

# The Mafia 1001

## Chapter 1001 Foreigners

Two days later, Vicente and his group left Fallsor Bluff and headed off on an official road, a path less likely to be used by beasts, but still more dangerous than traveling around the island by plane.

The forests were definitely the most dangerous places to travel. But beyond them, there were magician's road zones, areas of greater activity and observed by magicians, where beasts and magicians could act against travelers.

Groups of bandits acted mainly on roads on the island, where the movement of medium and low-level individuals was intense. Strong beasts and magicians rarely wasted their time in such areas, making the place interesting for commercial travel and criminal actions.

Bert and Garin told Vicente about the dangers ahead, but he continued calmly. His biggest concern was leaving Fallsor Bluff, where he had had no luck finding an interesting beast for him to hunt, and decided it would be better to return to the sect.

Leaving Fallsor Bluff wasn't so difficult, followed by another five days of relatively quiet travel in which the group would stop to eat and rest and travel most of the time.

Vicente used the time to get to know more of the continent, experiencing different landscapes and types of creatures that he had never seen before.

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With one day to go before Vicente's group reached the city of magicians from where they would take rapid transportation to Ravengarde, they passed a group of golden carriages that caught their leader's eye.

As they walked along the dirt road, surrounded by the lush vegetation of the area they were in on this sunny mid-afternoon, Bert, Garin and Vicente's eyes narrowed in the direction of the convoy of five golden carriages.

This was not only the largest group of travelers they had seen in recent days, but it was also the best armed!

Each of the carriages had two coachmen and four guards riding around the vehicles, looking at their surroundings with arrogant and vigilant looks on their faces.

From one of the carriages, Vicente and his companions spotted one of the passengers on the train, a woman who shouldn't have been over 1 meter tall, with blonde hair, an adult body and pointed ears.

Vicente was not mistaken. That was one of Light Cay's fairies!

"That woman must be important," Bert said quietly. "There's a dwarf and an elf next to her."

Vicente observed the other two magical beings mentioned, a small human man and a green creature similar in size to the fairy and the dwarf, but skin as green as the leaves of many plants in the surrounding area.

There were fairies in Polaris Realm, which Vicente had already learned were races related to those in Anicane. The fact that drew attention to this group was that there were no fairies in Light Cay, which implied that this woman was from another island, or perhaps her entire group was from outside Light Cay.

"They say that dwarves and elves are friends of the forest. They serve the fairies of various races." Garin muttered, watching out of the corner of his eye, trying not to stare more than he should.

But Garin and Bert were clearly very interested, even more so than the curious Vicente.

"What's the matter?" Vice asked the two of them, leaving half the carriages behind as he walked under the icy stares of the apparently magicians guards.

"The problem is the clashes between islands, senior." Bert reminded Vicente of this important fact. "The islands of Anicane aren't friendly with each other, in most cases at least. Light Cay supposedly has friends around the world, but these are friendships of convenience. In short, as long as it's advantageous, the parties support each other."

"You think this group might be on the island for troublesome things?"

Bert nodded positively. "Of course. I don't know if they'll do it because it's the main purpose of their trip. But foreigners always cause trouble."

"We should notify the sect when we get back to headquarters." Garin agreed with Bert.

"Hey, you!" Shouted one guard from the third carriage of the convoy, for a moment making Bert and Garin shiver.

'Shit! Did we speak too loudly?' Bert hesitated as he looked away, feeling that perhaps he had said things too soon.

Vicente looked at the individual of normal body size for a human, keeping calm with this group of 7th stage beings.

"What?" The black-haired young man asked, curious how the situation would develop. He was already curious about the composition of this group and their apparent opulence. Their approaching his group was actually something he liked.

The guard continued on his horse, while Rex stood in front of his master, ready to act.

"My lady likes your pet. She's willing to give you the grace to accompany her and listen to her proposal," he said in a firm, decisive tone, making it seem as if Vicente didn't have the option of refusing.

The two magicians next to Vicente looked at Rex and sighed. Given how good the Flaming Lion's magical and spiritual quality was, they had expected that, sooner or later, Vice would get into trouble.

Vicente scanned his surroundings, looking at the many guards monitoring him, but also at the people inside the train's central carriage. Smiling, he revealed the sword hanging from his waist, something he didn't use, but liked to have as a decorative item.

"Rex is not for sale," Vicente said this feebly, stepping forward, indicating clearly that he would fight if necessary.

His demeanor immediately drew attention. It wasn't common for someone in his situation, outnumbered and with inferior cultivation, to refuse an offer in such a way.

But although he was interested, Vicente would never enter a conversation with such a group without clarifying that his companion was not for sale.

"Didn't you hear what I said? This is an opportunity, you ignorant fool! Reconsider or deal with the consequences." The same guard who had spoken advanced until he dismounted from his horse, 15 meters in front of Vicente.

"Oh? Is that a threat?" Vicente asked with a smile on his face, making his two magical companions break out in a cold sweat. They were slowly learning how bad it was to travel alongside someone as powerful as Vice.

## Chapter 1002 Proposal

The guard talking to Vicente couldn't take it any longer and jumped towards the black-haired boy, drawing his gun as a cyan pentagram appeared around him.

"I'll make you learn your place, bumpkin!" said the arrogant man, while Vicente stood still, holding the hilt of his sword in one hand.

The fairy looked in his direction with curiosity in her eyes, not understanding what was wrong. The human was making himself much more difficult than made sense.

Even though she was curious to see Vicente's powers in action and find out what gave him confidence, she felt an uncertainty in her heart and raised one of her hands.

"Stop right there, Elyes." She opened her mouth, while the dwarf and the elf at her side narrowed their eyes and looked in Vicente's direction.

The moving man looked to the side, in the direction of the third carriage of the convoy, and tried his best to stop. But he was too close to Vicente and could only shudder as he felt he would be punished by his lady.

But when he was centimeters away from reaching Vicente's body, his weapon went right through the black-haired magician's body, before a small spatial distortion appeared on his back, piercing him at the height of his right kidney, just a centimeter away from this organ.

"Aaaaah!" The man screamed as he felt his own blade pierce his body.

Vicente took a step back and let his opponent fall to his knees on the ground, at the same time as the small wormhole disappeared from the weapon, revealing a sharp point soiled with blood.

"What happened?"

"Hey, Elyes!"

