

Seller 451

Chapter 451 Frozen Battles And Fiery Tempers

After a while;

The Necromancer King nodded in seriousness, "Alright, I accept your alliance, the assistance, and the conditions that followed through. However, the heads of the Shang Dynasty ruler and his kids are mine."

"Deal."

Soon, both of them disappeared from there. After a while, the necromancer king's entire undead army also disappeared from the forest, at the same time.

Meanwhile, at Fujian Island;

Early in the morning, Shang Jiao was seen intensely sparring against a white tiger, which has shrunk to her size for the moment.

She raised the exquisite staff adorned with several crystals on its head and spoke out the long incantation, "Oh, the goddess of snow and ice, Tengliu, I crave thou to bless me the strength to unleash the serpent of ice and vanquish the enemies from my sight."

The tip of the semi-divine staff glowed for a second before conjuring a giant ice serpent.

She rode on top of the serpent as she flew toward her opponent.

Baihu (White tiger) stretched her head a bit forward and opened her mouth widely.

When the ice serpent and Shang Jiao neared it, the white tiger let out a powerful roar, releasing a sonic attack.

One kilometer away, Shang Xiang was sleeping in his bed and he sprung up in alert and fell down.

Meanwhile, the sonic wave blew away the ice serpent and Shang Jiao alike.

Xuanwu, the Black tortoise, which was keeping an eye on her, couldn't help but sigh and closed its eyes for a couple of seconds. When it opened the eyes, they were glowing while a bruised Shang Jiao also was enveloped by a golden aura of light. Her ether energy was recovered and she was healed in an instant.

Getting up, the princess puffed her cheeks and complained, "You told me you won't use any skills. You cheated me, Baihu."

The white tiger answered in its usual deep voice, although it is a female, "It is just a manipulation of sound, not an inherent skill, Shang Jiao. Anyways, the morning spar is over. Go and eat up. Qinglong (Azure dragon) will be your next training partner."

"Ugh... that guy with a fiery temper? We don't get along." Shang Jiao shivered for a moment.

"Well, you can't expect to get along with fire beasts," commented the white tiger in response.

"Alright," Shang Jiao let out a deep sigh as she turned around and walked away.

Royal Palace, Eastern Sun Kingdom;

"No, you won't go"

"Yes, I will."

"I said you won't. It is too dangerous."

"Oh, yeah? I will house arrest you if I have to, Sister Zan Rong."

"Marina Zan, that's my name, little king. And I would like to see you try. You cannot keep me under surveillance 24/7. The moment I see the chance, I will go there."

"Then, Lan Jing will seal your remaining cultivation too. We have strict instructions from Mr. Lu."

"Who the heck is Lu Zhen to decide what I want to do? I'm grateful for his help in unlocking my memories but he can't control my life. Moreover, I don't belong here. So, let me go..."

Zan Rong and Ouyang Zen argued with each other as the former wants to visit the ruins of Khambhat where she was found by Ouyang Zen's grandfather.

Zan Rong intends to return to her world before searching for her lover while Ouyang Zen felt that she should be patient.

After seeing how the Phoenix Empire ended up, he doesn't want any opportunity to displease Mark until they become close enough for the latter to turn a blind to his mistakes to some extent.

Furthermore, Lan Jing is on Mark's side and Ouyang Zen needed Lan Jing. This legendary realm expert is the reason why there is no civil war in the kingdom. Once he disappears from Ouyang Zen's side, the thirteen-year-old knew that it won't take long for the Helios City filled with chaos.

Since Mark specifically requested him to keep an eye on Zan Rong until he says, Ouyang Zen, even more, wanted to keep his promise now.

Zan Rong originally didn't plan on going rogue either. But, as Mark was taking a while, she felt like her problem is being ignored and she decided to take matters into her own hands.

As Ouyang Zen really did house arrest the girl whose behavior was no longer the same as the one he was familiar with, the latter's stubbornness only increased further.

As the night arrived, she did exactly what she warned him. Around half past 3 in the morning, when Lan Jing isn't around and the soldiers were half drowsy, she successfully escaped the royal palace on a flying horse.

After three hours of nonstop travel, she finally reached the location.

Meanwhile, at the royal palace of Lunaris, Western Moon kingdom;

Mark was walking back and forth in seriousness. He couldn't get his sleep as the words of a stranger echoing his head.

"No, there's no way it is possible. Technically, I'm not even Lu Zhen. He is dead in reality. So, the fortune telling shouldn't even apply to me. After all, I only gave Lu Zhen's birth details to him and he saw based on that..."

18 hours earlier;

After having lunch, with an excuse of going for a ride to recheck for the spot decided for the runway in the outskirts of the city, Mark left in his vehicle.

He reached the trader's district and dismissed the vehicle before going on foot and looking for something.

Eventually, he stopped before the fortune-telling shop named Ming Jing Tang (Hall of the Clear Mirror). It has quite a long line outside.

Mark calmly joined the line without intending to draw attention. The last thing he wanted is a rumor about how he consulted a fortune teller. His black robes and hood did draw some attention but it is a common sight seen everywhere. So, people didn't mind it much and with some patience, Mark finally entered the tent after an hour.

There, he was met with the sight of a tall man with long white hair that was reaching as far as his waist.

He sure gave the impression of a sage in one glance.

After confirming his identity through the Eyes of God (upgraded from Sage Eyes), he sat down and let down his hood.

The old man let out a smile as he commented in their first meeting, "Son, you have the radiance of someone from a royal bloodline. Tell me, what do you wish to know?"

Mark was taken aback at first but calmed down himself and acted as if he wasn't affected by his comments. He didn't know whether this fortune teller was indeed special as the rumors or did he just praise him to fool him like the others.

He said, "I heard that you are the best fortune teller in this city. You can tell the fate of the people with their time of birth. I'm curious."

"No, you are not," replied the old man named Li Chunfeng. After a brief pause, he added, "I see the clear disbelief in your eyes. You don't believe in fortune-telling. You merely wanted to test me."

Mark was certainly surprised by Li Chunfeng's remark. He didn't deny it and just asked in a serious tone, "Then if I give you two birthdays and the time of births, will you tell me their fate?"

Chapter 452 Shattered Prophecies and Urgent Missions

The old man continued to maintain a smile as he shook his head, "No, you probably misunderstood, son. With the time of birth and year, it is impossible to tell one's fate. Dozens would be born at the same time. However, if such a person is before me, I could tell his fortune for the near future, that's all.

If it is marriage, then, I need either bride or groom sitting before me and the other's date of birth is sufficient. I can see marriage in your fate in the near future. So, I guess you are here for the marriage compatibility and the fortune followed by it?"

Mark furrowed his brows in seriousness. He couldn't just understand how this old man who isn't even a spirit warrior telling him such things.

He convinced himself that this guy probably knew his identity as it has been a couple of weeks since he arrived in this city.

Since Shen Ling recommended this guy's name, it is quite possible that he heard of the matter and just fooling him now.

Mark decided to play along and said, "June 5th, 1768. Time of birth: 2:12 in the afternoon. Tell me what you can say about my fortune."

"Hmm... let's see..." the fortune teller placed his hands on the glass orb before him and closed his eyes.

He took about half a minute and then spoke in a deep voice, "In the realm of the Western Moon, a harbinger of peace shall emerge, an agent of harmony, destined to mend what's been shattered and scourged. With mighty strength, the barrier between north and south shall be erased, uniting the land under one sky, the division to be effaced.

Love's embrace shall guide their steps, a union forged in devotion, yet, a somber prophecy lingers, fated to test their emotions. As she blossoms into his better half, a tragic loss shall befall, His love torn from his grasp, destiny's cruel and heart-wrenching call.

