vanished—Elder Shu was unharmed.

"I’ll see you dead, you wench!" he growled in rage.

"Yeah. I heard you." Ryuna dismissively waved her hand while taking the talisman from the receptionist’s hand—she had rushed over to them after throwing the talisman.

"Woah~" she whistled, "It’s indeed a Tier 4 talisman, a Fire Elemental one at that. Well done, Mr. Maxwell." she said, then glanced at Elder Shu and batted her eyelashes at him, her face a mask of innocence, "Do you want to inspect it, Elder Shu?"

"Hmph! Just you wait." Elder Shu snorted and walked away with Mi Jun.

After they had left the building, the receptionist looked at her with a complicated look in his eyes and sighed, "You shouldn’t have done that, Miss Ryuna. Things will become really troublesome—"

"It’s alright." she interrupted him and handed him the talisman, "Announce the result and register him as the official member of our Hall."

The receptionist nodded. After carefully inspecting it, he announced, "Mr. Maxwell, you have created a Mid-Grade Tier 4, Fire Elemental Talisman. With this, you have successfully passed the exam and are now an official member of the Talisman Hall. Please give me your Identity Badge so I can register you."

"Thank you." Max gave him the badge. Soon, the receptionist registered him and returned it along with an insignia of the talisman hall.

"Welcome to the Talisman Hall, Mr. Maxwell." he said with a smile, which looked a bit forced to Max.

"Thanks." he nodded and glanced at Ryuna, who smiled and said, "Come, let me take you to your residence here."

As they walked out of the building, Max received the receptionist’s transmission, [Mr. Maxwell, Miss Ryuna has violated the strictest rule of the Talisman Hall for your sake. I hope you are not an ungrateful person and will remember her favor.]

’Hm?’ Max raised his eyebrows. ’He asked me to remember her favor, not help her even though he knows I have Grand Elder Rowan behind me. ...Interesting.’

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 926: It’s My Home[1,260 words]

Chapter 926: It’s My Home

An hour later, the duo was standing in front of a villa in one of the mountains in the territory under the Talisman Hall.

After leaving the registration building, Ryuna had taken him to another where he was allotted this residence.

Of course, the people of Grimheart Faction tried to make things difficult for them there too, but Ryuna handled them and got him this decent villa in this, peaceful and rich in biodiversity and mana, mountain.

"How is it?" she asked.

"It’s nice." nodded Max before saying, "You should have let them give me whatever residence they wanted since I’ll rarely stay here."

"I know, but why should we settle for less? Moreover, I couldn’t let those bastards win." Ryuna shook her head.

Max just smiled in response before asking, "Would you like to come in and take a look?"

"Sure." agreed Ryuna without hesitation.

...

After exploring the villa, they sat down in the living hall. Ryuna took out a tea set and began brewing the tea.

Max watched her work in silence. Unlike before when she was brash and abrupt, she looked very serene and somewhat adorable right. Her movements were natural, graceful and very harmonious, which gave her a unique charm.

Noticing his admiring his, Ryuna’s brows furrowed, but when she noticed that he wasn’t looking at her inappropriately and seemed to be just admiring her tea-making, she relaxed and smiled,

"I learned tea-making from my grandma. She used to say that it’s not making a brew, but an art. When done with intent, it could refine the heart that would help keep our emotions under control."

"Your grandma was very wise. She gave you something very valuable." Max nodded.

Ryuna’s lips curled up, "I know you are thinking that it isn’t as effective as I claim it is, right?"

Max didn’t respond, but it was already a response.

She shook her head and sighed, "You don’t know what kind of temper I had before I started practicing this tea-making. Tiniest things could make me erupt in anger and when I got angry, I tended to lose my rationality completely."

Max noticed that as said told about the past, a hint of pain flashed in her eyes.

"Compared to that time, I’m much better now. Now I only get angry when I face those shameless vermin of the Grimheart Faction. Even then, I don’t lose my mind and am aware of things happening."

"That’s good." nodded Max before asking, a curious look on his face, "If you don’t mind me asking, why do you hate Grimheart Faction with such passion?"

"Because it is a vermin to the entire Beast Emperor Hall. You are new here, and since no one really talks about it, you don’t know it yet, but for a long time now, the Grimheart Faction has been spreading its influence throughout the Beast Emperor Hall. Its intent is clear—it wants to take over the entire Beast Emperor Hall."

Saying this, she sighed, "Unfortunately, none of the Grand Elders or the Venerable Master seem to be doing anything about it. This has made everyone in the faction even more arrogant. In just the last year, they have violated the rules of the Hall dozens of times and got away with it."

After a pause, she continued, "Fortunately, because of our Hall Master’s strict rules, they haven’t been able to cause much disturbance until now, but more and more of them have been joining the hall and occupying the authority positions.

They then favor their own, force the talented disciples into joining them and those who resist them, they try to suppress them. In fact, I’m also their victim. With my current attainment in Talisman Making, I should have become an Elder, but I’m still not. Every time I apply, they make one excuse or another and delay my evaluation.

Because of all this... I really hate them and want to kill each and every one of them."

Her expression turned dark, her murderous intent materializing around her, and it even made Max feel a little under pressure.

Then, the next instant, it disappeared without a trace and she let out a helpless sigh, "Unfortunately, I’m not strong enough to do that."

"I understand." nodded Max in understanding, but then questioned, "However, this much shouldn’t be enough for you to hate them so much, no?"

Ryuna frowned, but then nodded, "You are right. A normal disciple wouldn’t hate them so much. The reason I do this is because this sect is my home. How can I detest them when they are trying to destroy it?"

Before Max could respond, she suddenly said, "Oh, the tea is done. Here, taste it. You will definitely like it."

She poured a cup for him before pouring one for herself.

Max picked up the cup and took a sip.

"Mm?" His eyes lit up, "It’s really flavourful and... full of life."

Ryuna nodded in satisfaction upon hearing the praise. "Drink slowly, savor the taste fully."

Five minutes later, they finished it.

Not giving Max a chance to ask anything more, she put away the tea set and stood up.

"If you have any questions, you can ask me through your badge. Also, an information packet should have arrived in your badge about the Talisman Hall. Read it carefully." she told him.

"I’ll do that. Thank you, Miss Ryuna for everything. If you ever need my help with *anything*, don’t hesitate to ask. I’ll do my best to assist you." Max said, his tone sincere and serious.

"Mm." lightly nodding, Ryuna left the villa.

Once he was alone, his face rapidly turned pale white as if all the blood had been sucked out of him and he staggered, his eyes turning hazy.

He forced himself to walk over to the sofa, but he could lay in it, he had already passed out.

Four hours later, he regained consciousness.

"Phew! Fortunately, I hadn’t exhausted it completely or things might have become serious." he exhaled a breath in relief.

He had failed four times in preparing the talisman paper and one time in inscribing it with the talisman ink. Fortunately, he succeeded in the next attempt and thus hadn't completely depleted his Bloodline Sense.

However, most of his mental energy was exhausted when he finished and realized he wouldn't be able to stay conscious for long. That was why, despite wanting to spend a few hours in the chamber so as not to shock everyone too much, he immediately left the chamber.

But then he had to keep himself awake as he was registered and then followed her to get the residence allotment. Afterwards, his curiosity got the better of him and he invited Ryuna inside so he could ask her why she hated the Grimheart Faction.

'I need to sleep a bit more.' he thought and closed his eyes.

When he woke up this time, it was already the next day.

Most of his headache was gone, and his Bloodline Sense had recovered a bit.

Wincing as he did, he used his Bloodline Sense and took out his Identity Badge and the Tier 4, Fire Elemental Talisman he had created.

"I should go sell it and buy something that can help recover my mental energy faster." He decided and opened the Information Packet in his Identity Badge about the Talisman Hall.

After going through it, he stood up, went to take a bath to freshen up and then left the villa.

'Let's see how valuable this talisman is?'

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 927: Selling the Talisman[1,225 words]

Following the map in the information packet, Max left the mountain his villa was on. His destination—Trade Mountain.

Normally, he should have gone to the Talisman Hall's Resource Hall since selling the talisman there would be easier and hassle free compared to selling it at the trade mountain, he chose not to because he knew the Grimheart Faction's people would be there too and when they saw him, they would make it impossible for him to sell anything.

Since he wasn’t in condition to retaliate yet, he could only try his best to avoid them. Thus, he chose the Trade Mountain.

He, of course, was aware that he would find Grimheart Faction’s people in the trade mountain too, but he wasn’t worried because the trade mountain was an unofficial gathering of people who wanted to buy and sell things.

A seller would be there one day, and might not appear ever again. The same was true for the buyers. Moreover, everyone wore masks to conceal their identity.

All this made it way too difficult for any faction to influence it in any significant capacity.

On the way to the mountain, Max changed into a blue robe of different style than he usually wore and covered his head by the robe’s hood until half of his face was concealed too.

When he arrived at the foot of the mountain, he saw multiple stalls selling face masks. Each mask was a magic artifact that had Divine Sense repelling properties.

Upon seeing so many masks being sold like they weren’t worth much, anyone who knew a little about the magic artifacts would know there had to be something wrong with them.

And indeed, there was something wrong—they could only be used for three hours. After three hours since activation, they would lose their effect and turn into normal masks. This was why they could be produced in such a large quantity and sold at a lot cheaper price than normal magic artifacts.

Max observed the customers for a moment without being too obvious and found out that these masks were being sold for 20 High Grade Mana Stones for one.

’How expensive,’ he thought. He didn’t have any High Grade or even Mid Grade Mana stones as he had given what he had to Gene a while back. Now, he only had the Mana Crystal Elder Milo gave him and a few hundred thousand Low Grade Mana Stones.

Walking over, he said in a changed voice, "Give me one."

The stall owner immediately handed it to him.

Without any question, he put it on his face and discreetly activated it with his Bloodline Energy.

The Stall Owner frowned but didn’t say anything because anyone who came to the Trade Mountain could afford a mask.

"Here," the next moment, he saw Max throw a storage pouch toward him and walk away.

"Hey, Sir. Wait. I don’t accept Mid Grade Mana Stones." he hurriedly said.

"They are not Mid Grade ones, don’t worry." Casually saying this, Max vanished into the crowd.

Though a little skeptical as to why he had put the Mana Stones in the storage pouch instead of handing them to him normally, he sighed in relief. As long as they were High Grade ones, it was alright.

The next instant, his relieved expression froze on his face when he saw there was a large pile of mana stones inside... Low Grade Mana Stones, 200,000 in number.

Swoosh!

His head flicked to the crowd venturing into the mountain, his eyes scanning for Max. When he failed to find him, he could only gnash his teeth in rage. "Don’t let me see you again."

With that, he casually threw the storage pouch in the stall’s compartment. Even though they were pretty much useless for him, he could still exchange them for Mid and High Grade ones when he was free.

...

Max felt a little bad and a little happy after successfully *’scamming’* the guy.

’I gave him 200,000 Low Grade ones, equivalent to 20 High Grade ones. So, there is no need to feel bad about it.’ he thought to himself before glancing around.

The mountain wasn’t large, it was even smaller than the mountain his villa was on, but it was bustling with people moving about.

There were many stalls lined up along the path for as far as he could see, but no stall owner was trying to attract customers by calling out to them. Instead, they were sitting or standing behind their stalls in silence with their eyes closed.

Every stall had a board that briefly introduced the items they were selling and their price. Customers would read it and if they were interested, they would pay the price and take the goods.

Of course, exceptions were everywhere. There were some stall owners calling out to the customers and some customers were trying to haggle to lower the price.

Max took a walk and checked the stalls that were selling the talismans to get an idea of their prices. Since this mountain was within the Talisman Hall, most of the sellers were selling the talisman and he soon got the information he needed.

But at the same time, he sighed inwardly because... there were too many people selling talismans.

'No wonder the information packet said the price I would get here would be lower than the Resource Hall's price,' he thought.

Shaking his head, he began looking around and soon found a place to set up his temporary booth.

He took a bedsheet from his spatial ring, laid it down before sitting on it. Then, he took out the Tier 4, Fire Elemental Talisman and a piece of paper on which he wrote in bold words:

Unique Mid Grade Tier 4, Fire Elemental Talisman! Just for 100 High Grade Mana Stones!! Only one left!

Not long after he put it all together, a cloaked figure walked over—it was a woman.

"Do you mind if I check it first?" she asked in an androgynous voice.

Max's eyes lit up. He knew if she was familiar with the talismans which she should be, after checking it she would definitely want to buy.

After all, his talisman was really unique as it was created with an unorthodox method and the addition of fire energy from his Energy Traces should make it a lot more powerful among similar talismans in its grade.

Thus, he nodded, "Sure."

The woman picked it up and began inspecting it. Just a moment later, she looked at him and asked, "Did you make it?"

Max's brows furrowed behind his mask because he couldn't tell why she was asking this as her voice sounded neutral. If she was merely curious, it wouldn't be bad to answer her, but the chances were she had figured something out from it and had ill intentions...

He didn't want to take chances, and for this reason, he wanted to release his Bloodline Sense to sense her emotions, but doing so in a place full of people wasn't advisable.

So, after thinking for a moment, he indifferently said, "Put it down and move along if you don't want it."

She stared at him for a moment, then took out a hundred mana stones, but just as she was about to give it to him, a voice sounded.

"Wait."

Max brows furrowed.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 928 - 500 High Grade Mana Stones[1,289 words]

He didn’t want any sort of trouble at the moment, but it seemed troubles had become fond of him as they kept finding him.

When he glanced over, he saw another cloaked figure walking over and his furrowed even tighter.

Unlike the woman who was already about to buy the talisman and most of the others on the mountain, this cloaked figure, who he could tell was also a woman, was... unrestrained. Not only did she not hide her realm, her aura was also on full display.

’Why would you bother wearing the mask and cloak?’ he couldn’t help but shake his head inwardly. After all, unless her aura wasn’t faked, which he didn’t think it was, it would be very easy to identify or find her.

"What do you want?" the cloaked woman in front of Max coldly asked her.

"That talisman... show it to me." the latter demanded, her tone filled with arrogance.

"It’s just a Tier 4 talisman. Why would someone of your stature—" the cloaked woman clenched the talisman, not willing to give it up.

"Quit the chitchat. Are you going to hand it over or not?" the second cloaked woman interrupted impatiently.

The first woman stared at her, but in the end, she handed it over to her.

This didn’t surprise Max since the first woman was a Five Star mage while the other party was a powerful King Mage. So, it was natural she would give in. No one could be unyielding in front of those way stronger than them, after all.

The woman inspected it for a few moments before she shifted her gaze to Max. Immediately, her Divine Sense burst forth and covered Max as she asked, "You made it?"

"Hmph!" Max snorted and stopped her Divine Sense from invading his body with his Bloodline Sense.

He then picked up the banner paper and tore it in several pieces.

"You don’t need to know who made it. But if you want to buy it, pay up 500 High Grade Mana Stones, otherwise get lost. Don’t block other customers." he coldly said, raising his voice.

The people nearby had already noticed the slight confrontation between the two women. When she used her Divine Sense in an unbridled manner, everyone around them, be it the sellers or customers, frowned in displeasure under their masks.

Most of the sellers and even some buyers who came here had some enemies who made it difficult for them to trade things outside. That was why this Trade Mountain came into existence and its most important feature was anonymity.

While there wasn’t anyone to enforce this, if someone dared to flaunt this tacitly understood rule, everyone would band together against that person and throw him out of the Trade Mountain.

This woman had done just that by using her Divine Sense to probe Max.

However, instead of apologizing for her behaviour upon feeling the air around her become oppressive, she swept her gaze across everyone and scoffed, "What are you lot looking at, huh?"

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Immediately, several figures dashed out of the crowd and stood behind her before releasing some of their aura.

Everyone’s expression hardened. Each and every one of the seven was a King Mage, and three were even in the High Stage of the realm, including the woman.

"Ho, what a grand display!" An amused voice cut through the heavy atmosphere.

"Hm?" The woman and others looked in the direction of the voice and saw a cloaked figure sitting on the ground with their head lowered as if they were dozing off. In front of them was spread out a rag on which were a few odd trinkets.

"What? Do you want to—" the woman sneered, but then her next words became stuck in her throat when the figure released their aura which told everyone that this person was a Peak King Mage.

"I want to what?" the figure asked, finally raising their head and looking at the woman.

"Tsk!" The woman clicked her tongue in displeasure. Then she waved her hand and 500 High Grade Mana Stones fell on the ground in front of Max.

"I'll find out who you are." she said while staring down at Max, then she turned around and walked away with the seven Kings following behind her.

Max glanced at the cloaked seller and nodded his head in thanks. Then he picked up the mana stones, stored them away along with the bedsheet and stood up.

Now that he had mana stone to spend, it was time to buy some talisman papers and ink so he could create more and sell them to earn even more.

'Maybe I should first see if I can buy some foundation healing medicine with these 500 mana stones?' he thought before shaking his head.

Back then when he was a Two Star Mage, the foundation strengthening medicine he bought was already very expensive. Given the fact that he now needed Tier 5 foundation healing medicine that shouldn't be easily available due to them being quite rare, he doubted that let alone these 500 High Grade Mana Stones, even if he added the 20 Mana Crystals he had wouldn't be enough.

