

Seller 501

Chapter 501 Ambushing the immortal realm warrior.

All eyes turned toward him. With a sinister grin, he accused, "You filthy beasts think you can mock me, huh? How dare you?" The air hung heavy with tension as his words cut through the chaotic moment.

His earlier amusement turned into anger in a split second and his cultivation no longer stayed suppressed.

The two teenagers also became serious and the dragon girl was quick to unleash a barrier over the field and locked the space.

"Aren't your world supposed to be in a mortal plane? Isn't this a place with thin natural energy? Why are these powerful beings popping up one after another?" Sylvandria, utterly baffled, appeared on the verge of a breakdown. Her usual composure crumbled, replaced by a visible state of confusion and distress.

Mark turned serious as he responded, "Two of the six demigods of this world, the Bloodhill's Dragon Emperor and the Beast Empire's Werewolf Lord." After a brief pause, he added, "I just never expected the ruler of the Bloodhill forest is also the founder of Void Temple, and over 2000 years old."

"She is a woman though. Shouldn't she be called a Dragon Empress instead?" Eol butted in the middle of a conversation, earning a glare from Mark and Sylvandria at the same time as if they were asking whether it is the right time to joke or something.

"Hehe... You both continue." Letting out an awkward laugh, Eol stayed silent. Mark became a spectator to watch them battle. It would be nice if the enemy gets defeated but it doesn't matter if turns out the other way. The only thing he wishes is that this shouldn't be a one-sided battle. Only that way, he can become confident enough to tackle them in the near or far future.

After a while;

In the arena, the Dragon Emperor and the Werewolf Lord clashed fiercely with an immortal from another realm. The air crackled with the intensity of their combat, each blow and exchange echoing through the space. The arena became a battleground, where these powerful beings collided in a struggle that transcended realms.

The Dragon Emperor and the Werewolf Lord hadn't unleashed their real power yet, but in the ongoing fight with the immortal, it was clear that none had the upper hand. They seemed evenly matched, each one countering the other's moves in a balanced struggle.

In the midst of the clash, Mark observed the perfectly balanced exchange of attacks. It left him questioning which side, if any, was restraining their full strength. The collective assault effortlessly nullified the immortal's attacks, leaving no substantial energy aftermath. It was as if their combined efforts seamlessly countered every move, creating a field where the immortal's influence dissipated without leaving a trace of released energy.

The immortal doesn't have any reason to hold back unless he is trying to play with them.

On the other hand, the demigod beasts have every reason to hold back their strength in case they are stronger because of the fear of collateral damage. It is also why a barrier was placed beforehand. However, could two demigods be able to overpower an immortal? Well, theoretically, it could be possible as they were emperor-grade beasts, but their opponent is someone who lived for more than eighty thousand years.

What are their odds of overwhelmingly winning against such a veteran who is likely to have extensive battle experience?

Mark observed, unable to draw a conclusion.

Eol, in contrast, absorbed every bit of knowledge from the battle.

The ladies and other onlookers felt at ease, relieved by the absence of destruction.

This sentiment resonated among several VIP guests as well. The lack of chaos brought a collective sense of calm to the spectators.

If there is someone who is the most nervous, it is Xin Rui who is trapped inside the barrier with no way to escape.

She could only stand in the corner, trying her best not to end up as collateral damage.

After exchanging a barrage of punches, kicks, and energy attacks, the immortal's face seemed flushed. From the ears to the neck, a shade of red seems to be painted over the region. He was also taking heavy breaths.

"Hmm, it looks like the beasts have the upper hand. Anyway, it looks like I will have to act faster before he escapes," Mark came to a conclusion based on the expression the immortal has as a battle came to a standstill for a few seconds. The two demigods, on the other hand, seemed perfectly calm and didn't even break a sweat at all.

The frustrated immortal finally summoned his weapon, an exquisite bow of low-quality divine grade, earning bursts of laughter from the demigod beasts.

"Phuahahaha" "Pfft..."

"Look at this villain, summoning an earth-grade weapon to fight us" "No wonder he attempted to rob us. He has the strength but lacks fortune." "Of course, he also lacks the personality of an expert." "Yeah, he tries to bully weak but when met with his match, he was taking external support"

"A pity" "A pity indeed"

The immortal's frustration only deepened by their mocking comments, "I'll kill you all."

His voice echoed throughout the coliseum as if a god was decreeing the judgment.

"Nokthar vaerthos, Yulthran Kyrran, Vothran'dar, King Yan'sharaan."

He pulled the string taut, pouring all his strength into it. Between his fingertips, a dark energy materialized, taking shape as he continued chanting in an unfamiliar language.

"Yrath'delos mor'kranthar, Shaylthos, Yan'duur amarthar.

Vranthir kalthar, nalthar kyor, Yan'shaeroth, amaranth kyror.

Thylnor shandor, Yan'shaelis lyrr, Kynthraeth maloth, nythraeth tyr.

Yan'valar, krathos kyr'thalis, Kyrnolthar, Yan'shae'lynthalis."

The black energy arrow was almost formed between his fingertips while the two demigod beasts unleashed double-layered energy barrier-like walls.

The immortal didn't stop and continued.

"Shyrtholn kyrr, Yan'sharaan'goreth..."

He was nearly done, about 90% through his spell when, out of nowhere, the ceiling disintegrated into dust. A yellow lightning bolt struck him directly on the head, catching him completely off guard.

He turned into ash in an instant, stunning the entire arena into silence.

However, it didn't impact the beasts as much as one thought it would did, "The power of a Saint. It's the guardian," The Werewolf lord opined with a smirk.

"What a fool," remarked the Dragon Emperor of Bloodhill, shaking his head. "Showing off immortal realm power and relying on a divine weapon. Lord Yuqiang, the guardian of the plane, won't let that pass." The Dragon Emperor nodded in agreement with the sentiment.

In the stands, the remaining spectators cheered for their saviors. Some guests showed appreciation by clapping, and a few went as far as bowing in gratitude. Others, however, acted like nothing out of the ordinary had occurred.

The atmosphere in VIP BOX number 8, on the other hand, is different.

Sylvandria, Eol, and the two teenage supreme beings gazed at Mark in disbelief. While the rest of the audience might be clueless, these four had witnessed the event firsthand. The astonishment lingered in their dazed expressions.

However, Mark himself didn't seem like he was pleased by the act.

The reason?

On the holographic screen, there was a notification from the system.

*Ding! You completed the Emergency Quest, Kill the intruder. Click to receive the rewards.

*Ding! Your soul is marked by a God realm cultivator. "Lu Zhen, you are a Saint?" Sylvandria couldn't help but ask him in shock.

Chapter 502 The Grand Auction (part-11)

Mark shot a glare, a silent 'Are you kidding me?' Sylvandria promptly backtracked, stating, "Of course, you're not. Otherwise, there wouldn't be drama back in our homeland. Plus, there's no way the Heavenly Palace

would allow you to stay in the mortal plane." Her words clarified the situation, retracting the initial doubt. "Heavenly palace?" Mark looked at her, asking for clarification.

The rest stayed curious as Sylvandria explained, "It's a decree from the Heavenly Palace, governing the universe. Saints are forbidden from entering the mortal plane because their existence poses a threat to us. A Saint could supposedly end all life on a planet by absorbing its life force." Her words shed light on the gravity of the decree, emphasizing the danger Saints represented to mortal life.

"Hmm... that's interesting," Mark placed his attention on her to clear the one doubt that's troubling him for the past few minutes, "Say, Sylvandria, why do you think the immortal couldn't defeat two demigods, earlier?"

Sylvandria was slightly surprised by his question but she still answered him, thinking that he was merely questioning her to test her knowledge, "I think the main culprit here are the world laws. Since he is not a native of this world, there's already enough suppression of his attacks. As they were Beast emperors, both of them could already hold an immortal on their own. By working together, they blocked the immortal's attack without a problem. I think they were also worried about killing him as it would bring unwanted attention from the higher planes. After all, an immortal will have some powerful force backing them. And such people often leave marks on their killers. If their killers are marked..." Sylvandria stopped talking in the middle of realization and let out a gasp, "You must be marked. Let's return to the Ixitus Empire. There, my successor can perform the ritual to bring the blessings of our God to you and remove the mark."

"Nah, it is fine," Mark waved his hand and returned his attention to the holographic screen.

He clicked on the first notification.

*Ding! Choose the reward:

(A) Ether versions of Pistol, Revolver, semiautomatic Handgun, Shotgun, Assault Rifle

(B) Ether Sniper rifle, Ether Grenade (all types), Ether Grenade Launcher (C) Ether Machine Guns: SMG, LMG, MMG, and HMG

(D) Exoskeleton suit-VIII

"There's nothing to think here..."

Mark didn't even hesitate a second to choose his reward, "System, I choose..."

*Ding! All grades of Ether machine guns have been unlocked. Check out the Gallery for details.

Regardless of what type of machine gun it was, the prices were surprisingly identical. Bronze Ether weapon – 100 gold coins

Silver Ether weapon– 500 gold coins

Gold Ether weapon – 2500 gold coins

Platinum Ether weapon – 250,000 gold coins Diamond Ether weapon – 2,500,000 gold coins

Crystal Ether weapon – 10 million gold coins

Ruby Ether weapon – 40 million gold coins

Mythril Ether weapon – 400 million gold coins

Celestial Ether weapon – 16 Billion gold coins

God Ether weapon – 6400 billion gold coins

"6.4 trillion? Well, I'm not surprised anymore. System gives me around 100 million credits (500 million gold coins) for a celestial-grade weapon but buying one cost over 16 billion. Talk about hyperinflation..."

*Ding! System's weapons are absolutely perfect without any flaws. They are a hundred or thousand times better than any weapon created by any blacksmith. Even the God of blacksmith, Zhiyi, was not a match.

