

Seller 481

Chapter 481 Seven deadly sins once again: Unexpected lustful wife

*Ding! You receive an Emergency Quest, "Save your companions."

Quest: Save your companions

Description: Mage Vexiron fooled the host with a false death and possessed Princess Elowen. He also captured Zan Rong in his cursed diamond. The host must save both of them and end his life.

Reward: Battle Tank (Upgradable)

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After provoking Mark and the others to save their new monarch if they can, Elowen who was under the control of Vexiron disappeared into the diamond.

Thud

The cursed diamond fell on the platform.

Mark would usually have no interest in saving Elowen, and that too, when Sylvandria already gone inside; however, he was forced to go into the diamond to save her as not only there was a reward but even his future sister-in-law was also there.

If something happens to Zan Rong, he won't be able to look into his brother's eyes when they reunite in the future.

Of course, he wasn't a fool to walk into the trap without thinking about the risk.

Since the details of the diamond explicitly stated that it could only trap the people with demigods and the lower realm, Mark was confident that he could return safely as long as he would summon the divine throne and increase his stats to more than 11 points.

However, the result is vastly different from what he expected.

Mark found himself in the exact situation he didn't want to see himself in. He was trapped inside a story filled with seven deadly sins once again.

This time, although he was purely conscious, he was in an extremely embarrassing position, finding himself on a bed in a naked state.

An energy rope tied his hands and his eyes were covered by a cloth. However, there is someone on top of his private part, bouncing like a rabbit and screaming like a professional adult star from his past world.

Mark wanted to call out for the system but it was quite enjoyable for him. He wanted to take off his blind but as he tried to move, the woman would grab his hands and force him to focus on enjoying her riding and dirty talk.

This went on for atleast three minutes straight and she grabbed his cuffed hands to put around her body, kissing him deeply.

By this time, Mark was already filled with lust and he forgot about his original mission. In fact, he began to like this blind sex.

Eventually, he took control of the situation until he finished it and removed the black cloth over his eyes, only to get shocked by the person lying under him and looking at him with such lustful eyes.

"Sylvandria?" He couldn't help but let out a scream. The surprise was evident on his face.

The woman was surprised by his reaction. "Of course, it is me, my hubby. Who do you think it is going to be?" She furrowed her brows in displeasure.

Mark instantly realized that it was indeed the seven deadly sins, but how did this mage have such power? He became confused. "Quite possibly, Xalazar might have helped Vexiron during its creation," He assumed.

The last time he was trapped in such a story, he only got out after realizing that it was an illusion. But, this appeared to be different.

Mark didn't know how to escape and could only theorize in his mind that he must defeat his inner devils to get out of this place and save his companions.

"My hubby? Dear?"

Taking a deep breath, Mark then apologized, trying to check her personality in this story, "Nothing dear. Because of the blinder and your sexy voice, I momentarily forgot about you completely. Let's not do that again."

"Ah, okay," Contrary to her wild side during those intimate moments, she became calm and composed as she continued to speak, "Anyway, I want to say it at an appropriate time but I guess I'll tell you right now. We have received the invitation to attend the summit organized by the Dark Elves. I still haven't accepted it yet as it might seem to the Queen that we are formally siding with Mor Gondamin."

Mark doesn't know the story but doesn't want her to realize it and create hurdles for him. Hence, he answered, "Let me think about it for just one last time."

Sylvandria stared at him for a few seconds and nodded, "Fine. Let's sleep and talk in the morning."

The replica of the High priestess closed her eyes and fell asleep after a while, leaving behind Mark who was filled with various thoughts.

"System, are you there?" He asked in his head.

*Ding! Yes, host.

Seeing that there was a positive response, Mark felt relieved. He went on to ask, "How should I get out of here?"

*Ding! The host already knows the answer. Follow the storyline while defeating all the deadly sins in the process.

*Ding! A reminder: This world only could challenge the host with the three most powerful deadly sins, i.e. lust, greed, and pride.

*Ding! Another reminder: 100 days spent in this world is equivalent to 1 day in the outside world.

"Okay, thank you for the help," Mark felt grateful that the system has become more and more helpful lately. Instead of taking advantage of the situation, it was actively trying to help him in every grave situation. Of course, not assisting in some missions can be understandable as they were more of a choice.

Six days passed in the blink of an eye. Mark has become more used to this place, which is a complete replica of the Ixitus Empire.

The story is that Elowen Silverleaf is the reigning ruler of this world; Sylvandria is the former high priestess and was expelled from the kingdom due to the fact that she broke her oath of celibacy and fell in love with the hero.

The Hero, as in Lu Zhen, who defeated the demon emperor, married her and moved out of the kingdom. Apart from that, he also took in the corrupted elves as his own people instead of executing them.

The Empire gave him region and formed a pact in order to ensure that he stayed loyal to the throne. As a result, with a small demonic elf army, he was living in an independent village on a mountain.

As for Zan Rong's replica, Mark never heard about her. But then again, as he knew that everyone was merely an illusion, he could care less about the girl and focused more on defeating the deadly sins by exercising control over them.

However, he realized that this task was almost next to impossible. He could never control his lust.

Only six days had passed and he slept with his wife, Sylvandria, 23 times already. Every time, the session would last a minimum of 30 minutes and goes as long as 90 minutes sometimes. Yet, he never felt tired or uninteresting, not even once. It was like he was fed with an aphrodisiac or something for every meal.

In the meantime, he also took the decision to take over this world by becoming the villain and eradicating all of life so that these so-called deadly sins would no longer pose an effect. They can only work if there are people.

Mark's thinking was simple.

What is the use of pride if there is no one to challenge him? What is the use of lust when there is no woman to sleep with? And what is the use of greed after achieving everything in the world?

Hence, he would do the same for his friends and even his so-called wife after killing his enemies.

Since spending 100 days here is equivalent to 1 day outside, he felt like he had enough time to accomplish everything.

As a result, he accepted that invitation and finally started the storyline six days after he walked into the trap.

Chapter 482 Sylvandria escaped the mind control? What does it mean?

Along with a few corrupted elven warriors, Mark and Sylvandria started their journey to the other side of the world. They reached Mor Gondamin, the capital city of the kingdom of Dark Elves, after traveling for roughly more than 21 hours.

Even in such time, both of them had passionate sex in the wild three times, once in a forest, once behind the waterfall, and once in the carriage drawn by the horses.

After reaching the underground city of Mor Gondamin, they were welcomed with great respect by the dark elves, despite their disgust toward demonic beings as well as celestial elves. They made sure that neither Mark nor Sylvandria would feel any discomfort about the visit.

The reason for their hospitality is obvious. Sylvandria is a supreme being and Mark is the hero with unknown cultivation and mysterious abilities.

Following the plot, Mark cooperated well by putting up his fake smile until the round table conference started two days later.

Apart from Mark and Sylvandria, there are few other guests who aren't dark elves. Some of them were sun elves, some of them were moon elves, and some of them were mixed races.

All of these five groups are said to be working independently but for the same cause, the dethronement of Elowen Silverleaf and the destruction of the ruling class.

The Prime minister of the kingdom started the meeting by introducing the guests to others. Without any surprise, Mark and Sylvandria drew attention from everyone.

He then went on to say how bad is the ruling class and how they should work together to bring them down, blah blah blah. Mark listened to everything in a calm manner but his expression of disinterest was caught by Thyrandor, the King of Dark elves.

Thyandor couldn't help but comment before anyone even got to respond to their plan, "Lu Zhen, you seemed like you don't approve of the plan."

In an instant, the gazes fell upon the couple. "Perhaps, this was how the storyline is written," thought Mark and then replied while resting his elbows on the table and leaning forward, "I have something better that will end their era within a span of a few weeks."

"Few weeks?" Thyrandor furrowed his brows. "Please explain," he said.

Mark then spoke, "Simple, remove the Queen and create a civil war."

"Killing the Queen?" The guests looked at each other and started whispering among themselves.

It was then Thyrandor broke out into laughter, "And how do you propose to do that? We heard that Hero Lu defeated the demon emperor by himself. So, you might think it is a piece of cake for you, but I should remind you that the divine treasure in the hands of the Queen will nullify any type of attack that targets her. If you want to try your luck, please do so."

Mark shook his head with a smirk on his face, "When did I say we should kill the queen? I merely said that we shall remove the queen. Abducting her would be enough."

"Isn't it more difficult than killing?" Thyrandor's frown only deepened further, not being able to understand what this human was thinking.

Mark merely raised three fingers in response, "Give me three days and I will give you the civil war that you want. The rest, however, will depend on your abilities."

"In case of a full-blown war, I expect your assistance," Thyrandor commented.

Mark nodded firmly, "of course, that goes without saying."

"Here's a toast for the new alliance" "Cheers"

The next day, while his wife and subordinates returned to their home, Mark made a visit to the capital city.

As the world is a replica of the real elven world, Mark is able to teleport directly to the destination in an instant.

"Okay, half of the job is complete. Now, the other half remains..." Mark mumbled as he stared at the majestic royal palace, standing not far away from it. He opened the inventory to take out the suit and equip it so that he would be able to infiltrate the palace in invisibility mode.

It was only when he searched the inventory did he finally remembered that he had given away the suit to the system. Because of all that fun he had with the elven beauty for the past week, he had forgotten about it.