Just as he was thinking this, he heard the cloaked woman who hadn't left yet say, "Hey, um... sir. Do you have more talismans like that one? If yes, I'm willing to buy them at 50 High Grade Mana Stones per talisman."

"Just 50?" Max frowned for a moment, then nodded to himself.

Normally, a Low-Grade Tier 4 Elemental Talisman was valued at from 2 to 10 High Grade Mana Stones.

A Mid-Grade Tier 4 Elemental Talisman could fetch from 15 to 40 or 45 High Grade Mana Stone.

So, 50 was already a very good price for his Mid-Grade Talisman. The only reason he had marked it at 100 Mana Stones and was confident that it would be sold was because it was made from an unorthodox technique. The Talisman Masters would recognise it and would definitely buy it for research purposes.

He had thought this woman was also a Talisman Master since she was willing to buy it for 100 earlier, but it seemed to not be the case now?

"How many can you buy?" he asked in interest.

The eyes under the mask lit up and the woman quickly said, "I can buy 3 right now and if you give me some time, I can buy a few more."

"I see." nodded Max before saying, "Come here tomorrow around this time then."

He then walked away and began buying the things he needed. When he finished shopping, he had spent 450 of the 500 his High Grade Mana Stones. And the only reason he had saved 50 was to pay for the mask the next day and save some for emergencies.

...

Buzz!

Several miles away from the Trade Mountain, a black clothed figure suddenly appeared out of nowhere.

This figure was none other than Max. Because he knew people had been keeping an eye on him, he had bought a random teleportation talisman and used it to leave the mountain.

Still, since it hadn't sent him far enough, he quickly activated a concealment talisman and scurried away from the place.

Two hours later, now dressed in his usual robes, he arrived at his residence and finally sighed in relief. He had managed to evade everyone who was spying on him successfully and returned without being tracked.

'No wonder the majority of the mages are so cautious in everything they do,' he thought.

There was danger at every turn in this world. If one wasn't cautious enough or strong enough, some disaster was sure to strike and claim one's life.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 929: Improvement[1,212 words]

In his cultivation room, Max was sitting crossed legged on the cushion, his eyes closed in concentration.

After a long while, he opened his eyes and exhaled deeply. Then he looked at the empty wooden case in front of him and sighed, "I need to find something better."

Upon returning to the villa, he immediately entered the cultivation chamber and had taken the pill he had bought in the Trade Mountain. The seller had said it was a Low-Grade Tier 5, foundation healing pill, and indeed it was.

Unfortunately though, it wasn't very effective and barely managed to heal a slightly larger crack in his Mana Core despite the fact that he had used his Bloodline Energy in conjunction with it.

Taking a last look at his Mana Core, he took out a stack of talisman paper, attributeless talisman ink and some Fire Elemental resources he had bought along with the ones he was given during the Talisman Hall's exams.

At that time, he had relied entirely on the Fire Energy from his Fire Energy Traces in his bloodline, so they had gone unused until now.

Now that he was planning to create more Fire Elemental Talismans, he first had to replenish the Fire Traces.

One of the Fire Elemental resources was a small Spirit Fruit. He threw it in his mouth, chewed a few times and gulped it down.

Ignoring the burning sensation in his throat and belly, he grabbed a piece of red metal, covered it with his Bloodline Sense and began absorbing the Fire Mana from it.

As the Fire Mana from the spirit fruit and the metal entered his body, he guided it to his bloodline and the Fire Energy Traces immediately stirred into action. Like a hungry wolf, they *pounced* on it and rapidly absorbed it.

Phew!

Max exhaled a steamy breath, then nodded in satisfaction.

The mana from these two resources not only replenished the Energy he had consumed earlier, it seemed to have forced the Traces to grow a little. He couldn't be sure about it because the improvement, if there was, was so minute that even with his Bloodline Sense, he couldn't see it.

He then looked at the third and final fire elemental resource, a piece of Fire Elemental Talisman. He had bought it because he had felt a significant amount of pure Fire Mana in it and it wasn't too expensive, just 70 High Grade Mana Stones.

The piece was very small and while it had no marking or anything else that could tell what tier talisman it came from, the seller had claimed that he had found it at a place

where two peak Emperors had clashed, so the chances were high it was a piece of Tier 7 Fire Talisman.

Of course, when buying it, Max had dismissed it and had even turned to walk away, showing he wouldn't give him the money he wanted for it—100 High Grade Mana Stones.

Because it was just a broken, small piece and only had some Fire Mana, not many had shown interest in it. So, when the seller saw he was interested, but wouldn't give him the asking price, he immediately slashed the price by 20%. Seeing this, Max haggled for the first time in his life and managed to get another 10% discount.

He took a breath, placed the piece in his palm and slowly began injecting his Bloodline Sense in it. Immediately, he felt a heavy resistance.

'It's indeed a part of a higher Tier Talisman.' he thought, his eyes shining.

He became completely focused and after half an hour's hard work, he finally managed to enter it.

Fwoosh!

Immediately, his Bloodline Sense felt a searing hot energy that almost lit it up, but he managed to retrieve it on time.

"I have hit the jackpot!' He couldn't help but cry out in excitement like a little kid.

The piece indeed had Pure Fire Mana and both its quantity and quality was a pleasant surprise. In terms of quantity, it was a bit higher than the combined fire mana he got from the spirit fruit and the metal, and in terms of quality, it was a lot more purer than the mana he absorbed in the volcano.

After a few moments, he calmed down and put the piece away. He didn't need to use it yet, and well, it would be quite difficult to do so since the Mana inside it was capable of burning his Bloodline Sense.

Following this, he took a Spirit Replenishment Pill and meditated for a few hours. When he finally opened his eyes, his mental energy or commonly called Spirit Energy was completely restored.

"Let's begin."

Unlike the last time, he ignored the talisman ink and took a talisman paper from the stack of 20 and began preparing it.

Snap!

When he was 70% done, the talisman paper snapped.

He frowned for a moment, then closed his eyes and began recalling the process to see what had gone wrong.

After ten minutes, he picked up the second talisman paper and began preparing it. This time he smoothly crossed the 70% threshold, then 80 and 90%.

But when he reached the 95% mark, the talisman paper became unstable.

His mind raced to find the reason behind it before it snapped and he soon found the reason—his Bloodline Sense was too intense for this part. Thus, while sensing the change in the talisman paper, he decreased the intensity of his Bloodline Sense.

A few moments later, the talisman paper stabilized and he continued preparing it. Just five minutes later, he was done.

When compared to last time, the improvement was evident.

After a moment's rest, he put his finger in the bowl of Talisman Ink and poured pure Fire Energy from the Fire Traces into it. Then, using his finger as the talisman brush, he began inscribing the talisman.

10 minutes later, he stopped and looked at the talisman that glowed with a crimson hue for a moment.

His lips curled up in satisfaction.

He couldn't tell if this talisman could qualify as mid-grade Tier 4, but it wasn't much weaker than his first talisman. Moreover, he hadn't exhausted nearly as much mental energy or Bloodline Sense to create it—the reason for his satisfaction.

"If I can maintain this rate of improvement, it wouldn't be long before I can create Peak Tier 4 Talisman with ease." he murmured.

A moment later, however, he shook his head. Same with everything, the more he improved in this field, the more effort it would take to improve further, hence it would take more time.

He sensed his Fire Traces, then looked at the talisman paper. 18 were remaining.

"Let's see how many I can create."

He began creating the second talisman without resting. Twenty minutes later, another talisman was in his hand.

Putting it away, he closed his eyes and began meditating. His mental energy and Bloodline Sense were running low, so before continuing, he had to recover them a bit.

’I’ll need to buy more Spirit Replenishment Pills,’ he thought.

...

The next day, dressed in the same blue long robes with the hood covering most of his face, he arrived at the foot of the Trade Mountain.

"It’s you!" someone exclaimed.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 930: Fire Essence Stone[1,211 words]

"Yeah. It’s me." Max suppressed a chuckle as he walked over to the stall he bought the mask from yesterday.

The stall owner immediately covered the masks with a cloth when he saw him reach out to take a mask and coldly said, "Go to other stalls, I don’t want to sell you."

Max shook his head and waved his hand, producing 20 shining High-Grade Mana Stones that floated before him and calmly asked, "Why not?"

"Hmph! Take one." The stall owner snorted as he removed the cloth-cover and summoned the mana stones to his side with a wave of his hand. Then, he carefully inspected each one.

A nearby stall owner saw this and laughed derisively, "You are going senile, old man. What’s there to check about mana stones?"

The stall owner shot him a cold look, "What do you know?"

The man just shrugged.

Max chose a mask, put it on his face and discreetly activated it with his Bloodline Energy.

He then gave the stall owner a nod and entered the Trade Mountain.

When he walked over to the place he had set up his booth, he noticed there were more people around the place. He also noticed the cloaked woman who wanted to buy his talismans.

’Good. I wouldn’t need to waste time waiting.’ Max thought and walked over.

Shua! Shua! Shua!

Immediately, several gazes fixed on him.

Ignoring them, he calmly took out the bedsheet he used yesterday and placed it down before sitting on it and taking out his wares—11 Fire Elemental Talismans and a piece of paper on which he wrote "Unique Mid-Grade, Tier 4 Fire Elementals. Price: 60 High Grade Mana Stones.

Swoosh!

Once he was done, the cloaked woman immediately appeared before him. After a glance at the price, she took out 480 High Grade Mana Stones and gave them to him. "Here, I would like to buy 8 of them."

Max thought for a moment, then said, "GIve me 20 more and I’ll give you 10."

A hint of surprise flashed in her eyes. Then, she quickly took out another 20 and handed them to him.

"Thank you." she said.

Max gave them 10 talismans and shook his head, "No need for that since I had already agreed to sell you at 50 yesterday."

The woman didn’t say anything in response, but after a moment, she gave a communication crystal. "If you ever need my help, please reach out to me. I’ll do whatever I can to be of your assistance."

Max thought for a moment, then accepted it.

After she left, another customer arrived and asked, "Can I take a look at it? I want to see what’s so unique about them."

Max glanced around and saw that while there were people paying attention to him, none seemed interested in buying the talisman. So, he nodded, "Go ahead."

The guy inspected it for a few moments, then muttered, "Hm, it’s somehow different from the ones I use." Then he looked at Max and said, "How about this, sell me this for 30. If it’s good enough for a mid-grade Tier 4 talisman, I and my friend will buy more from you."

"Alright." Max nodded in agreement, not wanting to waste too much time trying to sell it for a few more mana stones.

Now that he was able to create these Tier 4 talismans with not much difficulty, he wouldn’t be lacking in mana stones. Besides, this batch had cost him less than 10 High Grade Mana Stones to create one. So, he was still making a 200% profit on it.

"Good." The man nodded in satisfaction, paid him 30 High Grade Mana Stones and left.

Seeing this, Max inwardly shook his head and stored the bedsheet away before he began exploring the stalls.

Including the 30 mana stones he left after paying 20 to buy the mask, he now had 560 High Grade Mana Stones.

Once again, he used 450 and using the random teleportation talisman, he left the mountain and an hour later, he returned to his villa.

...

He didn’t know when he used the random teleportation talisman, several people had shot out of the Trade Mountain and released their Divine Senses without holding back, scanning large swaths of area to find him.

If he had used the concealing talisman even a moment later than he did, he might have been found out and his identity might have been revealed.

...

In his cultivation chamber, he took out two wooden cases. Both of them had a Low Grade Tier 5 Spirit Replenishment Pill which he bought for 200 High Grade Mana Stones after haggling for a bit.

He then took out a stack of twenty upper mid grade, Tier 4 talisman paper and small jar of attributeless talisman ink. Both of these had cost him 42 Mana Stones

In the end, he took out a crimson stone, the size of a chicken egg.

As he held it in his hand, he could feel the slightly exhausted Fire Energy Traces in his Bloodline subtly stirring.

"It’s worthy of being a Fire Essence Stone." He murmured in amazement, and rightly so.

Yesterday, when he had injected his Bloodline Sense into the piece of suspected Tier 7 talisman, his Fire Energy Traces had stirred, but only a little. But now, just holding the Fire Essence Stone in his hand was enough for them to stir. It showed the Fire Energy in the stone was purer than the piece of talisman.

He closed his eyes and injected his Bloodline Sense into it. Immediately, he felt an extremely dense Fire Energy. It seemed to be on a higher tier than the energy in the piece of talisman or the other Fire Energy sources he had used yesterday to recover the Fire Energy Traces.

However...

He frowned. It wasn’t as pure as he expected.

"No. It’s purer, but there are some impurities mixed in it." he muttered, then thought, ’So it’s considered *Low Grade* Fire Essence Stone because of these impurities.’

A moment later, he tried to remove the impurities from a portion, but as soon as his Bloodline Sense came into contact, the fire energy turned ferocious and began burning it.

Swoosh!

Max quickly retracted it, his face pale.

"Tsk." he clicked his tongue in annoyance. The same had happened yesterday with the piece of talisman and the same happened now, frustrating him.

"I’ll have to recover my mana core as soon as possible so I can reactivate my Divine Sense and merge it with Bloodline Sense. Their merger would surely result in a powerful Sense that wouldn’t be burned so easily." he clenched his fist.

Just as he was about to put the Fire Essence Stone away and take a Spirit Replenishment Pill, he suddenly heard a weak, almost inaudible, cooing voice.

Co~

"Hm?" His eyes lit up and he quickly took out the Beast Storage Pouch from his robe and looked into it with his Bloodline Sense.

There, the massive Golden-Winged Python was lying with its eyes closed shut and chaotic energies flowing in the several deep wounds on its body.

[Are you awake, little guy?] he transmitted.

He waited. Several seconds later, the python's child-like voice sounded in his ears, [Pa...pa. Hun...gry. Eat..."

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 931: Late Night Visit[1,061 words]

"Hungry?" Max muttered and just as he was about to think what he could give the *little guy* to eat, his eyes flashed.

'It can't be a coincidence that it woke up just now.' he thought, his gaze landing on the Fire Essence Stone.

'Is it a Fire Elemental Beast?' he wondered before he shook his head and sent the Fire Essence Stone into the Beast Storage Bag without hesitation, placing it right next to its mouth.

He then waited to see whether his guess was really right.

For a whole minute, nothing happened. Just as he was starting to think that he had guessed wrong, the snake's mouth opened a little and the Fire Essence Stone slowly floated in the air before flying into the opened mouth.

Shua!

The mouth closed and the space became still like before.

After waiting for a while and not noticing any change, Max withdrew his Bloodline Sense and thought, 'Should I ask Elder Milo's help to remove the foreign energies from its wounds?'

'Yeah. I can do that. But first, I have to prepare a suitable payment for his assistance.' Deciding this, he took a Spirit Replenishment Pill and began meditating.

When his mental energy was fully recovered, he began making talismans. This time, he was being very careful, not wanting to waste the Fire Energy in the Traces too much.

...

Six hours later, he had used all the stack of talisman paper and the talisman ink completely. The result—17 Mid Grade, Tier 4 Fire Elemental Talismans.

He was very satisfied with this result, but he had pushed himself a little too much. His mental energy was almost completely exhausted and he was on the verge of passing out.

However, he wasn't worried since he still had a Spirit Replenishment Pill. He took it and began meditating.

...

Phew!

He exhaled deeply after half an hour and opened his eyes. Then, his brows furrowed because he realized the pill had only recovered his mental energy to forty percent.

'It has already started to become less effective when it was just my third pill?' he thought, 'Or was it because I took two in one day?'

A moment later, he closed his eyes and covered his entire body—organs, bones and blood—in his Bloodline Sense and began looking for the traces of the Spirit Replenishment Pill.

From what he knew, the reason medication became less ineffective for a person was because their body had developed resistance towards it.

If this was true, maybe if he could fully digest the lingering medicinal efficacy or expel it from his body, then his body should slowly lose the resistance?

He wasn't sure that it would work, but it was worth giving it a try.

Therefore, with utmost focus, he scanned every part of his body with the Bloodline Sense, trying to go cell-level deep. While he failed to do so, he found the traces of lingering medicinal energy of the Spirit Replenishment Pill throughout his body.

He thought about whether he could digest it somehow, but had no clue how to go about it, so he decided to expel it.

Since the medicinal energy had burrowed deep into his blood and organs, it was very difficult, but he slowly but surely edged it outwards and five hours later, he finally expelled it along with some other impurities.

"Yuck..." He had to stop breathing because the stench was just too much for him to handle.

Swoosh!

He rushed into the washroom and scrubbed his body until every bit of filth was washed away.

"I should do this cleansing regularly," he muttered. While the process took quite some time and effort and exhausted both mental energy and Bloodline Sense, after it was done, he felt very light not only in body, but also in mind.

Rumble!

As he walked out of the washroom and got dressed in fresh clothes, his stomach rumbled in hunger.

Smiling faintly while rubbing his belly, he took out his Identity Badge and sent Dan a message.

[Dan...]

Then he waited. If he was cultivating, he wouldn't answer immediately. In that case, he would just have to go to a restaurant...

Before he could even finish the thought, he got Dan's response.

[Yes, Young Lord?]

[Have you eaten?] asked Max.

[Not yet, Young Lord. I was cultivating.]

Max pursed his lips. He almost wanted to scold him for interrupting his cultivation to respond to him, but in the end, he just sighed and said, [Prepare a meal for me and yourself. I'm coming back in a while.]