"Yeah, yeah, whatever..." Mark was already immune to its bullshit fairness talk every time it shows inflated prices.

He felt like buying an army of Rank-10 robots would be a better deal compared to buying one Ether weapon from a God grade. Unlocking would cost him 50 billion gold coins and then buying each one would cost 5 billion.

Even in a hypothetical scenario of having 6.4 trillion gold coins, which could only be earned by selling the traditional weapons back to the system, Mark could still buy more than 25000 Rank-9 robots, capable of controlling hundreds of worlds with ease. But, he cannot reach the apex.

On the other hand, the God-grade weapon would let him even kill the deities but only when the wielder should also be in God's realm. Weaker people cannot flaunt such weapons in front of Gods or else, they will only meet a tragic fate.

Both of them have their own advantages and disadvantages, but, since Mark is not a warrior who wants to challenge the gods but a businessman who wants to spread firearms everywhere he goes, it is clear to him which path is better to take.

Furthermore, he already has one god-grade weapon. He just needs to repair it and it will be enough.

"Anyway, System, seeing how the people bidding for the items, I think from now onwards, you will have to bring up better deals to trade the traditional ether weapons. I hope you are prepared for it."

While the spectators and many guests that ran away haven't returned to their seats, the Auction resumed on the orders of the Dragon girl.

*Ding! The system's offer is always fair, dear host. If the Host wants a better deal, then, he should prepare weapons of at least Celestial grade.

"Yeah, I will do that..."

After an hour;

While the spectators and many guests that ran away haven't returned to their seats, the Auction resumed on the orders of the Dragon girl.

Mark was quite worried about the price reduction of his items due to less competition but didn't expect the wealthy would become more aggressive instead. The arrival of an immortal only increased their fear of life even more.

Rather than some heaven-defying weapon, they needed a life-saving treasure or a loyal bodyguard who doesn't leave their side and at least occupy the enemy's attention while they escape.

What's better than a robot that could fulfill those tasks?

Battle Robot-VIII was auctioned as the fourth item with 10 million gold coins as the minimum price. However, the bidding war went on for at least an hour.

"440 million" The Imperial Prince of Dragon Empire raised the paddle. He was hell-bent on acquiring this bodyguard.

"450 million"

The second competitor in the race was the 17-year-old, Yu Tiajin. Mark didn't expect his father to possess so much wealth. "460 million"

The third and final competitor for this item was a mysterious blonde girl named Li Na. No one heard of her and this was the first time she was also participating in bidding. Surprisingly, she was alone in the VIP Box no. 33, and her cultivation level only looked like she was in a 5-circle.

"520 million," The young prince raised the paddle, after taking some time to think.

There were another 30-40 seconds of silence before Li Na raised the paddle, "580 million"

Yu Tiajin didn't raise the paddle for the third time in a row. Has he given up? The spectators wondered.

"530 million," The Prince didn't give up yet. However, this time, he took more than two minutes before raising the paddle.

For this last segment, there were 5 minutes of time per bid, once it crossed 100 million.

"540 million" "550 million" "560 million" "570 million" "580 million"

"590 million," After raising the paddle, the Imperial Prince further stated, "Miss, this is my final bid."

Hundreds of eyes turned toward the lone girl sitting in the VIP Box. She appeared to be taking her time and consulting someone.

It was at this moment Xin Rui announced, "600 million, Box no. 19."

"Eh?" People were taken aback by the reentry of Yu Tiajin.

Li Na's face turned from surprise to anger. She clenched his fist tightly for a couple of seconds before she let out a sigh and shook her head.

Chapter 503 The Grand Auction (part-12)

Five minutes of silence later;

"Time's up. 600 million once, twice, sold."

"Congratulations, Mr. Yu Tiajin on winning the item no. 4, Battle Robot-VIII."

VIP BOX NO.19;

"Yes, I probably paid all the inheritance in my name but it was worth it," mumbled the 17-year-old, "According to the rules, I only need to pay 20% amount to keep it reserved for me. I can just sell everything and get the remaining amount. 30 days is enough for such a thing anyway. With that said, let's end my participation here..."

VIP BOX No. 8;

"Yes... it is 600 million. It was sold higher than our expectations, Markie," Song Yue hugged his arm tightly in happiness. It was as if she had forgotten about the intrusion of an immortal.

"Congratulations," Sylvandria wasn't a materialistic person. Hence, even such a huge amount didn't shake her heart, but at the very least, she was happy for her man.

"I knew it." Shen Ling clenched her fist, "My choice is correct." She thought in her head.

As for Mark, he was also celebrating like the rest for selling a product 60 times its creation price, but he kept his feelings in his heart and merely smiled. In the eyes of his fiancées, he was only a weapon seller who gets 10-20% commission, not the one who manufactured them. He shouldn't show too much happiness. Xin Rui, on the other hand, couldn't help but sigh in her heart for she knew what was about to come in a couple of hours and continued with her job.

"Now, onto the next item."

"Item no. 5: Shrouded Infiltrator attire, for couple."

"The item minimum price is 1,000,000 gold coins and the bid raise is 100,000"

"13 million once, twice, sold" "Congratulations, Mr. Qing Jie on winning item no. 5, Shrouded Infiltrator attire"

"49 million, once, twice, sold" "Congratulations Ms. Li Na on winning item no. 6, Sapphire Moonlight mirror"

"72 million, once, twice, sold" "Congratulations Ms. Li Na on winning item no. 7, Primordial Azure Phoenix Medallion"

"340 million, once, twice, sold" "Congratulations Mr. Rong Huang on winning item no. 8, Samsara Rebirth Lotus Seed"

"26 million, once, twice, sold" "Congratulations Ms. Li Na on winning item no. 9, Stormweaver's Thunderstruck Gauntlets"

"28 million, once, twice, sold" "Congratulations Ms. Li Na on winning item no. 6, Thousand Petal Blossom Palm"

"Now for the item no. 11. Behold the Seraph Dragon Bow. I have told you before but I will remind everyone once again. This is a Sky grade weapon. Even if you search the entire world, there will be less than twenty of such weapons."

Xin Rui tried to entice the wealthy bidders to spend even more, as she was hoping to see the bidding cross 200 million once again. But the reality often disappoints your expectations.

Half an hour later;

"130 million, once, twice, sold" "Congratulations Ms. Li Na on winning item no. 10, Seraph Dragon Bow"

There was a hint of disappointment in Xin Rui's voice but thinking that she already proved enough to sell items of combined worth nearly 1.5 billion gold coins already, she moved on to finish the auction by taking out the next item.

"Now for the final three. Behold the twelfth item of the segment, The Intelligence Augment Pill."

She raised her hand above her head to showcase the black-colored oval-shaped pill lying on her palm.

"This is the one of the final items?" The majority had the same thought.

Meanwhile, at the Imperial Dragon Palace;

"Not interested"

The acting emperor was seen sitting on his throne in shock as those two words echoed in his ears over and over.

"Why? Why? Why?" Tang Yifan was frustrated by the rejection from his ancestor, who refused to help him in taking down Mark and others even after he said that the latter killed one of the former Emperors.

The reason?

Well, it wasn't given by the founder of the Empire and just asked him to leave.

Tang Yifan wasn't the type to back down. He was one of those types who would become obsessed with achieving the goal at all costs, once decided on it.

Furthermore, after receiving the message from his brother about Mark's attendance at the Auction and his rejection of Rong Huang's invitation during the lunch break, Tang Yifan's determination to capture Mark has increased even more.

After much thinking, he pulled out the communication scroll from his right sleeve and lit it up before recording his voice message, "Supreme Commander Qiu, I need you to do a job for me. Assassinate the Imperial Sovereign's granddaughter and grandson-in-law and then relay their news of death to him. Make sure that Lu Zhen will take the blame. That will be enough to trigger his rage."

Putting away the scroll, Tang Yifan muttered under his breath with a cold gaze, "In case, his strength wasn't enough, I need to drag that ancestor of mine to the battle. So, Lu Zhen should be attacked in the middle of the city. Once there are heavy civilian losses, he will surely be forced to come and battle Lu Zhen's Supreme Beings. I don't want to do this but for the sake of the greater good, some sacrifices are necessary."

On a small, scorching planet in the plane of fire and ice, a mere 1400 km in radius, the intense heat was only surpassed by the density of natural energy, three thousand times that of other places. Amidst the fiery landscape, a man engaged in an extraordinary battle with a winged horse that breathed molten lava.

The rocky terrain echoed with the clash of elements—heat waves shimmering in the air as rivers of lava flowed, creating a hazardous backdrop. The man seemed less like a warrior and more like someone attempting to forge a connection with the untamed creature.

As he faced the Lava Pegasus, dozens of fiery threads of energy surged from his palms. Each thread danced in the air, forming a web of energy that sought to ensnare the creature. The battle unfolded like a dance of flames and shadows, the man's movements deliberate and fluid, trying to dominate the wild spirit of the Lava Pegasus.

The air crackled with the intensity of their encounter. The man, with arrogance etched across his face, gradually began to gain control over the fiery beast. The latter was seen struggling. "Now, easy there, Inferno Pegasus. Put your pride aside and be my partner. I'll help you avenge your clan."

Neigh Neigh* The threads of energy wrapped around the creature, as firm restraints, intending to show that there was no way for it to escape. The more it struggled, the more the threads of energy tightened over it.

The lava spewing from the Pegasus' wings gradually subsided, replaced with the sign of tiredness.

As the Lava Pegasus bowed its head to the man, the latter caressed its mane as he said, "Your name will be Pyro henceforth."

neigh

Riding on top of the Lava Pegasus, the man flew into the sky until he reached a portal with a man in black robes waiting for him.