"Wretch!" Elyes ignored the calls of his group mates as he, already kneeling on the ground, looked at Vicente with an accusatory gaze.

Vicente smiled at him before solemnly ignoring him.

Turning his eyes in the direction of the third carriage, Vicente advanced towards that vehicle, leaving Rex, Bert and Garin standing close to the wounded man on the ground.

The guards in the vicinity hesitated to let Vicente pass, but the fairy herself issued her order for them not to interfere. Most of them hadn't seen what Vice had done, but she had perfectly sensed his every move.

He moved his mana hastily and made an all-indigo pentagram, the size of a speck of dust, appear before warping the space in front of his body and accomplishing what everyone had seen, even if most of them hadn't understood.

Vicente masked his movement in such a way that Nan couldn't help but understand that she shouldn't underestimate this 1-Star Magus.

Curious, she opened the door of her carriage and stood up, forcing the dwarf and the elf to do the same, understanding how they should behave in front of the human magician.

"Young master, this is Nan. Those next to me are Hervi and Garnot, my advisors," she said with a smile on her small lips. "I apologize for my guard's behavior. He didn't recognize your greatness and ended up offending you over an insignificant matter."

Vicente stopped a meter away from the carriage steps and made a gesture of greeting. "My name is Benson King. I'm a member of Stonewall traveling around the island." He named himself after his forge master in Polaris Realm.

Vicente was too famous in Light Cay for him to give his real name to a group like this!

"So, Benson, can we talk inside my carriage? Although we got off on the wrong foot, we can certainly change that. Please agree to drink tea next to me." She smiled at him as she gave Vicente room to enter the vehicle.

Although the passengers were small, the carriage was of a standard size for human magicians to travel in comfort.

Vicente sat down next to the green-skinned elf, facing Nan. "So, you want to trade my Flaming Lion? I'm afraid I have no interest in trading a companion."

"Is that right?" The elf was the one to speak. "I don't want to doubt your commitment to the beast, but I sense you didn't start this relationship long ago."

"Senior Benson, don't take Garnot the wrong way. He's a Beast Tamer, so he tends to say things blindly when it involves beasts." Nan smiled at Vicente.

Vicente looked away and didn't mind the comment. "You must be very good. You're right, Garnot. It's not long since I beat Rex. But now that he's by my side, he's my companion. I won't sell him or leave him where he doesn't want to be."

Nan sighed and answered in Garnot's place. "If you're not willing, that's fine. But that doesn't stop us talking about the future."

"The future? What future is that?" He narrowed his eyes.

Encounters like this usually ended with his side losing their mount, if they were lucky, or dying, if they were unlucky. This group would certainly kill him if they could. But with an intelligent leader, they wouldn't do something as foolish as try such a thing.

Vicente saw in Nas' eyes that she had put the idea of having Rex to one side the moment she realized he wasn't ordinary.

'Do you want to use something to solve this bad start to the relationship or are you genuinely looking for something?' Vicente asked himself as he waited for Nan's answer.

Nan said as she narrowed her eyes, "Senior Benson, have you thought about leaving Light Cay? If you're interested, we can give you a lift back to the island we came from. All you need to do is fight by our side during the journey and I hope you'll become a friend of my people when you get to my home. But if you don't want to, as long as you're not our enemy, we'll be fine with each other, too."

The elf and the dwarf looked at her with wide eyes, while Vicente opened his mouth, genuinely surprised by the unexpected proposal.

"That..."

He hesitated for a moment, thinking how this could be very good, but also a problem in the short term.

'I'd love to go to other islands. Now that I've become famous in Light Cay, going to an island where nobody knows me and where I can hide my past in Polaris Realm would be very nice. But would I be able to leave in the short term? Also, can these people be trusted?'

He thought for almost a minute, considering the pros and cons before giving an answer.

"Well, you took me by surprise," he replied as he scratched his nose, smiling. "But, yes, I have thought about it. In fact, one day I will. I just don't know yet when and if this is the best time for me to leave."

Chapter 1003 Object of Investigation

"There's no rush. We're still going to be in Light Cay for a few years. The journey by sea is truly challenging, Senior Benson. There are many preparations one needs to make in order to sail between islands," Nan said, point out that her group could sail—something challenging.

Vicente didn't doubt her words. Even though the fairy was probably trying to make him think how difficult it was for one to travel between islands and put her own group in the spotlight for him, he considered the offer well.

"I will promise nothing now. But we can talk about it in the future." He looked at the dwarf next to her, waiting for Nan's response. "You said you'd be staying in Light Cay for a few years, right? Depending on the time, I might join you."

Nan nodded in affirmation. "Yes, five to ten years. It depends on how our plans develop." She looked at her advisors, seeing that they agreed with her estimate. "Is there somewhere we can find you? You said you're a member of Stonewall, right? We can approach your sect when the time comes."

He rejected these plans. "I still don't know how my sect will deal with my plans to leave the island. Will they approve of my departure after I've used their support and resources?" he questioned reasonably.

"I'd rather get in touch with you another way. We can meet in five years' time. I think by then you'll have a better idea of when you're leaving the island and I'll be ready to make a decision."

"Would we not see each other in the meantime?" Hervi, the dwarf, asked Vicente.

"It's best, isn't it? I have my affairs and you have yours. Whatever you want in Light Cay, I don't want to get involved. But I am interested in Miss Nan's proposal." He looked at her and saw her nod in agreement.

"Very well. We can do as you wish and meet in five years. How about we do it where we are now? We can come here in 5 years and wait for each other for up to 2 months. If the other side doesn't show up, we'll let this matter die and go our separate ways." She proposed, willing to keep that door open during the break ahead.

After feeling something special in Vicente, she would honestly prefer him to commit to them now. But his proposal wasn't bad. Having a chance to have him by their side in five years' time would still be great.

'This will give us time to analyze whether he's really worth what I imagine. We'll be able to compare his progress with his current self in 5 years,' she said mentally to her two advisors.

The two understood the fairy's thoughts. They couldn't deny that they could indeed assess Vicente's talent and other characteristics by arranging this new meeting.

Vicente also had his own thoughts in mind. 'I'll be able to investigate this group and see what they're really like. If they're not good for me, I'll avoid the problem of already being connected to them.'

"That's good enough for me. I'll come to this location in five years." He revealed his map of the island, marking his current location with a gold star so he knew where to come.