Tap

Mark couldn't help but slap his forehead for his idiocy, "how in the fuck did you plan on abducting her forgetting about the suit? Sigh... these days, you are really making the silliest of mistakes in every situation."

Tap

Slapping himself once again, this time on both of his cheeks at the same time with a bit of force, Mark mumbled, "Plan change. Let's just go on a killing spree and abduct her forcefully. Killing all the royal elves can also create a civil war. Not to mention, I don't think that Vexiron could create a world where the opponents could kill me when I could use all my abilities." He made his decision in an instant and charged forward.

One day later;

Sylvandria returned home, only to witness Elowen and her husband eating something that looked like a noodle dish in a bowl. Of course, the atmosphere doesn't seem pleasant in any way. As if the elven queen developed a great fear of Mark, her hand was still trembling uncontrollably even while eating.

"Elowen Silverleaf..." Sylvandria almost growled in anger as her eyes fell on the girl.

This led Elowen to jump up in fright and the food was spilled on the floor, bringing a frown to Mark's face. However, he didn't comment on that and simply greeted the woman who was said to be his wife in this realm, "Hey Syl, you are finally here. As I have promised you, here is our dear Queen. I brought her before you reach home, although in a slightly forceful method."

"I know, Dear. The news has already spread all over the world; the hero taking his revenge upon the royal elves that betrayed his sacrifice," replied the woman as she walked past the prisoner and reached Mark with a smile on her face. "You did great. Thank you."

Without minding Elowen's presence, she planted a kiss on her husband and looked at her, speaking in a mocking tone, "Look at you, the mighty queen who ruled the world. Let me say this to you again. The prophecy never spoke about you. It's me, the princess who is destined to be with the Hero.

I push you forward only to protect my oath but in reality, I know that you have no chance with him. In the end, your actions only lead us to fall in love and marry each other, breaking my oath in the process.

In order to compensate for fooling you all along, I let you become the Queen, favoring you over your half-brother. But, you thought too highly of yourself and in jealousy, you exiled both of us.

That day I merely accepted your decision and left in silence only because of my lingering feelings toward my homeland. Once that last bit of kindness is gone from my heart, your doom has been set into motion. It won't stop until I destroy everything you stood out for."

Mark was silently watching Sylvandria's speech and trying to analyze it. Some of those words indeed developed suspicion in his heart. That's right, Sylvandria's full name was Sylvandria Silverleaf; despite being an avatar of a deity and the High Priestess, she was born as a princess. That remains a fact.

He couldn't help but remember how the High Priestess (real one) tried her best to betroth the princess to him and when it seemed like it didn't work, she didn't hesitate to sacrifice herself to take out the demon emperor, Vexiron, and perhaps even himself (Mark) in the process.

One part of his brain says that he shouldn't take the words of a replica too seriously and the other part of his brain says that the real High Priestess was indeed up to something.

With such conflicting thoughts in his head, Mark tried his best to show that he was calm on the outside and blankly watched the scene unfolding before his eyes.

Soon, the situation evolved to the point that even Mark felt bad for the replica of Elowen he abducted with force.

In the living room, she was stripped naked by Sylvandria and had her hands tied by the energy rope. Compared to the women he had seen naked in his past life, whether directly or through the internet, she wasn't definitely appealing. She has more or less an underdeveloped body, like a minor human girl.

Yet, Mark couldn't help but want to play with that body as he has yet to become immune to the lust. In fact, by giving into lust many times in the past few days, he couldn't shake off his urge. His mind was corrupted to the extent that he doesn't mind raping her, just because she is an illusion.

When Sylvandria intended to humiliate Elowen by letting her subordinates have their way with her, Mark immediately acted and volunteered for the job.

Sylvandria, for some reason, accepted it too.

As she forcefully spread Elowen's legs apart, a naked Mark crouched down to play with her private parts before getting to the main deal. Elowen was pleading them to kill her but Mark didn't listen. He stretched his index finger forward.

Just as he was about to commit the deed, all of a sudden, divine energy suddenly erupted from Sylvandria and pushed him away.

Mark was pushed back a couple of meters and had his face hit the wooden floor. As he raised his head, he saw Sylvandria hugging Elowen with an angry look on her face, "You roach of a human. Keep your filthy hands off the princess."

"Princess?" A look of surprise appeared on Mark's face.

Before he expresses his confusion, the system decides to drop a nuke on his brain in the form of a notification.

*Ding! Sylvandria escaped the mind control. You triggered an emergency quest.

"Huh?"

Chapter 483 The third official fiancée

*Ding! You triggered an emergency quest, Save everyone from mind control

Quest: Save everyone from mind control

Description: Mage Vexiron released his possession of Queen Elowen after she was trapped in his cursed diamond. However, her mind was still being controlled by the effects of the curse. Zan Rong and everyone who was captured by the diamond was also forced to become a part of the storyline created by Vexiron. Remove the influence of the curse from their mind by applying purification stones on each of them or completing the storyline.

Reward: Upgrade crystal (normal).

"Eh? Mind control? That means all these people weren't illusions but real? No wonder the system said that I could use all of its functions," Mark's face turned pale as certain memories popped up in his mind. "So, I have been fuc*ing this blonde for real, all this time? And I almost raped the princess?"

More than the fact that he lost the virginity of his current body and how he had it with the woman so many times in a row, he was disturbed by the act he was going to commit a while ago. He was okay with killing people but not this.

Meanwhile, Sylvandria covered Elowen's body with a carpet lying on the floor as the latter clothes were ripped off. After freeing her from the energy rope, she took her to the bedroom and provided her with clothes.

Closing the door, she walked toward Mark with heavy steps. Her expression looked quite serious.

"You freed yourself long ago, weren't you?" She asked while clenching her fist tightly. Before Mark replied to it, she further said, "Don't try to feign ignorance. I could see when one's mind is being controlled by someone or something. As far as I remember, you are the only one without the halo of foreign energy above your head."

As Mark was still in shock, his mind didn't try to think about what she explained and merely nodded to her question, "Yes, I was never mind controlled."

"And you still... still... committed all those... those... things to me." She pointed her trembling finger at him. Her voice was also shaking as those embarrassing memories came to her mind.

Mark snapped at her accusation right away, "First of all, whenever we had sex, it was initiated by you, not me. Secondly, I was affected by the deadly sins of lust, pride, and greed. Or else, why would I want to enjoy the body of an old woman like you?" He could admit being a little bit of guilt for his earlier actions to the queen but Sylvandria is completely another thing."

"Old? you... you... you fiend..." Sylvandria couldn't help but lose her composure. In the mixture of frustration, helplessness, and embarrassment, tears filled up in her eyes. "You defiled me, you broke my centuries of oath of celibacy, and now you dare to put it on me? I was under mind control. You are not." She roared at him in anger. The divine energy erupted from her and attacked him in the form of a laser beam.

This time, Mark wasn't caught off guard. He timely reacted by activating a skill through voice mode. "System, activate Metal Armor."

From face to toe, his skin instantly turned into steel, and increased his defense and strength to more than 11 points for the next ten minutes, blocking her attack and taking her by surprise.

Staring coldly at the surprised high priestess, Mark spoke, "Sylvandria, I will say once again. Whatever transpired during the past few days was out of my control. If you don't want to believe my words, then, you can go your way and I will go my way. And also, this is the last time I'm going to ignore your preposterous actions against me."

"You don't have an ounce of a quality that a hero has," commented the High Priestess as she took a step back in a slight bit of fear.

In response, Mark shrugged his shoulders, "I never claimed to be one and I don't believe in such prophecy bullshit."

Sylvandria stared at him in silence. Mark stared back at her as if he was asking what she wanted now.

After ten seconds of staring contest, she opened her mouth, speaking in a firm tone, "Regardless of whether you were influenced by deadly sins or not, you defiled me of your own will. Because of your actions, not only my oath has been broken but it was also done without my own will. Take responsibility for your actions and become my husband as you are right now. Or, kill me with your own hands and give freedom to my soul right now."

"Taking responsibility? Husband? Or kill you? Stop bullshitting around," Mark scoffed at her statement, not taking her seriously. He further added, "What will you do if I refuse to do either?"

As if Sylvandria expected such a response from him, her facial expression didn't change a bit and she replied without a moment of waiting, "If you do neither, I will hunt you and your loved ones as long as I live and will continue to haunt them as the ghost as long as they live."

"Ho, you will hunt down my loved ones? You must really forgetti..." Mark's facial expression became cold once again and he clenched his fist. He was about to attack her but the notification from the system stopped him from proceeding further.

*Ding! You triggered an emergency quest, Marry Sylvandria

Quest: Marry Sylvandria

Description: Take responsibility for your actions and accept Sylvandria Silverleaf as your wife or face the consequences.

Conditions of Failure: Rejecting the quest or the death of the target before marriage.

Consequences of failure: The host's most loved one will be cursed and hostility will be generated with Elven Goddess Aerdrie Faenya.

Reward: Factory Upgrade (max. level).

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"Okay, I accept," Mark changed his words in the middle of his statement as soon as he saw the quest pop up before his eyes. However, it wasn't without conditions either.

He further said, "But, I already have two fiancées waiting for me to marry them. Your number will come after them. And if you have to marry me, you have to sacrifice your homeland forever and follow me to mine, swearing allegiance to me. Even after marriage, you shall not expect any love from me for my heart was already occupied by someone. Until then, you shall act as my subordinate or an ally or maybe a friend, whatever you want; but nothing more than that."