"See, I told you, Yu Ra. I can tame this beast if I put my mind to it," bragged the man.

His subordinate responded to his comment with a different topic, "Your Highness received a summoning from the General. It seems our warrior who visited the mortal plane ended up dead."

"Dead?" the man furrowed his brows. "How?"

"Heavenly Thunder, but it was invoked by a mortal, who was now marked."

Chapter 504 The Grand Auction (part-13)

Meanwhile, at the Auction House, Xin Rui revealed the properties of the pill in her hand, "This pill is from a trusted source but we cannot reveal its origins. However, what we can tell you is that swallowing this pill will raise your cultivation level by one, permanently. Even a legendary realm warrior will become a supreme realm expert just by swallowing this pill. There will be no wall, side effects, or whatever. But the catch here is that it only works on those professions that work on magic, such as Mages, summoners, Dungeon creators, etc... The best way of using it is to give this pill to a peak stage legendary realm Mage so that he/she becomes a Supreme Being instantly. Please do note that this doesn't work on Supreme Beings or above realms, not that it is worth mentioning but still...

Anyway, this item without any grade has a minimum price of 100 million gold coins. Each raise is 10 million. Just like every time, the final three items have a reserve period of 1 year and a reserve price of 10%. This time, we are reducing the reserve price to a mere 5%. With that said, let the bidding begin.

A series of paddles were raised in the air.

The guests who weren't actively participating in earlier bids also participated now. Most of them didn't even have the minimum amount but they were willing to win this, keeping their hopes on the reserved item system of Void Temple.

How does this work?

Well, the Void Temple will pay the sellers the full amount of the winning bid from their pockets.

On the other hand, they will take reserve fees from the winners and keep them in the vault for a period of time.

If the winner comes with the remaining amount in time, they get to claim the item. Or else, the amount they paid to reserve the item will be gone into Void Temple as compensation.

Then, the item will make its way to the next Grand Auction.

Several times, the bidders fell for this scheme and lost millions but they kept falling for it because none of those winners had a weak background. Such people often have the confidence to accomplish difficult feats, which seems absurd to common people.

Just like that, the miracle pill of cultivation has garnered tough competition from the guests. Unfortunately, Yu Tiajin, Rong Huang, and Li Na, the ones who spent too much during the previous biddings, were out of the competition.

Hence, it didn't go as far as the Battle Robot-VIII but went just close enough to increase Mark's heartbeat. His companions, on the other hand, have no idea about this item. They remained calm. Shen Ling even commented that there's so much economic disparity there in Dragon Empire that she was feeling angry and envious at the same time. "520 million, once, twice, sold"

"Congratulations, Tang Weimin on winning item no. 12, The Intelligence Augmentation Pill"

"Coming to the second of the final three, we introduce the Battle Robot-VIII once again. Its abilities are completely identical to item no. 4." Xin Rui shocked the VIPs by taking out the robot once again. Pointing her hand to the robot standing still beside her, she said, "Originally, they were supposed to be sold as a set of two, but as the unique item that needs evidence of its strength to prove, we had to send one to the challenging round, of course with the consent of its seller."

We shall put the minimum price on this item at 100 million, the same as the previous item.

VIP BOX No.12;

"F**k this lady..." The Prince couldn't control his anger this time. "She made me spend so much on other items. Now, I have to spend hundreds of millions on this? What to do? What to do... The earlier item will be enough to satisfy that brother of mine. In fact, I don't need to participate anymore as the next item belongs to our family. But..."

He fell into a dilemma, not being able to decide. In the meantime, the bidding war started among those who were too desperate to win a big item as they had money but couldn't win so far. With three major players out of the race and the remaining might focus on the final item, they felt like they should win this penultimate bidding war. In fact, during the next thirty minutes, several meetings happened between these individuals to acquire others' money as a loan.

Tang Weimin, in the end, joined the race as it crossed 300 million.

This bidding war went the longest. It was already evening eight by the time the leading bid entered 700 million.

Mark was trying his best to control his feelings but one could see the illusion of gold coins instead of his pupils as he intensely stared at the competition.

"840 once, twice, sold"

"Congratulations, Tang Weimin on winning item no. 13, Battle Robot-VIII"

Yu Tiajin raised his fist in excitement and shouted, "Haha, that's a 200 million loss for you, Prince Tang." He clearly mocked the prince, who looked like his entire life force was just drained from his body. Tang Weimin looked so pale at the moment and he could barely let out a laugh. "Hehe... whatever... the money will be retrieved once our item will be sold."

Clap

"Now, the last item of the auction."

For this item, she didn't directly take it out of the ring and grab it in her hand.

Instead, she placed the ring on the floor and then poured her ether energy into the storage ring.

Amid the expectations of the appearance of Heaven grade divine item (Celestial grade), an iron box, the size of a Jewelry box that has ornaments, appeared on the ground, taking everyone by surprise.

"It's an unnamed Indestructible Box. As the name suggests, this box made of unknown material is practically indestructible. Since we lack immortals and above-realm warriors, we are not sure about its durability, but at the very least, not even the strongest combined attack of the Dragon clan's founder and those two who you have witnessed earlier could put a scratch on this box.

Another usage of this box is that it is estimated to weigh over one billion kilograms. Whether you are fast enough to defend the attacks from your enemies or not, you can still kill the opponents with a slam or a throw. "Hmm?"

Mark activated his Eye of God in curiosity.

"What in the..."

Chapter 505 The Grand Auction (final)

Unnamed

Owner: N/A

Grade: N/A

Description: This unnamed box was forged by melting down a number of Voidstones, a unique material that only grows in the Banished realm or the Void realm at the pace of 1 millimeter every 834,996 years. Due to their nullification properties, the box is nearly indestructible against the attack of any force under 15-circle (Elder God realm).

Weakness: The box is weak against forces such as Protos energy, anti-matter, Natural energy, pure divine energy, and Chaos energy.

Contents: It contains one of two keys to the Heavenly Palace's treasury. In the battle against the Chaos Lord, the Jade emperor lost his key to the cosmos, drifting in space for hundreds of millions of years.

Effect: The Box is immune to attacks and also weighs roughly 1.32 billion kg on the current planet.

*Ding! You triggered an emergency quest.

Quest: Acquire the Unnamed Box and submit it to the system.

Reward: Voidstones (unlock), M999 Minigun, Rare material purchase (unlock), Upgrade crystal (superior),
Credit limit increases to 2 billion.

"Hmm?" A look of surprise appeared on Mark's face. He went into quick analysis, "I never heard of the M999 model Minigun but seeing the other rewards, it looks like a high-grade one. Something is indeed fishy. Furthermore, my 189k credit limit is directly increased by 2,000,000%?"

"With this, the system would no longer charge me high interest as my loan amount in the future wouldn't go out of credit limit. Perhaps, I would, anyway... the auction has already started. Let's think about this later and focus on the auction, right now. I wonder how high this bid will go."

"160 million" "170 million" "180 million" "190 million"

"200 million, Box no. 14," announced Xin Rui. She added, "From now onwards, the bid raise will be 20 million. Bids please..."

This was the special privilege of the final item. Its bidding raise amount will change after 200 million, 500 million, and 1 billion, not that this item will attract such high bid because of its unknown properties and high bids already occurring four times already and forced several big players out of the race.

"220 million" "240 million" "260 million"... "340 million" "360 million" "380 million"...

Three bidders were in the race, which reduced to two after 300 million. But, it went at a snail's pace. For every bid raised, there was so much discussion happening among the bidder and their respective associates.

"440 million" "460 million" "480 million"

"500 million, Box no. 22," Xin Rui made another announcement, "from now onwards, the bid raise will be 50 million, and the timeout is 10 minutes. Bids please..."

VIP Box no. 14;

"Lord Mu, I think you should give up," The attendant of Mu Tianlong advised his master, who was about to raise the paddle.

Mu Tianlong furrowed his brows in displeasure, "But, why? Don't you think the elders will find this thing interesting?"

"550 million gold coins is no joke, Lord Mu," replied the servant. He further explained, "To get 400 million, we had to give away a bunch of Earth-grade weapons to the Azure Cloud Pavilion. If this goes any longer, we have to sell more. It is not worth spending much. Just think about it for once."

Mu Tianlong, who appeared to be an Exalt realm cultivator on the surface, fell into deep thoughts.

Eventually, he raised the paddle as he said, "Not a problem, Fu Ruyi. We have more in our clan treasury anyway. If we go empty-handed, my brothers would make fun of me." "550 million, Box no. 14" Xin Rui announced the bid, taking the remaining bidder by surprise.

He didn't have the time to react to the bid raise and Xin Rui made another announcement, almost in just ten seconds, "600 million, Box no. 8."

Box no. 8 became quite famous for winning several battles in challenging rounds and the presence of supreme beings. After the whole intrusion incident, people had actually forgotten about them, many of them thinking that the supreme beings had fled as they could no longer sense their presence.

Shen Ling's joining as the bidder for the final item reminded them of her existence. While they were no longer aware of whether the three supreme beings were still there or not, at the very least, they remembered the name, Shen Ling as she aggressively bid under Mark's instructions without taking too much time.

"650 million" "700 million"

"750 million" "800 million"

Neither Mark nor Mu Tianlong stopped their bidding, even after it reached a record-breaking price. One was doing it to complete the mission while the other wanted to protect his pride in front of his clansmen.

"850 million" "900 million"

"950 million" "1 billion"

In the end, Mu Tianlong withdrew and let Shen Ling win it, making the unnamed box the costliest item of this auction.

"Congratulations, Shen Ling on winning the item for 1 billion gold coins."