"But for now, can you tell me about the nature of your visit to the island?" he questioned something he couldn't ignore.

They might even tell him the wrong information, Vicente didn't rule out the possibility. But they certainly had to talk to him about it.

From this group's point of view, Vicente was a native—a rather abnormal one—but still a native of the island. It was natural for him to ask this question.

"Light Cay and our home are allied. We are representing one of our island's forces in a deal with Stonewall," said the elf in an arrogant tone, while looking at Vicente with an annoyed smile. "If your position in the sect is good, you'll be able to find out more about it when you return to your headquarters."

"Is that so? And why are you traveling in the opposite direction from headquarters?" Vicente asked with narrowed eyes, looking at the elf next to him.

Nan answered in the elf's place, "You seem to be new to Stonewall, Senior Benson. The sect has posts all over the island. We don't negotiate directly at headquarters."

"So that's it," he said as he dropped the subject, seeing that they would not talk about it any further.

As he moved to leave the carriage, Vicente said, "We'll talk again in a few years. But depending on our fates, it might happen sooner. If the opportunity arises, I'll talk to you before then."

"Hmm, if fate wills it, it will certainly happen," Nan agreed, watching him get out of her carriage. "I wish your group good luck, Senior Benson. And once again, forgive me for my guard's behavior."

"Don't worry... Good luck to your group, too." He turned away from her, waving one of his hands, and returned to his group's side.

The surrounding guards looked at him strangely, especially the wounded man. But none of them moved against him, and soon the convoy of carriages continued to move.

Vicente and his group watched them go, while he had several things on his mind.

'This group is hiding something, he thought to himself as he watched. I don't know if this will be a problem for me, but they're definitely hiding something.'

"Senior, what do we do now? Should we contact the sect about them?" Bert asked amid Vicente's silence.

"Yes, we'll do that." Vicente narrowed his eyes. "They could become my allies, but until that happens, let's be careful. This is a strange group."

"Of course. You made the right decision, senior," Garin sighed, hearing Vicente's sensible decision.

"Let's move on. We'll fly from the next town to Ravengarde. I'm looking forward to finding out more about this group."

Vicente didn't intend to investigate the fairy group through the sect. With the system behind Dark Hands at his disposal, he wanted to gather resources to carry out this and other missions of interest to him.

They set off towards their previous destination, no longer encountering large or powerful groups of travelers like the previous one. They were already close to the town they intended to pass through. The flow of magicians traveling along that road would increase until they reached their destination.

To Bert and Garin's relief, they could leave for Ravengarde after just three days. With that, in another four days, they could be back at the core of their sect!

#### Chapter 1004 Group mission

After a quiet journey back to Ravengarde, Vicente and his group landed at the city's airport.

For obvious reasons, Bert and Garin followed separately from Vicente, leaving him to follow alongside only Rex, while wearing sunglasses—Prisiche.

Back in the city, Vicente breathed in the air of the metropolis' modernity, back in a highly technological and populous place.

It was terrible to be there!

But with a long sigh, he headed back to Stonewall's headquarters, figuring that Larissa and the other members of {Golden Partners} had already returned from their previous mission. Previously, he had left because he couldn't join them and would have to go to Alicia sooner or later. But now that more than a month had passed, he was sure that he would be able to reunite with his companions.

And indeed, soon after identifying himself at the entrance to the headquarters, Vicente would run into his fellow faction members in the most common place for Outer Disciples.

The Missions Center!

As soon as he entered the building where disciples came to look for activities that would earn them resources, Vicente spotted the white-haired woman with whom he had a partnership.

Along with Larissa were Rill, Daren, Mabras and Alidove, sitting around one of the tables in the area where many other disciples sat to chat, sometimes pass the time and choose missions after thinking about the pros and cons.

The moment she saw the small animal on one of Vicente's shoulders, Larissa didn't misunderstand the situation and promptly stood up from where she was.

"Vicente!" She exclaimed to him, obviously curious to know how he had acquired a beast with 5-Star Magus cultivation!

The others noticed the same, all of them having already reached the 7th stage to be able to easily identify Rex's cultivation.

Rex wasn't hiding his strength. In a place like this, it made sense to show power up to a certain limit. It would bring opportunities and ward off some minor problems. As for bigger problems, well, Vicente was ready and waiting for them.

"You're back..." He said as he greeted everyone with a nod, while Prisiche took on her usual blonde woman form.

"I say the same to you... You went on a mission with your sponsor. I didn't expect you to return with such a powerful beast." Daren, the feline woman with 1-Star Magus cultivation, said with a smile, shaking her facial hair.

Beasts from cultivators who were members of the sect could enter the headquarters without any problems. With Vicente's mark on his body, Rex was seen by the sect's barriers as part of Vice's powers, in other words, as a member of the sect.

None of them were surprised by this fact, but they were interested in the story Vicente had to tell them.

He summed up what was most important and what he was willing to tell them before hearing from them about the journey the group had made, their achievements and awards. Upon hearing the plans they intended to engage in from now on, which included him, Vicente was satisfied and agreed to go ahead with most of what they had already planned.

For now, he didn't want to get involved in anything deep. He didn't want to risk performing rituals; he didn't have the resources to contract missions using the Dark Hands system, nor to contract an investigation into Nan and her group. His priority was to carry out missions, get resources and strengthen himself until he entered the middle of the 7th stage, when it would be time for him to hunt down his remaining pentagrams.

"How much time do you need to prepare?" Mabras, a tall, strong man, asked after hearing Vicente say that he would be going with them after settling some matters in the sect.

"Two to three days, no more than that," Vicente said. "I need to report on some things I've seen and buy some materials. We'll leave as soon as I have everything ready."

With that said, he arranged with Larissa to meet her later, before moving on with Rex and Prische to report on what he had seen during the trip.

Bert and Garin would do the same, since they were supposedly watching him to keep him out of trouble and they all had to report something similar to keep their stories going. But Vicente had already told those two to hide the fact that he had interacted with such individuals from outside the island. They were only supposed to report that they had spotted Nan's group.

Vicente wanted to get information from that group on his own, so he didn't intend to use this report to get something.

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Three days after his return to the sect, Vicente had sorted out all the problems from his recent absence, spoken to his master, Collins, and visited the Centers where he had mandatory activities.