Sylvandria didn't bother to digest all of those conditions and simply nodded her head, "Fine, I agree. It doesn't matter what the conditions are. As long as my soul doesn't get tainted, I'm happy with everything."

After a while;

Mark pressed the yellow-colored glowing stone onto the forehead of Elowen.

In an instant, the mind control on her was dispelled and she was brought to her senses.

Fortunately, due to her low cultivation realm, Elowen remembered nothing when she was being mind-controlled. In fact, the last thing she remembered was when she was walking through the tunnels below the Royal city of Sasa Allonor.

Hence, with Sylvandria's cooperation, it became easier for Mark to hide the embarrassing truth and make her cooperate with them in completing the storyline.

As various factions were planning to launch a civil war, Mark and Sylvandria returned to the Royal castle along with the princess before she gathered the citizens living in fear and announced that the dead royal elves were planning on betraying her as she planned on abolishing the monarchy. Elowen claimed that she did it to remove the traitors.

Mark then spent the whole month eliminating the corrupted elves, negotiating with the Dark Elves and all other dissatisfied rebel factions to create a country that would be run by democracy. Meanwhile, the monarch will merely be the head of the state with limited veto powers.

Obviously, some didn't accept such a thing, and Mark didn't hesitate to eliminate their entire factory in secret, giving the rest of the factions a firm message.

With everyone getting what they want, peace was established quicker than Mark or Vexiron expected, ending the storyline.

Until the end, Mark couldn't find where Zan Rong was, but once it was over, the world disappeared on its own, and hundreds of them appeared in something like an endless white room at the same time while Mark received the reward for completing the quest.

There, they saw the green monster (Vexiron) floating in the air and busy meditating.

Until a while ago, he was absorbing dark energy from the battles occurring in the storyline created by the world. Once it was cut off, he was forced to open his eyes and saw Mark along with the rest of the confused bunch.

Rage took over Vexiron not just because his ego was deeply hurt by the end of the storyline but also because his plan of resurrecting Xalazar was foiled by the one he underestimated.

He planned to use the deadly sins on Mark to create the war and get what he wanted, but once Sylvandria got her senses, Mark started resisting the lust by tying up his eyes whenever he got the feeling.

As for pride and greed, he was freed from both of them at the same time when he saved Elowen and then helped her create a new country with power being given to the people.

Despite being filled with rage, Vexiron didn't try attacking Mark. On the contrary, he used his telepathic connection with the cursed diamond to let him and the princess teleport out of it, taking everyone by surprise.

In the outside world, as James chased after the mage and his hostage, Steve stayed there until Mark summoned the divine throne and increased all of his stats to above 11, forcefully breaking the diamond from the inside as it became impossible for the artifact to hold him.

As for why he didn't do it earlier, the system informed him that he would kill the rest of the real prisoners stuck in the storyline. Since he couldn't find Zan Rong, he waited until they got out of the story.

Hundreds of people appeared on the platform, still filled with confusion in their heads.

Transforming the divine throne into a flying carpet, Mark and Sylvandria then flew in the direction pointed by Steve at hypersonic speeds to catch up to their target.

Chapter 484 Returning home and a piece of bad news

Due to the extreme speeds displayed by the divine throne which nearly threw off Sylvandria and she had to tightly grab Mark's arm to stay on it, both of them went past James and caught up with the mage.

When they caught up, Elowen was seen unconsciously suspended inside an energy bubble.

Upon seeing his back, Mark didn't waste time in unleashing the lightning bolt onto his head, not wanting to get fooled once again.

This time, he didn't fail. With a strike of lightning from the heavens, the mage was turned into ashes in a split second and an unconscious Elowen started falling down.

Mark controlled the carpet to increase its speed and Sylvandria caught the elven queen as well as Vexiron's staff in a jiffy.

Once she was caught, Mark finally paid attention to the notification on the holographic screen.

*Ding! You completed the Emergency Quest, Save your companion. The reward has been sent to the inventory.

Since the reward had been issued, Mark was sure that the target was eliminated and he felt more or less relieved. But the only issue is that he wasn't able to capture Vexiron's soul.

Back when he thought he killed him, Mark didn't think of it because the Orb of Bael couldn't absorb the souls when the demon king was summoned.

Right now, he wanted to do it but still couldn't do it as it was already filled with the kills he had during the past few days he spent inside the cursed diamond.

As a result, the mage's soul was able to escape from his grip.

Whether it will go to the spirit realm or plan for getting a new body is something Mark had no intention to care about.

The mage doesn't know about his world and neither does Mark care what happens if the mage returns and supposedly wreaks havoc in the Ixitus Empire. He has more important things to focus on, at the moment.

Placing the attention on Elowen, Sylvandria tossed the staff to Mark. He caught in reflex and used his God's Eye skill to inspect its details. Upon seeing a particular detail, a rare smile appeared on his face.

"Hmm?" Sylvandria was puzzled at his reaction. She couldn't but ask, "It's just a semi-divine weapon. Is there something more to it?"

Mark replied while continuing to stare at the staff or more like the translucent gem that was adorned at the head of the staff, "Let's just say your world's hero will be resurrected in a few moments."

"Huh? What are you saying?" Sylvandria looked at him questionably, wondering whether her badass fiancé was bragging about himself or something.

Mark then controlled the flying carpet to land on the ground.

As Sylvandria stepped down while carrying the Elven Queen, Mark spoke in his head, "System, Activate Weapon Transmutation."

The holographic screen appeared with the image of a circle and the word transmute below it.

As soon as he placed the weapon in the circle, Sylvandria saw that it disappeared. She merely thought he kept in his storage ring but stayed still as a spectator, watching her fiancé poking his index finger in the empty air.

*Ding! All the items are extracted and sent to the inventory.

"System, open inventory."

There were a few precious raw materials he saw, but he didn't pay much attention to their amount and just scrolled to the side until he found an image that resembled a wisp in the inventory.

He then clicked on Ark, the Rank-7 Android with an appearance of his past life, and summoned him to the world.

Sylvandria was first taken aback by the sudden appearance of Ark. At first, she thought he was probably like Bael but then as she probed him, she found nothing. She couldn't even feel the source of life inside the Android that was looking and talking like a human. Everything was so strange to her. Yet, she kept her mouth shut and watched it in silence.

Meanwhile, Ark greeted him with a standard military salute, "Your orders, Master?"

Mark didn't answer him and spoke to the system about the transfer of the soul.

Soon, the golden wisp flew out of the inventory and flew into the chest part of Ark, merging with his core.

*Ding! The Emergency Quest, "Resurrection of Eol," has been completed. The reward has been sent to the inventory.

*Ding! Eol's soul was found to be strong enough to dominate A.I. in Ark's core. Do you wish to wipe out his memories to retain Ark's personality? Note: Regardless of the outcome, the loyalty of the Android to Mark will not change.

Mark already discussed this matter with the system; hence, he went with the refusal. "No, don't wipe it out, but remove his connection to my inventory as well as my memories from both of my lives."

*Ding! Affirmed. Finalizing with the merge. Waiting time: 30 seconds.

Half a minute later, Ark's behavior changed completely from earlier. Taking a step back involuntarily, he checked his arms and legs before taking a look at Mark, "I didn't expect to see another Android in my life, ever again. What's more, my consciousness was planted in one. What planet are you from, bro? *Ahem* Sorry, I was too excited. Anyways, I thank you, my fellow human. The commands say that I should address you as Master. You won't mind if I call you with another honorific, would you? Calling someone a Master sounds very old-fashioned. How about I address you as Boss?"

Mark couldn't help but stare at Ark in a daze for a couple of seconds, realizing that this guy had a bit of personality. At the same time, the way he was speaking reminded him of the people from his past life.

As he silently nodded, Ark took a glance at Sylvandria and commented, "You look just like Ariana Silverleaf. I suppose you are the High Priestess who is her reincarnation?"

"Not anymore, but yes, she was a prior incarnation of me. According to the Temple's historical records, I have reincarnated three times after that," Sylvandria confirmed his suspicions. As for Mark, during those days her husband spent in the cursed diamond, he learned that she reincarnates in the royal household every time she dies, although she wouldn't have the memories of her past life.

"I see," Ark nodded in understanding and suddenly remembered something, "Ah, I forgot to introduce myself. My apologies. I'm Eol of the Great Plains. I guess both of you might have already known that, but still, I would like to..."

"Eol, we can talk later..." Mark interrupted his talk before sending him back to the inventory without his consent and placed his attention on Sylvandria. He asked her whether she could provide him with a set of armor for Eol /Ark so that no one could see what he looked like underneath that armor.

Sylvandria mentioned how their armory was safe with her but didn't have the right to take out the weapon or give it to him. The rights stay with the Queen and she intends to hand over the armory to the rightful owner.

Mark knew that the Queen would thank him anyway. So, he wasn't worried about getting a set of armor. But, the only thing on his mind is the fact that he cannot completely control Sylvandria. He will have to work on that.

Since they weren't in a hurry, the flying carpet moved at normal speeds and Mark took his time to take a good look at the rewards he attained so far and the loss he suffered.

"Let's see... A rank-7 Android, Upgradable Battle tank, unlocked Rank-1 Android in gallery, upgradable Space station, Factory summoning to material world, rocket launching station from the negotiations, Absolute authority title from lottery wheel, a normal grade Upgrade crystal, tactical UAV and Armed UAV.