As Xin Rui announced her as the winner, the imperial prince of the Tang Dynasty mumbled, "Who could have expected that our treasure would end up in his hands of Lu Zhen, of all the people in the world? Since this guy did give a lot of money, worth more than that entire Vermillion bird continent, let's do a small favor on my part by not informing this piece of news to Eldest Brother. He has yet to send any news regarding the founder, anyway."

Meanwhile, at Box no. 14, Mu Tianlong's face turned serious as he ordered his servant, "Fu Ruyi, it appears that there is something more to this item than it meets the eye. Or else, no one would be so stubborn to acquire it at such a price, and that too, someone from this backward realm. I want it now at all costs."

The old man in standard butler robes answered, "Lord Mu, it is Box no. 8, the one with three supreme beings."

"I know," Mu Tianlong nodded. "But, you have seen their actions earlier. Forget about attacking the immortal realm cultivator, even when he suppressed his aura to the demigod realm, but they even suppressed their auras to stay hidden. They were clearly not risk-takers. Put a powerful demigod before them as an opponent and they will voluntarily give it up. Send a message to Elder Wan."

"But..." Fu Ruyi tried to convince his master of this crazy idea, but Mu Tianlong looked stubborn as he said, "Do it."

"As you wish, Milord," the butler bowed with a resigned look on his face. ***

A few hours later;

Past midnight, As the rest of the civilians and tourists were sleeping, at the Hotel, Mark was awake in his room and focused on counting his winnings from the auction without being tired or so whatever.

"The Flag of Huangdi that increases my robot army's strength. With Staff of Blessing on the side, my robotic army could become invincible."

His eyes then shifted to the inventory slot with a staff. "This one only has one use."

The Staff of Horus

Grade: Diamond

Recommended: Mage, Summoner

Description: The weapon is forged with 92% Mythril and a myriad of other metals. The core is the goblin's brain.

*

"System, activate Transmutation"

A new holographic screen opened on the side with a huge circle in the middle. He clicked and held on it for a couple of seconds, and dragged it to the new window.

The item disappeared into specks of light, followed by a notification.

*Ding! You received 5.94 kg of pure Mythril, 516.5 gm of tungsten alloy, 1.6 kg of ether powder, and meat paste of goblin's brain.

"For a mere 21000 gold coins, I struck a treasure. Just 1 gram of Mythril is worth 100 gold coins in the store. Okay, next item..." Scroll of Thousand Blossoms

Grade: N/A

Recommended: anyone

Effects: Each petal has incredible healing properties, capable of healing any kind of injury. A 1% probability of reviving the dead when used within one hour of death. Description: A one-time painted scroll that unleashes a thousand petals of mystical cherry blossoms, only grown in the Celestial plane of existence.

"Hmm... I don't think this one is much useful for me. Let's keep this in inventory and give it to Allen as a gift once his metamorphosis is over. Next..."

*

Fan of Ephemeral storms

Grade: Crystal

Recommended: anyone

Description: This delicate folding fan possesses the power to summon ephemeral storms. With a flick of the fan, the user can conjure thunder, lightning, and rain, creating a tempest that disorients enemies and bolsters the wielder's agility. This item only has the power to alter weather in the region and doesn't contain either offensive or defensive techniques.

"This is a good item, useful in a war, more than a battle. Well, I can also use this to ambush the enemy boss with a lightning strike. This stays with me..."

*

Elixir of Eternal Spring

Grade: N/A

Recommended: anyone

Description: This elixir bestows the drinker with eternal youth and vitality. It halts the aging process and grants resistance to diseases. The amount of elixir is sufficient for two people. Please do note that it doesn't change one's lifespan.

"The Elixir can be shared by Shen Ling and Schatz. I guess the ladies will love this item. Sylvandria was once a High Priestess. She won't like such a thing, although not like she needed it."

*

"Now, coming for the Unnamed box..." He stared at the image of the black box in the inventory and then at the Quest and its reward. "Hmm... System, I paid 1 billion to win this box and the key inside it. If I submit this item, along with the promised rewards, will you let me have this box too? You can have the key. What do you say?"

Chapter 506 M999 Minigun; An alliance between the Necromancer King and Supreme Pontiff of the Church of Doom

Mark expected the system to answer him like its proposal was fair and the money he paid to acquire the item was actually covered by selling the system's items to others by using a loophole; however, it readily accepted the negotiation.

*Ding! The host's counteroffer is accepted. Now, please proceed to submit the item.

Mark's eyes widened by the notification, "seriously? My hypothesis is true then. It was for this key."

He doesn't know what the system wants, but since he only profited that night, Mark submitted the box to the system. In return, the system sent him a notification.

*Ding! The quest has been completed. Please click to receive the rewards.

Mark clicked on the notification.

*Ding! Rare material purchase section has been unlocked in the store.

*Ding! Voidstone has been unlocked. Please check the Rare material purchase.

*Ding! Credit limit has been increased to 2 billion.

*Ding! Upgrade crystal (superior) has been sent to the inventory.

*Ding! M999 Minigun has been sent to the inventory.

*Ding! The Unnamed Box will be sent to the inventory in 12 hours.

"Open Inventory"

Mark curiously clicked on the Gatling gun image in the inventory.

A new window opened with the image of a multi-barrel gun with one barrel in the center and four layers of barrels around it, each one is bigger than its inner layer.

With one in the center, then, six barrels around it, then, 12, then, 24, and finally 48, this 91-barrel gun looks quite heavy as well as intimidating.

He scrolls down to see its details.

M999 Minigun

Type: Rotary Machine gun

Grade: Celestial

Ammo: 7.62 x 51mm/Ether energy

Barrels: 91

Weight: 1466 kg

Length: 1801.6 mm

Barrel Length: 1558.8 mm

Muzzle velocity: 3850 meters/sec

Effective range: 10km (Accuracy: 100%)

Absolute Range: 2000km (Accuracy: 5%)

RPM: 1000-100,000 (can be set beforehand)

Description: An ultimate rotary machine gun that is capable of destroying enemies within a snap of a finger.

Consumption: The rotary machine gun uses the user's ether energy as its power source. It consumes 1000 ether energy points per every second.

Active Skills:

Ether bullets: The user could charge the rotary machine gun with ether energy and use energy bullets in place of 7.62 x 51mm ammo. Each bullet fired from one barrel has the power to eliminate any target under the 12-circle realm under the right conditions. Multiple ether bullets could eliminate higher-level targets. Cost: 10 million ether points per 1 round. CD: None

Elemental bomb: The rotary machine gun will fire an ether bomb imbued with one of the basic elements and fire at the enemy. The targets that were hit will face the after-effects of the element accordingly, i.e. burn(fire)/ gust(wind)/ paralyze(lightning)/ imprison(earth)/ wave(water)/ blind(light)/ life steal (dark). Cost: None. CD: 10 seconds.

Ether warhead: The rotary machinegun will fire a lengthy but thin warhead of ether energy from its central barrel with 160% attack power (max: 12.9). Cost: 100 million ether points (EP). CD: 5 minutes.

Spiral wave: After getting charged for 5 seconds, the rotary machine gun fires a spiral energy wave that will disrupt the senses of the targets. Note: The time of effectiveness depends on the target's cultivation level. Cost: 100 million EP. CD: 180 seconds.

SuperBeam: The rotary machinegun will be charged for ten seconds and create a concentrated beam of energy to shoot at the enemy with 230% attack power (max: 13.9). Cost: 50% of maximum Ether energy. CD: 30 minutes

Merge: The machine gun could become one with the user by attaching itself to the user's body, transforming into a piece of armor on his upper body, smaller multi-barrel weapons on both arms as well as above the shoulders, scope on one of his eyes, metallic wings with multi-barrel cannons on the back. Note: in this mode, the user could only use the Ether bullets skill. Cost: 5% ether energy per second. CD: 60 minutes.

Passive skills:

All-mount: The machine gun can be mounted on any kind of surface, soft or hard, flat or irregular, at any angle, as long as there is enough space. It can even be mounted in an inverted position.

Durability: The machine gun is durable enough to block attacks with less power than peak-12-circle.

"Damn, the celestial-grade weapon should be like this. The exoskeleton's firepower can't even hold against this weapon. I guess it is because this one is just a weapon and that is a nano suit. This one is super awesome, better than even the sword of light, the celestial-grade sword I stole from Emperor Shun's spirit.

If a celestial-grade machine gun could do this much, I wonder how amazing the God-grade weapons created by the system going to be. Now that I think about it, haven't I unlocked machine guns as the reward for killing that immortal? I could create such caliber weapons with a snap of a finger. Well, unfortunately, their high price tag will make those two top-grade weapons almost impossible to sell, but I guess Mythril-grade ones might sell well if I promote them properly. After all, they were also considered Divine weapons.

Anyway, enough about the machine guns. Let's check the others.

First Battle Robot was purchased for 600 million. Second Battle Robot was purchased for 840 million. The intelligence pill was purchased for 520 million. Overall, 1960 million. They reduced 98 million (5%) as their cut. Deducting 1 billion for the box, I received 862 million gold coins. That's about 172 million credits. Anyway, let's first pay off the debts."

*Ding! 120 million gold coins were deducted from the account.

*Ding! As the debt was being closed, the accumulated interest of 2.21 million gold coins was also deducted from the account.

"Accumulated interest, my butt..." Mark's pleasant mood soured with that second notification. He couldn't help but scoff at it, "It's only been a little more than a week since I unlocked the Rank-8 Battle robot and then bought one. Yet, the system charged me two weeks' worth of interest for those two. The second one, which was only created a few hours ago, was also charged one week's worth of interest. Black Hearted System."

*Ding! The system is always fair. The interest isn't charged on a daily basis, but weekly basis. The host was already reminded beforehand.

"Yeah, yeah, I know that. Can't you atleast let me let out this steam a bit?"