And on the day his eyes are opened wide, truth's veil lifted at last, a sorrow unfathomable shall engulf his kin, the die has been cast. Family, dear and cherished, shall be torn asunder in this hour, the weight of grief upon his soul, a burden he must tirelessly devour.

His heart, once brimming with hope, shall shatter and bleed, for in his quest to protect, he becomes the catalyst of this world's need. A dichotomy of hero and villain he shall embody, intertwined, through anguish and sacrifice, his actions shall reshape humankind.

A destiny entwined with both light and darkness, a tale profound, the hero who guards, the villain who ravages, their roles renowned. The pain that echoes through his veins shall transcend his mortal core, for in protecting this world, his very essence, it shall pour."

Li Chunfeng then opened his eyes in realization. His voice started shaking with fear in his eyes as he continued, "Thus, the divination foretells a grand tragedy's impending blight, a path strewn with heartache, his love, his family, consumed by the night. A protagonist entangled in a cosmic struggle, his soul torn apart, a testament to the complexities of destiny's web, etched on his fateful heart."

A deep frown appeared on Mark's face as he rests his elbows on the table. He was in deep thought, trying to decipher what the fortune teller spoke to him.

But, one thing is clear. This guy is speaking of a tragedy awaiting him once he marries his fiancée just like every fortune teller, who wanted to make money.

And Mark's mood isn't that great at the moment that he would listen to such prophecies and become worried about them. In a fit of rage, he rudely grabbed the glass orb and used his entire strength on the orb.

Crack Crack* Crack*

The glass orb started cracking and eventually became several pieces.

Looking at the shocked fortune teller, Mark then spoke in a threatening while looking straight into his eyes, "Listen very carefully, old man. These people might listen to your bullshit, not me. I only stayed patient because of your old age and the fact that the royal family respects you. Now, I'll return with my soon-to-be-wife. If you speak of such nonsense riddles to her, it won't be good for you.

I need you to tell her that we are compatible and the auspicious date for our marriage is two weeks from now. Here, your fee for the job and compensation for the orb."

Mark took out a pouch with 500 gold coins in it and placed it on the table.

Li Chunfeng continued to shiver even after Mark left the place. He mumbled, "Things were already set into motion. Only a heaven-defying existence can change that man's fate. Oh Lord Yuqiang! Why have you blessed a powerless being like me with such a gift..."

Back to the present;

The words of Li Chunfeng haunted Mark and made him lose his sleep. No matter whether he believes the fortune-telling or not, as he decoded the words, he couldn't help but become worried.

As he was walking back and forth for the whole night, thinking about how he should design security measures to ensure Song Yue's safety, even if nothing might happen, a notification from the system jolted him from his thoughts.

*Ding! You received an emergency quest, Stop Zan Rong.

"Hmm?" Mark looked at the notification screen floating before his eyes. It's been a while since he received an emergency quest. And its title didn't seem that good.

As he clicked on the notification, the quest prompt opened up.

Quest: Stop Zan Rong

Description: Zan Rong was leaving this planet through a world teleportation formation. Stop her.

Reward: Rocket launching station.

"Eh? A specific reward for such an easy mission? System, what are you up to?" Mark felt something is going on that he hasn't grasped yet. The fact that the system is willing to provide him with something that has nothing to do with augmenting his strength or equipping him with a new weapon is more suspicious.

*Ding! An emergency quest is called an emergency quest because it is an emergency situation. Now, will the host waste time or proceed with the quest? The host has 60 seconds to decide before the quest is regarded as a failure.

"Okay, alright. I will think about it after completing it."

Mark clicked on the accept button.

"Would you like to directly teleport to the location?"

"Yes. Proceed."

*Ding! You will be teleported to the location in 3, 2, 1...

Mark disappeared from the room.

Chapter 453 From Khambhat to Earth-486: Unexpected Journeys

Ruins of Khambhat, Eastern Sun Kingdom;

Located on an island, just about 10 km away from the coast of the mainland, the city of Khambhat held the throne for several centuries.

However, from the late 12th century, the kings stopped living in the forts and shifted toward castles and palaces.

Using an excuse that a king should live with his people, not far away, one of the kings shifted his base to Helios City and used the Fort of Khambhat as a citadel to protect the civilian officials and the treasury during times of war.

As if the god decided that the king made the decision right, over the next couple of centuries, earthquakes disturbed the ocean, and frequent low-magnitude tsunamis caused a lot of damage to the island city alongside the other islands nearby.

After that, as the spirit beast started living there, it became something like a forbidden zone until one day, Ouyang Zen's grandfather managed to drive away every spirit beast from the ruins.

No one knows when this teleportation formation was created here, but Zan Rong only knows that she can get back to her world as long as she gets there.

Luckily for her, the teleportation formation is still active. The moment she stepped on it, the runes were glowing one after another. She stood straight as she was waiting for the process to complete. "Just wait, Allen. Once I return home, I will contact the High Elves to remove this curse upon me and return to my peak. Even if I have to search the ends of the universe, I will..."

A figure suddenly appeared before her, scaring the hell out of her. She attacked him in reflex.

Catching her fist using his own reflexes, Mark spoke in a casual manner, "Woah, easy there, Mari... Marina. It's me."

"How did you?" Zan Rong's eyes widened and she took a step back in surprise. Before Mark gets to answer, something clicked in her mind and she said, "You put some sort of tracker on me?"

Mark exactly wanted to use the same excuse. So, he played along and nodded, "You can say so. You are Allen's beloved. You are more or less my younger sis-in-law. Hence, I need to make sure that you are safe from any harm."

"It doesn't appear that way to me," replied Zan Rong in a sharp tone. She further said, "From what I gathered about you so far, it will be more convincing if you say that you are selling the weapon technology from my world and you or your backer cannot afford to let me fall in the hands of someone who could access my memories."

Mark couldn't help but furrow his brows when he heard that. The last time, everything is well between them. What might have happened that this girl is behaving as if he is her enemy?

Whatever the reason might be, Mark isn't the type to listen to someone's accusations. He instantly countered her while trying to be as calm as possible, "If that were the case, I wouldn't bother acquiring the Eye of Talim and use it on you to unlock your memories. An entire sect is disbanded because of you. I promised you that I will bring Allen back and I will put my life on the line to fulfill my promise. Trust me on that and return to the palace, Marina."

Mark tried to convince her but the 19-year-old turned out to be so stubborn that his 9 points of charm has no effect on her.

Looking back straight into Mark's eyes, she questioned him, "Ouyang Zen said that you are going to marry your fiancée soon. Tell me, would you sit around and listen to the words of a stranger whom you barely know when the love of your life gets lost god knows where? Answer me. Can you swear on your heart that you won't search for her because of whatever circumstances you have?"

Mark could only become silent and shook his head, intending to be truthful to himself, "No."

"Exactly," nodded Zan Rong as almost all of the runes lit up. She explained, "He might be someone not important to you even if you claim he is a brotherly figure, but he is my life. I'm grateful for your help and caring for the royal family. That is why I waited in patience so far. I can no longer do it. Let me go..."

Mark stared at her in silence. He wanted to argue that he cares about Allen more than she could ever be. More than a brother, he raised Allen like a father.

But, when Zan Rong questioned him whether he could be calm if it is Song Yue, he questioned his own feeling.

Was it because he cares more about Song Yue or is it because he trusts his younger brother could protect himself until then?

He didn't come to a conclusion and neither could he give his reply to Zan Rong as all the runes were lit up while his time was wasted in speaking with the girl and then thinking deeply.