Fortunately, he had a lot of freedom these days, and after reporting what had happened and asking for another authorization to leave headquarters, he was ready to join his faction on the mission Larissa had chosen.

This was an out-of-town mission, so once again, he had a journey ahead of him.

At the start of this new day, he left his house together with Rex and Prische, meeting the white-haired woman, his street neighbor, before meeting up with the others.

"Are you sure you want to do three missions on one trip?" Larissa asked Vicente, just to be sure.

"Yes, I'd even do more, if it were possible... Anyway, I need resources to complete some of my plans. The next two years will be a lot of missions for me." He said to her as he made his way to where Daren, Mabras and Alidove were already waiting for them.

On the way he saw Theo, with whom he had already spoken over the last few days and agreed important things for their relationship as allies. Fortunately, they were at the beginning of their business together and there was room for one group to stay away from the other without any problems.

So Vicente's group set off on their journey of missions outside the headquarters!

## Chapter 1005 Hunting Time

'3-Star, huh?' Vicente felt his cultivation at the peak of 2-Star after months of hard cultivation, close to reaching the breakthrough he was waiting for to hunt his pentagrams.

But it wasn't today that he would succeed. Sensing his time was up in that cultivation room of the Manifold Family's training center, he grabbed his things and left, finding himself in a corridor overlooking the beautiful, modern center of Ravengarde.

From where he was standing, he saw Larissa waiting for him, who was also there after having joined him as a Manifold Family sponsor months ago.

Larissa's cultivation wasn't as fast as Vicente's, but she had also come from a lower plane and shown herself to be an outstanding talent. Her cultivation was now at the beginning of 2-Star of the 7th stage.

The last 18 months had been hectic for the two leaders of {Golden Partners}. They had engaged in 11 collective missions, completing each one while maintaining their responsibilities with Stonewall.

Vicente advanced in his most recent mandatory missions, as well as continuing to fight matches for the Outer Disciple rank, improving his positions and finally entering the top 50.

His fights had become the biggest attraction for 6th and 7th stage individuals on the island and even some Grand Magus monitored him.

Fortunately, he had escaped the three assassination attempts he had suffered in the last nine months. In the meantime, he has built up quite an asset alongside his faction, having finally managed to create two missions using the Dark Hands system.

Three months ago he had created the mission to stop assassins getting to him, and more recently he had created the mission to research on Fairy Nan's group.

His mission was obviously the most difficult, and he didn't expect any quick results. But Fairy Nan's mission was already paying off. Within a few days, he had already had his mission accepted by someone who gave him a deadline of between three months and a year to get back to him.

Considering that there were still over three years to go before he met Nan's group, he was relaxed about this deadline.

Anyway, his faction had grown a lot in recent months, as had his power. Now close to reaching 3-Star, Vicente couldn't help talking to his ally about the hunt for his next pentagram.

"We have to travel to a forest soon, Larissa." He walked beside him, unaccompanied by Rex, who was probably asleep at the {Golden Partners} headquarters.

Beasts get stronger in their sleep, after all.

As for Prisiche, she was by Vicente's side while he was talking to Larissa.

"Do you really feel ready?" Larissa trusted Vicente more than anyone. Even Lothur hadn't given her the feeling Vicente was currently giving her during their time in Concordia. But what Vice said was something that could endanger even groups of Grand Magus!

Hunting violet pentagrams was tough!

"Yes, my power has improved a lot. If we leave now, I'll probably advance in cultivation before we reach our first stop... But if you're not confident, we can do one more mission and settle my hunt on the way back."

She shook her head in denial. "No, that wouldn't change anything for the others or for me. Only you can grow with each mission.

Sigh! It's time we sorted that out. When you get your pentagram, your strength will increase a lot. That will be good for us." She agreed it was time to move after a second thought.

He smiled at her. Vicente had helped all his group mates hunt for their pentagrams over the last few months, including the newcomers who had joined the group and had already become stronger.

Besides Bert and Garin, whom Vice had obviously invited into his faction after their joint action earlier, 11 more members had joined {Golden Partners}. Of this group, 10 were newly promoted Magus.

"Then let's travel to Fallsor Bluff. Prepare our team. I'll take care of some business and meet you in two days," he said as he separated from Larissa and headed back to the Collins residence.

{Vicente Fuller}

{Cultivation: 2-Star Magus}

{Origin: Polaris Realm}

{Magical Forms: Throne of Light and Darkness; Magnetism.}

{Rank: Outer Disciple; (47th in Combat Center rank)}

{Professions: 7th stage Blacksmith; 7th stage Healer; 7th stage Real Sorcerer.}

He saw his status as a disciple of Stonewall, where little had changed. But he had evolved in his two professions, becoming a 7th stage Healer and Real Sorcerer.

After these improvements, he had won several prizes and many stone coins, and had gained access to more information about the professions as well. At the moment, the only reason Vicente wasn't an 8th stage blacksmith was because of his limited cultivation, while in the other two professions, he had already advanced to where he wasn't far from catching up with his master.

Collins still had a lot to teach Vicente, however. Not all the understanding in the world could grasp the subtleties of life that only experienced people understood.

Even though he no longer learned as much from Collins in terms of technical information, Vicente still often got revelations from talking to his master in sorcery.

However, Vicente didn't talk to Collins about the invitation he had received from hell earlier. He said that he had performed a ritual and seen the same phenomenon that his master had seen with him previously, but he didn't go into detail about the differences between the two occasions.

Collins was surprised at the time, but the opening of the Gates of Hell was a random event, so he suspected nothing. But because of that experience, the man helped Vicente understand a few more things about the Gates of Hell and even the Nine Paths.

The man had even mentioned Argardus, and how the definitive answers Vice was looking for were in that place. But Collins had also helped Vice by researching islands where the young man could go before becoming a peak expert and looking for better answers.

The best way for him, according to Collins, was to go to the dark area of Anicane, where the most dangerous and powerful islands in the world were located. Supposedly, the weakest region in the suppression of the controllers of the Nine Paths was in this area.

The only downside, apart from the dangers of the journey, was that Light Cay was on the opposite side of the world to this region, which meant a long journey for Vicente.

He was already inclined to leave the island in a few years, so he didn't bother with what he had so far. Better to know that there were places for him to look than to have no clue at all!

Thinking back to the last conversation he'd had with his master, he entered Collins' property.