As for losses, to save those royal elves, I spent 24 purification stones each worth 50,000 credits, and one more purification stone to release Elowen from mind control, lost my Exo Suit, and gave up Sun Wukong's Tier-5 bloodline. Hmm... losses are not so bad if I think about it. Furthermore, now I have three more 9-circle realm experts who will do my bidding. Removing the Shang Dynasty from power without a war or massacre will become easier with their assistance."

The next day morning;

Silviana Leafwind, a 6-circle realm cultivator of the moon elf race and the successor of Sylvandria, activated the teleportation formation while Mark and his companions were saying goodbyes to their acquaintances.

"Your Majesty, with the guidance of Elders and the citizens on your side, I truly believe you will rebuild this broken world and bring it back to its glory. When you are deeply in trouble, don't hesitate to use the scroll I gave you. I'll be here to rescue you," Sylvandria was speaking to Queen Elowen.

Meanwhile, Mark was conversing with Zan Rong, "Think about it once again."

Zan Rong shook her head with a simple, "I have decided, Lu Zhen. I will stay behind and help out the Queen in rebuilding this world. Once I make another breakthrough, I will leave in search of Allen."

"Fine, but don't forget to meet me," Mark said in a serious tone. "Someone linked this specific teleportation formation to our world. Hence, it shouldn't be too much trouble for you to return home. When you do, I will give you something helpful to you in survival."

"I promise," Zan Rong nodded.

Soon, the teleportation formation was completely activated and a beam of light was shot up into the sky.

"It's time," Sylvandria informed the rest of her companions and took another look at her successor and nodded before stepping inside the formation alongside Mark, Steve, and James.

With a look of disappointment on her face, Elowen stared at Sylvandria's back as the latter disappeared from sight, "She is the princess from the prophecy. I guess I was nobody after all." She lets out a deep sigh before clenching her fist, "it doesn't matter. I just have to use this opportunity to create my own destiny."

Meanwhile, Mark found his surroundings changed to that of grassland on the top of a hill.

He was wondering whether he really returned to his world or not, but before asked the system, it confirmed with a series of notifications. The first notification lit up his face but the following ones changed his expressions.

*Ding! You entered Earth-43

*Ding! You received a new side quest, Avenge Song Yun

Quest: Avenge Song Yun

Description: Song Yun aka The Black Knight ended up sacrificing his life in order to protect Song Yue from assassins with an unknown background. As his future son-in-law as well as his current superior, it is the duty of the host to avenge his death.

Reward: Song Yue's affinity +2

Accept?

*Ding! You received an emergency quest, Save Baltrow.

Chapter 485 Supreme Beings at Lunaris

Lunaris City, Western Moon kingdom;

Afternoon around 3:30;

At the Royal Palace, the day was going the same way as every other day for Shen Ling.

Unlike in several empires, the Western Moon kingdom gives more freedom and authority to the ladies of the royal and noble families. They could regularly participate in the court affairs, although from curtains behind without showing their faces.

Shen Ling, who had the ambition to succeed her father, was participating in one such discussion.

It was about the construction of a bridge over Cuilian Jiang (Emerald Ripple River) to connect several river islands with each other and to the capital city. However, it is a task that requires heavy funds.

A heavy debate ensued in the courtroom because of it.

Some ministers suggested taxing wealthy individuals; some suggested confiscating their money from the bank; some wanted to raise the taxes of the public; Shen Ling wanted to put something like toll booths at the bridges to tax the citizens a certain amount of money every time they cross it to come to the capital city; As for the king, he was looking at an option of taking a hefty loan from the Eastern Sun kingdom now that they were in an alliance, but was hesitant to voice it out as it will make him appear weak.

With Mark having been missing for several weeks, he was rather worried lately. Of course, there's Zheng that is protecting the borders and there's 8-circle beast king Manticore protecting the palace, but they weren't loyal to him and they could flip on them at any moment as there was no official relationship established between Mark and Shen Ling yet.

Adding on top of that, not only there is the stability of rule in the Phoenix Empire under Shang Jun's leadership, but the Leon Empire was also getting closer to the southern Empire through the marriage between Shang Jun and the favorite granddaughter of Leon Empire's ruler. It was nothing but bad news to him.

As if that wasn't enough, lately, seeds of rebellion appeared to have been planted in the kingdom. There have been organized attacks on officials, but nothing serious so far to the extent that it is concerning for the Emperor.

There were many things going on in Shen Niu's head and he was rather stressed lately.

Princess Shen Ling knew what her father going through and she was trying her best to help him, but the ministers were still in favor of Prince Shen Kai, the eight-year-old who is next in line for the throne, now that Shen Niu's twin brother and the nephew were out of race.

With no conclusion coming out of today's discussion, the princess took her leave from the court and started returning to her room.

Shen Ling didn't show her frustrations and acted normally as she always did.

With a smile on her face, she greeted the servants with a smile on her face as she walked in the corridors of the inner quarters.

As usual, she didn't forget to check up on Song Yue, who was spending all of her days in her room.

As she opened the door, her eyes fell on the pale-looking woman with her bones were quite visible at several spots. There was a golden kitten sleeping on her lap. The kitten opened its eyes to see Shen Ling and closed its eyes once again, resuming its sleep.

A look of pity appeared on the princess as she greeted her and sat down on a chair, "Sister Yue, today, there was an interesting case appeared in the court. You know Lord Hua Liang, right? It so happened that he and his eldest son Hua Ming fell in love with the same royal Jiuren (a traditional zither performer)." She let out a chuckle.

However, Song Yue didn't have any reaction. She was silently looking outside from the window. Sheng Ling continued, "She left the decision to his majesty. Both of them were at the court, arguing with each other to marry her. It became a huge headache for the father and the ministers. They keep on... Hmm?"

Shen Ling was explaining the story with cheerfulness to improve her non-biological sister's mood, but she suddenly stopped talking as a glowing scroll appeared before her eyes.

"This communication scroll... It is from Sister Xie," She said as she opened the scroll. Song Yue's expression didn't change a bit.

After reading for a few seconds, Shen Ling stood up on her feet, "Excuse me. I'll be back soon."

Song Yue didn't react to her statement once again.

Shen Ling didn't mind it and rushed outside before rereading it. She then recorded the message and sent it to the sender.

After a while, she returned with a genuine smile on her face. "Sister Yue, a royal guest is coming. Your presence is also requested. Can you please wear your best clothes and wear them? This is important as we are dealing with more than one Supreme realm expert here."

Song Yue didn't turn her head and simply nodded, implying that she understood it.

"I'll return after an hour to pick you up," Shen Ling left the room with a bit of excitement on her face. She was no longer acting.

Once she was gone, Song Yue mumbled weakly, "It is probably great grandfather. What's the use of coming here to console me now when he did nothing to defend my father?"

Roughly 90 minutes later;

Looking like a bag of bones, even with her best attire, Song Yue no longer looked more beautiful than Shen Ling as they stood behind King Shen Niu. Xie Mei dominated both of them in beauty, well, according to the spectators. The servants whispered among themselves about various things, from Song Yue's appearance to the possible identity of the guests.

It was then a black dot appeared in the sky, far away. As seconds passed, it was getting bigger. Within no time, its appearance became clear to the spectators, causing panic among the guards and the servants; of course, the citizens were in a worse condition.

The giant spider ship with scary-looking long spikes made even Shen Niu let out a gasp but he was clenching his fist and joy was evident on his face. Even Shen Ling and Xie Mei were in the same mood.

Song Yue, on the other hand, had her sight on the ground. She was already trying her best to stand on her feet.

As the spider ship landed and four guests exited it, the servants couldn't help but whisper a bit loudly. "It's him, isn't he?" "Lord Lu?" "But, who are the other three?" "Lord Lu has returned!" "I thought he died" "Me too" "Wow, she looks like a goddess" "Who are those kids?"

"Lord Lu?" Song Yue's face was raised for the first time since she had been standing there for the past 15 minutes in silence. Her vision looked a bit blurry and she couldn't see the four figures walking toward the palace.

She stepped forward, trying to push forward the King standing in front of her. However, her hand was grabbed by Shen Ling. With a firm grip around her arm, the princess whispered, "Not now."

Song Yue looked at her with tears filled up her eyes, "Please."

Shen Ling looked at her father, glanced at her surroundings, and then at the incoming figures. Letting out a sigh, she freed Song Yue's arm while muttering under her breath, "I shouldn't have agreed to a formal welcome."

As soon as she was freed, Song Yue used all the strength she had in her legs, momentarily forgetting about etiquette and just pushed away the King's shoulder and rushed forward.

Her actions took everyone by surprise, including Mark and the others.

She started climbing down the stairs with nearly 30 steps to the ground as fast as she could.

However, just after 8 steps, she lost her footing and started falling.

"Sister Yue..." "Lady Song"

King Shen and Shen Ling went alarmed. The nearest guards moved to save her, but before they reached or before she crashed onto one of the steps, a blurry figure reached there and caught her in his arms.

Mark had the look of shock on his face as he saw her appearance. He caressed her face in worry as the latter forced out a smile and weakly spoke, "Markie, you returned..."

Once she spoke those words, Song Yue lost her consciousness right away. "Song Yue..." Mark raised his words as he shook her face.

And before others made any move, another figure appeared beside him. It's Sylvandria.