A powerful beam of light emitted from the teleportation formation and shot up toward the sky. It was so bright that even people in Helios City located more than 300 km spotted it.

Fortunately, it lasted only for a moment.

Meanwhile, Mark disappeared along with Zan Rong.

In an instant, they found themselves in mid-air, falling down three hundred meters from the sky.

"Kyaaa"

As Zan Rong screamed, Mark hurriedly grabbed her hand and activated his bloodline skill.

Icy wings erupted from his back in an instant and they stopped falling.

Zan Rong raised her head to look at Mark in a bit of surprise. On the other hand, the latter was reading the series of notifications on the holographic screen that popped up before his eyes.

*Ding! You failed the Emergency Quest.

*Ding! You were being transported away to another world.

*Ding! You entered Earth-486.

*Ding! Scanning the new planet.

*Ding! Eart-486 is registered in the system's database.

*Ding! Gravity is detected 0.78 times that of the host's home planet. Adjusting the host's body to the planet's gravity.

*Ding! Oxygen isn't abundant in the planet's atmosphere. It is roughly 4.86%. Adjusting the host's body to the planet's atmosphere.

*Ding! You received a Side Quest, Hero.

*Ding! You received a new side Quest, Extraction

*Ding! You received an Emergency Quest, Savior of the royal elves.

*Ding! You received a new side Quest, Find the Princess.

*Ding! You received an Emergency Quest, Kill Xalazar.

Chapter 454 The Unveiling: Earth-486's Quests Await

Quest: Hero

Description: Planet Earth-486 is infested with demons. Help the inhabitants of the world and exterminate the demons as many as you can until they hail the host as a hero

Reward: Varies on performance.

Accept?

*

Quest: Extraction

Description: Planet Earth-486 is filled with Mithril mines. The host must use this opportunity to extract as much as he can.

Reward: 1000 gold coins for every kg of Mithril the system can extract from the ores the host has excavated up from this planet.

Accept?

*

Quest: Savior of the Royal Elves

Description: The royal elves, the celestial elf race, of this world have been imprisoned at the tower of Xalazar.

Reward: Tactical UAV or Armed UAV (choose one)

Accept?

*

Quest: Find the Princess

Description: The princess of the Ixitus Empire, Elowen Silverleaf has been on the run, evading the demons. Find her and become her knight, bringing the celestial elves back to ruling.

Reward: Rank-7 Android.

Accept?

*

Quest: Kill Xalazar

Description: Xalazar is a demon king who was born out of the deaths from the wars that occurred across time on this planet. As a peak-stage immortal realm spirit warrior, he turned out to be more powerful than any other elven warrior on this planet and has caused chaos ever since he was released. Kill him and save this world.

Reward: Tier-5 Bloodline (random)

Accept?

*

He accepted all the quests but didn't choose to teleport to the quest location right away as he wasn't interested to complete the emergency quests right now.

Since the planet is registered in the system's data, he could teleport to this place at any time. Hence, he postponed it to some other day. As for the woes of the natives of this planet, why would he care about it anyway? In his eyes, the elves were the same as trees, ants, chickens, pigs, cows, etc...

And right now, his attention was grabbed by the mithril ore.

After confirming that the system will not take the Mithril away even after providing him a map as a quest item that has the spots, and whatever he extracted just belonged to him, Mark decided to focus on it.

But, before that, he has to do something with this stubborn sis-in-law of his. The reason why he didn't release the seal on her using his Seal Breaker skill is because of the fear that she will try looking for Allen and risk her life.

And seeing her right now, Mark was now happy with his past decision.

Flapping his wings, he slowly flew in random directions and landed on the grassland.

As Zan Rong stepped onto the ground, she thanked him for the help but didn't continue conversing with him any further regarding their previous argument as she walked forward. "Follow me."

Mark grabbed her arm and stopped her, "Wait. Where are you going? At least, explain what happened just now. Aren't we supposed to arrive at the teleportation formation?"

Zan Rong tried to shake off his grip as she answered with a look of annoyance on her face, "How would I know what happened? It's not like I'm a high elf priestess that knows everything and neither do I owe you any explanation. You are the one who followed me to this place. All I can tell you is that the inhabitants here are not that particularly fond of strangers and you need to be careful. Our destination is Sasa Allanor. Once we reach there, I will arrange your return, alright?"

"Well, we can go by flying," replied Mark.

Zan Rong rejected his suggestion, "No, we can't. There are troublesome beasts roaming in the sky. It's too risky even more so, if we are together."

"Do you question my strength?" Mark furrowed his brows, feeling she has been rude to him without any fear as he was giving lenience to her.

But then again, Zan Rong only has limited information about Mark. In her eyes, he is just a weapon seller who depends on an expert named Wu Weibao and some mysterious fellow who supplies the weapons from her planet to him.

It was the first time she learned that he could fly, a moment ago. However, it wasn't a passive flying skill like the supreme realm experts have. He had wings.

Hence, Zan Rong never thought that Mark was strong enough and she even thought he might need her protection now that he doesn't have his Wu Weibao or Allen or the manticore beside him.

But, how would Mark know that the girl didn't know completely about him? He expressed his displeasure right away and before she reacted to it, he put pressure on her for the sake of protecting his own dignity.

The gravitational force erupted from him, creating a gravity dome in over a km range.

Zan Rong was hit with the pressure and she fell onto her knees. Looking down at her, Mark let out a smile as he said, "I'm a short-tempered egoist. So, just because I'm nice, don't take my patience for granted, alright?"

Zan Rong gritted her teeth in anger. Her impression of Mark only worsened further. She was surprised that Mark turned out to be stronger but that doesn't mean she thinks she is weak.

Rather than submitting to his strength, she responded with a shout, "You are strong, alright? But, you can only do this because of the seal on my cultivation. Don't overestimate yourself, Lu Zhen."

Mark felt irked by her behavior and he decided to teach her a lesson, believing that it is for her sake when it is just because his ego was hurt. That's all.

He scrolled up in the skill section and clicked on another skill.

"Activate, Seal Breaker."

Mysterious symbols appeared on his palm before they joined together in a circle. Mark pushed his hand forth toward her forehead.

Zan Rong's eyes widened. For a second, she thought this fellow is trying to kill her.

But then, in the next second, she felt the wake-up of ether particles that were in a dormant state until now. She felt the surge of strength. "My cultivation realm has returned?"

Mark retracted his hand and said, "There you go. Now, you can exert your full strength. Go on and try to break out."

Zan Rong tried to stand up but she couldn't move from the spot. Her legs felt too heavy. Even her ether particles seemed like they were paralyzed on the spot.

"You... Just who in the hell are you?" Zan Rong asked with a pale look upon realizing that she was at the mercy of this fellow.

"Just a weapon seller who cares about Allen and the one who can get you home, back at Earth. It will be quite helpful if you stop being a brat and listen to your elders once in a while. Now, I'm going to free you. If you continue to be uncooperative, then, don't blame me for what happens next. So, behave, Alright?"

Zan Rong stared at him for a few seconds and in the end, she nodded in agreement. "Fine, you win."

She didn't have thoughts of attacking him over such an incident. Instead, she plans to run away from him when the opportunity arises.

As for the so-called tracking seal on her, she believed, she can remove it with the help of the high elf priestess at the palace. She just needed to get back to the palace. Until then, she planned to cooperate with Mark.

Chapter 455 A weird ritual in Void Temple: Xin Rui's vow of revenge

In the sky, the divine throne was flying at hypersonic speeds in the form of a fighter that looks like an F-14 Tomcat. Mark was sitting in the pilot seat but he wasn't piloting at all. He just sat in the front and let the girl sit in the back.