*Ding! The host can, but cannot aim comments on the system's actions without giving proper reasoning. "You never lose any opportunity to display your sassiness, aren't you?" Mark knew that he would only lose an argument with the system. Hence, after throwing a comment, he shifted his attention to the purchases.

*** Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, at Vermilion bird continent;

In the majestic Tower of Doom, located in a remote location of the Western Moon kingdom, the leader of the church of Doom was seen meditating in a dark chamber. His body is constantly leaking scarlet aura, almost terrifying his subordinates resting on the upper floors.

Everyone was also in close-door training ever since their leader returned with unstable demigod realm cultivation and ordered them to increase their strength for the war he was going to launch, after the whole fiasco at the battle for the fire seed, but their leader's aura became too strong that they couldn't concentrate at all. If anything, it was giving them sleepless nights. They wanted to run away from the tower but they couldn't do so.

In such a situation, what is the best thing they need? A formidable enemy at the doorstep;

Yup, they want an enemy to distract their leader to give them a momentary rest of peace. Fun fact, there are several in the organization that have had the same thought for the past several weeks, but no one is just voicing out their opinion.

Considering the fact that their base is also in the enemy territory and the news of Mark's return has already reached them, they were expecting an attack on the tower at any time. They were safe as long as they stayed inside the tower. So, they weren't scared of Mark, his robotic army, or his Supreme Being servant.

Little did they know that someone formidable would knock on the door of the tower right on this day when their leader's aura leaking is at its peak.

The entire tower shook as if there was an earthquake, forcing the organization's leader to come out of his meditation and go out in anger.

There, he saw a stranger standing on the head of a peak-9-circle-realm undead dragon with a woman with no life force sitting on its back

"Who are you?" Yan Hai furrowed his brows in extreme displeasure. It wasn't the Zheng as he expected.

The stranger crackled into laughter, "Hahahaha, I knew it. It was you, the third demigod. I thought it was the Lord of the Bloodhill, until now. But then again, it is interesting to see someone with so many attributes."

"Get to the matter, stranger, or else..." Yan Hai grew impatient. He wanted to go there and kill the one that disturbed him, but he had to face two supreme beings, one of them was even tougher to destroy because it was already dead. And then, there's this girl on the undead dragon. He cannot even sense anything.

Of course, he was confident about taking them on but wasn't sure if he could kill them in a short time. Hence, he gave them the chance to explain themselves.

The Necromancer King then replied, "Don't need to be alarmed, Supreme Pontiff Yan. I'm not an enemy. I'm here to form an alliance."

"Alliance?" Yan Hai was taken aback.

The Necromancer King explained, "You need to resurrect your founder, but the zheng will be your biggest hurdle. Now that the zheng and its master moved to this land, it became next to impossible. You have to take it down at all costs. I will help you."

"How do you..." Yan Hai's eyes widened once again. He controlled his expression and asked, "What do you expect?"

The Necromancer King answered, "In return, the heads of the living direct descendants of the Shang Dynasty and the six ancient major clans are my prize. As for the land, I merely need the imperial city and the entire region between the city and the Bloodhill forest. Your organization can have the rest of the Empire's land. I don't care."

There was a deafening silence for the next half a minute as Yan Hai was thinking about the advantages and disadvantages of this deal. The Necromancer King patiently waited.

Eventually, Yan Hai opened his mouth, "Your proposal is good but you got one thing wrong. I don't want to kill the zheng. We need to capture it and give our founder as the present. You look strong but your strength won't be enough to accomplish this task."

"Oh, is that so?" The Necromancer King's smile only widened further, for some reason, "then, it is even easier. Your goal will be achieved as long as you can get me a beast emperor with Supreme Being cultivation. Luckily for us, there is one at the Western Yan."

"Hmm?"

Chapter 507: Using all the winnings for upgrades

After settling the debt with the system, Mark had roughly a little over 859 million gold coins in his account.

He decided to convert most of it.

"System, exchange 800 million gold coins with credits," he said.

*Ding! 800 million gold coins will be exchanged for 160 million credits. Confirm?

"Yes"

*Ding! 800 million gold coins are deducted.

*Ding! 160 million credits are added to the account.

"Good, now unlock Battle Robots of Rank-6 and Rank-7"

*Ding! 240,000 credits are deducted from the account. Rank-6 Battle Robots are now unlocked.

*Ding! 1,600,000 credits are deducted from the account. Rank-7 Battle Robots are now unlocked.

"Hmm... what's next... Yup, that's right... System, open inventory."

He scrolled to the right until he found the image of a battle tank in one of the slots.

He clicked on it to see the details.

Battle Tank-I

Grade: N/A

Length: 4.5 meters

Width: 2 meters

Height: 1.5 meters

Weight: 5550 kilograms

Elevation Aiming Angle: -1 to 30 degrees

Primary Weapon: Assault Rifle

Secondary Weapons: None

Additional Attachments: None

Maximum Speed: 30 km/hr

Cruising Range: 150 km (Fuel-based)

Maximum Firing Range: 500 meters

Autoload: Manual loading is required.

Accuracy: 70% up to 100 meters; 30% from 100 meters to 200 km; 10% from 200 meters to 500 meters

Description: Battle Tank-I is a humble and budget-friendly armored vehicle designed for simple tasks and basic reconnaissance. With minimal firepower and mobility, it is suitable for training exercises and low-intensity conflicts.

Skills: None.

Upgrade >>> 1000 credits

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"Expected it. So, no complaints. But the fact that it automatically comes with an assault rifle means that it can still do damage to 3-circle realm Spirit Warriors. Anyway, let's see how strong it could become after a few upgrades."

*Ding! 1000 credits are deducted. Battle Tank-I is upgraded to Battle Tank-II

*Ding! 4000 credits are deducted. Battle Tank-II is upgraded to Battle Tank-III

*Ding! 20000 credits are deducted. Battle Tank-III is upgraded to Battle Tank-IV

*Ding! 120k credits are deducted. Battle Tank-IV is upgraded to Battle Tank-V

After upgrading it to platinum grade, Mark took a good look at its details. A smile appeared on his face, seeing a familiar-looking tank with familiar skills and features.

It was the first battle tank he used in this world. Battle Tank-V had to be sacrificed as a part of the deal, but seeing it again made him remember how he took down the Song clan and hurt the arrogance of these major nobles, who crush the commoners on a daily basis.

He remembered how he used it to take down the beast king, Cerberus, and how it went on to become the key factor in developing a friendship with his righteous half-brother, Shang Wen, who is currently missing.

Of course, that doesn't mean he will continue to use it. That kind of Battle Tank is no longer helpful to Mark.

After going into memory lane for a brief amount of time, Mark continued with the upgrade.

*Ding! 840K credits are deducted. Battle Tank-V is upgraded to Battle Tank-VI

*Ding! 6,720,000 credits are deducted. Battle Tank-VI is upgraded to Battle Tank-VII.

He could go with one more upgrade, but since there is the missile defense system he intended to upgrade later, Mark managed to hold down his urge and stopped it.

But the details of this semi-divine armored vehicle surprised him quite a bit, exceeding his expectations.
"Man, its range is damn high. Not even Missile Defense System is a match."

Battle Tank-VII

Grade: Crystal

Length: 14 meters

Width: 5.5 meters

Tunnel Roof: 3.5 meters

Weight: 124,000 kilograms (approx)

Elevation Aiming Angle: -20 to 90 degrees

Primary Weapon: 120 mm smoothbore ether cannon

Secondary Weapons: Quad-barrel 20 mm Gatling gun, Anti-Air Missile Launcher.

Additional Attachments: Advanced adaptive camouflage, Energy Shield Generator, Tactical AI Integration

Maximum Speed: 250 km/hr

Cruising Range: Unlimited (Ether energy as fuel)

Maximum Firing Range: 500 km

Autoload: Automated loading system for all weapons

Accuracy: 100% up to 50 km; 90% from 50 km to 100 km; 50% from 100 km to 200 km; 10% from 200 km to 500 km

Description: Battle Tank-VII is a marvel of technological superiority and celestial craftsmanship. Boasting unparalleled firepower, impenetrable defenses, and cutting-edge features, this tank is a symbol of awe and fear on the battlefield. It is also durable enough to block every attack under 8-circle.

Upgrade>>>

Skills:

Active:

Celestial Annihilation: Unleash devastating energy burst from the smoothbore ether cannon with 200% attack power (max: 10.9), obliterating everything in a designated area. Cost: 80% of Maximum Ether energy. CD: 60 minutes.

Shield of Immortality: Erect an impervious energy shield around the Battle Tank, rendering it immune to all forms of attack for 30 seconds (max: 9.9). Cost: 50% of Maximum Ether energy. CD: None

Celestial Wisdom AI: Engage the Tactical AI for unparalleled battlefield awareness, target prioritization, and strategic decision-making. It will go into auto-battle mode. Cost: 5% of Maximum Ether energy per second.

Camouflage: Disappear into the surroundings and become invisible. During this state, it could also attack the enemies. Cost: 10% Ether energy per second.

Ether missile: Shoot an Ether missile from the Missile launcher at enemies with 130% attack power (max: 9.9). Note that this Ether missile only travels in a straight line regardless of aiming angle. Cost: 30% Ether energy. CD: 60 seconds.

Ether Bullet Barrage: Shoot a barrage of ether bullets from the Quadra-barrel Gatling gun with an attack power of 50%. Cost: 10% ether energy per 100 rounds. CD: 180 seconds.

Passive: None

"Hmm... it might be crystal grade but its capabilities exceeded other crystal grade, like for example, my attack helicopter. Perhaps, it is why it gobbled up so many credits for the upgrade.

After all, with the same number of credits, I upgrade the missile defense system to Ruby grade.

Anyway, let's put this away and proceed with the upgrade of MDS."