"Master, after today I won't be seeing you for a while. I'm finally going to hunt my pentagrams." Vicente announced as he stood alone with the man in the rat-faced fellow's workroom.

Upon hearing this, Collins put down the paintbrush he was holding and picked up something he wanted to give Vicente. "Are you going to Fallsor Bluff?"

Vicente nodded in affirmation.

"In that case, take this with you. It will help you find something important for becoming a Realm Sorcerer of the 8th stage!" the man said with a twinkle in his eye.

## Chapter 1006 Cursed Compass

Picking up the item Collins had for him, Vicente readily understood what it was all about.

"A Cursed Compass?" He asked as he looked at the rat-faced fellow.

Collins smiled, showing his perfectly aligned, white teeth. "Indeed. A Cursed Compass."

"How did you get it, master? I thought it would be extremely difficult to get one of them below the 8th stage of cultivation," Vicente said as he hesitated to store such an item in his spatial ring.

He had more than one reason for this. Not only was the item too special for him to accept right away, but it was also something famous for Real Sorcerers, something that supposedly could find elements compatible with rituals.

The problem was that the item in Vicente's hands now only had one classification: Eighth Class!

Something like this could identify materials of the same classification, in other words, materials useful to a Real Sorcerer of the 8th stage.

Vicente had already had two encounters with hell without even using Seventh Class items, so he was hesitant to get Eighth Class resources!

'If I take this with me and find something, I'll be in the difficult situation of abandoning an opportunity or going ahead with something that could take me to hell... Literally.' He thought silently.

Collins answered his pupil. "I spoke to someone who knew someone who knew how to obtain this artifact.

The point is that I have it and no one will come after it. If you use it in your hunt, you will find something and it will only be a matter of understanding for you to become a Real Sorcerer of the 8th stage.

You won't even have to become a Grand Magus for that, Vicente! All you need is the Eighth Class resources and the understanding!"

He himself didn't know if he would reach the 8th stage in the next few centuries, or even in the next millennium. But he had complete confidence that Vicente could achieve it.

Such a method would be the best for him to continue growing in Stonewall, but also to continue growing as a Real Sorcerer!

"Is that really possible?" Vicente doubted it, but he couldn't ignore the possibility of him becoming a Real Sorcerer of the 8th stage.

A Real Sorcerer skilled enough could surpass those up to a few levels higher, even if they didn't have a strong cultivation base.

Some even said that an 8th stage Real Sorcerer was like a newly promoted Sorcerer—a 9th stage being!

Even if he had the risk of opening the Gates of Hell once again, Vicente wouldn't hesitate to take this risk in order to become comparable to a Sorcerer!

Someone like that would be stronger than the leaders of Light Cay!

"It is for you," Collins said with his usual calm. "No one else could do it, but you can. With the right resources, of course. Perhaps a little more power, too, but I foresee you achieving all the requirements if you use the Cursed Compass in your travels."

Vicente was silent for a moment. Collins was a studied and experienced man. This guy had never made absurd claims before and had always been sensible.

On reflection, Vicente went ahead with the proposal.

'So be it. I'll face dangers one way or another. If I can achieve my goals faster this way, it will be better. Less time before I see my family again.' He tightened his fingers around the item, gradually revealing a smile to Collins.

"All right. I'll do my best to gather the Eighth Class materials."

"Excellent!" The rat-man opened his mouth with satisfaction.

"So, when are you leaving? You'll take your faction with you, right?"

"Yes, I'll take them to help me. Anyway, I'm leaving as soon as possible. I'll just fulfill the official requirements and move on."

Collins said, "Be careful with your schedule. You may soon enter the top 10 and by then it will be time for you to become an Inner Disciple or change rank and become an Elder."

"I'm aware. I'll be back in time for my change of position in the sect, master." Vicente had already decided to become an Inner Disciple after this journey.

In fact, he planned to become a Core Disciple within the next few years, before the time to meet Nan. That would be enough for him to do this and also have the freedoms to consider going ahead with his departure from the island.

"Very well. Then go ahead. Good luck on your hunt. May powerful beasts and good pentagrams cross your path."

With Collins' words, Vicente thanked his master once more before setting off to settle the other matters before his departure.

Prisiche helped him fulfill the requirements for his departure on the hunt, as she always did.

Time would pass and soon he would be on his way to the meeting place with Larissa and the others, wondering if enough time had passed for her to have assembled her team.

...

Upon meeting the core of his group, Vicente greeted Bert, Garin and the others, as well as patting the top of the head of the Flaming Lion lying on an enormous bed in the faction's headquarters.

"Are we finally going to hunt down your pentagram, boss?" one man in the group, a 3-Star Magus, asked.

"Yes, the time has come. I want six of you in my group. But don't worry, your focus won't be on fighting, but on assisting me in the hunt." Vicente explained, imagining that some there would be trembling with fear to join him.

Bert sighed when he heard what the faction leader had to say, but Garin was still worried. He didn't want to go back to the damned forest they'd had to leave before because it was too dangerous.

Everyone in the group was stronger now, but he still didn't want to go into the area, even if only to help Vicente.

However, not everyone lets their fears get the better of them. Some were genuinely interested in how Vicente would look with his seventh pentagram!

Besides Larissa, five individuals volunteered to join the group on the journey to Fallsor Bluff.

Vicente thanked his most determined companions for accompanying him, and promised with a smile on his face, "On the way back from the hunt, we'll put that plan into action against the Black Raven Crew."

Hearing the name of one of the island's main outlaw groups brought a gleam to the group's eyes.

"I'll let you divide the spoils we accumulate from this group."

The men and women who would go with him shouted in celebration, while those who hadn't had the courage to join him sighed in defeat.

Given the wealth of the Black Raven Crew, it was clear that the robbery planned by the faction leader would generate many dividends for the group!

## Chapter 1007 The 7th Pentagram?

A few days later, Vicente's group landed in the same town he had passed through with Rex, Bert and Garin before.

They headed straight from the airport to Fallsor Bluff, located just a few days away from this town.

A few days' journey along the dirt road that Vicente had encountered with Nan's group earlier would be enough for the group to reach the entrance to Fallsor Bluff.

...

At the entrance to Fallsor Bluff, Rex left his sleeping position on one of Vicente's shoulders. As he moved in front of the group, he raised his guard, sensing the danger drawing ever closer.