Sylvandria took a single look at her and commented, "Her life force looks very weak. Give me a moment."

Mark didn't even react to her comment and she already conjured a ball of light before inserting it into Song Yue's abdomen.

In just an instant, Song Yue's body was covered by divine energy and color returned to her pale face. Her skeletal body had healthy skin. A miracle happened before everyone's face before they realized what happened. Mark felt like Song Yue looked as beautiful as she was at her engagement, although her consciousness has yet to return.

Clap Clap*

Shen Ling took action in a calm manner, ordering the servants to bring the litter, a portable bed/couch that is used to transport an unconscious or immobile individual.

The attendants or the eunuch with ether energy usually carry those things in their storage rings all the time.

Once Song Yue was carried away and disappeared from his sight, Mark greeted the King formally before introducing his three companions without forgetting to inform them that they were supreme beings and ask him to look after them very well.

The piece of new information momentarily stunned the King and the other spectators, making them forget about the earlier embarrassing incident for the royal family caused by Song Yue's behavior.

Chapter 486 Shang Wei seeks guidance

Sometime later, in Song Yue's room;

Song Yue slowly opened her eyes, coming out of her sleep, and saw Mark sitting on the chair beside her bed.

"Markie..." She abruptly got up as if she found newfound strength in her body.

Mark, who was taking a light nap while stroking the kitten's back, opened his eyes right away. "My schatz..." He hugged her as she leaned to his chest while tearing up, "I missed you... where were you all this time? You disappeared suddenly without leaving a note or anything. Do you know how worried I was? If not for Anan and Baltrow's constant reminder, I would have lost my mind. And... and... *sniff* sniff* my father... I... I..."

"Shhh... I know. Calm down..." Mark caressed the back of her head while keeping his tone as soft as possible. "I know... I swear to you. Whoever is behind the incident will pay it dearly." After a brief pause, he grabbed her face and looked into her eyes, "I'm sorry for everything. If only I was here, this wouldn't have happened. And I also wanted to tell you the truth but seeing your hatred for your father, I couldn't bring myself to speak of it."

sniff

She wiped her tears as she moved back, speaking in a hoarse tone, "I can understand. But, he is no more, Markie. All because of me... If only that sword pierced my neck and ended my life, he would have been alive... Waah." As she started crying at the top of her lungs once again, Mark took her hands into his and said, "Your father sacrificed his life for you, redeeming himself from every sin he has ever committed in his life. Don't belittle his sacrifice by saying such things. You cannot blame yourself. The best thing you can do for him is to live happily. As for giving him the justice, leave it to me."

She nodded a few times, letting him wipe out her tears.

For the next ten minutes, he explained everything that happened from how he accidentally stranded in the world of elves to his involvement in saving the population. Of course, he left out several important details like the storyline in the cursed diamond, the real identities of Steve and James, or meeting with immortal level demon Xalazar.

Meanwhile, Shen Ling was busy conversing with Sylvandria and the two teenagers. While the two of them were engaged in conversation, Steve looked quite restless.

Shen Ling spotted his behavior and asked whether he was uncomfortable or needed something.

Steve immediately used the excuse of needing fresh air and escaped from the room, leaving James to listen to Shen Ling's deep explanation about everything that they need to know about the powers in this world.

After asking around, Steve went to one of the guest rooms where Song Yue and Mark were currently staying.

By the time he knocked on the door and entered the room after getting permission, Song Yue was already drawn into sleep. He asked, "Is she still unconscious?"

"No, she woke up and just fell asleep." Mark shook his head, explaining to him that she was too tired at the moment.

"Actually, she is..." Steve is about to speak of relation with Song Yue, but Mark interrupts him before he gets to finish the sentence, "I know. Just act as if you don't know her. Don't complicate things for me and stay here while trying your best to not interfere in anything. I'll start working on your return once I am done with a couple of things that occupied my mind at the moment." "Ah, nothing to worry about. You can take your time, Da... Mr. Lu," replied Steve while almost blurting out 'Dad'.

Mark continued, "Tell the same thing to your brother too. He looks like someone who unnecessarily pokes his finger into someone's business when he sees something wrong. This isn't the Ixitus Empire. A wrong step from either of you might inflict damage on my plans here."

"Leave it to me," Steve assured him that he would take care of James.

Mark nodded with a smile, "good."

Imperial City, Phoenix Empire;

In the outer sector of the Imperial city, just a few km away from Genesis Weapon Store's HQ which was currently out of business due to the lack of stock, two lengthy and wide asphalt roads were built adjacent to each other with a couple of hundred meters distance between them.

Thousands of citizens gathered around the perimeter to look at the two majestic aircraft parked at the end of these roads. Since Mark forgot to inform the imperial family of the term airstrip or runway in his manual guide, the new emperor termed it the stairway to the sky.

Shang Jun, the new Emperor of the south, was standing with Supreme Commander Bai, Northern General Hua, the new prime minister Shang Wei (3rd prince), and a few other important ministers. The once important Patriarchs of major clans were nowhere to be seen for such an event as they lost their power.

"Your Majesty, it is time," said an old monk named Cao Wen, an Oracle with mysterious origins. No one knows where Shang Jun found him but ever since he came to the Imperial Palace, good things started happening to the Empire. Cao Wen was one of the two prime advisors to the Emperor, the other being Shang Wei. His ability is to look into Shang Jun's fortune and advise whether it could be good, bad, or either.

Shang Jun listens to his advice rather well and will only depend on Shang Wei's judgment when the fortune is said to be neither good nor bad. Because of the current Emperor's blind trust in Cao Wen, Shang Wei was lately struggling with his current identity. Anyways, back to the present, two soldiers of captain rank with cultivations of 5-circle boarded the two light aircraft (Yak-130). Soon, a signal was given in the form of a

firecracker in the sky and both of the vehicles started moving. Their speed started increasing as time passed. Eventually, they successfully flew into the sky, earning applause from the spectators.

"Congratulations, Your Majesty." "Congratulations, Your Majesty. You did what your predecessor couldn't do it." "We lost 10 soldiers and 6 aircraft, but after seeing the results, I think everyone would agree that it is worth the risk." "Not 6 aircraft Minister Li. Three of them could be repaired as long as we got hold of Lu Zhen." "Yeah, speaking of which, we haven't heard of him lately. There are rumors that he was assassinated." "That bastard deserves it." "If he dies, then, we would have to depend on the dwarves. So far, there appeared to be no progress from them." "I still don't understand how a fine noble woman like Lady Song chose him" "I heard that he violated her when he abducted her. As a result, she was forced to be with him"

The ministers started congratulating Shang Jun while slightly criticizing the previous emperor for not pushing the soldiers to finish the training quickly. Some ministers also took this opportunity to slander Mark and Song Yue as the Emperor didn't stop them from murmuring among themselves.

Shang Wei felt bad upon listening to those comments but he couldn't do anything and was forced to stay silent.

Later on, as the two pilots returned to the ground and even managed to have a perfect touchdown, Emperor Shang Jun ordered the third prince to present the two soldiers with hefty rewards in order to push the other pilots in training to master their aircraft as quickly as possible.

Once the event was over, Shang Jun and Shang Wei alongside the Supreme Commander made a visit to the newly constructed Firearms division HQ, where the soldiers were doing a training exercise that involved firearms and the battle tanks.

The three of them returned to the palace. Shang Wei excused himself and left for the section of the imperial palace that was set apart from the active administrative and ceremonial areas of the palace. It usually houses the former Emperor and his wives and concubines.

Unlike the royal palace in the Western Moon kingdom which is nothing but a huge residence, the imperial palace at Phoenix Empire and other empires won't be one residence. According to the sections, there are several residences within the compound and collectively, it is called the palace.

Hence, one can say the former emperor and his wives were living in a separate residence from the Emperor. The only unfortunate thing is that except for Lan Jingyi, his other two wives refused to move in with him and continued to stay in the Inner Quarters reserved for the ladies of the imperial family as they continued to run politics from behind the scenes.

Shang Wei visited his parents and then sat alone with his father in a private chamber upon his request.

Taking a sip of wine, Shang Fu asked, "Xiao Wei, tell me, what's troubling you lately?"

Letting out a deep sigh, Shang Wei answered, "I don't know, father. So much has happened lately. First, you stepped down from the throne. Brother Wen left for high realms for training. Xiao Jiao was also on the same route. Brother Zexi is hiding. Ever since Brother Bo's organization was acknowledged by his majesty, he was engrossed in his work and I have only seen him once. Lately, His Majesty has been depending too much on Cao Wen, and he was also working hard enough to lessen my tasks to a lot of extent. I just no longer feel the same as when I took up this job even though not much time has passed. I feel so lost without any vision of the future."

"Hmm..." Shang Fu took his son's words seriously and thought for a bit before he replied, "I have a suggestion for you. Why don't you marry a girl you like and start a family of your own?"

"Huh?"

Chapter 487 At the Dragon Empire

After a while;

Shang Wei bowed to Shang Fu and Lan Jingyi, bidding them goodbye, "We will meet again, Father, Mother."

As he turned around to walk away, Lan Jingyi spoke as she looked at her son's back, "Your Majesty, why didn't you ask him to pursue the power? You always wanted him to succeed you."