He closed down the window and went on to click on the missile defense system to display its details on a new holographic screen.

He directly scrolled down to the bottom of the screen and clicked on the upgrade without thinking much.

*Ding! 60,480,000 credits are deducted.

*Ding! Missile Defense System-VII has been upgraded to Missile Defense System-VIII.

Mark expected the upgrade of the defense system, but when he saw the result, it felt like the defense system had a complete makeover. If it was a creature, one would call it an evolution instead of a mere upgrade.

But, it came with obvious drawbacks too, as it no longer had the option to fire missiles with below-par power for an army of weak enemy soldiers.

Missile defense system – VIII (bound)

Grade: Mythril (max: God)

Weapon type: Mounted

Missile type: X-4

Launchers: Type-4

Number of missiles: 100

Missile length: 3 meters

Missile weight: 500 kg

Warhead type: Fragmentation

Max. Range of fire: 600 km (100% accuracy)

Absolute range: 2000 km (20% accuracy)

Max. Speed of missile: mach 6.9

Target lock: Yes (only ether attacks)

Blast radius: 1350 meters

Storage chamber: Yes

Description: A missile defense system that can be used as an offense or defense, according to the situation. Moving at hypersonic speed, X-4 could potentially obliterate all targets below the 9-circle in the blink of an eye.

Upgrade >>> 6,048,000,000 credits.

SKILLS:

Active:

Single-target Ether missile: Shoot a concentrated beam of ether energy from the launcher with an attack power of peak-9-circle. Cost: 200 million EP (ether points). CD: 5 seconds.

Multi-target ether missile: Shoot down a wide area with 100 concentrated beams of ether energy from the launcher one after another with each containing 130% attack power of the user (max stat: 11.9). Note: The range should be selected beforehand. Cost: 30% ether energy. CD: 180 seconds.

All-out Attack: Obliterate the enemy by either releasing 100 ether missiles, one from each barrel with an attack power of 100%, at the same time, or combine their power to release a powerful beam of energy with an attack power of 200% of the user (max stat-12.9). Cost: 50% of maximum ether energy. CD: 0 seconds

Invincible dome: Create an invincible barrier with a maximum of 500 meters of radius and block all types of attacks as long as they don't exceed stat 11.9. Cost: 10% of maximum ether energy per second. CD: 0 seconds

Robot mode: The missile defense system shall transform its body into a humanoid Battle Robot while retaining its weapons but not the skill set. Note: In this mode, the missile defense system will be operated by AI and will no longer have to be controlled by the user.

Passive:

Auto attack (Deactivated): When the defensive mode is switched on, the missile defense system will automatically use the missiles in the storage chamber and intercept all types of attacks that are aimed at its owner. Cost: none. CD: 0 seconds.

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Mark couldn't help but let out a sigh, "Sometimes, being too strong will actually make your job tougher to deal with weak opponents as one mistake will end their life for good and the chances of collateral damage will always be quite high. As a result, whether it is a weapon or underlings, they can only be used against the bosses.

Anyway, there's still something else left to do."

After closing down the details screen and the inventory, Mark spoke, "System, open the Skills section."

*Ding! Attribute skills or General skills?

"System's skills please..."

A list of various overpowered skills appeared before his eyes.

He scrolled down until he found the one he wanted to upgrade.

Enhanced durability (level-1): Increase the user's body durability to receive less incoming damage of all types except for mental attacks. Effect: 1% DR. Limit: Opponents who are no greater than two ranks/realms above the user.

He clicked on the level. The option of upgrading came up.

Upgrade to level 2 >>> 1,000,000 credits.

"Okay, let's do this..."

*Ding! 1,000,000 credits are deducted.

*Ding! Enhanced Durability is increased to level 2

"Let's continue."

*Ding! Enhanced Durability is increased to level 3

*Ding! Enhanced Durability is increased to level 4

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*Ding! Enhanced Durability is increased to level 10

"Oh, there was no cost increase. I thought the cost would increase eventually. Well, let's purchase until I see the increase."

And so, the upgrade of the passive skill continued.

*Ding! Enhanced Durability is increased to level 20

*Ding! Enhanced Durability is increased to level 30

*Ding! Enhanced Durability is increased to level 40

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*Ding! Enhanced Durability is increased to level 90

*Ding! Enhanced Durability is increased to level 91

By the time it reached level 91, he was only left with roughly more than 310,000 credits in his account.

But, Mark was interested to max it out, in order to be invincible under Saint Realm. He had the offensive strength to deal with immortals and he also had the necessary techniques to defend against them too. However, this is for that unexpected ambush from those beings.

Until now, he only played the arrogance of demigods and immortals against them. But, after receiving a Saint's mark, he wanted to be more careful, just in case.

While he wiped away the mark with a purification stone, Mark knew that it wouldn't stop the enemies from coming to this planet and wreaking havoc. He had to be well prepared.

Being confident to earn lots of money once again, Mark once again exchanged the gold coins.

*Ding! 45 million gold coins are deducted.

*Ding! 9 million credits are added to the account.

"Well, let's continue..."

*Ding! Enhanced Durability is increased to level-92

*Ding! Enhanced Durability is increased to level-93.

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*Ding! Enhanced Durability is increased to level 99. It reached the maximum level. It can no longer be upgraded anymore.

Enhanced durability (level-99): Increase the user's body durability to receive less incoming damage of all types except for mental attacks. Effect: 99% DR. Limit: Opponents who are no greater than two ranks/realms above the user.

*Ding! You reached the maximum level. The evolution has been triggered.

*Ding! Do you wish for your body to evolve into a Divine Physique?

Divine Physique: The body of a mortal cannot cross the limits of Saint Realm (12-circle), no matter what bloodline or talent it has. The Divine Physique will increase the potential to 14-circle.

*Note: Evolving into divine physique requires 1 billion credits

*Note 2: Evolving into a divine physique while preserving the attributes, skills, bloodlines, items, and everything the user owns at the moment, requires careful modification on a cellular level. Hence, the user will go into a comatose state for a period of at least six months to a maximum of 2 years.

*Note 3: Evolution gives the opportunity to the host to reconstruct his body and have the appearance of any individual he wishes.

"Uhh... No thanks..." Mark rejected it right away. He didn't even need to think deeply, despite the temptation of regaining his face from the previous world. "Thanks for the offer but I like my current self. No need for the evolution."

On the dawn of the following day, Mark and his companions checked out of their rooms to return home; Qing Jie was tagging along with them as part of the deal.

Originally, the plan was to split into two groups; one would return to Lunaris while the other would leave for the Xiezhi Empire.

But, upon witnessing the battle between the immortal and the demigod beasts, Mark decided not to take any chance.

Why?

From what he gathered so far from the dead bodies of the mercenaries killed by Song Yun before he sacrificed himself for his daughter, Mark knew that they were related to the Dragon Empire.

Hence, from the start, he planned on using the guilds located in the capital city to issue a secret investigation on those two 5-circle realm experts who died at Western Moon. He wanted to find out who they were connected with.

He expected the dead bodies to have connections with certain guilds or organizations or perhaps even a noble but didn't expect it to be a knight that served the imperial family. And those two demigod beasts are sided with the Void Temple, or more likely, the Tang Dynasty.

Hence, the plan changed to return directly home.

After calling back Zheng to guard his loved ones, he and Steve will travel to the Baize Empire's capital with Qing Jie to talk with the crown prince, drop his partner at his home, and return to the Dragon Empire once again to settle the matter.

He summoned the Divine Throne from his inventory which appeared in the form of the scary-looking spider ship.

While Mark's companions didn't have any reactions, Qing Jie, who was witnessing it for the first time, couldn't help but express his astonishment, "Wow, I only heard the description of its appearance from the manager but experiencing it in person is something else."

"Thanks. Let's get in"

As the door opened, Mark told the others to board the ship, and they were about to do that too, but their movements were halted just after a few steps, due to the sudden appearance of a scarlet barrier covering the sky above the hotel's compound.

"Hmm?" Mark raised his head with a frown on his face.

Chapter 508: Fu Sheng, the Imperial Sovereign of Dragon Empire

The barrier that imprisoned the hotel and its immediate surroundings looked exactly similar to that of the one used against the immortal, although quite weaker.

"Is it those demigod beasts or is it someone else?" Mark couldn't help but wonder. At the very least, he was sure that he was likely the target, but was it for the items or something else? It's another question that needs to be solved.

His suspicions soon came to an end as the perpetrators came forward. They made quite an entry.

A portal appeared out of nowhere and golden armored knights started walking out of it in an orderly fashion.

They were roughly around 100 in number and each of their cultivation is at 6-circle realm.

Qing Jie was filled with nervousness as he saw them, "It's the Gold Dragon Knights division."

"Do you know them?" Mark asked after hearing that. While there has never been an Empire in the rest of the continents with such a powerful army, they still don't seem strong to Mark. Just Sylvandria is enough to wipe them out. Is there a need to have such a reaction? He wondered.

Qing Jie answered with an explanation, "The Dragon Empire's knights were divided into four divisions; White Dragon, Blue Dragon, Black Dragon, and the Red Dragon. Above those, there is a special division that solely serves the Imperial Sovereign, the highest-ranked military officer, and also the one who had the same status as the Emperor since ancient times.

Well, not in a literal sense. The Emperor can still order the Imperial Sovereign. It is like, if the Emperor is the symbol of authority, the Imperial Sovereign is considered the symbol of power.

Except during wartime, or to crush a rebellion from one of the vassal states, the entire Gold Dragon Knight division was never deployed before.

The Gold Dragon Knights were here, meaning the Imperial Sovereign must be arriving."

"Is he a demigod?" Mark asked a simple question after hearing all that bullshit.

Qing Jie shook his head, "No, he isn't. He is a Supreme Being, but it is said that he possessed one of the five heaven-grade weapons that exist in the world.