As the beast took on its most powerful form, the magicians were in formation, some of them on guard, but others searching for the signs they were looking for.

Vicente was a great magician, but he wasn't an expert in many things. For that there was a 7th stage Beast Tamer and a Tracker.

Beast Tamers were professionals who specialized not only in taming creatures, as the name implied. They also studied, in detail, the characteristics of all types of beast, methods of containing, weakening or strengthening them, if that was the aim. They also knew the habits and habitats of all kinds of creatures.

As for a Tracker, this was a secondary profession for most magicians. Trackers' focus was on finding subtle clues and identifying the paths of their targets.

Any decent magician would know how to follow obvious clues, such as a footprint or a trail of blood. But following more invisible clues could be quite difficult.

Aware of this, Vicente formed a faction alongside Larissa that was filled with different types of talent.

At this moment, the group's Tracker was talking quietly to the Beast Tamer, sensing that he had found something.

"A strong, furry beast with a cultivation of no less than 7-Star of the 7th stage passed through here. It left an electric trail here," said the Tracker when he identified something that not even Vicente, who had an affinity with lightning, could feel it.

But that was natural. What the Tracker in the group felt wasn't lightning, but the aftermath of lightning where the creature that had dropped some fur in the surrounding area had passed.

The Beast Tamer picked up one fur and, through its fragrance, but also the information about electricity, she identified the creature. "Storm Bear. This is a common type of beast from the mountains of Fallsor Bluff. They have nocturnal behavior and it's not uncommon for them to reach the 8th stage when allowed to live close to their life expectancies."

One of the interesting things about magical beasts was that when a being had the talent to reach a certain level, its magical quality was usually compatible with that level. In this case, the 8th stage most closely matched the indigo grade, just what Vicente was looking for now.

"What is the creature's maximum strength? And how long has it been here?" Larissa, a warrior for the group, asked the Tracker.

The man estimated. "I can't say. I can only estimate up to the 7th stage. It could be a Grand Magus. I really don't know. But it's at least a 7-Star Magus. The tracks it left are only generated by strong creatures... In particular, I think this one might be angry."

The Beast Tamer said, "It's a female."

"Maybe she's pregnant? Or has she lost her cubs?" Vicente imagined a good reason for a female to be angry, regardless of the breed.

"It's possible," said the Beast Tamer.

"Hmm, let's move on with Storm Bear's tracks." Vicente nodded in the direction of the Tracker.

Although he wasn't an expert, he knew what the Storm Bear looked like, and if the creature that passed by had an indigo pentagram, it would fall well within the seventh position of his first magical form.

The group moved on, with the Tracker showing the path the creature had taken, while Rex continued ahead of the group, sniffing out trouble.

Besides Larissa and Vicente, warriors but also blacksmiths, as well as the two leading the search, there were two more members in the group, an Alchemist and a Formations Master.

The latter two could help weaken their target before a fight or even lure their target into a trap.

Vicente had rarely made use of these tricks in Polaris Realm, but the sects of Light Cay, such as Stonewall, had extensive knowledge and techniques for facilitating beast hunting.

The creatures on this island were powerful indeed. Without special tricks, many of the holders of incredible pentagram configurations wouldn't be so impressive.

And for Vicente, these techniques were a godsend. He followed behind his group, feeling the ease of having a group prepared for a journey like this.

Unlike the previous situation with Bert and Garin, this time they avoided several problems and followed the right path from where a compatible creature had gone. In a fraction of the time he had invested previously, Vicente and his group would soon arrive at the spot where their target was.

"He's just ahead, boss. From here to there it's up to you," said the Tracker as he pointed to a cave about 400 meters away from them.

Vicente looked in that direction and felt the creature's magical fluctuation after walking a little closer.

But when he noticed the essence of that blue-furred bear, Vicente sighed. 'Her Pentagram is almost turning indigo... A pity. If she had been a few years older, I would have gotten what I wanted.' He was disappointed to note that the 8-Star of the 7th stage creature wouldn't be able to meet his needs.

He slowly retreated to the group, as the creature opened her eyes inside the cave where she was resting from her lunch.

As she moved her head slowly to the side, the creature saw the human looking in her direction. But when their eyes met, something made her turn quickly.

Vicente saw the bear hiding her head between her paws and pretending to be asleep, and couldn't help but smile.

'Good reaction, haha.' He returned to his group's side, back to the start of the hunt.

"Let's find another beast. That one doesn't suit me."

#### Chapter 1008 Target Found

Two days later, after a few more misses, the group was near yet another powerful beast with the potential to offer Vicente's first indigo pentagram in Light Cay.

At this point, his group was hiding in rocks near a river, while he was assessing the situation of the beast they had been tracking for the last few hours.

Arriving near the creature lying on one bank of the river ahead, in the middle part of Fallsor Bluff, Vicente opened his eyes wide as he felt the sensation coming from that being of 9-Star Magus cultivation.

'I've finally done it!' He clenched his fists as he faced the creature with its back to him, a kind of snake with light blue scales and a body as big as a tree trunk.

But Vicente didn't act promptly against the creature. He looked toward his group and gave a thumbs-up sign, showing that he had found what he wanted.

As soon as they understood Vicente's signal, two magicians stepped forward to help him, while Rex and Larissa stood guard to protect the other group members.

The Formation Master and the Beast Tamer stopped next to Vicente, both making use of the shadows controlled by their companion to move without attracting the enemy's attention.

'You must act against it by surprise, Vicente. This kind of beast has great senses and a powerful body. If you let it perceive you, it will stiffen its scales to the point that even you will have difficulty hurting it. If it realizes that you can kill it, it may even run away, given its unusual speed.

Attack it to wound it first so that it can't run away and is left with a vulnerability. After that, the fight should be brutal, but your chances will be good.'

After listening to the group's Beast Tamer, Vicente listened to the Formation Master. 'I'm going to activate one of my concealment formations to shuffle the mana on the area and camouflage the start of your movement. Your shadows won't be able to hide you when you act, but my formation will give you a few seconds.

Following that, I'll use something to disturb your opponent's mind. That should be enough for you to launch your first attack. From then on, it will be entirely up to you to deal with it.'

Vicente thanked them both, and then saw the Beast Tamer standing next to the group's Formation Master, helping the man how to act against the snake ahead. He waited for their signal and when they were ready a few moments later, he moved towards his goal.