There's a reason why he transformed the divine throne into such an appearance. He wants to give Zan Rong peace of mind.

He thought it is best if she doesn't see his face for a while after the recent incident as she might not be in the mood to talk. Once her bad mood subsides, he hoped for things to become normal.

They traveled for a couple of hours before ending up at a place that seemed like a large city. However, almost all the buildings were damaged and dark creatures could be seen roaming here and there.

Some of them are two-legged, some of them are four-legged, some of them even have wings, and most of the two-legged ones have weapons like swords, staffs, and bows in their hands. However, all of their bodies are just made up of skeletons.

And the strongest of them all is an undead dragon, which is sleeping on top of a large mansion located in the heart of the city.

From about five hundred meters away high in the sky, Mark was observing the situation through his sniper rifle. Zan Rong roughly judged the situation and reached out to Mark's shoulder, tapping it.

As Mark turned his head, she said in a worried tone, "Let's go."

"You don't want to check for the survivors?" asked Mark.

Zan Rong shrugged her shoulders and replied, "Not my family or friends. I don't care whether they live or die. For me, getting back home is most important right now."

Usually, Mark also has the same opinion as her, but he didn't expect his brother's girlfriend to turn out to be indifferent to the lives of others but extremely care about her family. For a moment, he felt like seeing himself in the mirror.

However, Mark doesn't agree with her demand. He has quests to finish and there is a good opportunity before him.

Hence, he equipped the Exo-skeleton suit and exited the plane, leaving his future sis-in-law alone in the floating plane.

"Hey, wait... where are you going?" She slammed the window glass on her side as she looked at Mark, but she only received a response of a two-finger salute from Mark before he dived down toward the city.

Meanwhile, inside the dimly lit mansion, a tanned male elf was seen soundly sleeping on a bed.

At the same moment, Mark's feet touched the ground, his eyes opened, which were scarlet in color and glowing. The veins were black in color contrary to the usual red in elves or humans.

He took a deep breath and sniffed like an animal. A wide grin immediately escaped his mouth, "A strong prey, not an elf but another race. Regardless, I'm going to have a great feast..."

Boom *Boom* Boom*

The sounds of explosions were heard continuously far away from the distance and they were getting louder each second.

The elf sprung up from the bed, get out of the room, run downstairs to the exit to see what was happening outside.

He went outside and blew out a whistle.

The undead dragon landed before him and the elf mounted on top of it.

As it flapped its wings and slowly rose a hundred meters high into the air, the elf saw the scene of dozens of metallic puppets armed with unique weapons destroying everything in the city.

And there's someone floating in the sky with a weapon placed under his armpits.

"What the..."

Meanwhile, back on Earth-43;

Void Temple, Dragon Empire;

In the northernmost region of the most powerful empire in the world lies the mountain range of Huangdi, where the temperatures are usually below 10 degrees Celsius even in the hottest summer.

The place is home to several lakes, mountains, spirit beasts, and even high-ranking dungeons, but the most famous of them all is the Void Peak, a mountain known to be the tallest mountain with more than 9800-meter altitude.

Still, one could see houses all over the mountain as they trekked to the top. An ancient temple is sitting on the top of the mountain, looking over the world like a king on the throne.

Ascending the stone staircase, dragon guardians, adorned in gold and gemstones, lead to colossal doors unveiling a resplendent interior. Within, vibrant tapestries depict celestial beings, while ethereal murals merge landscapes with celestial realms.

The sanctum houses a statue of a dragon, which is glossy black in color. However, it doesn't mean it is a black dragon. It is called a Void Dragon, a deity known as the Dragon God.

The entire statue is made of Adamantium and other myriad materials; this mere 20ft statue weighs like 1 million tons.

No one knows who created it but according to the history, someone who trekked the mountain some unknown time ago and found the statue sitting on the top of the mountain. The temple was then built around it.

When one would hear such a description, one would assume that this place is something like a holy site.

However, the reality is vastly different from the imagination of a commoner who never gets to visit it.

In the sanctum, right where the statue of an ancient deity is present, a couple was having sex in their naked states while several old men and women in their long robes were staring at them in silence. There was a large circle around the couple with mystical symbols inscribed here and there.

This was going on for more than three hours already and neither of them was willing to finish it. If one would look at their facial expressions, it's clear that lust has disappeared long ago and they were no longer enjoying.

Instead, each of them looked quite fierce and they were trying their best to be in a dominant position. Meanwhile, the elders stayed in their spots like statues. No one has any sort of expression on their face. They were completely calm.

Suddenly, the woman's movements became faster as she took the dominant position on the top and her fingers are ravaging his as*h*le while forcefully blocking his legs that are spread apart. The man tried to get up but he was pressed down very hard.

"Arghhh..."

The man let out a loud scream as he ejaculated the semen into her womb. The moment he did, panic appeared on his face and there was a smile on the woman.

"Wait..."

He was about to say something but the mystical symbols lit up around them and both of them were enveloped by threads of energy.

"No... Wait... please... No..." The man started begging but the ritual can no longer be stopped. Very soon, his entire body disintegrated into thousands of thin light needles before flowing into her body.

"Aaaaa" The lady screamed in pain as each needle pierced her body before merging with her ether particles.

She continuously screamed for the next couple of minutes and the tears were flowing down her cheek like a river, but the pain only magnified over time.

Finally, the last needle merged with her ether particles, and her pain subsided and she collapsed onto the ground.

An elder with Supreme Realm cultivation then walked forward and stopped before her. As she raised her head with dried-up tears, he spoke with indifference, "Good job, Xin Rui. You managed to hold out well and make the breakthrough to the legendary realm. Using my authority as one of the Grand Elders of Void Temple, I hereby grant you the status of Elder."

"Welcome, Elder Xin," the rest of the elders spoke out in unison while bowing slightly as a formality.

The woman with beautiful emerald eyes let out a forced smile and cupped her fists with a bow, "Thank you, Master."

"Now, go and dress up," said the Grand Elder as he turned around to walk away.

Xin Rui walked toward the group in silence. They gave her the way. As she went past them, her facial expression changed and she grit her teeth with clear hatred in her eyes, "The legendary realm. I'm now powerful enough to seek justice for my family. But, I'm not strong enough to have my revenge. I need one more breakthrough.

Once I step into the 9-circle realm, the Dragon Empire will burn. The princes will die one after another without knowing why or how. I will force the Emperor to kneel before my father's tomb and apologize for his mistake. Until then, I need to keep this rage in myself."

Chapter 456 Battle with the Demonic Elf

Earth 486, the world of Elves;

Ixitus Empire;

As Mark's robotic army gets busy massacring every undead creature on the ground, he went on in a staring contest against the corrupted elf and his undead dragon. Or atleast, that's what it appeared in Zan Rong's view.

The elf was trying to gauge Mark's strength but he couldn't sense anything. Obviously, Mark cannot be a mortal when he was seen flying even with wearing some kind of armor. Hence, the elf was sure that it is a formidable foe and this excited him instead of getting him worried.

Meanwhile, Mark was reading all the information displayed on the floating holographic screen in front of his eyes.

The guy is named Elendir and he was supposed to be a 7-circle realm Spirit Warrior. However, due to the corruption by the demonic souls that merged with his, the cultivation was raised to the 8-circle realm.

As for the undead dragon, it was a Red Drake of 6-circle-realm. The elf killed the beast and turned it into an undead by sharing some of his demonic energy. It lost its skin and organs in the process but had its strength rise to the next realm.

A purple-colored sphere was seen behind its ribcage and one could only kill it by destroying this energy sphere. Until then, the undead kept on coming back to its previous state no matter how many times it gets destroyed.