And guess what, its rank is listed as 2nd." After conversing with Mark for the past few days, he already realized that Mark might have power, wealth, and background, but with minuscule knowledge of the world outside the Vermilion bird continent.

In his view, Mark was like a giant dragon quietly sleeping in its mountains ever since its birth and just decided to explore the world.

Hence, he didn't try to give half-baked information, "As the last disciple of the Empire's founder, the current Imperial Sovereign is said to be powerful enough to fight on equal footing with a demigod. His Knights were also said to be strongest among their peers.

And then, their ancient hundred knight formation, which was used several times in the past to subdue raging dragons. The members of the royal family literally had the blood of Dragons, you know. It was different from bloodlines. Because of the beast nature, from time to time, because of extreme negative emotions, they would go into a rage."

"Heaven grade weapon?" Mark quickly compared it with system grades and his eyes lit up, "A celestial-grade weapon? I bet it will fetch a nice price. Now, I really pray that he becomes my enemy."

Of all the things said by Qing Jie, only the weapon's grade attracted Mark's attention. As for the person, Mark couldn't care less.

With three supreme beings on the side, he wasn't even remotely worried about Song Yue or Shen Ling and just purely focused on the enemy.

As the hundred of those knights split into two groups and moved aside, a few more knights arrived and stood in the front. These were a bunch of 7-circle realm experts.

Finally, a young man wearing a full armor set of high-quality semi-divine grade stepped out of the portal, followed by two 8-circle realm Spirit Warriors.

Sylvandria's face turned serious as she commented in a low tone, "It's a demigod, Lu Zhen."

Qing Jie's face turned pale as he heard her words, "He made a breakthrough?" His entire body started shaking from up and down.

However, Mark wasn't worried. Demigods are a concern of the past. But, the safety of his companions, especially Song Yue and Shen Ling, should be something he needed to consider.

Mark activated his God's Eye to inspect the details of the young man on the front, confirming Sylvandria's statement.

He was baffled when he spotted a specific detail, and his lips curled up, "A disciple of Lan Sect? First, Xin Rui of the Void Temple and now him? Nah, this one is a direct disciple of the Ancient Lan sect. It's different. Either way, it doesn't matter. Anyone who stands against me shall be facing consequences.

Meanwhile, the Imperial Sovereign of the Dragon Empire was seen walking toward Mark in steady steps and with a calm gaze on everyone, increasing Qing Jie's nervousness and making him move back a few steps and stand a bit closer to Steve and James rather than Mark whose cultivation level is still a mystery.

Once the three of them crossed the other knights standing like statues, the latter also moved along until they reached Mark.

Mark was ready to transform the spider ship back to its original form so that his rank got promoted by 2 temporarily and surprised the other party.

Imagine his surprise when the supposed enemy, a demigod that stands on the summit of this world, suddenly falls down with his right knee touching the ground and greets him by cupping his fists like a subordinate, "Disciple Fu Sheng greets the young master."

At once, the entire place was frozen in shock.

Mark's companions, the two 8-circle realm generals, the Gold Dragon Knights, and the mage that erected the barrier and currently watching the scene in hiding, everyone who witnessed it was stunned by the sudden development.

In a couple of seconds, all the knights had their right knee touch the ground with their heads bowed down.

Mark silently stared at him for ten seconds before opening his mouth, "How did you find out?"

"Your mother was here," replied the young-looking century-old man in calmness after getting up. His subordinates followed suit.

Mark's facial expression changed all of a sudden.

The Imperial Sovereign saw extreme coldness in Mark's eyes as the latter asked, "Is your allegiance with that shameless woman that kept on claiming to be my mother?" The hatred in Mark's heart erupted for no reason and he didn't even hesitate to speak such disrespectful words for the woman who gave him birth, although abandoned him.

However, the Imperial Sovereign was calm. He shook his head, "No, I'm not in allegiance with her." As Mark calmed down a bit, Fu Sheng continued, "A few days ago, Elder Lan Jing was here to meet me to convince me to join him in returning to our homeland. Coincidentally, our meeting was disrupted by Lady Lan. It was then I found out about your existence.

Now that I have seen you in person, I'm feeling as if Patriarch Lan returned to life."

While Mark no longer seemed angry, the frown had yet to disappear from his face, "If you want to meet me, why do you need to make such an entry? You could meet me in private."

Fu Sheng's jaw clenched, his usually warm expression replaced by a stern mask. His gaze turned steely as he spoke, "My daughter's imposter and her husband met a cruel fate at the hands of hired assassins, orchestrated by the Imperial family. You, my friend, were unfairly framed for those murders." He paused, a heavy sigh escaping him.

"The acting emperor, seeking vengeance for the late emperor, believes you're the culprit. Yet, as the Imperial Sovereign, I'm bound by an oath to serve the Emperor. It's a duty I can't rebel against, but my heart no longer bears allegiance to this empire."

With a determined look, he continued, "Before I depart from this place, I must make a resolute statement. The Empire must realize the truth and dare not act against you."

He knelt once again on the ground, this time, both of his knees touching it, "Whatever the young master wishes, I, Fu Sheng, and my knights will follow from this moment. We will shed our blood for you and we will shed the blood of your enemies on your order. All I desire is to return home with my daughter and my grandson."

*Ding!

As soon as Fu Sheng was done with his explanation, the familiar sound of notification was heard in Mark's ears.

"Oh boy, I don't know if I'm lucky that I got a strong subordinate out of nowhere or unlucky that I can't claim the celestial-grade weapon..." Mark sighed inwardly.

Chapter 509: Act on impulse or be rational?

*Ding! You received a side quest, Helping the subordinate.

Description: Fu Sheng, a direct disciple of the Ancient Lan Sect followed Lan Gengxin and the others as they were expelled from the Lan clan. Due to differences, he might have later left Kunyu's Lan sect and joined the Dragon Empire's military, climbed the ranks, and eventually became the Imperial Sovereign. Now, he wishes to swear his loyalty to the host in the hopes of returning to his home.

Help your subordinate.

Reward: Dimensional Portal function.

Accept?

"Dimensional Portal? What is it?" He thought in his head.

The system answered him without even being asked.

*Ding! Dimension Portal: Through this function, the host and his allies can freely teleport between store branches no matter where they are located.

"It looks like I ought to accept his request. But then again, I've already decided on following Lan Jing to the Ancient Lan sect, once my plans succeed on this planet. While I have yet to complete even one of them so far, they will be done soon enough."

*Ding! The Quest has been accepted.

After accepting the quest, Mark asked the Imperial Sovereign, Fu Sheng, to prove his loyalty by bringing the knight named Dong Bao to him, through whatever means. The demigod was given time until noon.

Meanwhile, the divine throne was sent back to the inventory, and Mark and the others continued their stay at the hotel.

Even though a demigod put away his pride and sincerely kneeled before him, Mark doesn't trust him or his knights. He merely gave him a few hours of time as a benefit of the doubt.

In the worst case, he would either summon the divine throne or the demon king. After killing the immortal from the other world, Mark already gained enough soul points to summon Bael at any time.

With 'Absolute Control' Skill, he would keep the demon under control and make sure his loved ones stay protected.

Of course, the news of him controlling an immortal demon will bring his reputation down to so low that no one would buy weapons from him anymore.

But, if this goes in his favor, then, he would gain enough manpower to lay a strong groundwork for what he was about to do.

Despite them being powerful enough to take over an empire, there are a few tasks that he doesn't want to give to his robotic army, his androids, his teenage sons from the future, or even to his tough-to-handle, mighty elven fiancée.

He just returned to the room he previously stayed in, and it hadn't even ten minutes since he closed the door, a hotel staff member hurriedly arrived there with a message from the lounge.

Mark, at first, was surprised, but then felt like 'Oh, yes, it shouldn't be a big deal for someone like Fu Sheng to drag down a mere knight like Dong Bao even if it is from the Emperor, now that the current ruler is just a temporary one', and upon going to the lounge, Mark found Fu Sheng with not just his target who was in an unconscious state but also the acting emperor, who was alone without any guards.

"I apologize, Young Master. His Majesty insisted on coming along to see you," Fu Sheng bowed to Mark. Tang Yifan was stunned by how the Imperial Sovereign of the Empire was treating Mark with great respect; something not even his father earned the privilege. He couldn't help but clench his fist to control his anger, remembering their piece of conversation happened just a few minutes ago.

Mark nodded to Fu Sheng and turned his head to calmly look at the young emperor, "So, what do I owe this pleasure, Emperor Tang? Is it about him?" He first pointed his finger at the unconscious knight on the floor, and then, shifted toward Fu Shen, "or is it about him?"

Maintaining his fists tightly, Tang Yifan replied as calmly as possible, "I'm just here to inform you that the Dragon Empire has nothing to do with the death of your father-in-law. You can have his head if you want."

"And how do you know that I was looking for the perpetrator of his death? I didn't even tell Mr. Fu about it," Mark's eyebrow raised and his tone slightly turned into interrogative.

Tang Yifan looked straight into his eyes and stated, "I know it because it was my men who killed Song Yun, although their original target should have been Princess Shen Ling."

"Princess Shen Ling? Not Song Yue?" Mark furrowed his brows as he was mixed with confusion and displeasure. "At first, I thought you were a sensible person, but it looks like you are a condescending man, Tang Yifan."

Mark was so offended by Tang Yifan's admission of truth to his face that he stopped addressing him with his title anymore. And that is considered disrespectful anywhere on the planet.

Calling a King or an Emperor by his name directly is the same as insulting the land and all the people he was ruling. Well, at least, it has been considered that way for a long time.