"It's the choice he made," Shang Fu shook his head with a sigh, "During the final round of the trial, he was the one who gave up and let Shang Jun ascend the throne so that there would be stability in the empire. His choice also turned out to be right. How could I ask him to choose the path of betrayal, just because he was frustrated with his job?"

"The one with power and the support of the people has the right to seize the throne, Your Majesty," commented his wife. As he looked at her with a bit of surprise, she further said, "There is stability in the empire but I don't think the people love Shang Jun as much as they do Xiao Wei or you when you ruled the land. They were merely afraid of him due to his harsh punishments and he ruthlessly crushed the rebellions without trying to negotiate, or so the maids say."

"But, that kind of Emperor is what this land needs. A softie like me who would put the lives of soldiers and my people above the reputation of the Empire won't be able to live up to our ancestors, Dear," Shang Fu expressed his support for his successor, earning a frown from his wife instead.

She wanted to argue with him, thought of revealing to him how he was duped by Mark but didn't do so for the sake of keeping her son's secret.

In the end, she could only forcefully let out a smile and grabbed his arm, "Whether you are a good ruler or not, let the people decide it for themselves after they experience the ruling of your successor." After a brief pause, she said, "By the way, I forgot to mention. Xiao Jiao appears to be at the doorstep of her breakthrough to the 8-circle realm. She might return sooner than we expect."

"Eh? 8-circle realm? Already?" The former Emperor was stunned by the news. "But, she just entered 7-circle just a few weeks ago." His mind couldn't comprehend the fact that his 15-year-old daughter was going to achieve cultivation that takes decades for genius cultivators.

Lan Jingyi couldn't help but let out a chuckle as she saw her husband's expression, "Your Majesty, our daughter is the daughter of heaven. She isn't someone you can compare with mortals. All she required is a worthy guide and she met one now."

A few weeks ago, Lan Jingyi found Shang Jiao training with the guardian beasts but she didn't meet her in order to not disturb her training and of course to protect her own secret. Then, she returned to the palace, telling her husband that their daughter found a master and started her training. Giving him an excuse that this mysterious expert doesn't want anyone else to be involved, she put away Shang Fu's worries. As for how

she got in contact with the fifth princess, Lan Jingyi simply lied that she had done it with the help of Lan Jing, her paternal uncle who was currently serving the Ouyang Dynasty in the Eastern Sun Kingdom.

Back to the present, both of them discussed various things about the princes, including the possible whereabouts of the missing eldest prince as the arrest warrant was issued on him regarding several charges that have witnesses. While Shang Fu was under the impression that the Yuan Clan was backing him because of the former Empress, Lan Jingyi believed that sects or secret organizations might have been involved.

Then, they discussed the marriage of Shang Wei. There are many prospective brides available for him and it is difficult to choose one as political marriages often involve complex situations. During the talk about the princes, Lan Jingyi felt the urge to see her son, but since she couldn't say that, she brought up the topic of the rumors about Song Yun's death. She wondered out loud whether they could visit the neighboring kingdom to visit Song Yue and console her.

Shang Fu felt weird when he heard that they should go and meet Song Yun's wife who was living with her maternal family. Why would they travel hundreds of kilometers to meet with the girl who abandoned her homeland? Not to mention, he was the prime reason Song Yun was forced to run away and live in disguise. Well, atleast that was what he believed, and hence, her suggestion didn't make sense to him.

But then, as Lan Jingyi told him how she was bored by staying between four walls all day and wished to go on a vacation outside of their empire, the former Emperor thought for a bit and agreed to stop at Lunaris city for a day before they resume their journey to the Dragon Empire.

Two days later, both of them boarded Amara, the giant flying stingray with a four-room house somehow built on top of its body with its foundations penetrating the beast's skin and attached to its nerves.

However, they weren't alone. Song Tai and Chen Xiao (Song Yue's mother) were also tagging along with them; the former tagged out of concern for Shang Fu's safety as no soldiers were coming along, and the latter was offered a ride so that she could meet her daughter and also confirm the rumor of Song Yun's death.

Little did they expect that by the time they arrived at Lunaris City after a day of traveling, Mark and others would already leave for the Dragon Empire.

As Song Yue also tagged along with Mark, the three of them could only briefly meet up with the King before they resumed their journey the next day while leaving Chen Xiao as a guest at the palace. Nevertheless, Lan Jingyi was happy to find out that her son was doing fine and well. She was rather proud of the timing of her wish. Perhaps, the entire universe is helping her to reunite with her son? It's what she felt after hearing that Lu Zhen returned just a few days ago after going missing for more than a month.

Originally, they were scheduled to move at a later date, but after hearing the news about the letter sent to King Shen Niu, Mark changed his plans using an excuse so that he wouldn't meet them.

As a result, before the giant flying stingray landed at Lunaris, Mark and the others boarded the spider-ship (transformation of the divine throne) and flew toward the other side of the world at hypersonic speeds as if he were in a hurry to reach the destination.

Despite such speed, there was no sort of sonic boom. It traveled as silent as a ray of light, slicing through the air like a hot knife through butter.

Within 4 hours, they had already reached the shores of the Dragon Continent just as Mark informed them before they boarded the vehicle. From there, it took another 25 minutes to reach their destination.

Intending to grab the attention of potential customers as well as unknown enemies, he reduced the spider-ship's altitude to as low as 200 ft from the ground once the Imperial city of Dragon appeared in his sight. Mark also reduced its speed to that of ordinary flying beasts.

Just as he expected, it alerted every passerby on the way. Most of the commoners living in the outer sector of the city panicked and some couldn't help but run for their lives.

It goes without saying that the news of an unidentified flying object reached the imperial palace.

The spider-ship landed in the front yard of the most luxurious hotel in the city best known for selling the Elixir of Eldervine, an expensive wine costing 11,000 gold coins per 80 ml cup.

As Mark and his companions stepped out of the vehicle, they were greeted by one of the employees, who offered to escort them to the reception area. However, Mark refused it and asked to bring the hotel manager to them.

Sylvandria and others looked at Mark, wondering what he was trying to do. But, after witnessing his actions back in her world, the former high priestess felt that her soon-to-be husband had something in his mind.

Her suspicions became evident when the employee politely said that the hotel manager was busy conversing with an esteemed guest at the moment and wouldn't be able to meet him. He apologized for the inconvenience while glancing at the manticore standing with the guests.

In response, Mark took a glance to the side and asked Sylvandria, James, and Steve to release their auras, but just mild enough. It was so that the other two ladies remained unaffected.

Just as he wanted, the hotel manager quickly rushed out of the hotel without letting Mark and the others wait for even a minute. The job was done and Mark was satisfied, thinking that this incident would now create a rumor with the help of the employees or the other guests at the hotel.

What he had not taken into account is the fact that the aura release of three supreme beings not only alerted the hotel manager and the guests but every true expert currently living in the city, including the ones at the imperial palace. Usually, it should be a good thing and make his plans become easier, but the timing was so early that it had the opposite effect.

Chapter 488 The acting monarch of the mighty Dragon Empire

Imperial Palace, Dragon Empire;

In the royal meeting chamber of the palace where important meetings between the Emperor and his guests take place, Second Prince, Tang Yifan was in the middle of conversing with a couple of elders of Void Temple.

With the Emperor falling sick, Tang Yifan was unanimously appointed as the acting monarch of the empire despite the fact that there were 6 other imperial princes, a crown prince, and three Grand Princes (male siblings of the Emperor), who were all eligible to sit on the throne.

The reason was the fact that Tang Yifan was the only prince who managed to unlock the Fire dragon bloodline and awaken his Red dragon form, just like his grandfather and forefathers. There was no question of competition in the first place.

Ever since he had taken up the duties of the acting monarch a couple of months ago, he knew that the upcoming event was going to be his first big event that he had to manage.

He needs to care about the accommodation of special guests, prepare proposals for the envoys, use this opportunity to bring investment from wealthy organizations from other empires, tighten security, etc...

There's a lot to do and he was working nonstop to prove his worth so that no one would point a finger at his rule.

After having a series of meetings with ministers, rereading the orders and stamping them to send them to the governors and the generals, he could only eat lunch in peace for one hour before the Void Temple's representatives visited the palace to talk about the upcoming auction.

The Empire has so many treasures and the Void Temple wants Tang Yifan to auction one of their prized artifacts, trying their luck with him as the last time a prized treasure came into the auction was about 11 years ago.

The prized treasure often refers to a Divine grade item. The Dragon Empire might not have high-quality ones like the Divine Throne, but they still hold a significant number of Earth-grade items (low-quality Divine/Mythril grade).

Tang Yifan was in a bit of a dilemma, wondering whether he should take the decision or consult his sick father as the prime minister was in favor of putting up the Crown of Talim in the auction.

He was busy exploring the options, but the urgent news of the appearance of three supreme beings disturbed his meeting. As soon as he heard that they came along with Princess Shen Ling, he sent away the elders of Void temple and summoned the newly appointed supreme commander and the prime minister in the name of emergency.

22:00

As the 9-circle realm expert arrived, Tang Yifan reminded him of the recently concluded investigation of the deaths of his ancestor, one of their two supreme commanders, and the rest of the men at Phoenix Empire.

The Supreme Commander that watches over the eastern region of the continent, Qiu Junwei was quite alarmed when he heard that their supposed criminal arrived at their doorstep with three Supreme Beings along.

Obviously, he thought that Mark came either with bad intentions or to mock them.