[...Yes, Young Lord.]

...

Walking out of the villa, Max basked in the faint moonlight for a moment before he looked up.

Gazing at the twinkling stars in the sky, his eyes flickered, several thoughts flashing in his mind.

Normally, when one gazed at the vastness of the sky and beauty of the stars, one would feel peaceful and would calm down. Max, however, didn't feel the same or rather... he could not afford to feel it and relax because...

"...I have many things to do," he murmured.

He needed to heal the Python

-Heal his Mana Core,

-Recover his Divine Sense,

-Reunite with Lily, Sera and Emily,

-Find a way to bring Amara and her brother to the central region,

-Find Leticia and Belen,

-Re-open the tower.

-Prepare to kill Isolde to avenge Rima, face Lord Grimheart and prepare for the Devil's imminent escape from the minor realm,

-Last but not least, find Divine Energy and activate the System.

'Maybe... I should stop thinking about owing favors and ask for Elder Milo and others' help to get things done quickly.'

As soon as he thought, he felt his blood heat up—the Garfield Bloodline was stirring.

Sigh!

He sighed and shook his head. "Forget it."

"What are you trying to forget?"

Suddenly a voice sounded, catching him by surprise. If not for the fact that it was familiar, he would have gone into battle mode.

Fwoosh!

As he looked at where the voice sounded from—just a few meters in front of him—a figure materialized there.

It was Ryuna, who had a curious look on her face as she stared at him.

Max shook his head and asked, "What brought you here at this time, Ms. Ryuna?"

"Tch! How stingy." she clicked her tongue seeing he had no intention of telling her what he was thinking.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 932: Did He Do Something To You?[1,062 words]

Max simply stared at her.

After grumbling for a bit, she walked over and waved her hand. A mattress appeared on the ground. She flopped down on it and leaned back on her hands, gazing at the sky.

Max watched her for a moment. She was beautiful but acted completely unladylike, which on its own was quite charming.

Shaking his head, he sat down beside her.

Both stared at the sky in silence for a while before she finally spoke.

"You have been visiting the Trade Mountain?"

This surprised Max a little, but then he remembered that she had seen the talisman he had created during the exam.

So, if she had come across one of the talismans he had sold on the Trade Mountain, it would be no surprise that she knew this.

"Yes." he nodded.

"Don’t go there again." she said.

"Why?" Max asked, his expression turning solemn.

Ryuna shifted her gaze from the sky and Max and in a serious tone, she told him, "People have realized it’s you who is selling those unique fire elemental talismans. Now, if you go again, you will be in danger."

Max’s brows furrowed.

"I know you are using the random teleportation and concealment talisman to leave the Trade Mountain and escape the trail, but now that they know who you are and where you live, they just have to wait near this place and you’ll be caught." warned Ryuna.

"I understand," Max nodded, then he looked at her and asked, "Where do you sell the talisman you make, Ms. Ryuna?"

"Resource Hall." Ryuna answered before shaking her head, "If I could sell your talismans, I would have already asked you to give them to me. But I can't. In fact, no one other than the creator of the talismans can sell them to the Resource Hall."

"Oh? I didn't find this rule in the information packet." said Max, a little surprised.

"It's not an official rule, just a tacit understanding." answered Ryuna. "But no one dares to violate this understanding."

"Because of the Hall Master?"

Ryuna chuckled, "Yeah, everyone thinks it would anger Hall Master, but they don't know the Hall Master doesn't give a jack shit about anything as long as people don't fight and get killed in the Talisman Hall and the someone doesn't hold back the Talisman Masters' from practising their craft."

Max's eyes flashed.

After a moment, he asked, "What should I do then? I need to sell them to earn Mana Stones."

Ryuna gave him a peculiar look which then turned into one of appreciation.

"Just give them to me. I'll take care of them." she said.

"Would this make things difficult for you?" he hesitated. He didn't want to owe any favors, much less cause trouble for his benefactors.

"It might." Ryuna candidly accepted, then shrugged, raised her hand above her head, "But I'm already this deep into trouble. This little bit won't make any difference."

Max stared at her for a long moment, then he said, "Let me say this again, whenever you need help, call me. I'll do my best to help you."

Ryuna's lips curled up, "Alright, Mr. Grand Elder's favorite."

Then, Max gave her the 17 talismans he had created in the day. As she examined them, she couldn't help but click her tongue, "These are almost reaching the pinnacle of mid-grade Tier 4 Elemental Talismans. Your talent really makes one feel inferior."

Max just smiled in response. Once she had put them away, he asked, "I'm heading to the Violet Peak. Do you want to come along and have a meal?"

"Thank you, but I should head back now." Ryuna said and swiftly departed, leaving Max with a slightly stunned look on his face.

'She was... blushing?' he thought. Because of how open and brash her personality was, he hadn't expected her to become flustered over his casual dinner initiation. After all, it wasn't like he had asked her out for a date.

...

On the way to her residence, Ryuna stopped in place and placed her hand on her chest, feeling her heart beating.

"What's going on? Why did I become flustered?" she muttered, then she touched her cheeks, "He didn't see me blushing, right? How embarrassing!"

Suddenly, her eyes flashed, and she gritted her teeth, "It's all because of that damned girl. Her romantic fantasies must have affected me."

Hu!

She heaved a deep breath, then took out a talisman and activated it.

Buzz!

An invisible stream of energy washed over her. Immediately, her blushing cheeks became normal along with her increased heart rate.

After she had calmed down completely, her brows furrowed, "No, my conviction isn't so weak that her stories would affect me. It's something else. Don't tell me he did something?"

Killing intent flashed in her eyes for a brief moment at the thought before she shook her head, "No, it didn't seem he did anything, nor his invitation had any deeper meaning."

Suddenly a figure silently materialized beside her and a gentle voice sounded, "What's troubling you, little Ryu?"

"Aish! You scared me, Grandma." Ryuna jumped up and put away the talisman she had taken out on instinct.

This woman was old, had grey hair and was hunched back. With her hands behind her back, her frail body and no extraordinary aura around her, she looked nothing but an old woman nearing her end of days.

She smiled faintly and asked, "So, what was it? Did that little guy do something to you?"

"I... don’t think so." Ryuna shook her head.

"Oh?"

Seeing her grandma was really curious, Ryuna proceeded to tell her about her abnormal experience just now.

After she finished speaking, the grandma said, "I’m sure it has something to do with him."

Before Ryuna could say anything in response, she grabbed her wrist and they both disappeared from the place without a trace.

...

Swoosh!

Max left the Talisman Hall’s territory and headed toward the Core Hall, but suddenly, his hair stood on end without any warning which made him stop in his tracks.

Swoosh!

His Bloodline Sense burst out and scanned the area around him, but he found nothing.

Quickly retracting his Bloodline Sense, he frowned, ’What was that?’

After staying put for a moment, he continued toward the Core Hall. Only this time, there was a grave look in his eyes.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 933: Comprehending the Thunder Rune [1][1,043 words]

"Oh?"

"What is it, Grandma?" asked Ryuna when she saw a surprised look in her eyes.

"That little guy really isn’t ordinary. He managed to sense something was wrong when I scanned him with my Divine Sense." the old grandma said.

"You aren’t kidding, right?" Ryuna couldn’t help but ask despite knowing her grandma wasn’t lying.

She was just having a hard time believing it, after all, she knew her grandma had mastered several mystical concealment magical spells.

There were very few people who could detect her if she wanted to hide and those who could detect her, they were all either extraordinary Emperors or Monarchs. As for King Mages and lower, even if she entered their dantian with her Divine Sense, they still wouldn’t be able to sense her.

But now she was saying Max had sensed her?

"I’m not." The old grandma shook her head, then added, "Moreover, he had relied entirely on himself to sense me, not some special magic artifact or talisman."

Ryuna looked at her and saw she was gazing at Max’s vanishing figure intently and became curious.

"Did you find out something?"

"I did." the grandma nodded.

Ryuna’s eyes lit up.

Ever since she heard the rumors about Max, a guy who had comprehended two Elemental Laws in the Mortal Realm, she had become curious about him. And this curiosity only increased when he successfully created his first talisman and in a record-breaking time at that.

Before she could ask her what she had found out, her grandma gave her a half amused and half serious look and said, "You don’t need to know it."

"..."

Ryuna’s excited expression froze on her face, then she pursed her lips. "That’s not fair—"

"Let’s go." her grandma ignored her and vanished from the place along with her.

...

Max arrived at the Violet Peak half an hour later.

Dan had already prepared a meal and was waiting for him. So, he ate with him, which flattered Dan very much.

Once they finished eating, Dan left and Max sat cross-legged in meditation. Once he had entered a focused state, he took out the memory crystal and injected his Bloodline Sense in it to comprehend the Thunder Rune.

...

The next day, Max woke up late in the afternoon, still feeling weary.

Last night, he had comprehend the Thunder Rune for hours and he wouldn't have stopped if his mental energy wasn't almost completely exhausted.

'I need a large supply of Spirit Replenishment Medicine otherwise I would be always running low on Mental Energy.' he thought, rubbing his temples.

He then began meditating, hoping to recover a little more Mental Energy so he wouldn't feel as if his head was about to explode, but after two hours, he had to stop because the returns weren't good enough. Still, his headache had become manageable.

Right then, he sensed a fluctuation in his Identity Badge.

...

In front of the Resource Hall of the Talisman Hall, Ryuna was casually leaning against a tree, her eyes closed.

Swoosh!

Noticing someone rushing towards her, she opened her eyes and saw Max, who nodded at her in greeting.

"You sold them here?" he asked, glancing at the Resource Hall.

"Yeah. I was going to sell it through some other channel, but then I thought... why bother? So, I came here and sold them." Ryuna said. Then she waved her hand and produced 400 High Grade Mana Stones which she sent over to him.

"I sold 10 of them for Mana Stones, 40 stones per piece. And the remaining I exchanged for 70 Merit Points." she explained and took out her badge and transferred the Merit Points to him.

She had messaged him earlier, asking whether he wanted to sell all of them for Mana Stones or he wanted to exchange a few for Merit Points.

Unlike other disciples who had some Merit Points the moment they became disciples of the Hall, he didn't have any because his entry into the Hall was through unconventional means.

And In the Beast Emperor Hall, the Merit Points were more valuable than Mana Stones. Since he had the option to convert some of his talisman into former, he chose to do it.

After he put away the Mana Stones and she finished transferring the Merit Points, he asked, "Ms. Ryuna, why didn't you buy the things I asked you?"

"Because they would cost more here." Ryuna said, *[Let's go to the Trade Mountain. You can buy the things you need there.]*

Max looked at her strangely.

Ryuna smiled, "Don't worry. With me accompanying you, no one would dare attack you even if you don't hide your identity there."

She then swept her gaze across the people watching them and sneered. "Try to follow us and see if I don't break your legs."

Then without asking for his permission, she grabbed his hand and shot into the sky.

Max's brows furrowed but they soon smoothened out.

'I shouldn't underestimate anyone.' he sighed. He had thought he had completely hidden the fact that he couldn't use his Mana or Divine Sense at the moment, but it turned out Ryuna had noticed it at some point.

Midway, Ryuna stopped and donned a cloak.

[You also put on something to hide your face.] She transmitted, [Though I can handle the trouble that would arise if we go there without hiding our identities, it's better if we can prevent them.]

Max nodded in agreement and put on the hooded robe he had been wearing for the past two days when traveling to the Trade Mountain.

Soon after they arrived at the mountain and Ryuna bought two masks.

[You want to buy some resources that have Pure Fire Mana, right?] she asked as they entered. After Max nodded, she took him to the middle part of the mountain where he had yet to visit until now.

There, she stopped in front of a bustling stall.

’Oh?’ Max eyes flickered. Not only were there dozens of Fire elemental resources on the stall, the stall owner wasn’t wearing a mask either.

The next instant, his brows furrowed because when the stall owner looked at them, a strange smile appeared on his face and a voice sounded in his ears.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 934: Comprehending the Thunder Rune [2][1,023 words]

[Ah, the monstrous genius and spoiled little girl. Not a good combination, but welcome, welcome.]

Max stared at the man in silence. If he was surprised, he didn’t show it. Ryuna, on the other hand, bristled, [You cunning old bastard. Who are you calling spoiled? Do you believe me when I say I’ll smash your filthy shop into bits?]

The man’s smile widened, [Of course, I believe you. A spoiled princess can do anything.]

[You—!] Ryuna began releasing her aura but right then, the man narrowed his eyes a little and the next moment, Ryuna calmed down.

[Hmph! I won’t lower myself to your level.] she snorted, then turned to Max and said, [Take whatever you want. He won’t charge you an unreasonable price.]

Max noticed the man’s lips twitch, but he forced a smile and nodded.

Max swept his gaze across the items and picked two resources—a Fire Spirit Fruits and a half a feet long, crimson branch.

Both of them were marked at 100 High Grade Mana Stones, but when Ryuna glared at the man and asked the price, he begrudgingly said Max only needed to pay 160 for them.

Nodding in satisfaction, Max was about to hand him the Mana Stones when he noticed a small piece of rock at the corner.

His eyes flashed. It was a piece of Fire Essence Stone.

The man followed his gaze and picked up the piece, saying out loud, "It’s a piece of a low-grade Fire Essence Stone. Normally, it’s quite difficult for Five Star mages and lower to absorb the Fire Mana Essence from the stone, but sometimes the stone breaks into tiny pieces and most of the Essence’s potency evaporates. In that situation, lower realmed Mages can also absorb the Fire Essence."

He then smiled, "The Fire Mana Essence it has is less than either of the two you picked, but it’s purer despite the fact that its potency has decreased significantly."

Max nodded in understanding. No wonder he felt he could use it unlike the whole Fire Essence Stone he had bought earlier.

"How much is it?" he asked.

To Max’s surprise, the man flicked the piece of stone toward him, generously saying, "Just take it as a meeting gift."

"Hm?" Max frowned and other customers nearby looked at Max up and down, a hint of surprise in their eyes.

"Heh, a meeting gift that’s only worth less than 10 Mana Stones? How generous of you!" Ryuna sneered.

Before the man could respond, Max handed him 170 Mana Stones, "Here, thank you for your good intentions, but there is no need to gift me anything."

Ryuna looked as if she wanted to say something, but in the end she did not. As for the man, he took a better look at Max and nodded. "People call me Tibby the merchant. You can call me the same."

Saying this, he flicked his finger and Max’s identity badge, hanging by his waist, flew to him and he tapped his finger on it before returning it to Max.

"I have added my contact information. You can contact me anytime to place an order of whatever you need. If I can get my hands on it, I’ll deliver it to you." Saying this, he laughed, "Of course, you would have to pay the price in full."

Max nodded in acknowledgement. At the same time, he noticed the people were staring at him more intently now.

...

After doing some more shopping, they left the mountain.

Ryuna looked at him and seeing his thoughtful expression, she said, "You want to know who he is, right?"

Max nodded.

"He used to be a core disciple of the Beast Emperor Hall thirty years or so ago. But something happened and he was expelled." explained Ryuna, "Strangely, however, not long after he returned and became a merchant. In fact, you could say he is the founding

member of the Trade Mountain in the Talisman Hall among other free trading zones throughout the Beast Emperor Hall."

"Because of his inexplicable relationship with the Hall and his resourcefulness, everyone kind of looks up to him. This was why when he gave you his contact information, everyone gave you those looks."

Max nodded in understanding. Then he asked what he was most curious about.

"How was he able to put his contact information in my badge without my permission? Also, how strong is he?"

Since he hadn't used his Bloodline Sense, and everyone was suppressing the fluctuations of the cultivation base, he naturally couldn't tell how strong he was. But something told him even if he had used his Bloodline Sense, he wouldn't have been able to gauze his strength.

Unexpectedly, Ryuna, who seemed to know everything, shrugged this time and said, "I have no clue. Even the Elders can't tell how strong he is or how he can access things like Identity Badges without the owner's permission.

There was a time after having failed to recruit him, the Grimheart Faction had protested that he should be incarcerated and investigated otherwise he could harm the Hall. What do you think happened as a result?"

"Nothing happened?" answered Max.

"Yeah. The Grimheart Faction even got a message from one of the Grand Elders asking them to stop being a nuisance. Haha, the entire faction was down in the dumps for a while." Ryuna chuckled.

"This sect... is really complicated." Max sighed.

"That's true." Ryuna agreed, her smile vanishing

They travelled in silence for a while before Ryuna looked at him and asked, "You are going to create talismans today too?"

"Yeah. Why?" asked Max.

Ryuna hesitated for a moment, then said, "You should focus more on cultivation and getting stronger."

Max's eyes flickered. He could tell she knew something that he should too. But just as he was about to ask her, Ryuna stopped. "Alright. I'm leaving now. Message me if you need me."

Swoosh!

Max watched her fly away, and his brows slowly furrowed.

After a moment, he gaze became determined. Grabbing his Identity Badge and sent a message to... Elder Milo.

[Elder, are you free? I need a little help.]

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 935: Comprehending the Thunder Rune [3][1,060 words]

Three hours later...

"Phew! This was exhausting." An amiable looking middle-aged man exhaled and plopped into a chair, a few energies swirling around each of his five fingers of the right hand.

This man was none other than Elder Milo and he had just finished extracting the foreign energies from the Golden Winged Python.