He circulated the mana through his body and prepared his attack, creating a curved blade with the metals around his body, while covering it with darkness.

He could use light if he wanted to, but as it was night at the moment, his powers of darkness would be stronger than ever.

Once he was ready, he manipulated the space in the area, making his way towards the enemy resting on the riverbank.

The concealment formation helped him at first, as he appeared closer to the blue snake, already manipulating the creature's body to weaken it for his attack.

At the same time, the mental disturbance formation made the creature see a subtly distinct reality, as Vicente unleashed his attack against the enormous snake's head.

Sparks of electricity formed in the air between him and the enemy, while a glow emerged from the snake's eyes, followed by a lunge at the last moment before his weapon contacted its head.

Vicente watched his opponent move as poisonous mana flowed from the creature's inoculating teeth when he finally reached it.

Even though it had moved in the last instant, the creature was not at its best. It dodged an attack on its head, but when Vicente's curved weapon hit it, it left a cut a meter long and 20 centimeters deep down the length of its body.

Vicente sensed his subtle mistake and the creature's counterattack. He promptly raised his arms in front of his body, while making the ground beneath the creature create earthen hands to immobilize it.

These earthen hands only hindered the snake's movement, as it destroyed the obstacles in its path to strike Vicente's body with the tip of its tail.

Vicente felt a powerful blow on his right flank, for a moment almost losing his balance and falling, as he slid 6 meters towards the river.

The creature slid towards the stream, planning to take the enemy and this battle to its most interesting habitat, the river.

But as it moved, a surreal pressure came over its body, with the shadows of the night eating away at its scaly body. It instinctively tried to back away, feeling its life under threat.

Then a giant bolt of lightning formed behind Vicente, illuminating the night as he attacked it with a black trident.

Simultaneously, a storm formed in the surroundings, attracting strong winds, while the sound of lightning filled the air.

Vicente's companions watched open-mouthed as he fought in earnest for the first time they could remember, with Rex watching his master in awe, proud to serve such a magician.

Unlike Rex, the snake that Vicente was facing now really deserved all of Vicente's power!

Just as the giant was about to reach the snake, the creature saw it wouldn't stand a chance if it didn't use everything it had. As it rose in front of the enemy, it made its body glow as it grew larger, also attracting lightning from the surrounding area, while its body vibrated strangely.

Instead of acting against Vicente's attack, its eyes turned towards the enemy, who was controlling those frightening powers for a 3-Star Magus to control.

Vicente had advanced in level over the last few days and was now a 3-Star Magus!

Because of this advancement, he felt confident when he saw the creature moving towards him, demonstrating the special movement and attack skills that only its race of snakes had.

He made a spatial distortion appear in front of him, while concentrating his power of molecular manipulation to act on that area, transforming his neighborhoods into something capable of destroying anything that came against him.

"One of us is going to die. But it won't be me!" he said as he shouted at the extremely fast creature.

As soon as his voice ended, his and his opponent's powers collided!

## Chapter 1009 Vicente's Seventh Pentagon

The creature collided with the distorted space around Vicente, and it couldn't hold back the cry of agony as it tried to retreat immediately.

It made a high-pitched sound as more of its venom burst from its large teeth, opening its mouth wide to the point where its throat became apparent, while parts of its blue scales were degraded.

The scales of a beast as powerful as this creature were not simple. Normally they would withstand even attacks from beings stronger than it. But when it came into contact with the destructive power of the distortions around Vicente, it encountered something akin to a shredder that degraded its outermost defenses with ease.

Vicente felt parts of his actions crumble in the face of the creature's absurd strength, even though he hurt it more than it was forcing him to.

His lightning giant brought his black trident down on it, directing the sharp, dark-coated tips against the snake's already wounded body.

The creature tried to get away from him by struggling, even making part of itself move against him, being badly corroded to the point where its reddish flesh was visible, but still managing to reach Vicente's body.

"Impressive! But not enough!" Vicente muttered as he deformed the space and let the creature's body pass through it and hit one tree near the riverbank where they were fighting.

Earlier, he had been taken aback by the snake's blow, but now he had learned the things it could do to counterattack.

The snake looked at him with hatred in its eyes, but now it was too late for it to escape. With no chance against Vicente, it was penetrated at the height of its first wound, pinned against the damp ground of the riverbank, while screaming even more amid its bleeding.

"Your stamina is impressive, beast. I'll put those skills to good use when you become my seventh pentagram!" Vicente jumped up from where he was, making the metals in the ground follow his commands, wrapping the snake's body in special metal belts.

But just when the creature thought it had been trapped, mana charged each of the metal components around it, glowing for a moment, before lasers broke out of these structures and cut into its body even more.

The snake finally stopped screaming as the glow in its eyes faded, its body still struggling, even though it had been fractured into six unique pieces.

The head area still seemed aware of what was happening as Vicente landed on top of it, sweating terribly, while having some parts of his body burned off.

The snake's venom had reached one of his arms and almost completely melted that body structure. Luckily, Vicente was a Healer with incredible regeneration skills. He skillfully sealed his own sense of pain in that arm while slowly regenerating it.

Now with the creature dead, he sighed as he felt his mana at only 17% of its current normal.

'This beast demanded a lot from me... Far more than I would have liked to have spent on a single opponent.'

Hearing Vicente's thoughts, the consciousness of the Throne of Light and Darkness said, 'That was a 9-Star beast of the 7th stage. It was strong, but the opponent who will give you my seventh pentagram could be even stronger than it. If you didn't feel comfortable, it might be interesting to come back here when you become a 5-Star Magus.'

'No. I'm going to move on and see what I can achieve by absorbing this beast's pentagram. I'll get stronger and have a new skill. It's also possible that I'll improve the overall quality of my pentagrams of natural origin a little more.'

Vicente was curious to hunt creatures compatible with the throne. In particular, he wanted beings with an affinity for light, given how focused his throne abilities were on darkness.

Luckily, Light Cay didn't have that name by chance. It was one of the islands with the highest concentration of beings from the Light Path, as the people of the Polaris Realm called it.

'Then I wish you luck. The sooner you get my next pentagram, the better,' said the throne before disappearing again.

After these words, Vicente felt his companions approach him and quickly set up a security perimeter.