Tang Yifan certainly was offended by the change in Mark's tone too. However, he didn't lose his cool and continued to speak, "An eye for an eye, Lu Zhen. You killed the former emperor of our land and my ancestor. You ought to pay consequences for that."

Despite the tension in the air, Tang Yifan maintained a composed demeanor. His voice, though firm, echoed reason rather than anger.

"Princess Shen Ling is your direct connection to the Western Moon kingdom and killing her will end it for good." He glanced around the room, assessing the reactions of those present. His strategic mind was at work, carefully calculating the next moves. Tang Yifan's eyes then shifted to Lu Zhen, searching for any hint of vulnerability.

He continued, "King Shen Niu would blame you for his daughter's death and since he didn't have the power, he will aim to bring you pain by targeting Lady Song. Whatever the result will be, you will probably destroy him and either occupy his kingdom or destroy it in rage.

To give him justice, the neighboring empires will mobilize troops, which will be soundly defeated, resulting in a declaration of a formal war. It would have allowed us to formally declare you as an evil being and mobilize Void Temple.

Phoenix Empire and Leon Empire will obviously support us as one will get back its region that was taken away and the other will be offered the Western Moon kingdom.

As the one who brought you to justice, I will no longer be the acting Emperor. Instead, I will formally be ascended to the Emperor of Tang Dynasty."

The gravity of the situation hung in the air. Tang Yifan's words didn't seem like a declaration; they were a meticulously crafted strategy, each sentence a move in the intricate game of power.

With a steely resolve displayed on his face, the young man ended his explanation with an acceptance of some sort of defeat, "Well, my plan clearly didn't end well due to their disobedience of my order and working together with some other gang that targeted Lady Song, resulting in her father's death and bringing you to the shores of this land and even stealing away our strongest asset."

Mark stared at him for the next few seconds in silence, processing all the information. He raised both of his hands, making Fu Sheng wonder whether he was going to attack.

Meanwhile, Tang Yifan looked completely calm on the surface as if he wasn't afraid of death. Even in his heart, apart from the frustration that Fu Sheng joined his enemy as soon as making a breakthrough, there was no fear or anything else.

However, Mark's response turned out to be different than their expectations.

Clap Clap* Clap* Clap* Clap*

Suddenly, Mark started clapping without displaying his anger, "What an ingenious plan. Did you plan all this by yourself or did your advisor tell you to do it? Whatever you had in mind was quite great but I still don't understand something.

What makes you so sure that I won't act against you right now? As you have said, you are nothing more than an acting emperor. If you die, you can be replaced by another prince.

Does the Void Temple or your founder will act against me even after knowing that there are at least three supreme beings and a demigod on my side? Or do you think some hidden life-saving treasure on you would save you? I truly wonder about the thing that gives you confidence in coming here alone."

"No, they won't," Tang Yifan shook his head. After a brief pause, he then let out a smirk, "But, that's only if I'm the acting Emperor."

"What do you mean by that?" Fu Sheng couldn't help but interrupt their conversation, feeling strange about his state.

Tang Yifan turned his head to look at Fu Sheng and summoned an exquisite bow in his hands, taking the demigod by surprise, "As the present of your retirement, Imperial Sovereign Fu, I will give you the news before making the announcement to the people. A few minutes ago, my father's soul left for the spirit realm.

Regardless of how it happened, the Celestial Dragon spirit acknowledged me as its wielder.

You know what this means.

Bound by the laws stated in the Empire's Constitution, I'm no longer an acting ruler. I'm the true Emperor of the Tang Dynasty. By now, the Void Temple's founder and our Tang Dynasty probably have already sensed the change."

He then turned his head to look at Mark; this time, his words carried a weight that resonated with authority, "any unjust attack on me will set the same motion as my original plan, Lu Zhen. That is the source of my confidence. So, what will you do now? Act on impulse to lose everything or be rational and shift your focus on catching the real culprit?"

Chapter 510: Schemes in the shadows

After a long silence, Mark gave his reply to Tang Yifan, who seemed to be prepared for anything, "Alright, I'll accept your offer."

Tang Yifan clenched his fist once again, but this time, it wasn't because of frustration, but due to his excitement about winning.

On the other hand, Fu Shen sighed in relief in his heart, "Thank goodness. If this young master of our clan took it as an insult and become reckless, it would have been troublesome."

Meanwhile, the new Emperor of the Tang Dynasty let out a victory smirk, "It is good that you took the wise decision, Lu Zhen. Anyway, I'm returning to the palace. Until you leave, you will be the guest of the Empire. So, feel free to spend as much time as you want, for the last time."

Once he said whatever he wanted, the young emperor took out a scroll from his sleeves and poured his ether energy into it.

As it lit up, he then looked at Mark once again, "Goodbye, Lu Zhen. I hope we will never meet again."

He turned into specks of light and disappeared from the place. Mark, on the other hand, continued to stare at that place in calmness.

After waiting for a while, seeing that Mark was still in deep thought, Fu Sheng interrupted him, "Young Master... young master..."

"Yes?"

"Are you having second thoughts about your decision?" He asked.

Mark didn't give him the answer. Instead, he asked a question in return, "What do you think?"

"I think you made the right decision," Fu Sheng replied in a serious tone. "Even if I made a breakthrough, I still couldn't compare to the likes of my master. Due to a curse, which constantly leaks his aura, he imprisoned himself in a dimension he created. But, that won't stop him from shielding Emperor Tang. His range of attack also extends to a thousand kilometers.

So, it would have been impossible for us to escape his wrath. Furthermore, Void Temple's Patriarch is another one to worry about. He is the founder's brother and is involved in the matters of the imperial family too.

I guess the young master probably thought the same and came to the conclusion that it is not worth making an enemy out of the Tang Dynasty for no reason."

"Heh, do you really I'm afraid of killing him?" Mark's eyes changed all of a sudden. Coldness replaced his calmness.

Fu Sheng couldn't help but furrow his brows, "What do you mean?"

Mark replied, "Tang Yifan is nothing more than a disposable puppet. Kill him, then, someone else will replace him. I think he knows that too. It is why he dared to challenge me even after knowing of your betrayal. Killing him will not solve the issue.

And Killing the Empire's founder and destroying the Void Temple will only make this world more vulnerable to extraterrestrial attacks and invasion of beasts. He needs to be destroyed on a cellular level."

"Cellular level? Extraterrestrial attacks?" Fu Sheng never heard of such terms in his life. At the same time, he was quite surprised by the sheer level of overconfidence in Mark, as if everything was in his grasp. "What are you planning on doing?" He asked.

Mark didn't explain it and merely said, "You are following me to Lunaris City, right? You will soon understand."

Fu Sheng was once again slightly taken aback, sensing something when his eyes met Mark's eyes, "His face might resemble Brother Gengxin but they are poles apart. He might look harmless but when observed closely, this Lu Zhen has too much darkness. I can see it."

Several hours passed away.

During this time, the citizens were informed of the death of the Emperor and the ascendance of the new Emperor who had the acknowledgment from the Celestial Dragon spirit.

The guests who came for the auction were also invited to attend the coronation ceremony, three days later.

The Imperial Palace also sent an invitation to Mark with the intention of slightly mocking him but the latter sent a befitting response of sending back Dong Bao with a letter.

The letter stated that Dong Bao had already revealed the truth to him and was sent back with his head intact as a present for his coronation.

Mark didn't forget to inform him that he won't be attending the ceremony as he had many more important things to do, elsewhere.

Meanwhile, he and Qing Jie discussed the terms for their new business. It will be operated under Qing Jie's name on the outside but the firearms section will be entirely managed by Mark and his staff members, at least until Qing Jie and his staff members understand the firearms and everything about them.

Once Qing Jie understands everything about firearms and its business, he will take over the firearms section too and manage it on his own, getting a 10% commission at first, eventually acquiring the full rights to sell the firearms in Baize Empire, once he shows enough profits.

Fu Sheng was then given the task of escorting Qing Jie safely to his home. James and Eol joined them, under Mark's orders, one to keep an eye on Fu Sheng and the other as his representative to decide on a few nice locations for the joint business in Baize Empire.

As for Mark, he was on his way to Lunaris City with his ladies and his son from the future.

While they are busy chatting with each other, mostly, Song Yue asks Sylvandria about the elven world, James is taking a nap, and Mark is discussing his evil plans with Steve, the son who probably listens to his orders better than the righteous James. They were also talking in English so that his plans remained a secret from Song Yue and Shen Ling.

"But, you said that the Crown Prince is in hiding. Rather than searching for him and wasting a long time, isn't it better to kill Shang Jun and create a civil war? Shang Zexi will come out to claim the throne." Steve voiced his opinion after hearing the plan.

Mark shook his head, "If he dies that way, how would he suffer for his actions?"

Steve grabbed his chin and looked down, engrossing in thoughts.

After a while, he asked, "Hmm... why not abducting him? I can just go to the palace and grab him in a second."

"Nope, there is a troublesome demigod in the palace," Mark shook his head, rejecting his idea. "She might not be interested in supporting Shang Jun but she will definitely confront you before you get to the palace."

"Indeed, Grandma is the type to attack and then listen. Who knows what would happen if she learns my secret," As the 14-year-old agreed with his dad's assessment, Mark developed a frown on his face, "How are you familiar with her? Does in the future, we'll get along or something?"

"Well, actually, Grandma is..." Steve was about to say something but Mark interrupted him quickly, "Wait, don't tell. I don't want to hear what happens in the future. I don't know what kind of consequences it will have. Just letting you stay here for such a long time is already troubling enough. But, don't worry, I will find a way to send you back once I am done with my plans."

"I'm not talking about the future, Dad. I was just trying to say that Grandma is at the Dragon Empire, isn't she? If you abduct him before she and Grandpa gets back home, won't it be easier to abduct Shang Jun?"

"Eh?"