Max looked at the python laying curled up on the ground, now looking a lot more relaxed, and felt his heart become lighter.

"Thank you for the help, Elder." He didn't want to say he would remember this favor since he had already said the same a few days ago, so he simply thanked him and bowed deeply to show his gratitude.

"Mm." Elder Milo nodded in response and with a thought, took out five wooden bottles inside which he sealed the energies swirling on his fingers and sent them to Max. "Here. I have put a seal on the bottles. They will amplify the energy signatures, so you could easily remember them."

Max received them, a cold glint flashing in his eyes. He had asked Elder Milo to separate the different energies and store them. As for what he was planning on doing with them, it couldn't be more clearer.

...Those who tried to kill the python needed to pay.

Elder Milo stared at him, then sighed and shook his head, stopping himself from warning Max.

’It’s alright. His thirst for revenge would only make him work harder and become stronger.’ he thought.

He then looked him up and down and thoughtfully asked, "Do you need help with something else? If you do, now’s the chance to ask because I will be leaving on a mission tonight."

Max paused, then his eyes flickered rapidly. After a moment, he proffered him his Identity Badge and requested, "Elder, lend me a 1000 Merit Points."

"Okay." Elder Milo transferred 1000 Merit Points, then Max stored the Python in his Beast Storage Bag and left after bidding him farewell and wishing him a smooth return.

A few moments after he left...

Swoosh!

A figure appeared beside Elder Milo. It was an average looking woman in brown robes, but anyone who looked at her would find it hard to take their eyes off her.

"You think highly of the kid, Brother Milo?" she asked in a pleasant, but curious voice.

The corner of Elder Milo’s lips twitched, "How many times have I told you not to call me that?"

"Hehe, but I like this name. Besides, you shouldn’t hate it. Grand Elder Rowan has bestowed upon you this name with love." the lady chuckled.

Elder Milo helplessly shook his head, then nodded, "Yes, I do think highly of him. He is... extraordinary."

"I don’t know about him, but that baby python is indeed extraordinary. Even I felt a hint of fear and reverence when I looked at him." the lady commented, a solemn look in her eyes.

She then asked, "Do you know which lineage he was from?"

"He should be the long extinct Golden Winged Python of the Sea Swallowing Wyrm." Elder Milo answered.

"What?!" the lady shook, disbelief clear of her face.

"How did he survive the purge?" she muttered under her breath, a hint of fear flashing in her eyes.

Just as Elder Milo was about to console her and say she shouldn't fear him, her fear turned into excitement, "It's good. When he grows up, he would be able to elevate us beasts' standing. We no longer would be suppressed and killed at every turn."

Elder Milo sighed inwardly, feeling guilty.

A long time ago, beasts and humans coexisted peacefully. They had even made a valuable contribution in the battle against devils. Heck, even their founder was said to be a beast.

However, not long after the battle, all races suddenly started to view the beasts as prey, this was more true for the Humans who hunted them on mass scale and caused many beast species to go extinct.

Even the Beast Emperor Hall that was supposed to view humans and beasts as equals slowly started treating the beast as tools to grow stronger.

Now-a-days, there were very few mages in the Beast Emperor Hall who treated their companion beast like friends. When in danger, they no longer hesitated to sacrifice their companion beasts.

"Brother Milo, the human kid has yet to form a companion bond with *him*. We should take *him* from him and raise him ourselves. That way he would have higher chances of growing to his full potential." the lady said, urgency, desperation and hope clear in her voice.

Elder Milo patted her head and shook his head, "We can't do that, Ayrie. Max... he wouldn't agree to it."

"Then we should just—" a savage look appeared on the lady's face, but before she could finish, Elder Milo coldly barked, "Calm Down!"

The lady shuddered, then slowly regained control of her emotions, but there was still a reluctant look on her face.

...

Unaware of the exchange between the two, Max arrived in the Inner Hall, went to the resource hall to buy healing medicine to expedite Python's recovery. Fortunately, the Beast Emperor Hall had medicine especially designed to heal Beasts and they didn't cost too much either thanks to the policies of the Hall.

After spending 550 Merit Points, he bought two Mid-Grade Five Star Healing Medicine—a large, fist-sized green pill and a bucket of yellow liquid.

Finding an empty place, he took out the python, forced open its mouth and fed it the pill. Then, he applied the liquid to its wounds and stored away the remaining liquid to apply later.

Done with this, he returned the python back to the Beast Storage Pouch and headed toward the Library.

He currently had 520 Merit Points. Therefore, it was time to rent a Comprehension Room and Comprehend the Thunder Talisman.

If he managed to comprehend it in this session, he would be able to create Tier 5, Thunder Elemental Talismans that could easily fetch him enough High Grade Mana Stones and Merit Points to spend on the things he needed to heal his Mana Core, recover his Divine Sense and grow stronger.

He had a feeling that the Grimheart faction would soon come knocking and he wouldn't be able to handle them unless he had recovered.

'Grimheart...' he thought, his expression turning overcast.

Chapter 936: Comprehending the Thunder Rune [4/4]

When he entered the Library Tower, he felt gazes on him, some were malicious. This made him think he would once again encounter difficulty in securing a Comprehension Room, but no such thing happened.

After waiting for half an hour, he was able to rent a room and enter.

Deciding not to think about what the Grimheart Faction might be playing at, he sat down cross-legged, closed his eyes and meditated for a short while to clear his mind and enter a focused state.

Following this, he took out the Memory Crystal, and injected his Bloodline Sense into it.

Immediately, he found that his connection to the Thunder Rune was stronger, probably because of his effort last night.

Happy with the progress, he focused all his mind and intent on the Rune.

Slowly, it grew clearer to his senses and he began to get a subtle feel, an understanding of its workings.

'This rune can not only be used offensively, but also defensively and...'

As his understanding of it grew, unbeknownst to him, the Thunder Traces in his bloodline began to flicker as if they were resonating with something and soon, traces of Thunder Law seeped out of the room's walls and coalesced around him in a sphere.

...

Buzzztt~!

Swoosh!

Several eyes snapped open and stared at the room door buzzing with faint arcs of lightning.

"Oh no." The receptionist, a man this time, also noticed this and his expression changed. Without wasting any time, he took out his Identity Badge to contact the Elders in charge of the Library.

But before he could...

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Five fingers had already appeared on the second floor and flew over to the Comprehension Room.

Seeing them, the receptionist hurried over with a ledger in hand.

"Which disciple is inside?" A middle-aged, single-monocled woman asked.

The receptionist hurriedly injected his Divine Sense into the ledger and said, "It-It's a recently joined Inner Hall Disciple, Maxwell Garfield. High Elder Adam recommended him on... V-Violet Peak's behalf. He is also a Tier 4 Talisman Master."

"Violet Peak? Now that's troublesome." One of the Elders murmured with a troubled look on his face.

"How about we let him be? He isn't really breaking any rules, after all." Another female Elder commented.

The other four stared at her, and the monocled Elder snorted, "If he exhausts the Thunder Laws, no other disciple will be able to comprehend any Thunder Elemental Spell here, and you think we should just... let me be?"

The Elder who had spoken earlier shrugged, "Do what you think is right then."

"How about..." The Elder who had the troubled look began before continuing through Divine Sense transmission, his eyes glinting, [How about we report this situation to the Violet Peak? If Grand Elder Rowan agrees to recharge the Thunder Laws, we'll let him be.]

The other four's eyes flashed when they heard this proposal, then quickly agreed.

[That's a good idea. But we have to make sure no one, especially the Grimheart Faction, finds out about this. Otherwise they would think we are favoring the Violet Peak.] the monocled Elder warned.

[Let's just take an oath.] someone suggested and the others agreed, though a bit reluctantly. After all, no one wanted to take oaths because they were shackles on one's mentality or otherwise called Dao Heart.

After they finished taking the oaths, they reported the situation to Violet Peak's representative—Elder Milo.

Their plan was simple. If Grand Elder Rowan, the most accomplished person of the Thunder Element and Law in the entirety of the Beast Emperor Hall, agreed to recharge comprehension rooms' thunder Laws, not only they wouldn't suffer any loss, they would make a profit because the laws had already weakened over the years.

And in the situation where Max wasn't important enough to the Violet Peak and Grand Elder Rowan refused, they could just force open the room and stop Max. Then, they would explain the situation to him.

If he was a reasonable person, they could compensate him with some Merit Points or something else, if he wasn't, they would just let him file the complaint and see what punishment they would get. Whatever it would be, it wouldn't be more harmful to them than letting the comprehension rooms be emptied out of the Thunder Law.

But as they say, while the plans are always good, they—more often than not—fail to meet expectations when faced with reality.

Just as they had reported the situation...

Buzz!

Fwoosh!

The faint arcs of lightning flickering on the door fizzled out completely.

The five Elders stared blankly at the door before they exchanged glances between them.

[How did it get exhausted so quickly?] the Elder asked, a more troubled look appearing on his face. In fact, his expression was so bad that it looked as if he was about to cry.

No one answered him because they had none.

[I-It's alright. I know Grand Elder Rowan values him quite a bit. He should since he faced Lord Grimheart for him. So, he wouldn't refuse our proposal...] he said but his words didn't have much belief backing them up.

...

Unaware of what was happening outside or even within the room, Max—his brows knitted tightly together in concentration—was completely focused on the Rune in the memory crystal which was rapidly disappearing and being imprinted in his mind.

When the last trace of the sphere of Thunder Law around him disappeared...

Crack!

An audible crack sounded. The memory crystal had cracked. A moment later, more cracks appeared on it and turned into dust in his hands.

Ha!

Max exhaled a long breath and opened his eyes, lightening flickered within his pupils, forming a lightning bolt shape.

It disappeared a moment later and looked down at the dust in his hands. His lips curled upwards into a satisfied and gleeful grin.

He had succeeded in completely comprehending the Rune. He had *really* comprehended it.

He had decided to put his all into comprehending it this time, but he wasn't sure he could do it. After all, this Rune was among the better ones in the Tier 5 category. But he had done it and it felt amazing.

Of course, he knew he hadn't done it all on his own.

He looked within him, at the Traces of Thunder Energy which were now a little bigger and seemed more... alive.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 937: Compensation[1,055 words]

The Elders waited with bated breath for Elder Milo’s response, hoping it would be positive otherwise things would become troublesome for them.

As for Elder Milo, he had been making preparations to leave on the mission when he received the message from Library Staff and paused.

Curious, when he read the message, he was first surprised, then a wry smile surfaced on his face.

"This guy... he is really a handful." he muttered.

Swoosh!

His companion beast—Ayrie—in her human form instantly appeared before him, staring at him with shining eyes and said, "You are talking about that stinky kid, right? Since he isn’t reliable, we should take the little Python from him and raise—"

"Stop it, Ayrie. I told you we can’t do it." said Elder Milo in exasperation.

"Hmph!" Ayrie snorted in dissatisfaction and lowered her head.

Elder Milo patted her head and said, "You should believe in Grand Elder’s judgement. He is an extraordinary guy and Python will be sure to grow well with him."

"I hope so." Ayrie muttered, then asked while glancing at the Identity Badge in his hand, "So, what did he do?"

"He is cultivating in the Library’s Comprehension Rooms and using its Thunder Law. They asked whether they should stop him or will the Violet Peak reimburse them." said Elder Milo.

Ayrie nodded before vanishing, not interested in this at all.

Elder Milo thought for a moment, then he gritted his teeth and contacted Grand Elder Rowan.

’I hope Grand Elder doesn’t get angry,’ he thought. Ever since he brought Max out of the minor realm, he had disturbed Grand Elder more than he did in the past few years.

Fortunately, nothing such happened and after hearing about the situation, Grand Elder said he would take care of the comprehension rooms.

Relieved, Elder Milo relayed the information to the Library Staff, but he didn’t forget to scoff at them and let them know their sneaky little plan of profiting.

...

Clack... Swoosh!

When Max walked out of the room, he saw five Emperors, talking and laughing with happy and relieved looks on their faces and raised his brows.

These people were clearly Elders, and the Library Tower’s insignias on their robes told him they were probably supervisors of the Library.

But...

What were they doing in front of his room, seemingly celebrating something?

"Ahem. Disciple Max, come with us." The male elder, who had the most troubled look on his face earlier, coughed lightly and said.

Max looked at them for a moment, then nodded, "Alright."

Under everyone’s curious gazes, he was escorted away from the second floor.

On the third floor, Max was sitting in a large room, facing the Five Elders, listening to them describe the situation earlier.

"...you completely exhausted the stored Thunder Law on the second floor. While you didn’t break any rule by doing it since you were just cultivating, you should understand that it’s a significant loss for the library—unless we pay a heavy price to have it restored, no other disciple will be able to comprehend anything Thunder Elemental."

Max listened patiently, not responding.

The monocled Elder frowned slightly seeing he showed no reaction, much less look a bit guilty.

"We were about to evict you. Sure, it would have been troublesome for us, but the library wouldn’t have suffered such a loss." She said, "However, after finding out about the situation, Violet Peak agreed to reimburse us. So, we didn’t disturb you."

"No disrespect, Elders." Max finally spoke, "But can you tell me why you brought me here?"

Since he wasn't at fault, he didn't want to waste time here. Of course, he had noted that Violet Peak had done him another favor.

The Elders' expressions cooled upon hearing this.

"To inform you this and..." the monocled Elder said and extended her hand holding her identity badge. "To give you some compensation because the thunder law seemed to have run out before your time was up."

Max thought for a moment, then nodded. Since they wanted to compensate him, it wasn't a bad thing.

After he tapped his badge against hers, he bade them farewell and left.

"Tch! This rude brat." an Elder clicked his tongue, then asked the monocled Elder, "What did you give him? Merit Points or Free Pass?"

"Free Pass for three uses." answered the monocled Elder.

"You should have just given a few hundred Merit Points. That would have been enough." the Elder grumbled. He didn't like Max's attitude at all. After all, most disciples were always respectful to them.

"No, she did good. Did you not see High Elder Adam's message? He was clearly saying since we would be profiting, we would give him some benefits to the boy. If we had shortchanged him and the High Elder had found out, it wouldn't have been good. Now, this might not earn us High Elder's favor, but our relationship wouldn't sour either." The 'troubled-look' Elder explained.

"By the way... do you think Grand Elder Rowan would come himself to recharge the Thunder Law?" the other female Elder asked, a look of anticipation on her face.

"He should, right? I don't think there is anyone else on the Violet Peak who has a high enough comprehension of Thunder Law." another Elder said thoughtfully.

"Let's go. We should make preparations."

...

Sanya was sitting cross-legged, her eyes closed in mediation when suddenly she felt something and opened her eyes.

Then, she took out Identity Badge from her spatial ring and a hint of surprise, followed by glee appeared on her rosy face.

"Finally..." she muttered.

She had received a message from Grand Elder Rowan.

[See if you can find someone to recharge the Library Tower's Thunder Law of second floor.]

It was a simple message, her master asking her help because he might be busy with something else.

But she knew what this meant—this meant her Master was finally willing to repair relations with her Senior Sister.

After all, while there were a few Elders who could use Thunder Law, they weren't from Violet Peak, nor did she personally know them. So, asking them this favor was out of question and her master knew this.

So, who else could she 'find' to complete this task?

It was her senior sister, Valerie, the Disciplinary Hall Master of Inner Hall of course.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 938: Testing the Rune's Effects[1,205 words]

Without wasting any time, she left the cultivation chamber and headed to the Inner Hall, humming a soft tune.

For the first time in several years, she was feeling this happy again.

'Maybe after they are on good terms again, I could ask Senior Sister to tell Master to become a little more serious in dealing with that Dogheart.' she thought, her face flushing red at the thought of ripping Lord Grimheart's head off and bleeding his corpse dry.

Swoosh!

Her aura began to seep out of her as she flew and several people, disciples and Elders alike shuddered when they felt it.

"W-Who was that?"

"I didn’t see."

"How horrifying! I felt as if I was about to die."

...

Within the Disciplinary Hall, Valerie was sitting on the main seat, listening to the Elders’ report and giving out orders when the temperature of the hall suddenly dropped.

Her eyes narrowed.

Swoosh!

The next instant, Sanya flew into the hall, her face and eyes red, her aura fluctuating around her.

Everyone in the hall felt pressured.

"Elder Blood Flower!" Valerie shouted. "Please restrain your aura."

"Oh, my bad." Sanya said, giving everyone an apologetic look. Then, she said, "Can you all leave for a bit? I have something to discuss with the Hall Master."

Everyone was more than happy to leave, but they couldn’t do so without Valerie’s order, so they looked at her. When she nodded, everyone rushed out of the hall one after another, instantly emptying the hall.

Bang!

Sanya curled her fingers slightly and the doors slammed shut.

"What is it?" asked Valerie, her tone a little cold. She didn’t like the display Sanya put on just now.

It was as if Sanya couldn’t tell her senior sister was dissatisfied with her, a wide smile appeared on her face, "I have a piece of very good news. You’ll definitely like it, senior sister."

Valerie didn’t speak, but her eyes flickered and her fingers on the armrest of her seat clenched harder.

"Master has asked me to find you to do something for him as he is busy right now." Sanya said and watched as Valerie... looked away and murmured, "I’m afraid I can’t do it, junior sister."

Boom!

Sanya’s eyes widened and her mind blanked out for a moment.

Did she... hear it right? Her senior sister had refused to help?