"What do you wish to do, Your Highness?" asked Qiu Junwei with his face full of seriousness.

Tang Yifan didn't give his answer and merely turned his head to the side, looking at the prime minister.

Prime Minister Xian thought for a bit and said, "Your Highness, if you ask me, then, it is not wise to take any kind of action against him."

Tang Yifan furrowed his brows in displeasure, "You want to say that we should welcome the scoundrel that killed the royal ancestor with all smiles? Do you think we cannot capture him? Even if he has thirty Supreme Beings on his side, we can still capture him with our Imperial treasure." It is another thing if just the Supreme Commander died under Mark's hands, but one of the victims was a former emperor and his direct ancestor. In his opinion, everyone would laugh at the Emperor if he didn't take appropriate actions. Tang Yifan was hell-bent on punishing Mark, not knowing that the latter wasn't the real killer.

As the Prime Minister advised him not to confront the enemy without gauging his full strength, Tang Yifan ordered Qiu Junwei, "Supreme Commander Qiu, I want you to meet the Imperial Sovereign in person and relay this news."

"Imperial Sovereign? But, he is in close-door cultivation," Qiu Junwei was taken aback by the order.

In response, Tang Yifan lost his composure and slammed the table between them in anger, "I don't care. This involves our prestige. *Ahem* Sorry about that." Correcting his tone, he added, "Please do anything you can to accomplish this task."

As the Dragon Empire was a lot bigger than other Empires, its military hierarchy was slightly different from the rest.

Usually, the ranks go like Soldier, Lieutenant, Captain, Royal Knight, Lt. General, General, and Supreme Commander.

However, for the Dragon Empire, more ranks are included. It goes like Soldier, Elite soldier, Squad leader, Lieutenant, Captain, Imperial Knight, Lt. General, General, Lt. Commander, Commander, Supreme Commander, and finally, the Imperial Sovereign.

The Imperial Sovereign is the head of the military and is often considered the symbol of power for the Empire with the Emperor being the symbol of the authority.

Tang Yifan had confidence in this powerful Supreme Being who never lost a battle, but the Prime Minister had a different opinion. He couldn't help but interrupt the second prince, reminding him that they hadn't even confirmed that the young man who came along with the princess was the one they were looking for and neither there has been any formal relationship formed between the Western Moon kingdom's royal family and Lu Zhen. Any attack on Shen Ling or her men might prove costly.

Adding on top of that, they also have to take the safety of other people into consideration. If they weren't careful on this matter, the very prestige Tang Yifan trying to protect could get hurt. The Prime Minister made him understand that if the result came unfavorable, he would likely be held responsible as he was merely an acting monarch, not the Emperor.

The Prime Minister's words brought a little bit of uncertainty in Tang Yifan's heart, but instead of getting tensed and taking back his words, his eyes gleamed brightly as he claimed that he thought of a solution to that problem too.

Meanwhile, back at the hotel, Mark was having a cup of tea with another guest at the hotel who also came too early for the event. James and Steve were having tea but merely staying as spectators as their dad was conversing with the stranger.

Fun fact, not only Qing Jie is a weapon seller but he is also an imperial prince of the Xieze Empire of the Black Turtle continent, except that he is a traditional weapon seller and his late mother is a commoner. Qing Jie left the palace at the age of 19 due to bullying from his half-siblings and chose to settle down in his mother's hometown, taking over his maternal family's weaponry forge. He then had a protagonist moment of coincidentally encountering a heavily injured grandmaster blacksmith with mysterious origins and becoming his disciple.

Currently, this 52-year-old is a 6-circle realm expert who runs a weapon store, selling everything that comes out of his weaponry forge.

While Mark was quite surprised to hear about a human-operated weaponry forge that managed to create semi-divine weapons, he wasn't actually interested in such old-fashioned weapons.

The reason he bothered to accept the invitation is the fact that Qing Jie has been selling his items in the world auction for the past 20 years and could gauge the item value by looking at it and hearing the details as long as they were true.

Hence, he intended to take out the treasures he looted from the Wuji sect and see if they could be sold at a higher price than what the system offered him.

But, as he could not directly come to the matter right away, he engaged in conversation, asking about him first and then explaining his background that was known to the general public.

After a while;

"So, this is the last piece of the set, huh," mumbled Mark as he stared at the gold ring on the table. "I heard that it was lost but didn't expect it would be with you, Mr. Qing."

Qing Jie let out a pleasant smile as he asked, "Are you interested, Mr. Lu?"

"Hmm?" As Mark raised his eyes and looked at him, the latter said, "I can give it to you for free as long as you can convince everyone that I have the backing of the supreme beings."

Chapter 489 The Grand Auction (part-1)

A few hours later;

Leaving the rest of them at the hotel, Mark and his two sons left for the Auction House. Qing Jie tagged along with them as they traveled in LMV, instead of taking a traditional horse carriage.

Mark wanted attention from everyone. He wanted rumors to spread like wildfire. While his name wasn't spread around, LMV's unique appearance indeed did the job for him.

After an hour of travel, they reached a coliseum-type structure and stepped out when stopped by the guards at one of the entrances that led to the VIP area.

The guards didn't recognize Mark or Qing Jie but the latter's special invitation badge helped them to get through it without any issues.

From there, they walked on foot, although purposely done to showcase the two teenage supreme beings walking behind Mark like subordinates.

It wasn't clear because of the supreme beings or Qing Jie; Mark and others were personally received by the Auction House Master.

After a brief introduction, Qing Jie left Mark and the other two with the head of the building and left for the Appraisal chamber in a hurry.

Named Wang Rui, the 8-circle-realm mage took Mark on a tour.

The tour only lasted for 15 minutes or so, as there was nothing special to see anyway.

However, they didn't return to the VIP lounge. Instead, they went to the field that is usually used for battles, during most of the days.

The Auction House of Dragon Empire conducts Auctions regularly on the first Sunday of every month. It was done by local authorities. The chance of a treasure appearing here is close to nil.

Then, there will be an annual auction at the end of each year, conducted by Void Temple. Here, there will be a significant chance of a treasure to appear.

But, the one Mark arrived coincidentally happened to be a grand world auction that only occurs randomly, depending upon the items gathered by the temple. As for this type of auction, there is no question of doubt. The chance will be 100%.

As Mark heard it from Qing Jie, he decided to bank on this opportunity to introduce sophisticated firearms to the world which could be compared with artifacts and treasures.

That is why he offered to showcase something to the Auction House Master and asked for a large space.

The Auction House Master wasn't sure what Mark wanted to show him, instead of their Master Appraiser, but due to the appearance of supreme beings, he couldn't help but become curious.

What could it be that he needed so much space for? Any demonstration of a spell or a skill from a spell/skill book? Divine weapon? Or any potion/pill?

There is a lot to think about.

Little did he expect Mark to pull out something that indeed took him by surprise. The following demonstration made an even greater impact on his mind that he almost begged Mark to sell it to the Void Temple.

Obviously, Mark isn't interested in just money. He rejected even an exorbitant offer of 100 million gold coins without any hesitation. In the meantime, some people who coincidentally witnessed the demonstration passed the information to their colleagues/friends/bosses, etc...

After a while, Mark and Wang Rui returned to the VIP lounge, where Qing Jie was waiting for them.

The prince-turned-weapon-seller let out a gasp of surprise when he saw them. He couldn't help but ask, "Brother Wang, what happened to you? You looked like a beggar." The Auction house master's clothes appeared ruined and dust smeared all over his body. Yet, he didn't care about his image and only placed his focus on showing hospitality to Mark. It was only when Qing Jie pointed it out that he realized why the staff members on the way were whispering among themselves in surprise. He thought it was because of supreme beings.

"I... I... I... it's nothing, Brother Qing. Please excuse me for a second..." He bowed to Mark and his sons from the future before leaving in a hurry.

Qing Jie looked at Mark in curiosity, "Did something happen, Mr. Lu?"

Mark shrugged his shoulders, "Nothing. Just a result of a challenge."

Qing Jie misunderstood that the Auction house Master probably challenged Mark or one of the supreme beings and lost badly. His curiosity about Mark's backing increased further when the latter took out a bunch of semi-divine weapons to put up in the auction. He claims to be a commoner, who owns a weapon store, but he has a princess of a kingdom as fiancée, two supreme beings as underlings, and an elven Supreme Being as an ally, and uses a divine-grade item as a transportation vehicle.

Surely, this new acquaintance of his must have a hidden identity. Maybe, he is from a higher plane of existence, or so thought Qing Jie as he accompanied Mark back to the hotel.

A few days passed away in the blink of an eye.

During this period, Mark just spent on touring the imperial city, which was far bigger than any city he had visited in his current life. It was also so developed that even nine days weren't enough to cover the major tourist attractions. Not that he was greatly impressed, but since Song Yue cheered up, he was happy.

In the meantime, he surprisingly became lucky in the lottery wheel and won a superior-grade upgrade crystal from the mystery box.

However, since Alina is currently in the body of Robotic Cerberus and Allen is in the hibernation stage to become a human, Mark has to hold his temptation to use it on Android Ark. There should always be a powerful active Android for security purposes, right?

On the morning of the third week of the ninth month, the entire coliseum was jam-packed with more than a hundred thousand spectators, all just to watch the battle between wealthy powers in the grand auction.

Unlike in usual auctions, here, there are no anonymities for the bidders. The option is only available for the sellers who wish to do it.