Mark, however, wasn't that concerned about it or its master. Since he's more like an undead elf, he felt like he doesn't need to hold back or anything. Not to mention, without making any sacrifices (killing the people and absorbing their souls), he cannot summon the demon either.

Hence, Mark decided to go with a big attack. Shifting the Staff of Blessing to his left hand, Mark then stretched his right hand forward and conjured a Spear made of Ice.

His hand could feel nothing but the elf could sense how cold the ice in his opponent's hand is. He summoned a low-quality semi-divine bow (Diamond grade) and conjured the arrow made of dark energy, not intending to just check out his power anymore.

He quickly fired it before Mark get to release the ice spear. The latter saw it but instead of dodging or making any counterattack, he tightly grabbed the spear and flew forward, taking the elf by surprise.

The arrow made of dark energy reached Mark and struck his chest. However, it didn't pierce the suit and just bounced off after its tip was broken into pieces.

The elf's face hardened and he ordered the undead dragon to attack while he closed his eyes and started conjuring another energy arrow which has higher deposits of dark energy.

Meanwhile, the Undead Dragon opened its mouth and breathes out a noxious dense cloud, covering a large area like a thick fog.

Mark, however, didn't face any problem due to the suit's enhanced vision and he continued to fly straight into that cloud, keeping his confidence in high resistance points.

Once he entered the cloud, the toxic gases in the surroundings entered his body through his nose and attacked his insides.

Mark didn't feel anything and didn't think too much about the cloud for the next few seconds until he received a sudden notification from the system.

*Ding! You received a debuff. Resistance activated. Your life force is being drained by 1 day per every second.

"What the..." Mark quickly changed his path as soon as he saw the notification on the holographic screen floating before him when he was about halfway to exiting the cloud.

He quickly changed his path and flew higher, escaping the cloud.

*Ding! Estimated time until all the gas disappears: 28 seconds.

"Damn it..." Mark gritted his teeth in anger. His arms bulged and his veins popped up under the suit as he tightly grabbed the spear even more. Criticizing himself for underestimating a weakling, he threw the Ice Spear.

The Ice Spear cut through the noxious cloud like lightning and made its way toward the elven warrior, who was almost at the end of completing the skill.

The Undead Dragon let out a breath of dark energy to counterattack the Spear, but the Ice Spear was unstoppable. Within a couple of seconds, the Ice Spear struck the undead beast's head and froze it just as the elf finished conjuring the arrow.

As the undead dragon was frozen in ice and started falling toward the ground, the elf leaped high from its back and aimed at Mark. The arrow appeared to be far more powerful than the past one. The energy was quite dense and corrosive.

*Ding! Incoming attack. The undead energy is highly corrosive to the extent of melting down the suit as long as it was given enough time.

Mark didn't get the time to read everything. But, thankfully, he was filled with so much anger that he decided not to give any opportunity for his energy to attack.

The moment he released the Ice Spear, Mark already opened the skills window and went on to click another skill.

"Gravity Dome, 200g, Activate"

Upon unleashing the Gravity Dome, every creature in his 1000-meter range, apart from his robot soldiers that are augmented by the Staff of Blessing, were found stuck onto the ground. The only thing that was resisting the effect is the Divine throne that was in the form of an aircraft floating in the sky.

The elf wasn't able to fire the Arrow of Death as the external gravitational force pushed him to the ground and pressed him hard.

Only then did Mark finally read the notification from the system and sighed in a bit of relief that he made the right decision. He then proceeded to land on the ground and started walking toward the elf while his life force continued to slip away at a slow pace.

"So, Mr. Elinder of the Fireheart clan, I have questions for you," said Mark as he crouched nearby the elf and looked at him coldly. He was trying his best to not kill the enemy, feeling like the information is worth his patience. After reducing the gravity from 200g to 100g so that the elf could answer, Mark then spoke, "Let's start with the strength of your leader and his location."

The elf's eyes widened and his pupils dilated while his voice quivered as he responded, "How?"

Chapter 457 Interrogating the Demonic Elf

The elf wasn't shocked because his identity got revealed by the enemy. He wasn't also shocked by how the enemy overpowered him easily. Those numbers are quite high in this realm.

He just couldn't comprehend the fact that Mark crushed him to the ground using Gravity Dome.

As Mark tried to interrogate him, the elf named Elinder roared back with a look of shock and anger on his face, "How in the hell you acquired this power? There is no way you can control the gravitational force unless you are from the Void realm. But, you clearly look different from him."

"Void realm?" Mark didn't understand what this elf was spouting. He heard of the Void Temple but never heard of this Void Realm. Maybe, it is where the Void Dragons are available? With the cores of these dragons, the system made the upgrade crystals.

However, Elinder's words made one thing clear. There's someone who can also control the gravity.

Well, since the system listed the Gravity attribute in the store, it should be possible someone had this attribute in this infinite universe. And perhaps, Void Realm is like some other earth in some plane of existence.

Or so, Mark thought and threw away those useless thoughts in a jiffy, putting his focus on his immediate goal.

Consuming another 20% of his ether energy, he summoned one more Ice Spear in his hand and then spoke while almost touching the elf's right eye with it, "I'm the one who asks the questions, not you. Now, I will ask you a question one after another and when I do, I expect every answer from you within five seconds, or else, you are going to die. Understand?"

As the elf stared at him with fear written on his face, Mark further reduced the gravity to 50g and asked, "Where can I find your direct superior who you will answer and follow the orders?"

The elf quickly answered while panting like a dog, "Osyhlona City. His name is Kragen."

"Good." Mark let out a smile and went to the next question, "Second, who is the leader of you guys, the corrupted elves, and what about his/her cultivation level?"

With his heart rate at its peak, Elinder replied quickly once again, this time lengthy explanation, "Eol, the Great. He is our king, the one who freed us from the evil Ixitus Empire. He is a supreme being (peak-9-circle). However, the one who you have to worry about is not him. It is Prime Minister Vexiron.

From what I know, he is of a superior race called the Makyan with origins in the Void realm and at least has the cultivation level of a demigod. He can control gravity just like you, but on a large scale and with more power.

Because of them, we were liberated from the royal family. And I received the power of death, which is even superior to necromancy."

"Hmm... A demigod, eh?" Mark's lips curled up beneath his suit. He felt like he doesn't have to worry anymore, contrary to what the elf has expected. Now, he was just wondering what else he can find out from this guy.

However, Elinder thought that Mark who stayed like a statue was in deep thinking. The elf was under the impression that he successfully intimidated the enemy or atleast, make him distract for a moment.

Intending to take the enemy by surprise, Elinder closed his eyes and concentrated on his ether energy.

Since his ether energy was being suppressed by this invisible pressure, he was thinking about expelling all of it to repel every force on his body. He was sure that the undead energy will surely hurt the opponent and he could use this time to escape.

And just in about five seconds, dark-colored energy erupted from the elf and suddenly struck Mark, who was standing just a few inches away. The ice spear that was threatening the life of the elf was corrupted by the dark energy and started dissolving.

However, to the surprise of the elf, his body didn't move an inch from the spot. The force was clearly not enough to physically hurt Mark's body which has more than 9 points of strength and has a highly durable suit equipped.

Unlike the toxic gases, the energy couldn't invade his body. However, the suit wasn't completely immune to the corrosive nature of the undead energy.

Once again, Mark received a notification as the suit started melting down.

*Ding! Exo Skeleton's suit-VIII's durability is being reduced by 1% for every 60 seconds. Estimated time for the complete meltdown: 10 minutes.