...

Max returned to his cave residence on the Violet Peak and shut himself inside.

He needed to test the Rune’s prowess.

Taking a breath, he took out the stack of talisman paper and talisman ink.

What was a more effective way to test the rune than to use it to make a talisman, right?W

With this thought, he began working.

The process was the same, the only thing was different that he was creating Thunder Elemental talisman instead of Fire Elemental.

Forty minutes later... After destroying three talisman paper, he succeeded in preparing the fourth and began the process of infusing Thunder Energy of his Energy Traces into the talisman ink.

When he was done and began inscribing the talisman, he added the faint outline of the Rune in his mind.

Buzz!

When he finished, the talisman vibrated, faint arcs of pale blue lighting streaking across it. As he watched it with bated breath, the vibrations slowly ebbed and the streaks of lightning also settled down.

...He had created his first Thunder Elemental Talisman.

When he inspected it with his Bloodline Sense, he felt it was stronger than the best Fire Elemental Talisman he had created until now.

"Let’s test it out." He thought and walked out of the cave.

"Young Lord." greeted Dan who had just arrived.

"Mm." Nodding, Max walked a little far from the cave, and poured his Bloodline Energy into the Talisman, activating it.

"Young Lord, Don’t—" Dan called out when he saw what Max was doing but he was one second too late. The Talisman had already been activated.

Max threw it in front of it.

Then...

Bzzttt... Crackle! Boom!

Lightening exploded out of it, then a loud explosion rocked the area.

The resulting shockwaves slammed into the ground, cresting a crater whole those that spread towards Max and Dan, pushed Max a step back while Dan was sent flying and slammed on the cave wall.

After the explosion settled, Max's eyes flashed with delight.

"This attack was comparable to 70% of the full powered attack of an ordinary peak Four Star Elemental Mage..." he murmured, "Doesn't this mean it was a High Grade, Tier 4 Elemental Talisman, and very close to the Top Grade of Tier 4?"

"...Argh."

Just then he heard a week, pained groaned

"Oh, shoot." he snapped back to his senses, and rushed over to Dan's side, a guilty look on his face.

"Sorry, I was in too much rush to test it..." he apologized and despite the fact Dan had suffered a massive blow and bleeding through his mouth and nose, his eyes glazed over, a suprised look couldn't help but appear on his face when he heard this.

Then, he forced a smile and shook his head, "No, Young Lord. Please don't apologise. It's my fault. I should have taken cover."

Max wasn't in mood to argue, so he lifted him in his arms and was about to rush down to get him treated in the Medical Hall when a middle aged woman, dressed in a blue robe with the insignia of Violet Peak etched on her chest, appeared.

She swept her gaze across the ruined ground that was in process of repairing and frowned as she eyed Max, "Don't you know it's prohibited to fight or use any lethal spells on the peak?"

Max glanced at Dan, who smiled wryly, "I was trying to stop you earlier for this reason, Young Lord."

"Apologies, Elder. I was not aware of the rule." Max apologized.

"I’m letting you off this time. If it happens again, you’ll be fined 100 Merit Points." The Elder warned before leaving.

Deciding not to do it again, he descended the mountain and arrived at the medical hall.

After greeting the Medical Elder who was still sitting in the same chair like the day before, he told her about the small accident.

The Medical Elder glanced at her disciple, the young girl who was almost glaring at Max, "Take him to the room and heal him, Kaelin."

"Yes, Master." Kaelin nodded, took Dan from him, not caring his blood would stain her robe and enter the room beside Rima’s.

Taking a deep breath, Max nodded at the Medical Elder, then pushed open the door and entered the room.

It had been a few days since he last met her.

"You have come?" As soon as he entered, Rima’s pleasant voice echoed in the room as she looked up from the book she was reading upon hearing the door open.

"Yes. Feeling better now?" he asked as he sat beside her, gently taking her hand in his.

"Yes. I have almost fully recovered now." she smiled.

Max nodded. Her complexion was much better now.

But he let out a sign in his heart. She looked better and was wearing a smile, but the look in her eyes told another story.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 939: Defective Products[1,234 words]

"Good." he smiled and said, "Here, let me check the condition of your Dantian."

He moved to place his hand on her abdomen, but Rima grabbed it, stopping him.

He looked at her in confusion.

"No need to waste time. I know it’s almost completely destroyed and soon it’ll vanish completely." she said calmly.

"I see." Max nodded, then said with a hurt look on his face, "You no longer believe in me as much as before, huh? That’s understandable. I failed to save you, after all."

"No, no, no. I-I didn’t mean that." Rima hurriedly shook her head. "I just..."

"You don’t need to explain yourself. You feel what you feel, right? It’s alright." Max smiled and this only served to make her panic more.

A moment later, she did what he was aiming for. She took his hand and placed it on her abdomen.

"Here, check it. I won’t stop you again, but don’t ever say that I don’t believe you." she said with tears in her eyes.

Max felt bad seeing her cry, but he had no choice. If he had complied with her and hadn’t checked her, the last bit of her hope would have died. But now, even if everyone else told her it wasn’t possible, she will have hope, no matter how small, that he might be able to heal her.

After checking her condition, he let out a sign of relief. "It’s stable."

"Really?" asked Rima, a suspicious look on her face.

"Yeah. It’s in the same condition as the time I first saw it." nodded Max.

Rima nodded.

After accompanying her for two hours, he told her he needed to go back and make some talismans and left the room.

Rima’s smiling expression crumbled after he walked out of the room.

"That bastard. If he hadn’t destroyed my Identity Badge too, Max wouldn’t have to waste time making talismans." she grumbled, her expression overcast.

She really hated Lord Grimheart, that petty, and insidious man. Not only did he crippled her so she would suffer all her life, he also destroyed her Identity Badge and Spatial Ring, leaving her with nothing.

After a while, her eyes glazed over and she muttered, "Can you... really... heal *it*?"

...

The next morning, Max met with Ryuna and they entered the Talisman Hall's Resource Hall.

As soon as they entered, Max felt several gazes on him.

Following Ryuna, he arrived in front of the room with just a window behind which sat an old, grey-haired woman.

She was hunched over a pile of papers, staring at them intently as if they had something very fascinating.

Ryuna signalled him to go ahead.

Max nodded and stepped in front of her, putting his Identity Badge on the window, "Elder, I would like to–"

Swoosh!

Before he could finish, a man appeared in the room and held the old woman by her shoulders, helping her out of the seat. Then, he flashed Max an apologetic smile, "Can you come later? Elder is tired now and need to rest."

Max frowned and glanced at Ryuna, who shrugged in a way that said, 'Told you it won't be easy.'

Without a word, Max headed to the second exchange counter where a man with glasses was sitting behind the window.

This time, even before he could speak, the man slammed his hand on the desk and muttered, "I again ran out of Spirit Nourishing Liquid. Have to go bring some more. Can't let disciples go empty handed."

Then, he was gone after putting 'temporary closed' sign on the window.

Max went to the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth window and the person in charge would leave for some reason or other or give some excuse why they could not serve him *temporarily*.

Max glanced at Ryuna and said, "If not for the Talisman Hall Master enforcing the rules strongly, the entire Hall would have indeed been corrupted and destroyed completely by now. I finally believe you that this faction is really vermin to the entire Beast Emperor Hall."

He hadn’t lowered his voice, so everyone in the building heard him and the faces of everyone from the Grimheart Faction turned green with embarrassment and rage.

"Hmph!"

A snort rang out.

"What ill things are you talking about, you impudent brat!" A man walked down from upstairs, glaring at him.

"Oh, did I say something wrong? Do you want to punish me for it?" Max asked, a wide smile appearing on his face. Then, he raised his hands in surrender and said, "Sure, go ahead. Arrest me and put me on a trial."

He then looked at Ryuna, "Ms. Ryuna, make sure I get a trial and some *real* people with authority should be there, not someone’s pawns."

The man glared at him, his aura fluctuating around him. It really looked as if he was about to attack him, but it seemed the Talisman Hall Master was still feared, so he did not.

"I don’t want him in my hall even for a second more than necessary." he coldly said and headed upstairs.

"Your hall? What a grand wish!" Ryuna scoffed behind him which made his steps falter before he disappeared.

"Disciple. Please come here and tell me what you need." someone called out from one of the nine exchange counters.

Max felt disgusted and wanted to storm out, but that would be his loss.

So, he forced his displeasure and disgust down, went over and put down his identity badge and nine Thunder Talismans he created yesterday.

"I want to sell them. Don’t try anything funny or I’ll just stay here. Then you will have to handle your master’s wrath." said Max, his voice cold.

The man pursed his lips. After making an entry with his identity badge, he inspected the talismans one by one.

If he was surprised, he didn’t show it and calmly said, "Each of these talismans is a High-Grade Tier 4. Since they fall in the peak of high-grade too and are of Thunder Element, each can be sold for 35 Merit Points or 350 High Grade Mana Stones. Do you want to proceed?"

Max thought for a moment.

35 Merit Points for one High-Grade Tier 4 Thunder Talisman was pretty good as it was almost four times the price of Mid-Grade Tier 4 Fire Talisman.

"Yes," Max nodded, then looked through the catalog of resources available.

"Give me a stack of Low-Grade Tier 5 Talisman Paper and Attributeless Talisman Ink of the same grade. Give me one Low-Grade Thunder Essence Stone, and two Low-Grade Tier 5 Spirit Replenishment Pills.." he ordered.

The man nodded, and placed the items he requested in front of him.

"Talisman Paper, 40, Attributeless Talisman Ink, 60, Thunder Essence Stone, 120, Spirit Replenishment Pills, 40 each. So, the total is 300." the man counted the price, then said, "Your balance is 15 Merit Points."

"How come these Spirit Replenishment Pills are so expensive? I bought one outside for just 100 High Grade Mana Stones." he asked.

The man gave him a look, then said, "You must have bought it from some wanderer, not from a proper channel, right? That pill cost you less because it was a defective product. You'll realize it after using these."

Max's brows furrowed, but he didn't say anything. After receiving the 15 Merit Points, he walked out of the hall with Ryuna.

Chapter 940: If It's Supposed To Happen, It Will Happen

"Was he speaking the truth?" he asked her.

Ryuna smiled, "Since you didn't bother to ask me earlier, you already know the answer."

Max pursed his lips, feeling he was too ignorant. But it couldn't be helped. He was just a newbie, after all, not an experienced person.

'Wait. If they were defective products, chances are that Foundation Healing Pill was also defective.' his eyes lit up at the thought.

Just to confirm, he asked Ryuna, "What's the average price of proper Low-Grade Tier 5 pills?"

"Average should be 40-50 Merits. The Spirit Replenishment Pills are among the least expensive ones in the Talisman Hall." she answered before immediately adding,

"But don't go thinking that you can buy the Spirit Talisman pills at the same price outside. They are cheaper in the Talisman Hall because the Hall Master is providing them at a lower price since every Talisman Master needs them. It's another benefit of being a member of the Talisman Hall."

"I see." nodded Max in understanding, feeling better because this all but confirmed that that Foundation Healing Pill was a defective one.

"Oh right. Try not to take any more of those defective pills. Though this reminder is superfluous since you will have more than enough Merits to buy good ones." she chuckled, then added, "Also, good job back there. You handled those bastards well. Surprised me."

"Oh, you didn't think I would be able to deal with them?" asked Max, a small smile appearing on his face.

"Nuh-uh." she shook her head, "I had thought you would need me to step up."

"Well, you don't know me enough then." he chuckled, then noticed Ryuna frowning, a faint blush on her cheeks.

'Don't tell me just this bit is enough to embarrass her?' he thought, then suddenly realized that his Charm was acting up.

'Oh shoot.' he exclaimed and quickly reined it in.

"It was really you?" Ryuna stared at him in disbelief, then her expression turned cold. "I thought you were a decent guy, but you turned to be a disgusting—"

"Hey, stop, stop! I didn't do that on purpose." he quickly interrupted her. After hesitating briefly and deciding that he didn't want her to misunderstand and stop being his friend, he transmitted, [You have already realized that I'm... unwell, haven't you?]

Ryuna narrowed her eyes, then nodded.

Max sighed in relief seeing she was willing to listen.

[You must have heard how that Emperor had interfered in my battle against Isolde and attacked me, right?] he transmitted,

[While Elder Blood Flower prevented my death, I ended up injured... My Mana Core is falling apart. I can't use mana and this injury has affected my Bloodline too which is quite unique in the fact that it increases my charm. I usually keep it suppressed so it won't

affect anyone, but because of this injury, it sometimes goes out of control—this I just realized, otherwise I would have been more mindful in keeping it suppressed.]

Ryuna stared at him in silence, an unreadable look on her face.

Then, she nodded, [I understand.] and her expression returned to normal which made Max sigh in relief.

Then he paused.

'Don't tell me I'm attracted to her?' he thought and realized it was right. Immediately, his expression fell as shame and guilt washed over him as he remembered Rima.

"What's wrong?" asked Ryuna seeing his expression change.

Hu!

He took a deep breath, dispelling the conflicting thoughts and shook his head, "Nothing."

A short while later, they parted ways.

Max returned to the Violet Peak and entered his cave where he sat in meditation for a few hours. He usually doesn't need this much time to clear his mind, but today several thoughts were flashing in his mind.

In the end, he let out a sigh and opened his eyes.

'I won't go out of my way to seduce her. If it's meant to happen, it will.' he decided.

He, of course, felt guilty for Rima, but he really needed someone who could help him and get Nascent Energy. It was, after all, the only thing that he knew could heal the injuries on his Dantian, and possibly restore Rima's.

He then stopped thinking about it, closed his eyes again and slowly tapped onto the Thunder Law.

Slowly, he began feeling the presence of Thunder Mana in the cave. Then, carefully, he locked onto it with his Bloodline Sense and started pulling it into his body.

After a while, he stopped because while he was indeed able to absorb the ambient Thunder Mana, the efficiency was too low.

If there was someone else in his place, they would have either given up on absorbing the Thunder Mana or would have continued to absorb what tiny amount they could absorb.

However, it was Max. He didn't choose either of the options and instead connected with the Thunder Energy Traces in his bloodline.

For half an hour, nothing happened but then...

Buzz!

The Traces vibrated slightly. In that instant, the ambient Thunder Mana became a lot more clearer to his senses. Not only that, more of it was rushing into the cave like iron towards a powerful magnet.

Max didn't let the opportunity go and immediately covered all the Thunder Mana with his Bloodline Sense and devoured it in large gulps.

When the Thunder Traces fell silent a moment later, he had absorbed and replenished half the Thunder Mana he had exhausted yesterday to create those ten Thunder Talismans.

His lips curved upward in an ecstatic grin.

He was aware that without special methods, which were very rare and difficult to master or use, or if one wasn't in an environment where elemental manas were dense enough—like the mountain he where he comprehended the Thunder Law or the Volcano—it was extremely difficult for one to absorb the elemental mana from the ambient mana since all the elements were tangled together and weren't present in high enough amounts.

But he could. Now, he would be able to save a lot of money he would have otherwise needed to spend to recover the elemental mana.

However, this didn't come without any cost... It exhausted a lot of mental energy. In just an instant, he had burned over 70% of his mental energy.

A/N: Please read the Author's Thoughts. Thank you!

Chapter 941: Tier 5 Talismans - Mine of Merit Points

After resting for a bit, Max took out the stack of Low-Grade Tier 5 Talisman Paper, and the Talisman Ink—he was about to start trying to create Tier 5 Thunder Talismans.

Most people would first ensure they were in their best condition, but he didn't bother taking one of the Spirit Replenishment Pills to recover his mental energy because he wanted to see how effective these 'Good' pills were.

In case they were really effective, wouldn't it be a waste if he only recovered 70% of his mental energy instead of 100%?

For the next two hours, he tried to prepare the talisman paper and failed again and again, but with each try, he came closer to succeeding.

'I will succeed next time.' he thought after the tenth talisman paper snapped in his hands.

Phew!

Exhaling deeply, he rubbed his temples—he had almost completely exhausted his remaining mental energy.

Therefore, he took out a medicinal bottle which contained the two Low-Grade, Tier 5 Spirit Replenishment Pills.

Taking out one of them, he first took a good look at it—it was identical to the ones he had bought from the Trade Mountain. The only difference was, these seemed heavier and a bit more vibrant. Also, they didn't have as powerful medicinal aroma.

This made the corner of his lips twitch.

That powerful aroma was the reason many newbies like him were tricked into thinking that they had bought the *real* Tier 5 pills.

"Let's see how effective a *real* one is." he muttered and threw the pill into his mouth, then gulped it down, closed his eyes and began meditating.

Slowly the medicinal energy spread out from the pill and he began recovering mental or commonly called *Spirit* Energy.

Twenty minutes later, Max became pleasantly surprised because he had completely recovered his Spirit Energy and the medicinal energy was still not exhausted.

Ten minutes later, the last bit of the medicinal energy dispersed and he opened his eyes that shone with a bright light.

This pill not only put his worries about needing the higher grade pills to recover the Spirit Energy to rest, his total Spirit Energy seemed to have increased by a bit too which was another pleasant surprise.

"Now... Let’s make the Tier 5 Talismans." he clapped his hands in high spirits, picked up the eleventh talisman paper and began preparing it.

Just as he had thought earlier, he succeeded in preparing it this time.

