



239 Shadows and Words [3]

"You have such great talent in Shadow Arts. Tell me, what is your name?" Hilum Chan excitedly asked with a wide smile. He waited for Lucas's answer, but he had no interest in it. He swung his sword Qi and then disappeared completely without taking the shadows with him. 1

"How...? Who is he? He is profound in both sword Qi and shadow arts. How could there be a person like him who had both talents in the Dao of the Sword and the Dao of the Shadows?" Hilum mumbled in place, deeply curious about Lucas's identity. But as he remembered the current happenings inside the stadium, he then returned immediately, arriving at Dalin Xian's side, where he was stepping on his brother, whom he had killed.

"Senior Brother..." A trembling voice came out of Hilum that took Dalin's attention.

"You are with him, right?"

It seemed that Dalin and his brother's clash had turned out to be a real bloodbath. With the intense bloodlust still lingering on Dalin, Hilum could only grit his teeth while looking at the deceased body of his senior. It happened too fast, which meant that Dalin was way stronger than his brother. However, it also resulted in his

grave injuries, which were noticeable as his blood was dripping.

[Dalin Xian's Point of View]

My younger brother... Dalan Fang was an incredible person. When I left our family's side, due to the difficulties in life as a beggar, Dalan was the first one who chased me, but I stopped him. We have our family name after our given name, but after falling down, that last name just became useless for beggars like us.

I think that it was way better that I didn't let him chase after me. I faced more difficulties. I challenged plenty of people just to earn the knowledge needed to survive. I have enough of the life of a starving person around his family. They didn't want to fight, which was why I left.

But, after years of hardships, I learned martial art and also a word technique after being discovered by a renowned word user. It was fate-changing for me, and I was glad that I followed the person who became my master.

However, as I started to feel the luxury of life, even though I had suffered much, I wanted to know what I could do for my family. I looked for them through the connections I made as a peddler before. However, I discovered that I had

escaped a fortunate life. It turned out that my family was still living on, as they were the righteous family of the Chaotic Shadow Sect, which my parents hid from us, our siblings.

At first, I was disappointed, but after accepting that it was my decision and that I should not regret it, I easily accepted it. I also achieved a high standard in life, just like my family originally was.

I was married into a reputable family and earned a new family name, which was Xian. However, I didn't really feel alive. I didn't know what love was as my partner was not interested in it. When she died, we didn't have a child. Thus, to keep the family name strong, which was trusted me by my father-in-law, I adopted Ro Xian, who had a latent average talent for word technique.

But, as I became more connected to the sect, I learned that my previous family was the mortal enemy of the sect. As Word Users go by light affinity, Shadow Art Users go by darkness affinity, which is polar opposites. After learning that, I worked harder than ever. I naturally learned that even though my affinity for darkness was strong, I was still able to learn word techniques more profoundly than others who had an affinity for light. Through the readings and teachings of the scholars in the sect, I also naturally adopted and learned

shadow arts.

I was already satisfied with my life. I have a son named Ji An, but we aren't very close because I got busy after becoming the Great Elder. I also ignored the fact that Ro Xian still believed he was my biological son. I simply left him. It may also be beneficial to Ji An's maturation. As a result, I just let things be.

But, what came into my mind was the peculiar behavior of my son, Ji An. He seemed to talk by himself more after his mother died. Was it because he was mourning? I left him be.

One thing I was sure of was that I made a pact with the Chaotic Shadow and acted as if I was under the control and word technique of my second wife, the Speech Witch. For it to be reasonable that I couldn't remember them and not be bothered, I relied on the spectator of our pact and also used the acting to make them ignore my identity. But, the spectator, the governor, was stripped from his position, which led them to act to take me back and become the successor.

I have enough already. I am already satisfied with my life here, and I have Ji An to take care of... As I swore, those who tried to stop me would die, even if it was Dalan, my brother.

I killed him, and now, even still suffering from

the injuries from our clash, I shall face another opponent, who was just not far from Dalan's potential. And it appears that he is also skilled in shadow arts.

[Third Person's Point of View]

"Who are you...? Why did you serve as my word servant while also saving me? Do you have any intentions?"

Lucas let out a sigh as the first thing he should face was Ji An's question. He was not stupid enough to not notice it. Ji An was already aware that Lucas pretended to be a word servant for some reason. And even if he had to be nervous about facing a stranger like Lucas, he could not, as the fact that he saved him was there.

"I am Lucas White, a faction leader under the Xiao Dynasty of the Eastern Continent."

Ji An's entire system shook as a result of just that information. A continent's opponent stood directly in front of him. And, speculating, Lucas simply got close to him in order to gain an advantage in the conflict. It was clear that the conflict had brought people hungry for power together, sometimes to clash, sometimes to ally. Ji An was well aware of such things.

"I have no intention of asking anymore. I am



afraid to die." Ji An stated, which surprised Lucas as he thought he would react aggressively to him.

The situation had already made him fed up, and learning more would not make any difference to it. Their sect was under attack, and Lucas was not even doing anything. It was understandable since it was out of his interest and benefit, and more of it, Lucas just proved that he had experienced war.

"You don't have to worry. I won't be killing you anyway. I want you to teach me your Speech Curse, I mean, Word Technique Specialty."

Ji An was silent for a moment. He had thought deeply about it and viewed Lucas's idea as absurd. 'It is called a specialty for a reason. Even if you have a natural affinity for light, it is not easy to learn. If he becomes a word user, it is not certain that he will learn my specialty. As if I have.'

"If you are thinking about your specialty, you have. As your affinity goes with light and darkness, I suppose, your specialty is around Shadow Casting Through Words or better than that. It could be Shadow Summoning, which needed the affinity of light and darkness."

Encanta merely had a basic understanding of him. But, when the similarities between them



became clearer to him, he realized that there were also affinities or aptitudes in this realm. Furthermore, the category of aptitude combination could produce the same effect in Four Heavens as it did in Encanta.

A Speech Curse in Encanta is an affinity for light and blended with darkness, it summons shadows through words. Even though there was not that much to hear, it was still superb and regarded as it soared high above the normal feats of a Speech Curse or Word Technique.

"There were three types of word technique effects: physical, emotional, and mental. But, adding darkness to the light affinity of the word technique strengthens its effects, but on the greater side of darkness. Hence, if you create a physical material through words, it would appear as black, like a shadow, but more durable than the normal product of a normal word technique."

Ji An was still silent, bewildered by another piece of information he had learned.

"If you knew that much, why do you need me?"

"I want to see the placement of your meridian. To unlock that kind of specialty, I need you to learn it yourself and have the meridian visible to me." Lucas explained.



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'As I woke up from my coma, my progress became faster. But, there was a reason behind it. It was because of my flexible meridian that became a "Thousand Meridian Physique," a truly wonderful constitutional body, which is equivalent to passive ability. For me to learn more about the capabilities of the combinations of my affinities, I should learn more about meridians and their types of them.'

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