*Ding! The host could nullify the debuff on the suit with a purification stone. Purchase and apply for 50,000 credits?

"Do it," screamed Mark in his head before leaving the Ice spear and growling, "Maximum."

The gravitational force in the gravity dome increased to 200g instantly, forcing the elf to get crushed back to the ground.

"Arghhh..." Elinder, whose ether energy reserves became empty, could no longer be able to resist the effect of increased gravitational force.

His blood vessels ruptured; his vital organs were damaged, including his heart and brain; his skeleton couldn't bear the pressure for a longer time. The sounds of breaking were heard, although, by that time, the elf's life was already gone.

All the undead beasts connected to him and were currently had their bones broken into dozens of pieces just turned into specks of dust at the same time. Only the frozen undead dragon was still alive, but the red glow in its eyes turned white.

"Okay, done." Mark went to the next step.

"Open, Orb of Bael"

The holographic screen with an illustration of a tea kettle appeared before his eyes. Below the image, there is a clickable option with the word, "absorb."

Mark clicked on it.

In the next second, the elf's soul in the form of a wisp escaped his corpse and flew into the screen as the lid of the kettle opened. Before, it used to be a circle showing the percentage, but Wil requested the system to change the appearance as it seemed a bit boring.

Once the soul was absorbed by the system's function, 'Orb of Bael', the kettle is seen as only 45% filled.

<nulli>"Only 45%? He is a legendary realm expert though," Mark was just about to blame the system for purposely making things harder for him. However, before he did that, the system surprisingly had given him the reply on its own.

*Ding! Elinder's soul is corrupted. Mind I remind the host that the percentage depends on not just the strength of the soul but also its purity?

"Ah, that's right." Mark suddenly felt like he had become dumb. Even earlier, he was too careless and the result was the loss of 50,000 credits, i.e. 250,000 gold coins. Not just that, he even lost 28 days of life force from his body.

For what? Nothing...

He might have gotten some Intel on the enemy and gotten to use the Staff of Blessing, but still, it didn't make him feel any better even when he tried to convince himself.

It was then his eyes fell on the undead beast that couldn't escape the frozen state but still isn't dying either.

"Hmm... how about...?"

A thought came to his mind and he immediately opened the skills section with a smirk on his face, "That toxic gas released by this beast is something worth researching."

He proceeded to click on the "Taming" skill.

*Ding! Proceed to lock onto the target?

Chapter 458 Unseen consequences and unexpected saviors

After a while;

In the skies of the Ixitus Empire, Zan Rong was seen flying on the top of an undead drake while closely being followed by Mark in his suit. The Divine throne was resting in Mark's inventory as his companion had to lead him to their next destination.

Mark manipulated Zan Rong to abandon her original path and made her follow his way by revealing all the details he could conclude from the quests. As for how he knew all the details? With a straight face, he blatantly lied to her that he extracted memories from the elf before killing him.

Zan Rong also believed him as she knew Mark was someone capable of achieving unimaginable feats. Furthermore, she had to rely on him now that their world has fallen and she wasn't sure if her allies are still alive or not.

Hence, despite her disgust toward undead beings, she still cooperated with him and flew on top of the undead drake and acted as the guide.

With Zan Rong taking the lead, they made their way to Osyhlona city, which is not more than a 30-minute journey considering the fact that the undead drake's flying speed exceeds 300 km/hr.

Much like the previous one, Osylona city also looked quite desolated with ruined buildings everywhere, undead beasts aimlessly roaming around, and little to no signs of life around.

It means there would be no problem if Mark goes all out and destroys everything he sees.

Or so this weapon seller thought at first, but then, a notification from the system changed his mind.

As they reached the skies above the city, Mark ordered Zan Rong to stop as he stared at the notification screen before him.

*Ding! Your Quest "Find the Princess" has been updated.

Quest: Save the princess

Description: The Princess is in captive of an Elven lord named Kragen. Defeat him and save the princess.

Reward: Rank-7 Android

*Ding! You received a new emergency quest

Quest: Free the slaves

Description: Hundreds of elves were imprisoned by Kragen and were used to mine Orichalcum ore lying on the outskirts of Osyhlona city. Give them the freedom.

Note: the mission is considered successful as long as more than 70% of them successfully escape with their lives intact.

Reward: Upgrade stone (normal)

Accept?

Mark's smile beneath the suit widened in excitement. Seeing him clenching his fist, Zan Rong misunderstood that her companion was probably shaken by something he saw in the city.

She doesn't know what that is, but since she is already in the boat, she had to make it her business. Not to mention the fact that she had to display her true strength so that Mark stops thinking that she is a person that needs his protection.

Without waiting for Mark's approval, she summoned her semi-divine weapon and jumped from the back of the undead drake, startling the weapon seller. "This woman..." He cursed under his breath and followed behind her while telepathically ordering the drake to target the undead.

Thud

A small crater was formed as Zan Rong landed on her foot while a layer of ether energy protected her legs. Her grip on the staff was tightened as the nearby undead monsters smelled her presence and rushed toward her as if they found a delicacy.

She raised the staff above her head and ether energy flew into the staff, making it glow before she slammed its bottom tip onto the ground with a roar.

"Die"

Mark was stunned for a moment as dozens of unknown tree roots that were as thick as 2ft-4ft erupted from the ground and shot toward the incoming monsters.

"Damn, she has got some skills. No wonder she acts arrogant," He muttered under his breath.

In an instant, at least thirty of them were captured by these roots and then were squashed into bits of pieces. The remaining three of them successfully evaded the attack and lunged at their prey.

Just as Mark was about to take action to save her, he saw ether energy was pushed out of his companion and transformed into a suit of armor, blocking their attacks.

Zan Rong then swung her staff like a baseball bat, blasting them away for at least a hundred meters. They crashed onto the walls of the buildings.

"Hmpf, weaklings," Zan Rong let out a snort and then raised her head to look at the floating figure above her. She looked at him as if she wanted some sort of praise as a comment.

However, Mark didn't react as she expected. Instead of confronting her for being reckless or praising her for her power, he just spoke indifferently, "You can keep having fun here. I'm going after the main boss and finish this quickly. The undead drake will take care of your back."

After informing her of his decision, he flew toward the fort built on top of a hill at his fastest speed, hoping that his enemy would be there.

Quite surprisingly, when Mark neared the fort, he saw the enemy was already waiting for him. An elf with demonic horns was seen silently flapping his large red wings and calmly looking at him as if he wasn't surprised by Mark's exoskeleton suit.

With a look at his details, Mark realized that this was Kragen, one of the five dukes of the empire. His cultivation level might be at low-9-circle but he is a high elf, which is considered royal bloodline and that also means his ether quality is at the peak grade and has the knowledge of unique skills. Furthermore, he appears to have dual cultivation paths. One of them is a mage and the other is a Seer.

Usually, his identity and calmness would make his opponents wary but Mark was different from the rest. He doesn't think much of anyone below Saint Realm (12-circle) because of the trump cards he possesses.

Stopping a few meters away from the enemy, Mark then spoke, "You are Kragen, I suppose?"

The Duke of Reiren calmly commented in response, putting forth a proposal, "I'm waiting for you, the human from the mortal plane. You, who have the bloodline of a divine beast, are not an enemy of mine. So, I shall give you what you want as long as you shall not involve in the affairs of His Majesty. You can take the princess and return to your world with her."

Mark was slightly taken aback by the unexpected proposal from the enemy in their first meeting. But then, as he took another look at the holographic screen where Kragen's profession is written, Mark felt like the guy probably saw this coming.

The question is to what extent. The one who knows the future often has the leverage and Mark doesn't want to risk anything that can jeopardize his rewards.