He then proceeded to the next step—infusing the Thunder Energy from the Thunder Energy Traces in his bloodline.

When he was done, he began inscribing the outline of the talisman, then very carefully, he began inscribing the Thunder Rune at the center.

Because he had inscribed its outline in the Tier 4 talisman to forcefully elevate them from Mid-Grade to High-Grade, he had thought he wouldn’t have too much of a hard time inscribing the complete rune.

But oh wrong he was.

By the time he had inscribed merely 30% of the rune, one and half hours had passed and his forehead was covered in sweat, his brows knitted tighter tightly in concentration.

Fortunately, maybe because his control had increased or maybe because this particular rune wasn’t as volatile despite being an offensive rune, he had yet to fail and he didn’t think he would fail either.

The only thing that worried him was the rapid consumption of his Spirit Energy—over 40% of it had already been exhausted.

Time continued ticking by and another two hours passed.

Buzzttt!

Suddenly, the talisman lit up and electric arcs roared around it.

"I..." Max looked at it, his eyes shining brightly despite his exhaustion, "...Did it."

...

After a few moments, the talisman stopped shining and the electrical arcs vanished into it, revealing the palm sized, light blue talisman with a distinct lighting bolt etched onto it.

Max stared at it for a while, feeling proud for having created a Tier 5 Talisman on the first day he tried it.

Then, he took a deep breath, settled his emotions and stowed it away before gauzing his Spirit Energy.

Eighty percent. This was the amount he was exhausted and this made him frown.

"The Low-Grade Spirit Replenishment Pill cost Merit Points. Given how much Spirit Energy I used up, and adding in the cost of talisman paper, ink and the thunder energy, this talisman should be sold for at least 200 Merit Points for me to make some profit." he muttered, his frown deepening.

200 Merit Points meant 2000 High Grade Mana Stones. He didn't think a Low-Grade Elemental Talisman could be sold for such a high price.

Back in the Resource Hall, he had noticed the price of a non-elemental Low-Grade Tier 5 Talisman was...

"70 Merit Points." he muttered, "Maybe it could really go for 200 after all."

He picked up his Identity Badge, wanting to ask Ryuna about its price, but after hesitating for a moment, he sighed and decided against contacting her.

Though he had explained the situation of his *Charm* to her, her expression didn't look good when they had parted ways.

A moment later, he thought of something and picked up the identity badge and sent Dan a message.

It turned out, Dan knew of the prices. When he told him how much a Low-Grade Tier 5 Elemental Talisman, especially the Thunder Talisman which was among the stronger and rarer kind, cost, he clicked his tongue.

"No wonder Talisman Making is one of the most lucrative professions." he muttered.

-Non-Elemental Low-Grade Tier 5 talismans were sold for 50-70 Merit Points.

-Low-Grade Tier 5 Elemental Talismans were sold for 200-350 Merit Points.

-Mid-Grade Tier 5 Elemental Talismans were sold for 700-1000 and sometimes up to 1100 Merit Points.

-High-Grade Tier 5 Elemental ones were sold for 5000+ Merit Points.

-The most expensive ones in Tier 5, Top Grade Elemental Talisman, the cheapest would go for at least 10,000 Merit Points.

He looked at the remaining nine talisman papers with his eyes shining.

Then, he *looked* at his cracked Mana Core and muttered, "If I work harder, maybe I could really join Elder Blood Flower's mission in a few days."

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 942: Taking a Risk to Profit[1,078 words]

He took the second Spirit Replenishment Pill and recovered his Spirit Energy completely. Same as before, overall Spirit Energy increased by a small amount.

He would have liked it more if this was an increase in quality instead, but this was also good enough.

Expelling the distracting thought, he began preparing the thirteenth talisman paper. Unlike before, this time he went a lot faster and ended up exhausting less Spirit Energy, at least 30% lesser.

Then, he began inscribing.

Because he had already infused the Thunder Energy into it earlier and had been using his Bloodline Sense to keep it from fully mixing with the ink, he didn't need to waste any more Thunder Energy.

10 minutes later, when he was done inscribing 20% of the rune...

Buzztt... Bang!

The talisman suddenly exploded.

This didn't shake him because this outcome wasn't unexpected. After all, he hadn't been as thorough when preparing the talisman paper and was inscribing at a much faster speed to conserve his Spirit Energy. Thanks to this though, he only used up less than 20% of his Spirit Energy.

After adjusting his mental state, he picked up the fourteenth talisman paper.

Twenty minutes later...

Buzztt... Bang!

The talisman exploded again.

[Spirit Energy: 60%]

…

He rested for a short while and thought about whether he should go slow.

If he did go slow, he might be able to create a second talisman. After selling the two, he would get around Five Hundred Merit Points which he could use to buy more supplies.

On the other hand, if he continued the same way as last two times… he probably wouldn't be able to create the second which would leave him with just over 200 Merit Points. And with this much, he could buy the bare minimum supplies for the next batch. After all, just the Talisman Paper and Ink cost 100 Merits.

After thinking for a little bit, he chose the second method.

Sure, this didn't seem favourable to him at the moment, but if he succeeded in creating talismans this way, he would be able to make two or maybe even three talismans in the same amount of Spirit Energy he currently needed to make just one—the benefits were extraordinary.

He began preparing the fifteenth talisman paper and was done in five minutes. Then he began inscribing the rune, but when he had inscribed less than five percent, he suddenly stopped.

After a moment, he discarded it.

The reason he did so was because he got a feeling that it would also explode down the line. Since he believed in his instincts, he chose to stop right there instead of wasting his time and Spirit Energy.

[Spirit Energy: 52%]

A short while later, he picked up the sixteenth talisman paper.

Ten minutes later… he discarded it.

Then, came the seventeenth paper and it was discarded just nine minutes later.

[Spirit Energy: 41%]

This time, he didn't continue and instead stopped and began meditating.

Half an hour later, he had recovered a small amount of his Spirit Energy and had deliberated over the failed attempts.

Then, with a fresh mind, he picked up the eighteenth paper.

He didn't slow down when preparing the talisman or inscribing the rune, but he paid more attention to every step, making sure each stroke was correct and smooth.

This increased the Spirit Energy consumption by a small margin, but as result...

Just twenty minutes later, he made the final stroke and the talisman lit up, arcs of lightning flashing across it.

Phew!

When the glow and lightning vanished, he finally let out a long breath and let himself relax.

He then checked his Spirit Energy and a small smile appeared on his face because he still had over five percent Spirit Energy left, meaning... he had only spent less than forty percent of Spirit Energy to make this talisman.

The improvement was stark when compared to the eighty percent he used up the first time.

Stowing away the second talisman, he glanced at the Talisman Ink. Quite a bit was still left, unfortunately, he didn't have any more Spirit Replenishment Pills to recover his Spirit Energy use it to make more.

'Wait!'

Just as he was about to withdraw his Bloodline Sense from it, a thought crossed his mind.

'Can I reabsorb the Thunder Energy from it?' the thought was tempting, thus he immediately gave it a try.

His eyes lit up because it was indeed possible. However, he failed to consider one thing—if he was using his Bloodline Sense normally, it didn't matter much but when used it to do some heavy lifting, it exhausted his Spirit Energy.

At the moment, he barely had any left, so when he tried to re-absorb the Thunder Energy from the ink, a splitting headache hit him and his vision swam. He also lost control of his Bloodline Sense which allowed the Thunder Energy to mix with the talisman ink.

'Damn.' He chuckled wryly and fell back before closing his eyes. Soon, he fell asleep.

When he woke up, it was already midnight and just like the day before, while some of his Spirit Energy had recovered, it wasn't enough to relieve the headache he was having. Still, it wasn't crippling like before, so it was good enough.

[Dan, if you are up, prepare a meal and bring it over. I’m starving.] he sent Dan the message, then entered the washroom for a shower which helped relax him a little.

Just twenty minutes after he was done, Dan arrived with piping hot dinner. From the sleepy look in his eyes that he tried his best to hide, he knew the guy must have been sleeping when he got the message.

"Let’s eat." He invited him in, but Dan smiled, "I have already eaten Young Lord."

"Alright. Go and sleep then. Also, thanks for the trouble."

"It’s no trouble, Young Lord. Please contact me anytime you need me." Dan said before he bowed and left.

...

Half an hour later, after having dinner, he left the Violet Peak and headed toward the Inner Hall.

A while later, he arrived and headed into Talisman Hall’s direction, but on the way, he saw two groups facing each other. One group had five people while the other one only had two.

’Hm?’ When he saw the two, his eyes narrowed because he recognised them.

Then, killing intent flashed in his eyes, ’You all really want to die.’

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 943: A satisfying face-slap[1,083 words]

"Have you still not learned your lesson, Ms. Kayla? You still want to go against our faction." One of the five said, staring at Kayla impassively.

"I don’t care which faction you are from. I’m not letting you guys take her away." Kayla said, unfazed.

Three of the five in the group confronting her were males and two were females. The one who had spoken just now was one of the female disciples.

Hearing her response, the other female disciples sneered, "You want to be stubborn, huh? Do you believe me when I say if you don’t get the hell away this instant, the Grimheart Faction will see your Snowstorm family as enemies?"

Kayla’s expression fell when she heard this.

After a moment’s silence, she asked, "What gives you confidence to say that?"

"Young Lord Ivan." the female disciple responded, a smirk appearing on her face when she saw Kayla’s expression.

The person Kayla was protecting was Rima’s maid, Nia, who was discharged from the Inner Hall’s medical facility just today where she was admitted after getting injured during the face off between Sanya and Lord Grimheart.

As soon as she was discharged, the Grimheart faction’s people came over to take her away. Fortunately, Kayla happened to see them. When she recognised Nia, she immediately knew Grimhearts’ petty revenge had stretched over to her. So, she intercepted them, not wanting her to become *another* victim.

Nia, who had been badly startled, had calmed down after Kayla appeared and saw hope that she might survive this disaster, but when she saw how they were willing to threaten her with her family, she pursed her lips and walked out from behind her.

"Ms. Kayla. Thank you for your help. But I don’t want to cause you any more trouble." she said while bowing to express her thanks.

She then looked at the five and gulped in fear. She knew the chances were that she might not return alive after going with them, but what else could she do?

She wasn’t strong enough to fight them off.

She didn’t have a powerful enough background to rely on.

And she could barely be considered a disciple of the Beast Emperor Hall, so the Hall wouldn’t offer her any protection either even if she went ahead and complained.

"A sensible one, aren’t you?" the female disciple snickered, but then she suddenly raised her hand and slapped her.

Pat!

Before her palm could connect with Nia’s face, a hand grabbed her hand—it was Kayla.

"You..." the female disciple’s eyes narrowed.

"Enough. She is under my protection. No matter what happens, I wouldn’t let you all take her away." Kayla interrtuped, her voice low and a dangerous glint flashing in her eyes.

"You are alright with your family becoming an enemy of the Grimheart Faction?" one of the three men asked.

Kayla stared at him, a decisive look flashing in her eyes.

Just as she opened her mouth and was about to respond...

"What dogshit is the Grimheart Faction that everywhere I go, I hear about it?" a cold, mocking voice echoed.

Everyone turned to the voice. Kayla and Nia immediately recognised him, but the five didn't.

"Who are you?" the man asked, his expression dark.

"You don't need to care about that. Just scram before I make you." Max coldly said, arriving before them.

"Heh, you must be tired of living—" the female disciple laughed coldly in rage.

But before she could finish.

Slap!

A crisp slap to her face interrupted her.

Everyone's eyes widened in shock.

'Oh no. He shouldn't have hit her.' Maid Nia cried inwardly. Afraid that he would be in trouble now that he had violated the rule of the Hall.

The female disciple's companions were stunned for a moment, then they became angry but it soon turned into a dark glee.

"You bastard. I'll kill you!" The female disciple, on the other hand, became enraged beyond belief after she came to her senses and released her aura without restraint, ready to attack and kill Max on the spot.

She was a mid-stage Five Star Mage, someone Max couldn't contend with at the moment, but he showed no intention of backing down neither did he do anything and just stared at her with a mocking expression on his face.

This enraged her even more, but just as she was about to attack, her companions quickly restrained her. "Snap out of it, Malaya."

"You!!" Veined throbbed on her forehead when she saw this.

"Listen to us. Don’t attack. If you attack him, you would also be guilty of breaking the rule. Then we wouldn’t be able to—" the man who seemed to be their leader began trying to calm her down.

However, it didn’t have the intended effect.

"Fuck you and your schemes, you bastard!" she snapped and slapped him in the face, stunning him.

’What a fiery temper!’ Max was watching them in amusement but this scene almost made him exclaim out loud.

The man’s face turned dark, save for his right cheeks where he was slapped—it turned red.

If they weren’t in the Beast Emperor Hall, he would have killed her for this, but they were. So, he could only drink his anger and sent a transmission,

[He is that Maxwell guy. First, you won’t be able to do anything to him and would only humiliate yourself. Second, you would be ruining a precious chance to take him down lawfully and angering Young Lord Ivan.]

His transmission made her sober up. If the reminder that Max was stronger than her wasn’t enough, the thought of angering Young Lord Ivan and suffering his wrath made her insanity vanish without a trace.

Still, it didn’t quench the fire burning inside her.

[Make sure he suffers.] she hatefully said.

[Be reassured. Young Lord Ivan and others would make sure of it.] the man responded.

[Also, sorry for the slap.] she apologised which made his expression turn cold and he snorted.

Max watched them in silence as they conversed through Divine Sense. When he saw the female disciple calm down and they looked at him, he looked at the leader and said in an impressed tone, "You do have leadership qualities. After all, no ordinary guy would be able to endure being slapped by someone so much weaker than himself. Though I’m not sure if you have really forgiven her or are planning to kill her later."

Ba-Dum!

His words made the female disciple’s heart skip a beat.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 944: Disappeared[1,098 words]

She already knew she had made a mistake by slapping him and might suffer for it later, but when she heard him say he might want to kill her later, the seriousness of her situation finally dawned on her and her face turned pale.

"Hmph!" The man hurrumphed, "I didn't know you were the cunning type, but it's of no use. You are done."

He said while taking out his Identity Badge.

"Oh, you want to call the Disciplinary Hall Disciples' over?" Max asked, then smiled and held his hands behind his back, "Go ahead."

His attitude made the five frown, and they got a bad feeling, but this didn't stop them from lodging the complaint against him.

Max ignored them and turned to look at Kayla and Nia.

"Thank you Ms. Kayla for helping her." he said. He had seen her go against them even when they threatened her with her family and this impressed him deeply.

"No need to thank me. As Rima's friend, I did what was right." Kayla shook her head.

Max nodded, then turned to Nia, "What's your name?"

"I-It's Nia, Young Lord." Nia answered, feeling flustered.

After she saw him trounce Isolde in the arena, he had become someone extraordinary to her. Just standing in front was enough to make her heart race, not to mention now that he was speaking directly to her.

"It's nice to meet you, Nia. And I'm sorry that you had to suffer because of me." He gave her an apologetic smile.

Nia's eyes widened in disbelief, Kayla also had the similar reaction, but hers was much more subdued, seeing him apologise to a servant.

"N-No, no. Please don't apologize, Young Lord. It's not your fault. It's these bad people's." she hurriedly shook her head.

"Hmph! Do you want to die?!" A cold snort echoed and an aura pressed down on Nia as soon as she finished speaking.

Max frowned. He wanted to step in but because he couldn't utilize his aura, he felt a bit helpless.

Fortunately, Kayla was there. She immediately released her aura and protected Nia before pushing back the other aura back.

Argh!

One of the three male disciples grunted and took a step back—he was the one who had attacked Nia.

Max looked at him expressionlessly before shifting his gaze away.

The man's heart shuddered, 'Fuck. How stupid of me. Why couldn't I stay put?' he berated himself.

While he was from the Grimheart Faction, he knew he was nothing but a pawn of not much value. So, he couldn't really rely on the faction's protection.

Therefore, it was not advisable for someone like him to offend those stronger than him, both in strength and background.

This was why rarely any low-ranking member of any faction would go out of their way to antagonise someone from an enemy faction. In fact, when their superiors weren't watching, they were quite friendly with each other.

'Should I find him later and apologize?' The thought crossed his mind but he discarded it. If the Grimheart Faction found out about it, they would make his life worse miserable if they didn't kill him outright.

He didn't know that even if he had apologized, it wouldn't have made a difference because had already sentenced them to death. Not only them, almost everyone of the Grimheart Faction he had come across in the past few days were on the list as long as they had tried to make things difficult for him.

He just needed to recover his strength. Then he would eliminate them.

[You shouldn't have hit her, Sir Max.] Kayla transmitted.

Max responded with a faint smile, "You are Rima's friend. No need to be formal with me. Just call me Max."

Kayla raised her brows. 'Is he really not afraid of trouble?'

She knew with the Violet Peak backing him, the Grimheart Faction—unless they pulled off the same stunt as last time—wouldn't be able to kill him, but they could use the rules of Hall to bind him and make things difficult for him.

When this happened, he wouldn't have time to cultivate at all. So, logically, he should try his best to not give the faction any opportunity to target him.

Unless...

She thought of something and her eyes flickered with solemnity.

Max inwardly shook his head when he saw her reaction. Even without reading her emotions, he knew she must have thought he was doing this because Violet Peak was ready to clash with the Grimheart Faction.