The Formation Master activated his defensive barriers around the area, along with camouflage formations. The Beast Tamer also moved in, placing some fragrances famous for their repellent effects against beasts in the surroundings, while the others stood guard.

Vicente said a few words to his faction members and was soon in the lotus position, his eyes closed and his hands relaxed on his legs.

The mana in his body allowed itself to be connected to the natural essence of the area, along with the creature's indigo pentagram moving out of its remains and gradually connecting to the beast killer.

The entire process in Anicane was much faster than what he experienced in Polaris Realm. Within minutes, Vicente felt the pentagram enter his soul space, where it soon positioned itself above his sixth pentagram, and connected to his other essences.

His skin trembled subtly as its fibers strengthened, gradually, the characteristics of the dead snake seeping into his being.

The snake's special abilities were super speed, electric poison, mental power amplified by electricity and it also had a regenerative power related to the water element.

Vicente didn't have the water element natural to him, but he had already achieved an affinity with various elements along his path, including water.

As his new pentagram stabilized in the seventh position, he felt his defensive characteristics improve, while his body also gained extra resistance to poisons.

His other natural pentagrams connected to the magnetic magical form grew stronger as another indigo essence joined this magical form, while Vicente felt his new ability.

In his mind, he saw again what the snake had done moments ago against him, when it had prepared to make a super-fast strike and even managed to ignore part of his decomposing ability.

Through the new ability, Vicente could feel that he could speed up his speed from zero to close to the speed of light in a few moments and attack opponents with his own bodies!

## Chapter 1010 In Search of the 14th Pentagram

"How are you feeling?" One of Vicente's group mates asked, his smile impossible to hide.

Each of them was extremely interested to see Vicente in action the way he was now, to see how much stronger he would prove to be in combat against a creature of the same level as the now-dead snake.

As Vicente already knew well, a cultivator wouldn't be at their best until they had reached all their pentagrams. Not only would he not have all the abilities that their level allowed them, but all their abilities would be weaker as long as they didn't complete the requirements of their cultivation stage.

Vicente was already a complicated monster to face before, but now he had got a new skill and advanced a few more steps in terms of combat power.

Everyone was curious to see how strong their leader had become!

"Well, I'd said," Minos said to his group after he had finished absorbing the pentagram and felt ready to move on with his journey. "In fact, I feel perfect to go on a new hunt now."

The entire group there already knew that Vicente had a second magical form. After more than a year of working together, there was no way he could hide information as critical as this from his companions.

Fortunately, they had agreements with him and couldn't leak information about the faction or even about him.

But the moment Minos touched on this point, the members of the group became more serious. He was certainly stronger now. But hunting down a new pentagram would pose a similar or even superior challenge to the previous one.

Things had turned out well for everyone in the just-finished fight, but the difference between that outcome and the one in which things would turn out badly for the group hadn't been that great.

"Are you sure about this? I thought we were only going to hunt one of your pentagrams today," asked the group's alchemist.

Vicente was direct in his reply, "We're already here and anyway, we'll have to travel around the area for a few days to get away from danger. If we find something compatible with me in the next few days, we'll avoid wasting time in the future."

Larissa looked at Vicente and spoke on his behalf, "The Black Raven Crew is not a simple group. We can win a lot against them, but if Vicente can be as strong as possible at the time of this mission, that will be better."

Vicente thanked the white-haired woman with a nod as he looked at the item Collins had given him. The Cursed Compass was strongly indicating the presence of something relevant to his secondary mission in the area.

'I'll see about that while I hunt for my next pentagram.' He thought to himself as his companions voiced their opinions.

"Let's search for four days." He suggested to appease the most worried. "If we don't find any interesting beasts and within our limits, we'll set out against the Black Raven Crew."

...

Meanwhile, back in the Polaris Realm...

Almost 10 years had passed in the blink of an eye since the death of Demien Bloodthorne and little by little, the festivities commemorating that day were arriving in different parts of the continent.

The threat of monsters and vampires had not passed in the meantime, but the human community had grown in continental dominance and recovery of magical power in recent years.

The monsters had been completely expelled from the south and center of the continent and were now approaching the time when their domains would be the same as they had been before The Purification.

Human fences and trains had proliferated across the continent with the explosion of the Cataclysm Order, a force that had completely taken over the power vacuum left by the Congregation of Revelations.

In particular, some of the major cities on the continent were now the metal cities created by the war hero, Venerable Vicente Fuller.

Statues of Vicente could now be found around the continent's main cities, not just human cities, and not just metal cities. His name alone frightened the monsters and humans and beasts respected him almost equally.

Amid this, Nina and Lauren's names had become famous, honoring the surname and blood they bore of the greatest and most important magician in the entire history of the continent.

Little news of Lauren had circulated around the continent in recent times. She was among the strongest of the allied forces against the monsters and rarely showed herself in public. But the situation was totally different for Nina, who had grown famous for her actions in expanding the human frontier against the monster lands.

Nina had at least 20,000 creature kills on her personal record and songs chanted of her exploits from north to south, east to west.

She was currently one of the youngest and most powerful High-level Paragons on the continent, who was due to advance to become an Archmage any day now.

Meanwhile, all of Vicente's women had long since become Archmages, but few on the entire continent knew their names. Certainly the most important Paragons and Archmages in the alliance knew and respected them very much, but their names hardly existed among ordinary people.

Today, however, the three women who were as respected among the continent's strongest as Lauren and Nina were reunited in the same city where their journey had long since begun.

In the ancient Saltstar City, a grand altar built from the ruins of the city destroyed by monsters now housed the headquarters of the Cataclysm Order.

In this particular place, a girl with black hair and blue eyes, carrying a special necklace around her neck, was walking among men in the same uniform, their weapons raised while they were on bended knee.

She was all in black, with a veil over her youthful face. But anyone who could see her as this artifact would know one of the most beautiful young maidens around.

Her beauty was not important, however. There today to awaken her powers and fully assume the duties of Altar Master, Annie Fuller carried on her shoulders the expectations of several of her family's strongest subordinates, there today to accompany the start of her magical journey.

This morning she had turned 14 years old and would finally begin her journey towards her father!

However, Annie had other concerns on her mind. At the moment, Lauren and Nina were preparing for the intensified movements of the monstrous forces, a result of the imminent end of the 6th stage vampires' seclusion!