After thinking for a bit, Mark replied with a nod, "Alright. As long as you release the princess, I swear I will return without making any trouble."

It was then the Duke of Reiren suddenly raised his hand. Mark became alert and thought the enemy is going to attack. Instead, Kragen snapped his fingers and an unconscious figure appeared in his arms. The beautiful lady has some sort of energy collar around her neck.

"This collar is my leverage, human. You make one mistake, and she dies. I hope you keep on your word," spoke Kragen as he released her.

The unconscious lady slowly started floating toward Mark as the latter instantly activated his ocular powers because of how easy this mission was going. A person like Mark wouldn't even easily believe the words of his mother, much less a stranger and that too, a corrupted elf.

The reality surprised him once again as the floating lady indeed the princess of the royal family of Ixitus Empire.

She didn't appear to be corrupted either and her status showed that she is only unconscious, not afflicted with any curse. As for the collar, it wasn't even the skill. It is just an application of the control of ether energy.

Nevertheless, Mark didn't let down his guard, remembering how his overconfidence cost him several days' worth of life force. Eventually, he grabbed the lady and turned his attention back to Kragen.

The Duke of Reiner then said, "I hold up the end of my bargain. You can now leave our world. The nearest teleportation formation is located 50 kilometers to the east, on a small island in the middle of Reiner Lake."

*Ding! You completed the quest. The reward has been sent to the inventory. "Seriously?" Mark couldn't just believe how easy the quest was over without lifting a finger. He could barely control his excitement as he opened the inventory to immediately check what kind of android he received.

It was at that moment, all of a sudden, mysterious markings appeared on the energy collar over the lady's neck at once and released a sealing technique onto Mark.

"Fu*k..."

Mark was struck by a mysterious force and lost consciousness instantly.

*Ding! The divine power of a True God (peak-14-circle) invaded the host's body and mindscape. The system is going offline in 5 seconds to protect its secret.

*Ding! The host's cultivation is sealed by the foreign power.

*Ding! The host memories are locked to protect the secrets of the system.

Mark and the elf started free-falling onto the ground. Kragen quickly flapped his wings and flew toward them and caught them.

Landing on the ground, he threw away the princess without a care and then looked at Mark in seriousness, <nulli>"I wonder what kind of seal was that and which god handed such power to His Majesty."

"We too wonder the same, Mr. Kragen."

Two unfamiliar voices were heard behind Kragen, taking him by surprise as he didn't sense their presence until now. When he did, he realized that both of them are in the same realm as himself.

Just as he turned his head around in shock, his eyes witnessed the blurriness of a blade before it sliced his neck, separating his head from the rest of his body.

Chapter 459 Forgotten Memories and a Deity's Secret Scheme

Two days later at Sylvandrial Dominion;

In a village hidden deep inside the largest forest of Earth-486, almost all elves above 15 regardless of their skin color, gender, and bloodline were seen in armor as they roamed around.

Created by Sylvandria, the former high priestess of the Empire, this place is currently the only location on the planet with an elven population that is not corrupted.

Zan Rong was greeting everyone on the way as she was carrying a basket full of veggies and fruits. She made it to one of the nicely-built treehouses and entered the living room only to see two teenagers arguing with each other about a move in the game of chess they were playing.

"Stop it, you two," shouted the woman as she walked toward them. After gaining their attention, she went on scolding them, "People could hear you two even from the ground. Behave your status, will ya? You are supreme beings for god sake."

"Sorry" "Sorry"

Both of them apologized at the same time as they sat on their knees.

Zan Rong stared at the mischievous brats for a few seconds and let out a sigh, "forget it. James, go and wash the vegetables. Steve, you are in charge of cutting as usual."

"Yes, ma'am" "Yes, ma'am"

Zan Rong's body shivered by their reply and she immediately spoke, "For the last time, stop calling me that way. I'm not old."

"But, you are older than us." Both of them spoke at the same time once again. Their expressions looked so innocent that Zan Rong's frustration increased even more. In the end, she sighed once again and told them to get onto it.

As the two teenagers hurried to complete their tasks, Zan Rong went to the bedroom, where Mark was seen lying unconscious on a wooden cot. With a look of frustration clearly evident on her face, she sighed one more time as she sat on the chair beside the bed, "When will you wake up, Lu Zhen? You are not even in a coma, according to High Priestess. Unless you wake up and help those kids, they won't take me to the world where my Allen was stranded. And their extraordinary cultivation realm made it impossible for me to convince them otherwise. Sigh..."

Just as she was wondering whether she should forcefully wake him up by pouring water on his face, she heard a grunt escape from Mark all of a sudden.

Zan Rong sprung up from the seat in surprise and looked at her companion.

Mark's hands moved to grab his head before he slowly woke up like someone who drank heavily the previous night. "Ugh..."

As he shook his head a few times while grabbing his hair, Zan Rong patted his shoulder, "Are you fine?"

"Hmm?" Upon listening to a familiar voice, Mark stopped struggling with his headache and looked at the young lady. He appeared quite surprised, "Huh? Mari? It's you, isn't it? Allen's friend."

"Eh?" Zan Rong was slightly taken aback at first because of his words and his usage of the English language from her world but she nodded with a smile and replied, "Of course, it's me."

"I knew it at first glance." Mark's face glowed in excitement. As if he received a boost of energy and became completely sober, he sat straight as he asked a series of questions, "Where is Allen? Are you still in contact with him? By the way, how did you find me? I thought I was a goner for sure. Anyway, did the police or army personnel stop by? What did you say to them? It doesn't seem like I'm at a hospital. Where am I anyway?"

Never in the world did she expect Mark to react in a strange manner that just doesn't make sense to her. He was behaving like a completely different person.

In shock, she couldn't help but stare at him with several thoughts popping up in her head. The thought of Mark becoming insane made her worried a bit.

"Hello? Hello? Miss Marina Zan?" He snapped his fingers twice, getting her back to reality. She reacted with just one question, "Wait a second. Let me ask you something. What was the last thing you remembered?"

Mark grabbed his chin and fell into thoughts, "Hmm... where was I? I blew up that secret R&D facility of that mafia king and escaped on a boat with my comrades only to get shot several bullets and fell into the ocean, isn't it? After that, everything is blank." His eyes then fell on the lady and continued with his thinking, "Mari definitely looked older than I last met her but for some reason, her appearance doesn't surprise me. Did we meet recently? But, what happened to me? I was in a coma or something? Wait a second? How do I know for sure that she isn't with some organization? The fact that she appeared familiar somehow makes me wonder whether she is a part of the mafia gang too. Everything feels suspicious. But, if she's innocent and this is a misunderstanding, I'm gonna disappoint my brother. I wonder if they were dating or still friends. Let's just act carefully without leaking any secrets and see if there's anything unusual before taking any action."

He shook off his thoughts and then took a deep breath to become completely calm before continuing to converse with the lady, "My memory is still a bit hazy. I just remembered getting honey-trapped by a girl and getting abducted by a mafia gang. After that, it is quite blurry."

"Huh? Honey trap? Mafia gang? What bullshit this guy is spouting? Did he really go insane? Or did it really happen at some point in his life when he visited my planet? If so, how many years ago was that?" Zan Rong's worries heightened immediately. She swallowed her saliva and asked another question, "Let me ask you something. Do you happen to know a person named Song Yue?"

"Song Yue? Who is that?" Mark blinked his eyes twice as he responded with confusion. "Your friend or something?"

Zan Rong's face suddenly became pale when she heard his response. This time, she was sure that Mark lost his memories. "Wait here... I'll return in a second."