Well, he couldn't blame her for thinking this since it would be difficult for those, who didn't know him well, to think of the real reason—he was enraged. Ever since the battle with Isolde, he had been seething and the fact that he couldn't do anything about it only made him more angry.

So, while he normally would have tried to hold back, when he saw they were trying to make things difficult for Kayla and Nia, he slapped her, no longer thinking of the bigger picture.

Of course, this didn't mean he had done it mindlessly.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

He *really* hadn't.

He turned around to look at the several people in disciplinary hall's robes rushing over.

He recognised the green-haired man in lead—he was Isolde's Elder Brother he saw in the Disciplinary Hall that day.

"Who filed the complaint?" Ivan Grimheart asked as soon as he arrived.

"I did, sir." The group's leader stepped forward, then pointed at Max, "He attacked my friend without any rhyme or reason. You can see the handprint—"

The man's words caught in his throat when he pointed at the female disciple who Max had slapped because... the palm print had vanished without a trace.

"You... Where's the print?" he shouted at her. "Did you remove it with your mana?"

The female disciple was stunned.

Just what was he talking about?

She scanned her cheek with her Divine Sense and blood drained from her face.

"T-This... How?" She muttered, her lips trembling. She hurriedly turned to Ivan and said, "Y-Young Lord. I really didn't treat it. I was even trying to maintain it. I-I don't know how it—"

Ivan's expression turned cold and he snapped, "You dare to file a false complaint. Detain them."

"No. Please, listen to me, Young Lord. I really don't—"

"Take them away." He coldly said, ignoring her words completely.

Then, he turned to Max, stared at him for a moment then left snorted and left without saying anything, leaving Kayla and Nia who stared at Max in amazement.

"How did you do it?" Kayla asked.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 945: Heart Demon[1,037 words]

Max just smiled at her in lieu of telling her.

Kayla understood he was unwilling to say, so she dropped the topic and asked, "How's Rima? I heard she was quite seriously injured."

"Yes, she was. She is recovering well now." answered Max.

"That's good news." Both Kayla and Nia sighed in relief.

"You should go meet her sometime. She would feel good." Max said to Kayla.

Nia's face fell a little seeing him ignore her, but it was only for a moment before she put on a normal expression. She was aware of her status and thus knew she couldn't afford to be upset with people like him.

"I would love to, but unlike you, I can't enter the Core Hall wherever I want. I would need special permission for that." Kayla said.

Max knew of this and instinctively wanted to contact Elder Milo to get her permission but then he remembered what he must have already left on the mission he told him about.

"I see if I can get you permission." Max said before giving his identity badge to her and asking her to add her contact information which she did.

Once they were done and Kayla was about to take her leave, he said, "Ms. Kayla. I overheard those guys saying something along the lines that 'you still haven't learned your lesson'. Can you tell me what they do to you?"

Kayla's expression slowly turned dark. Then, killing intent appeared in her eyes and her aura became unstable.

Swoosh!

Nia hurriedly retreated, looking at her in fear. She had reacted fast enough, but her aura had washed over her for a brief moment and it had made her feel as if she had fallen in an icy hell.

"Ms. Kayla. Calm down." Max said, infusing his Bloodline Energy into his voice. He was using his Bloodline Energy the second time in such a short while—he had left some of his Bloodline Energy into that female disciple cheek and kept it under his control with the Bloodline Sense. When Ivan arrived, he triggered it and erased the hand-print—If someone powerful enough was spying on him, he would have surely become exposed.

Fortunately, he didn't have any premonition which told him he was still safe.

Kayla calmed down. Then through gnashed teeth, she said, "I was forced into a ranking battle and they... *killed* my companion beast."

Max's expression darkened.

For the disciple of the Beast Emperor Hall, their companion beast was very important as it was bonded with them.

If it was killed without the bond being undone, it would cause serious harm to the disciple, or to be more specific, their soul. Soul Damage was among the most serious and difficult to heal injuries along with the Dantian injury.

If just this alone wasn't nearly enough to ruin the disciples' future, in the case the disciples had a close relationship with their companions beasts, their death would give

birth to a heart demon which would ensure the disciples would have slim hope to make a perfect recovery.

And seeing how she had lost control just remembering it, she fell in the latter category—she had developed a heart demon.

After this realization, not only did he feel his murderous intent for the Grimheart Faction become stronger, he also felt admiration for Kayla for her impressive control over her emotions.

They had tried to provoke her so much earlier, but she didn't let her anger trigger her heart demon and let things go out of control. Moreover, despite what had happened, and apparently because of her relationship with Rima, not only did she not resent her, she even went out of her way to stand up for her maid.

"I'm—" He was about to apologize, but Kayla interrupted him, "Let's talk later. I need to go and calm down."

Swoosh!

Then she was gone.

Max stared in the direction she left, then took a deep breath.

He then looked at Nia and said, "Come with me. After I'm done with an errand, I'll take you to Rima."

Nia looked at him in surprise. 'So he wasn't ignoring me, but he had already decided to take me to her.'

She suddenly felt her mood become lighter. Then, she asked, "But Young Lord, won't I need permission to enter the Core Hall too?"

"You are still Rima's servant, right?" Max asked her.

Nia took out her identity badge, checked it and nodded, "Yes."

"Then don't worry," he said. Then he turned around and headed toward the Talisman Hall. Nia quickly followed him.

...

In one of the Disciplinary Hall's buildings...

In a large hall, Ivan Grimheart was sitting on a large throne-like chair on a platform.

Below him knelt the five disciples that tried taking Nia away.

All of them had whip marks all over them which were bleeding.

"...Young Lord, I really don't know how he did it. I swear. Please let me off—"

Crack!

A whip snapped as landed on his back, leaving another long wound on her back the pain of which made her freeze for an instant, then she let out a loud, anguished howl.

At the same time, another four whips struck the other four who all also let out miserable cries.

The disciplinary hall disciples that were whipping them would look at Ivan every now and then because by now, they had struck more than fifty times—even for the Five Star mages, taking so many whippings of the Disciplinary Hall was a tall task. This was why disciples thought multiple times before breaking any rules and being taken to the hall.

Ivan, however, watched them in silence, showing no intention of stopping them.

Thus, the whipping continued.

After a long while, when three of the five had fainted, he finally waved his hand, "Take them away. Also, go invite Elder Bismirch. I want him to find out how the fuck did the hand print vanished from this bitch's face."

The female disciple who Max had slapped trembled, terror flashing in her eyes when she heard this. She opened her mouth to plead mercy, but the whippings had drained her of all her energy. Her eyes rolled back and she also fainted.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 946: Exposed[1,067 words]

After the disciplinary hall's disciples took them away, Ivan muttered, a sinister, sadistic glint flashing in his eyes, "You want to play with me, huh little bastard? Too bad I'm not a retard like Isolde."

Half an hour later...

Step! Step! Step!

Footsteps sounded in the hall and a white haired man, who looked no older than 25, appeared in front him. His posture was upright and a grim expression—that seemed strangely natural—was on his face.

"Young Lord." The man greeted him.

Ivan looked at him for a moment, then raised his brows and said, "You look... excited, Elder Bismirch."

"You'll be excited too after you hear what I found out from that disciple." Elder Bismirch, a notorious member of Grimheart Faction, said with a faint smile that seemed very eerie on his grim face.

"Oh?" Ivan sat up straight, "Tell me."

"First let me apologize. During my investigation, that girl died. You shouldn't have whipped her so much." Elder Bismirch sighed, shaking his head in pity.

Ivan's eyelids twitched. 'You are blaming me for her death after killing her?'

"It's alright. I'll deal with the repercussions. Now, go on and tell me what you find out." said Ivan impatiently.

"Okay," nodded Elder Bismirch and revealed, his eyes glinting, "I found a strange energy in her body. It was extremely faint, even I had to utilize my secret techniques before I was able to notice it. Due to this, unfortunately, I couldn't really find out its properties."

Ivan's brows furrowed. "Did you not say you found out something?"

Elder Bismirch gave him an odd look, "If you let me finish, I will."

"Hng." Ivan snorted in displeasure.

"While I couldn't dissect it properly, I found out that it had nourishing effects and could replenish one's bloodline source." Saying this, he waved his hand and the projection of an oddly shaped, thumb-sized black print in the air.

He then zoomed in tenfold, hundredfold, thousandfold, ten-thousandfold and in the end, a millionfold.

Ivan watched it with utmost focus, then noticed a very small bright spot.

"This is the projection of my bloodline source that has been lifeless for 400 years now. When I absorbed that energy, it entered my blood, then my Bloodline Source and this was the result—though a tiny bit, it recovered made this small bit come back to life." he explained, his eyes shining.

The look in Ivan's eyes mirrored his. His heart was even beating with excitement.

'If I can get my hands on its source, it'll be a big achievement. Then father would have no choice but to favor me more and...' he trembled in excitement.

But then he heard Elder Bismirch's next words and all that excitement vanished and his face darkened.

"When I informed Lord Grimheart of this, he ordered me to tell you that you are to do everything possible to capture that boy." Elder Bismirch said.

Ivan stared daggers at him and the faint mocking curl of his lips only enraged him further.

"You shouldn't have done this, Birmirch." he growled as his greenish eyes turned pitch black and his aura burst forth.

Elder Bismirch didn't flinch. He was, after all, an Emperor Mage, though just an Early-Stage one. So, this much wasn't enough to scare him.

He stared back at him, his smile widening, "Why? Do you think I don't want to earn his favor and be granted... that power."

"Hmph!" Ivan glared at him for a long moment before his eyes returned to normal and he hurrumphed coldly. "Get lost."

Elder Bismirch shook his head. "That I can't do. I need to make sure you don't slack off and put your best efforts to complete this task."

...

'Hm?' Max had arrived at the Resource Hall of the Talisman Hall with Nia and was about to approach the exchange window when he suddenly felt his Bloodline Sense tingle faintly and paused.

His mind churned with thoughts as he tried to find the reason behind it and several possibilities appeared before him which he eliminated one by one because his intuition told him they weren't the true reason.

In the end...

His eyes flashed, 'My Bloodline Energy was detected? How? Hadn't I dispersed it completely after removing the palm print?'

He was right. He had indeed dispersed it to make sure no one found it, but he had forgotten that the tiny bit that was used to heal the redness of the female disciple's cheek had assimilated into her body.

If anyone else was in his place, they would have forgotten it too because finding out such assimilated energy was incredibly difficult, almost impossible because it would practically cease to exist.

However, he didn't know the Grimheart Faction had someone who was an expert at studying different energies and things related to souls and Ivan was recently granted authority to utilize his services whenever necessary. And this person had found out the practically non-existent trace of his Bloodline Energy in the female disciple's body by sacrificing her life.

After a moment, he took a deep breath.

It didn't matter how it was detected and wasn't he already expecting something like this to happen when he used it, not once but twice?

His lips curved upwards into an almost villainous grin, 'Go ahead. Give me the valid reasons to destroy you.'

Nia and several of the people in the Hall who saw his smile shuddered.

As for some of those Elders who had made things difficult for him last time, he cried out in their hearts, 'Damn it. We haven't done anything yet and you are already thinking about making things difficult for us.'

At the same time, they made a decision that even without their superior's direct order, they would let him buy or sell his things as he liked.

"Y-Young Lord?" Nia hesitantly called out which snapped Max back to his senses.

"Yeah?" he glanced at her.

"N-Nothing." she hurriedly shook her head.

Max nodded, then went ahead and took out the two Thunder Talisman he had created and placed them on the exchange window.

"I want to sell them. Appraise them and offer me a price." he told the man behind the window.

"Sure." The man nodded and took the talismans. He was the same man who had bought his talismans last time.

When he saw them, his eyes flashed with surprise. 'A Tier 5 Thunder Talisman?'

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 947: Ceased To Exist[1,285 words]

The man couldn’t help but take another look at Max to see if he was the same guy.

Max stared back at him and asked, "What? Something wrong with the talismans?"

"No. Nothing’s wrong." The man shook his head, then closely inspected the talisman.

A moment later, he raised his head again and looked at Max, slowly saying, "Both of them are Low-Grade Tier Five Elemental Talismans, but since you want my appraisal of them..."

He said with a meaningful look in his eyes while his voice lowered, though not like it would make any difference since everyone in this building was a higher tier Mage and could easily hear him clearly even if he whispered.

"This talisman..." he picked up one of the two and said, "It can be counted among the average Low-Grade Tier Five Thunder Talismans of offensive category while this one..." he picked up the second, "While it’s also a Low-Grade one, it’s nearing the top of Low Grade Tier Five."

Speaking until here, he took a short pause to everyone else, but he was using the Divine Sense transmission, [With a little more practice, you can easily create Mid-Grade Tier Five talismans. In fact, if you had used Mid-Grade Tier Five Talisman Paper and better quality talisman ink, you might have succeeded in making it this time too.]

Max stared at him for a brief moment, then directly asked, "How much are they worth?"

The man pursed his lips for a moment and a hint of dissatisfaction flashed in his eyes.

He was doing him a favor by telling all this and risking himself because if others found out he had helped Max, even if it was a harmless one, he would be punished. Max, however, showed no gratitude for it.

’Well, this makes sense. Why would he feel grateful to someone of an enemy faction? To him, I might have told him all that to harm him somehow.’ He let out a sigh inwardly, then said, "I can pay 650 for both of them. Is that price alright with you?"

Max’s eyes flashed.

From what Dan had told him, Low Grade Tier-Five Elemental Talisman were usually sold between 200-350 Merit Points. This meant the Resource Hall would be buying them at a lower price since it needed to make some profit on each.

Now, he was offering to buy them at the best possible price despite the fact one of them was just an average Low Grade Tier Five Thunder Talisman.

"It is." he nodded after thinking for a brief moment, "Now give me a stack of Low Grade Tier Five Talisman Paper, Attributeless Talisman Ink, one Thunder Essence Stone and ten Spirit Replenishment Pills."

"Okay." The man put everything he asked for in front of him and said, "Talisman Paper and Ink, 100, Thunder Essence Stone, 120, and ten Spirit Replenishment Pills, 400. Your total is 620 and your balance is 30. Do you want to purchase something else or should I transfer them to you?"

"No. This all will do." Max shook his head and put the things away. After the man transferred the 30 Merit Points, he turned around and walked out of the building. He also faintly heard a disgruntled snort from the floor above.

A faint smile appeared on his face when he heard this. It felt good to know just his presence was enough to discomfort his enemies.

...

Outside the building, Nia was waiting for Max to come out, looking very nervous and even scared.

Though no one had said anything to her, she was feeling extremely uncomfortable standing there. She wanted to move away from the building, but she felt she shouldn’t take even a step from the place she was standing on, so that’s what she did.

When Max walked out, he saw her face was pale and she was on the verge of hyperventilating.

Immediately, his eyes narrowed. Someone from within the building was putting pressure on her using their aura.

He walked over and placed his hand on her shoulder.

Ha!

The uncomfortable feeling vanished and Nia felt relaxed which almost made her plop down to the ground, but she resisted.

"You alright?" Max asked.

"Yes, Young Lord." Nia nodded, feeling ashamed for showing such a weak side to him.

Max saw through her and said, "It's not your fault. Some cheap bastard was trying to intimidate you from inside the building."

"Ah..." Nia's eyes widened in realization and she felt a bout of anger rise in her chest but she didn't dare to look at the building and show her anger.

"Let's go." said Max and led her out of the Talisman Hall.

A while later, they arrived at the border of the core region and expectedly, someone appeared to stop Nia.

Max stayed calm and simply told him she was Rima's maid who was undergoing treatment in the Violet Peak and as her servant, she had the right to enter the core hall.

The enforcer frowned and connected someone. After talking for a while, he vanished without saying anything which was equal to allowing Nia's entry into the core region.

Nia stared at Max's side profile in astonishment—she hadn't expected he could really take her into the core region where even Rima—an Inner Hall Disciple—shouldn't be allowed without a proper cause and permission.

Max couldn't help but feel good noticing her expression. Trying not to show it, he began walking, "Let's-"

Suddenly, however, he stopped in his tracks, his brows furrowed tightly.

'Leticia?' he thought, closing his eyes to sense the fleeting connection to Leticia he had sensed just now.

...

Somewhere far away, stood a small, black hut.

It seemed to be made from the wood and straws but anyone could tell this wasn't the case. But whatever it was made from it was an extremely durable material because...

Rumble!

Boom!

Save for the area where the hut stood at, all the space around it was constantly fluctuating and ripping apart.

People could get stronger and become someone akin to a force of nature, but only those who really face the true forces of nature would know just how terrifying nature truly was.

For example, this fluctuating and ripping space could easily rip apart a Monarch Mage without any trouble.

Boom!

Black lightning crackled in the sky, creating another crack in the dome which increased the instability of this minor realm.

Half a foot away from the hut's door stood the haggard woman, doing her best to keep her eyes and senses closed so she wouldn't see the horrifying scenery around her lest it destroyed her will to live.

"Come on, Leticia. Be quick or we are done for." she muttered under her breath.

Boom!

As if her words had provoked some entity, black lightning struck the hut and the space around it ripped with a boom... but the hut stood as it was before, completely unharmed.

However, there were consequences—the safe area of one foot around the hut shrank to barely half a foot—the rippling space was now almost touching the woman who was none other than Belen.

