

## 243 Light and Darkness [2]

"Was everything gathered? All of the techniques in the inventory are in here?" Ji An asked, looking down at a small wooden chest with a few books of techniques piled inside. In front of him was Forged Shadow, firmly standing after reporting all of the techniques from the inventory. 1

"Yes, Master. And I had also contacted the Heavenly Moon Shadows they will be coming shortly."

It had already been clear that the Chaotic Shadow Sect successfully executed the Great Clan of Word Users without interception from the government. They secretly destroyed the sect from the inside, leaving only a few remaining who had no energy or intention of reviving the sect.

It was already concluded. The sect where Word Users convened had disbanded due to the Chaotic Shadow, the deadliest adversary of the Word Users' light affinity, which was darkness.

Ji An was examining the situation calmly. He was aware that he, too, was a descendent of the Chaotic Shadow and that the province was in upheaval at the time. Since 'The Cannibal Hero' had been relieved of duty, the province has been



rife with internal strife, with the sect being only one example.

There had been no official announcement of the search for another general and governor of the Quanzhi Province, but it was obvious that powerful people had a chance. Hence, even with a dictatorship, the Emperor wouldn't be able to dictate to Quanzhi Province without direct people to control the province.

"This time around... I will repay for what they did to my father... to my family and my sect... This time around, I will surely take revenge on my sect and those who died as a result of their scheme."

Lucas sighed inwardly after hearing Ji An's vile words. It was slightly shocking, but not entirely, because Lucas knew that Ji An had simply been denying his father's worth. Within him, he recognized his father as someone in need of approval.

Lucas was used to it. He had seen a lot of them, and because he had also been through one, he could understand Ji An. But one thing sprang to mind: the process of his vengeance.

'I am not certain how he will be able to do it. Obviously, what he has is talent, but not power. He still had to work hard to master those techniques left to him, and it would take years. I

don't have that time. I should leave him on his own and get what I needed.'

'But, taking over the Quanzhi Province could be the first step in my mission. I don't have much time. That is why I required assistance from the 'five'. But, it is manageable. Should I use Ji An more, and see where I can reach?'

Lucas was trapped in an idea. He was not sure if he would take the risk of commencing. Ji An had become prominent to him during his stay in the province. Even though he had tasked the 'five' to search for information and establish their reputation as locals, he still wanted to see how high Ji An could soar.

However, he had priorities. It would be unnecessary if he attached himself to Ji An. Mutual benefits between them were only temporary. He should not get attached to him.

"So, Lucas, how about I teach you the thing that you wanted? In exchange, you will assist me with my purpose."

Lucas let out a sigh before answering. "If it takes years, I will not continue. However, I can still push myself to get what I needed since it is already in front of you." Lucas's eyes fell onto the chest of technique books, which alarmed Forged Shadow, taking out his sword.



"However, out of respect for the short relationship we created, I will be patient. But, my assistance will only be available for a month. You should take things immediately." Lucas answered.

Ji An had deep eyes, looking at Lucas as he dismissed Forged Shadow's reaction. On the other hand, Forged Shadow was deeply confused about the relationship they had.

'I thought that Lucas was Master's servant. But it seems like the authority between them was just equal. And it might explain why I am the Master's first servant.' Forged Shadow thought.

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#### [Lucas's Point of View]

The Speech Curse or Word Technique was what I needed to learn. Shadow Summoning held no appeal for me. However, because I am curious, I may study it, but not to the point where I can reproduce its function. After learning word techniques, that would be the best time for me to master shadow summoning.

But there was one thing that bothered me. Neither did any of the three of us grasp the approaches. But not to the point where I couldn't understand a word of it. If I had enough time, I could decipher and understand the technique.



But, as I watched Ji An read a book, I was taken. He seemed to be absorbing the knowledge, imitating some of the words that were written on it.

Hmmm... He might be comprehending it, which was useful for both of us. Furthermore, I could help him, not in terms of Word Technique, but terms of martial arts. It should take him a week to learn the basics of martial arts. He was already talented at it, but he just didn't know.

There were 13 Word Techniques, 5 Martial Techniques, and some resources for cultivating speeches. Their cultivation was kind of unique. Well, it was something obvious since learning these techniques required proper cultivation.

It was just connections in between, but that didn't apply to me. I could learn those techniques without using the needed cultivation because of my "Thousand Meridian Physique." I could bend my meridian to the required meridian points of a technique I would use. That was the advantage of my constitutional body.

After a while, I started to see some light in my reading. The one that I was holding was called "Fortified Speech Course." It was a mental manner of technique that could fortify the mind and also strengthen the company's will. In conclusion, it was a supporting type of

technique that had effects on the people around the user.

"Lucas... I already understood this one, but I might need your assistance."

I was pulled out of my deep thoughts as I heard Ji An's voice calling me. I instinctively shifted my attention to him and was taken aback to see black shadows moving on his palm. It was surprising, as I didn't expect him to learn "Shadow Maneuvering", a Shadow Art, in such a small amount of time. The absurdity of his talent was high!

"What...? What do you want me to help you with?" I asked, ignoring the striking feat he had just done.

While I was asking, I couldn't help but notice how proud Forged Shadow was. His face was beaming secretly, and looking at it, I couldn't help but scoff. He was too amusing to look at because he always acted stiff around others but couldn't hide his pride in Ji An's accomplishment.

Well, I was also surprised and proud of Ji An. But it was a matter of fact that he did it because of his talent. The meridian points existing and the type of physique he had should also be incredible.

"This... You know how to move through shadows,

right? Then, could you teach me how to control shadows?"

I cleared my throat. "It is not actually controlling shadows but feeling the shadow. Maneuvering in the sense that we have an affinity for darkness. But may I ask? Why did you jump into learning darkness-related techniques rather than Word Techniques which you basically needed to hone immediately?"

"I think that learning in both fields should be my priority." I stopped him immediately as I heard his reasoning. He should not continue with that mindset.

"No, you should not think that way as you need to have a specialty field. Hence, you should master one before you learn another one. You would just be like a rabbit that would bite into any carrot it finds but doesn't finish even one. It is just a waste of time and resources as well."

Ji An was silent after listening to what I said. Then Forged Shadow came to my aid with my idea.

"He is right, Master. Having a mastered technique means having proper knowledge of the technique. And if the time comes where you need to push more, you won't be able to, because you didn't master any technique."



Ji An let out a sigh and then nodded. "Okay, okay. Then, what should I practice more? I can provoke and hypnotize a little."

I released a smile as I heard him having a reservation about what he should pick. Then I returned my attention to the chest and chose the technique that had caught my eye earlier. It was so intriguing that I couldn't forget its description.

"This one," I mumbled as I showed him the technique.

"That is... Combination of Martial and Words... But why that one?"

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