Void Temple believes that the one who won the item in the auction should also have the power to protect their treasure. Even the royal families from various empires aren't exempted from this.

It is a twisted sense of logic, but it is what it is. If one has a problem, then, they don't have to come. Void Temple would tell the same to everyone who objects to it.

Then, why would one even want to come when there is such a heavy risk of death? Well, the first reason is probably because of the fact that the Dragon Empire's imperial family guarantees safety as long as the participant stays in the Imperial City.

As for the second reason, it is the challenge round that offers lucrative rewards for the warriors. This is what that brings the citizens to the coliseum and become spectators.

Mark and his group made their way to room no. 8, parting ways with Qing Jie as the latter gave an excuse that there were unmarried ladies in the group and it was not appropriate for him to sit with them.

Mark knew the cultural difference between this world and his previous world. Even if Qing Jie is comfortable, Song Yue and Shen Ling might be uncomfortable. So, he didn't try to convince him out of it, despite the fact that he intends to discuss a partnership with Qing Jie.

Since there is no anonymity in the bidding process, he decided to showcase his wealth to create a nice impression, and of course, to tempt prospective buyers.

But, before that, he made sure not to get any attraction by asking Sylvandria and the two kids from the future to mask their auras.

Meanwhile, the other royal princes and various envoys also arrived and occupied their allotted chambers, which were more like small rooms with an exclusive tiny balcony.

A large slab of concrete covering a wide area abruptly erupted from the ground, resulting in cheers from the audience that settled in. Along with the large podium, the Auction House Master accompanied a lady whose attire resembled that of a shaman and also rose with it, making some experts wonder what kind of technique they used.

"Welcome to the Grand Auction. I'm your host, Wang Zhongwei, and this is Elder Xin Rui of Void Temple, the overseer of the auction."

The legendary realm expert raised her eyes a little and scanned the bidding rooms. Upon finding the sixth imperial prince of the Dragon Empire representing the imperial family, she clenched her fist for a moment and released it immediately before averting her gaze back to the audience.

She then opened her mouth, "Before Mr. Wang proceed with the rules and regulations, let me remind everyone that those who won't adhere to the rules shall be expelled after one warning and those who cause trouble using violence shall meet with death no matter who it is. So, I ask everyone to cooperate and let us have a smooth auction."

As her words echoed throughout the coliseum, a moment of silence descended among the spectators.

Chapter 490 The Grand Auction (part-2)

The Auction is divided into three stages.

First stage: Regular Auction

The auction starts with displaying items of platinum grade. Everyone should bid for the items and win them; very simple.

However, the key here is the fact that every time, exactly 250 items are displayed for the auction.

Hence, one should really focus on money management. As a matter of fact, every time, more than half of them end up being taken away.

Then, it goes into the second stage: Challenge. This is a stage where experts will get an opportunity to display their skills and win rewards.

The second stage of this auction has ten challenge rounds, with each round offering a different type of reward.

The bidders simply have to bid for the challenge and send out their fighters to win against the opponent. The final stage: Royal Auction

This one is also similar to the first stage, but the items displayed will be at least in semi-divine grade. And unlike in the first stage, there is no fixed number. It could be anywhere from a minimum of 10 to a maximum of 25. However, there is a guarantee of at least three divine grade items.

Coming to the rules of the auction, it is as follows.

1) All bids and transactions will be conducted in gold coins.

2) If there is an insufficient number of gold coins, then, the winner could also make the transaction with high-quality ether crystals. The exchange rate is 500 gold coins per 1 gm (5 carat). Any crystal below 1 gm is not valid for the transaction.

3) The guests could also use items of platinum and above grade if there is an insufficient number of gold coins. However, their monetary value remains fixed regardless of their capabilities. The Exchange rate is:

Platinum grade: 100,000 gold coins. Semi-divine: 1,000,000 gold coins. Divine items:

Earth grade: 10,000,000 gold coins

Heaven grade: 100,000,000 gold coins

Void grade: 5 billion

4) After winning the bid, if the payment cannot be made within 5 minutes, the participant will receive a warning, and the bidding will continue. Those who receive two such warnings will no longer be allowed to participate in the auction. After a successful bid turns out to be a failure, if no bidders show interest further, then, the second highest bidder will automatically become the winner. If the second highest bidder also refuses to pay it, then, the item will be taken off from the auction.

5) There's a buyout price for every auctioned item, below divine items. It is 100 times whatever the listed price is. As long as the leading bid price doesn't exceed 20 times the listed price, any participant could call for the buyout and acquire the item directly.

6) All bidders are given a special bidding paddle with their room number engraved on them. One just needed to pour their ether energy into it and the engraved number will glow for three seconds. However, as all paddles are connected to each other, only one will glow at one time. This will show the spectators as well as the auctioneers who the leading bidder is.

7) The auctioneer has the right to withdraw any item from the auction at any moment as long as the leading bid price doesn't exceed 2 times its listed price.

8) The highest bidder will be declared the winner as long as no other bid happens during the next 60 seconds.

9) Last but not least, the one who won the item could either send one to the auction platform to pay money directly to the Auctioneer and collect it right away or pay it to the attendant and collect it after the auction has ended.

"A kind reminder for the spectators who are not part of the auction, please maintain silence while the auction rounds are going on.

Now that the rules are being made clear, without any further ado, let us proceed with the first stage of the auction." As Wang Zhongwei finished with the rules, Xin Rui poured her ether energy into the storage ring on her index finger and took out a statue of a 5ft tall and 9ft long dragon, placing it on the floor.

"The Statue of Dragon Deity, Agaros," Xin Rui took control of the auction as she introduced the item. "Made by the grandmaster craftsman Zhi Haoran, this platinum-grade item will grant an aura in ten meters of surroundings which will make you an ally of any beast of dragon species as long as they are king and below grade. As long as this statue stays in your vicinity, your chances of forming a contract with a dragon will also rise significantly. The listed price of this item is 100,000 gold coins. The bidding raise will be 1000 gold coins. Any bidders?"

Even when she wasn't giving any warnings and was merely introducing the items, her voice sounded so cold that it sent shivers down the spine for at least 80% of the spectators.

For a moment, Mark felt as if the entire coliseum turned gloomy for a moment. He couldn't help but narrow his eyes, activating his Eyes of God and inspecting the product.

While the details are exactly how Xin Rui has described, Mark's attention was piqued by the person itself when he casually scanned her identity too.

Xin Rui

Age: 36

Species: Human/Dragon

Rank: 8-circle (elementary stage)

Attribute: Fire, Ice

Bloodline: Red Dragon

Spirit Path: Swordsman

Description: Xin Rui is the daughter of Lan Haoyu and the Dragon Empire's princess, Tang Yejin. After her parents were publicly executed by the imperial court on the grounds of a forbidden relationship between an imperial princess and the imperial preceptor (her teacher), the Void Temple took her in.

Note: She practices Void Temple's Art of Succubus and mastered it. Under certain conditions, she could entirely steal her partner's life force as well as ether particles and make it her own.

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"I guess I need to meet this lady after all," Mark muttered under his breath as he let out a smile.

"Hmm?" Everyone in the room abruptly turned their heads toward Mark.

"Seriously?" Sylvandria scoffed at him, looking at him in a bit of disgust. She was the first to react by scolding him right away without having any reservations, "You have three women waiting for the marriage. You are eyeing another one, already? Aren't you getting too lustful?"

"Woah, she's bold," thought Steve and James at the same time. They remembered how respectful she was with their father back in the Elven world. Even until a while ago, she was quite obedient. Why did her character suddenly change?

The teenage supreme beings from the future couldn't help but wonder.

As for the two ladies, they thought that she could be acting this way because of the long age gap and her peak-9-circle realm cultivation. Little did they know that she was referring to the third woman to herself, not Xie Mei.

Only Mark understood what she truly meant and why she was acting this way.

Since she is basically his fiancée, albeit a secret one, she still has the right to speak to him in such a way and he cannot dismiss her like some kind of patriarchal husband. Not to mention, they spent so many days as a husband and wife in the illusionary realm and those memories never disappeared from either of their minds.

Hence, he kept his calm and gave clarification, not only for her but also for the other two, "I'm not interested in her that way, Ms. Silverleaf. She appears to have some relation with a former member of Lan Sect, I suspect. We'll get to know the details when we meet."

"Lan Sect?" Sylvandria wanted to ask what Mark had anything to do with this sect, but she kept her thoughts to herself for the moment and decided to ask him later on.

Meanwhile, a bidding war was started between the guests.

Even though the bidding raise was just 1000 gold coins for every bid, the highest running bid touched 1 million within a few minutes.

From there, the bidding raise was increased from 1000 to 10K per bid. Even then, the wealthy VIPs didn't stop. It wasn't until the leading bid price touched 2.8 million gold coins did the first bidding war slowed down and the bidders started to give up one after another. Mark never showed his interest in participating in the bid and Princess Shen Ling couldn't do it because of the intense bidding war. A platinum-grade item isn't worth of such value, or so she thought.

By the time it touched 4.1 million, only two remained. One is Rong Huang, the Lord of Reigar, the largest vassal state of the Dragon Empire, and the other is Tang Xin, a distant relative of the ruling dynasty but with the same surname and the leader of a mercenary group named Origin.

People thought that they would get to the next item, but didn't expect the war to get more intense between the two parties.