If it ripped and fluctuated one more time, it would engulf her and she would be ripped into atoms.

Belen held her breath... she could feel she was about to die.

'It seems I won't be able to see you again.' she thought, Max's image surfacing in her mind.

Boom!

The space ripped apart and pulsed forward, about to engulf her.

Right then...

Creak...

The hut's door opened a tiny crack and Belen was sucked inside.

Then...

Rumbleeeee~!

BOOOM!!!

The space split apart and engulfed the whole hut. Right then, this minor realm ceased to exist.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 948: Brought Out of the Forsaken Land[1,090 words]

"Phew!" Belen was first surprised, but then exhaled in relief and almost fell to her knees. It felt good to be alive.

She then looked at Leticia and saw her hovering four feet above ground, her eyes closed and breathing even as she rapidly absorbed the dark energy seeping out of the hut's walls, roof and the ground.

Gulp!

Belen gulped nervously and her heart almost stopped beating when she looked at her because she felt as if she wasn't looking at Leticia, her sister and best friend, but an entity so powerful, so supreme that merely looking at her was a sacrilege and she would be punished for it.

She wanted to move her gaze away but it was as if her eyes were glued to Leticia.

Slowly, her heart stopped beating, her face turned pale and the spark of life in her eyes began flickering, seemingly on the verge of dying out - once it did, Belen would die.

Right then...

[Close your eyes, sit down and try to sense this energy.] Leticia's voice sounded in her head and helped her regain her senses.

Quickly, she closed her eyes.

Ba-Dum!

Now free from the strange but powerful pull, her stagnant heart once again began to beat and her blood started to circulate again.

Scared but relieved, she sat down cross legged and after hesitating for a long while because she was afraid to do anything now, she decided to believe Leticia and began trying to sense the dark energy.

To her surprise, even though the hut was bursting with this energy, she couldn't feel its existence at all.

'No wonder she said to try.'. Belen though, took a deep breath to calm her mind and concentrated.

What she failed to notice was that when she inhaled, a tiny strand of energy entered her mouth and spread throughout her body, merging with her mana veins and entering her Dantian.

[You sure about this?] A voice rang in Leticia's head.

[Yeah. She is family. Whatever is mine, is also hers. So, give her as much Curse Essence she can handle.] Leticia responded.

[It's your decision. Hope you won't regret it.] The voice said which tickled Leticia's curiosity but she didn't ask anything, not wanting to divert her attention any more than necessary to matters other than absorbing the energy and remolding her body.

After a long time, the voice sounded in her again, [I have brought you out. Quickly get stronger, leave this... and go find... the Dark Sorcerer Hut...]

Leticia's brows twitched slightly but she couldn't extricate herself from the deep focused state she had fallen into.

It was only several days later that the dark energy stopped seeping out of the hut that she slowly woke up.

She felt disoriented for a few moments, then she muttered, "Good bye, Master. I'll sure to live up to your expectations and will surely go find this Dark Sorcerer Hut."

As soon as she finished speaking...

Crack! Crack! Crack!

The hut cracked and disintegrated and Leticia found herself sitting in front of a small creak in a garden.

She glanced around and her brows furrowed. She released her Divine Sense and swept it over a large area but she still failed to find Belen.

"Did you send her to some other place, Master?" Leticia muttered. If her master had done this, she knew it was for Belen's benefit but it displeased her.

She was already away from her beloved and her friend Rima, now the only person she was close to had been sent away.

Swoosh!

Suddenly she sensed movement behind her. Before she could turn around, she heard a curious voice

"How did you enter my garden, little Lady?"

...

In a place far away from Leticia, Belen found herself on the roadside near a forest. Several bandit-looking men were eyeing her.

Belen slowly stood up and seeing the look in their eyes, she sighed. 'Killing wasn't the first thing I wanted to do after leaving that place.'

...

The moment Max sensed his connection with Leticia, several people throughout the Forsaken Land were alerted.

Swoosh!

Barren Rivervale appeared before the spatial tunnel, his brows furrowed as he tried to sense the anomaly he had felt just now in the space, but failed to find anything which only made him more solemn.

In the ancient temple, the Grand Watcher also opened his eyes. After closing his eyes for a moment, he opened them and sighed. "Troublesome times are ahead."

...

"Is something wrong, Young Lord?" Nia asked upon seeing him stop and frown.

Max tried sensing his connection with Leticia and Belen for a few moments more before he shook his head, "It's nothing. Come, let me take you to Rima."

A while later, they arrived at the foot of the Violet Peak and Max took her into the Medical Hall.

When he introduced Nia to the Medical Elder and told her he brought her here so she could keep Rima company, Medical Elder allowed him to take her to Rima, but she made sure to tell me that Nia wouldn't be allowed to leave the Medical Hall until Rima was released and they got the go-ahead from Grand Elder Rowan.

Both Max and Nia agreed to it.

Rima was surprised to see Max return so soon. When she saw Nia following him, and *realized* he had brought her here so she wouldn't be lonely, she felt her heart warming.

Max felt guilty when he sensed her emotions because he brought her only after seeing her.

'I'm really a blockhead. I should've brought her or Miss Kyla here sooner,' he thought.

After a while, he returned to his cave abode and took out one of the two Thunder Essence Stones he had now.

While he could slowly replenish the Thunder Energy Traces by absorbing the ambient Thunder Mana, it took a lot of time. Besides, he already had one stone on him and now that he had bought the second, it was time to use it.

After meditating for a while to calm down, he slowly activated his Law Comprehension and Bloodline Sense along with the Thunder Energy Traces and focused all of them on the Thunder Essence Stone in his hand.

Immediately, Thunder Essence in the stone churned and began oozing out. Max carefully absorbed it and when it didn't harm him, he sighed in relief, 'It works!'

Then, he began absorbing the essence without holding back and pouring it into the Traces which greedily sucked in every bit.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 949: What Kind Of Leader Would I Be...[1,091 words]

When Beast Emperor Hall was at the height of its power, there weren't any cities in the ten thousand mile radius of it.

It was because people were afraid and didn't want to stay near it, they did. But since it was powerful, whether people feared or respected it, they had to ask its permission if they wanted to establish a town or city nearby.

Just like other Sovereign Powers, it also liked to be alone in its territory, there were other practical reasons too of course, save for its one or two subsidiary powers like Malta City, it didn't allow anyone to settle nearby.

But as it became weaker, several enemy powers started establishing their subsidiaries in this 1000-mile radius. They even went as far as developing several towns and cities.

Beast Emperor Hall tried to resist but it didn't stop the enemies from doing what they wished.

And as expected, after these subsidiaries, towns and cities were established in its territory, they began causing even more problems for it.

Almost every time disciples went out, they would be targeted. So, slowly disciples stopped going out and the Elders also stopped issuing missions for outside which resulted in almost completely cutting off all the interactions of the Hall with the outside world.

This was a humiliation for the Hall. And despite having multiple Monarchs, it couldn't do anything about it because their enemies would band together and completely destroy the Hall.

The Hall's enemies knew this and thus they became even more unbridled and forced the Hall's subsidiaries to leave the 1000-mile territory.

Now, they were starting to act again and this time it didn't seem they would stop unless they took control of the Hall or destroyed it.

The Hall's leadership could see this but they could not take any preemptive measures... this was what everyone thought until a few days ago when a Monarch emerged from the Hall and suddenly destroyed one of the subsidiaries of their enemies, taking them completely off guard.

By the time the enemies reacted, the Monarch, Sanya, had returned to the Hall.

This situation was unprecedented. The enemy coalition began communicating to decide how they should respond.

But since every party in the coalition had their own interests in their minds, they had yet to decide despite having a meeting every evening.

...

Xuno Family...(*)

In a hall, a middle-aged man dressed in a cozy, beast-furred robe, was sitting on the head seat with a glass of wine in his head, slowly sipping.

Above the seats in front of him, projections of five people were hovering in place. Three of them were men while the two were women. But there was one thing worthy of note that all of them were Monarchs, just like the man in the head seat, leaders of their respective powers.

Currently, they were arguing among themselves. Some wanted to attack the Beast Emperor Hall or at least destroy subsidiaries of the Hall while others were against it, not wanting to rush their operation since they weren't ready at the moment.

After a long back and forth, they turned to the man in the head seat and seeing how he was watching them while sipping the wine leisurely, they fumed because they felt as if they were jokers who had been putting on a play for him to enjoy.

"Monarch Xuno, are you not going to give your opinion?" one of the two female monarchs, who looked to be in her mid-thirties and had a wild, unrestrained kind of charm to her, asked while showing her fangs.

She was called Madam RedWolf, a renowned Mid-Stage Monarch and matriarch of the infamous RedWolf family.

Monarch Xuno's lips curled up, "Of course, I will. I was just waiting for you guys to finish arguing."

"Heh, you cunning little punk. Don't you dare look down on me." Madam RedWolf growled. Others also showed displeased looks.

Monarch Xuno shook his head and said, "Let's focus on the topic. I'm of the same opinion as I had been in the past few days, we shouldn't be hasty, but we can't do nothing. So, let's destroy Malta City."

"Good boy." Madam RedWolf grunted in satisfaction. One of the three male monarchs also nodded in agreement, but the others frowned. They weren't of the same opinion.

Knowing their discussion today was going to result in nothing like the past few days, Monarch Xuno looked at the other female Monarch and said, "Lady Bassel, I'm now sixty percent sure Malta City has one of the *Keys*."

Lady Bassel knitted her brows in contemplation. The two male monarchs' eyes narrowed. If she gave in to temptation, Monarch Xuno's side would have four votes and they would

have no choice but to attack the Hall, however, they knew better than to try to sway her since nothing they said would change what she wanted.

As everyone waited, Lady Bassel looked at Monarch Xuno and said, "Good. We'll find them when we attack the Hall... once we are ready."

Monarch Xuno's and Madam RedWolf's hopeful expressions crumbled.

"You cowardly woman–" Madam RedWolf was about to go on a swearing spree when suddenly Monarch Xuno frowned.

"What happened?" Lady Bassel asked and others paid attention.

Monarch Xuno looked at them one by one before fixing his gaze on Lady Bessel and the other two who were against retaliating and calmly said, "Beast Emperor Hall has attacked one of my branch families."

Saying this, he slowly stood up.

"Monarch Xuno... don't be impulsive." Lady Bassel warned.

"What kind of impotent leader would I be if I don't do anything when my family is under attack?" Monarch Xuno said and waved his hand, shattering the projections.

Then he took a step and vanished from the hall.

Outside, several Emperors were already rushing toward the teleportation formation connected to the branch family under attack.

...

BOOM!

BANG!

"Noo–!"

Xuno Family Branch's estate was an apocalyptic hell as countless powerful and destructive magic spells rained down upon it.

"Leave none alive." Elder Milo growled and released an AOE Thunder Spell, destroying a large section of estate and killing several hundred people, including several Kings and three Early Stage Emperors.

Other Emperors with him also went all out, casting one destructive spell after another while two Peak Emperors maintained the barrier around the estate, making sure none escaped.

Suddenly, all of the attackers felt chills run down their spine.

'He is here.' Elder Milo breathed in.

A/N: * Xuno Family was mentioned in Chapter 844.

Strongest Mage with the Lust system - Chapter 950: Monarch Xuno[1,287 words]

Every Emperor of the Beast Emperor Hall stopped, not like they could kill or destroy anything or anyone anymore since every last soul was snuffed out and the previously bustling estate was nothing but ruins.

They held their breaths, their hearts palpitating in fear.

The sensation of imminent death told them a Monarch was coming, and he was angry. They knew when a Monarch was angry and wanted to kill someone, unless you also had a Monarch or someone stronger to keep you safe, you would die ten thousand out of ten thousand times.

Fortunately, though, they had a Monarch with them.

All of them glanced up at the sky and relaxed a little.

A moment later, the space above the Xuno Estate rippled and Monarch Xuno's figure materialized there.

He swept his gaze across the estate, then looked at the Emperors who stared back at him defiantly despite their uneasiness.

"Die!" He simply said and his aura flared out.

Shua!

Everyone froze in place, and the sensation of imminent death increased infinitely. Some of the weaker Emperors even began to tremble and wanted to shout for their Monarch to quickly save them. Some even thought that they had been abandoned and began regretting their decision to come on this mission.

Right then, another powerful aura swept down from the sky and countered Monarch Xuno's aura.

Monarch Xuno didn't look up and instead raised his hand, wanting to kill all the Emperors to avenge his people before dealing with the Monarch.

However, before he could do it... the Emperors took out a jade plate and shattered it.

Immediately, they were covered in powerful spatial energy.

The Emperors sighed in relief. Before coming here, they were given these teleportation jade plates. Shattering them could allow them to return to the Beast Emperor Hall.

The reason emperors had become nervous just now was because Monarch Xuno's aura had frozen them, so they couldn't take out the jade plates, or those. who had it on their person, couldn't shatter them.

If their monarch had a change of mind and decided against clashing with Monrach Xuno, they wouldn't have countered his aura which unfroze them and instead, they would have directly left. In that case, all of them would have been slaughtered.

Elder Milo glanced up at the sky and saw the beautiful figure in blood red robes hovering there, her expression calm without any ripple. His eyes flickered with surprise and a hint of astonishment as he thought, 'Has Elder Bloodflower become stronger?'

Right after he had this thought, he noticed Monarch Xuno's expression turned dark and he attempted to disrupt the teleportation, but another powerful pulse of aura protected them and the next moment... they disappeared from the Xuno Branch Family Estate.

...

After everyone disappeared, Monarch Xuno's figure flashed and he appeared higher in the sky, on the same level as Sanya, who was standing there, looking at him with a brilliant smile on her face.

"I hope you have been well, Patriarch Xuno." She greeted him.

"I have been better." Monarch Xuno answered, then he asked, "Is Beast Emperor Hall prepared to face the repercussions of your actions?"

"Why don’t you try guessing? I’m sure you can make a solid guess based on your dear friend Dogheart’s information, no?" Sanya curled her lips.

Monarch Xuno shook his head, "It’s been a long while since he stopped providing us with any useful information."

Sanya’s eyes flashed and she murmured, "What’s going on in his doghead? Don’t tell me he thinks he can take control of the Hall without your lot’s help? Or... has he found another partner?" she asked the last part while looking at Monarch Xuno.

Monarch Xuno’s expression didn’t even ripple as he shook his head again, "I don’t know, but I’m sure we’ll find out the answer soon enough."

If there was anyone watching them, after seeing how civil their communication was, they would surely think these two were friends, not mortal enemies filled with dense murderous intent for each other.

Sanya furrowed her brows. This response told her Grimheart and they too, were going to reveal their fangs soon enough.

Her expression slowly hardened. The situation was becoming more and more perilous.

A moment later, she looked him in the eyes and coldly asked, "Are you going to attack now? If not, I’ll leave. I don’t have time to waste."

Monarch Xuno’s eyes flickered as though he was trying to restrain himself and said, "Get lost."

"Heh. How cowardly!" Sanya smirked in mockery. Then she took out the jade talisman, shattered it while staring at him and disappeared from the place.

Just a moment later...

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Several people appeared in the sky around the estate. They were Emperors of the Xuno family who came to fight alongside Monarch Xuno.

Monarch Xuno looked at them, feeling extremely frustrated and angry inside.

He was a really prideful person. He wouldn’t tolerate any kind of insult towards him. If the person who insulted him was stronger than him, instead of biding his time to take revenge, he would think of possible ways to make them pay, no matter what price he had to pay.

For example, not many were aware of this, but unlike the other five factions, the Xuno family hadn't targeted the Beast Emperor Hall because it coveted its treasures, territory or inheritance. It targeted the Hall and joined the coalition because 1700 years ago, when he had yet to ascend and become the Monarch, he had gone to the Hall after finding out that there were still Monarchs holding the fort.

He had gone there to ask for guidance on how to break through. However, he wasn't even allowed to enter the Beast Emperor Hall, let alone meet the Monarchs. What more, some Elders had mocked him, saying he had overestimated his worth by trying to meet them to ask for guidance.

This humiliation filled him with so much anger that he swore he would destroy the Hall.

A place where he wasn't allowed in despite showing needed respect and was insulted instead need not exist in this world - this was his thought.

This was why, when he eventually broke through and became a Monarch, he led the Xuno family and joined the coalition of factions targeting the Hall. He also poured all his resources into his family to groom more emperors and possibly more Monarchs so he could deal more damage to the Hall and eventually destroy it.

Now, for such a prideful person to endure the mockery of the enemy who just destroyed a part of his family, his blood was extremely painful.

But he had done it.

Why?

Simply because if he hadn't, Sanya would have stayed and when these Emperors arrived, given her blood thirsty nature, even as the cost of getting seriously injured by him, she would have killed several of them and this wasn't something he wanted to see happen, at least not before it was time for the Hall to be destroyed.

The Emperors had already noticed that the branch family was completely eradicated and they were seething with rage but no one dared to even breathe loudly, let alone make any noise to show it because they could see their family Lord, despite looking calm, was really angry.

After a few moments, an old man—who Max would have recognised as the guardian of the young King Mage he had met with Esme in the restaurant in Malta City—uncle Yagui, took a deep breath and stepped forward.

"My Lord..." As the Emperors and Monarch Xuno looked at him, he knelt on one knee in front of Monarch Xuno, his expression void of any expression.