In a panic, she turned around and swiftly left the room, bringing back the pair of teenagers with her.

Both of them looked happy as they saw Mark, who stepped down from the bed. And one of them looked so happy that tears welled up in his eyes. The boy named Steve couldn't stop himself from rushing forward and giving a tight hug to Mark, taking him and Zan Rong by surprise, "I'm glad that you woke up, Dad."

"Dad?" "Dad?"

A strange silence filled the room for the new few seconds.

"What the f..."

Meanwhile, in the plane of celestials, a figure shrouded in a blinding flash of light opened her eyes and let out a smile, <nulli>"He woke up quicker than I prophesized. No wonder it chose him as the host. Nevertheless, the orb of creation cannot escape, and neither can it hide for very long. Before it makes any counterattack or

someone else finds it out, I have to firmly assimilate my energy with his body so that I can harvest it when the time comes. Once the orb falls into my hands, I will have the power to overthrow the Jade Emperor."

Chapter 460 Chronicles of Frozen Time: A Reckless Journey to Save the Past

Year 18, Age of Mark;

Earth 43, Plane of Ice and Fire;

At the shores of a beautiful frozen lake in the wilderness, six teenagers were seen sitting together and having a chat or more like arguing with each other.

"No, it is too risky, Steve. You never operated it before," said a girl with pointy ears. She was frowning in displeasure.

"C'mon, it's not like we are some mortals that we needed to worry about such risks. We can even breathe in space," replied Steve. He added, "And it's not fair that only the eldest brother is allowed. We are not weaker than him in any way."

"Then, why don't you tell it to Dad and convince him?" The elven girl argued.

"If uncle knew about it, you will be grounded this time for sure and even your mom won't be able to save you," a male with pointy ears supported her. He was her twin.

Another human girl joined the argument. Aged 16 but with large round spectacles and some book in her hand, she spoke, "And even with success, there are consequences to time travel, Steve. Eldest brother understands that but you don't. You are reckless and bound to cause trouble, putting the history at risk of alteration."

Steve got frustrated. His feelings were clearly evident on his face which reddened. He couldn't help but shout at her, "I know the consequences of time travel, alright? I don't need you, clever clogs, to teach me what is right and wrong. Get lost, glasses."

"Hmpf, whatever." The girl with glasses didn't take his words much seriously and opened the book to continue her reading.

"Hey, that's not a way to treat your sister" "Steve, what are you doing? How dare you talk to her like that?" As the two elven twins started scolding Steve and the latter provoking them into a battle, the eldest of this group decided to end this pointless argument by coming in support of Steve, changing the equations in an instant.

Named Silver, the 17-year-old spoke, "Everyone, calm down for a second. Uncle Allen gave the spaceship to Steve as a birthday present. It is his right to use it however he wishes. And in the worst case, I'll request my mom to use the orb of chaos and cover up his mess. Of course, he will be facing consequences for that, but for now, we should give him an opportunity to prove himself that he is responsible too."

When Silver spoke of his opinion, the elves immediately calmed down and agreed with him. It was then the last remaining sibling, who didn't actively participate in the argument and stayed neutral until now, responded, "I will go with Steve, just in case."

"And don't worry, I'll just go to a few years back and make sure that I won't meet you, fellas," added Steve, looking quite a bit annoyed that people are not taking his opinion seriously. As the others agreed, Steve and James boarded a spaceship that looked more like a spider.

Once they got in and the doors were locked, Steve rushed toward the control system and started setting the time period.

Walking toward him, the curious sibling asked, "Where are we going?"

Steve then let out a smile, "To the Empire of Ixitus, 19 years prior."

"Wait a second." James was stunned for a moment. "You can't be serious. Just now you told..."

Steve cut him off as he pulled up the levers and pressed the switch, "Sorry bro, but I lied. We are going to save Dad by altering his timeline."

"What? But, that might..." Before James speaks anything, the time ship, otherwise known as the Chronos, launched toward space at the speed of light before eventually turning into specks of light and disappearing from the timeline.

After an unknown time;

In the skies of Ixitus Empire, during the time when chaos is occurring all over the world due to demonic possession, a portal opened and specks of light emerged from it before turning back into a time ship, only to crash on the ground and make a large crater instead of a soft landing.

"Ugh" "Ugh"

Groaning in pain, both of them got out of the ship. "Fu*k, you have really messed up this time, Steve," said James with a pale face. Seeing the dazed expression on his brother who was staring at a holographic screen, which could be seen by anyone but not the contents written on it, he asked, "Where are we stranded, anyways?"

Steve answered, "The location is correct but not the timeline. We have landed 194 days before Dad visits this world."

"Oh, boy," James shook his head.

Back to the Present;

At the tree house in Sylvandrial Dominion, Earth 486;

"And that is how we ended up here," said the 14-year-old Steve, explaining the whole disbelief.

Mark was the first to get out of his shock and spoke in English, "Let me get this story while leaving up some important details.

A long silence filled the room as Mark and Zan Rong stared at the teenagers in disbelief.

Mark was the first to get out of his shock and spoke in English, "Let me get this straight. I died and reincarnated as Lu Zhen, a prince of the Shang Dynasty in some fantasy world where people have superpowers from the comics. Both of you are my sons from the future and you came here in the time ship that I built to save me from some sort of disaster. In the process, your ship has been wrecked and both of you are stranded here for the past few months. Now, you need me to repair the ship too? Correct?"

Steve and James nodded in unison.

Mark became silent for a couple of seconds and then roared suddenly, "Don't both of you brats realize how absurd you sound? Let me talk to your superior. If he needs something from me, I will cooperate. There's no need to make me a mental patient. And I demand the anti-dote for this strange drug you guys put in my body right now," He then turned his head and sternly looked at Zan Rong, who is also in shock, "And Mari, you haven't answered about Allen. I need to see or atleast talk with my brother if you could help me."

Zan Rong couldn't properly digest the fact that Lu Zhen was her brother-in-law or atleast in his past life. Suddenly, everything made sense to her. No wonder Lu Zhen knew about modern weapons. No wonder Lu Zhen knew English. And no wonder Lu Zhen is looking after her too. It was because he has the memories of his past life.

If she hears this a few years ago, it would sound too absurd, but after she experienced the world of elves and powers erupting from the ether energy, the concept of reincarnation doesn't sound ridiculous at all.

Little did she know that Mark didn't reincarnate, but transmigrated. However, whether Steve and James kept this secret or were unaware of the secret is something that stays as a mystery for now.

Back to Mark, as he was clearly refusing to believe their explanation, thinking that his senses were altered by some kind of drug that will make it seem like he was in a different body than his own, James could only let out a sigh and spoke, "Fine, suit yourself, dad. Consider yourself as our prisoner for now. Repair our ship and we will free you. Until then, the effects of the drug will stay inside you."

"James." Steve couldn't believe his brother would play along with their Dad instead of clearing the misunderstanding. As James gestured for him to trust him, Steve calmed down himself by assuming that

Mark will probably get to his senses once he experiences reality. He just needs to focus on protecting him. That will be enough.

"I knew it." Mark believed James' lie as it aligns with his theory. He added, "See, how easy it becomes if you kids just be truthful. Anyway, I have a bit of experience in handling jet engine repairs. Take me to the vehicle and let me take a look at it first."

Mark was obviously thinking about escape in his mind, but before making a plan, he would have to know the layout of the place he was in. He doesn't want to make the same mistake he did last time by resisting their orders from the start. This time, he decided to make them trust him.

It was at that moment the door at the front was knocked a couple of times before it was opened and a voice of a female was heard.

"Anyone home?"