

The Mafia 251

Chapter 251 Conversations?

In the blink of an eye, Vicente and his men, along with Jasmine, left the scene of the confrontation in their carriage and headed for Millfall.

Leaving Mark and the gray-haired woman, Layla, behind, Mark howled with rage as he shouted in frustration, hating their situation.

Vicente ruined all his plans!

Without 'his' precious resources, with Jasmine kidnapped and Layla still alive, everything had gone wrong for Mark this morning!

"A thousand devils! How could that bastard be so strong? How did he survive a bloody yellow pentagram only at the 2nd stage?" He shouted as he fell to his knees, pounding the ground.

Layla sighed as she removed Vicente's spear from his abdomen, feeling a lot of pain but not afraid of dying since she had a great recovery potion in her spatial ring.

"We were surprised by him. But if he's really willing to go through with that deal..."

"Do you think he'll go through with the deal? Wake up, Layla! Cesar has Jasmine under control! Do you think he'll let us leave with some of his stuff like nothing happened?" He looked at her without his mask, showing a look that basically said how stupid she was to think of following such a deal.

She also had her mask off and looked at him thoughtfully. "If he does what you suggest, the Mazzanti family will be wiped out. There's no reason for him to deceive us. We are free to tell the world what he has done against House Irwin.

Does he have Jasmine? We hold his family's future in our hands. He has no choice but to make that deal. This is his only chance!"

"Tsk! You really are stupid!" He said as he took his healing potion.

"If you think he won't do what he promised, then what will we do?" She ignored his comment.

"Our only option! We'll get allies to deal with the bastard in Millfall!"

"You're crazy! That will kill Jasmine!" She brandished, fearing for the life of her best friend.

"If you disagree, Layla, go your own way. I will save Jasmine, no matter what it takes!" He glared at her with hatred as he started to walk towards Ironcrest.

"I hope you don't get us all killed. Don't forget what he said." She stood up, determined to go to Millfall to fulfill the deal Vice had proposed. "He'll kill Jasmine if you draw his attention or cause any strange movements."

"Don't worry. I'm as concerned about her well-being as you are. I won't contact the organization. Just a few contacts who will keep what we do a secret."

The two went their separate ways, Layla heading for Millfall while Mark returned to Ironcrest.

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Meanwhile, Vicente was in his carriage with Jasmine, having already placed several restrictive items on her body capable of blocking one's mana and special abilities.

After doing so and searching the woman's spatial ring, he gave her a recovery potion so she wouldn't die or suffer complications from her previous injuries.

Vicente wanted to kill Jasmine and the rest of her cronies, but he couldn't risk the woman's well-being just yet.

If Jasmine's two companions betrayed her and sought help from the Congregation of Revelations, her life would be the only thing he could use to protect his party.

'They won't make it easy for me... I must develop my skills and weapons as much as possible during this journey, or I'll be finished.' Vicente thought to himself as the blonde woman looked at him.

As he thought about it, he remembered Shelby's suggestion that he should go on the 3rd-stage basilisk's hunt. 'I have to go to The Rocky Gorge and join the hunt. If I succeed, I'll get items and resources for my men.'

As he thought about the problem, his only answer was to become stronger, to increase the strength of his men and the number of people in the Mazzanti family.

How would he do that? By taking advantage of the opportunities he knew.

One was the 3rd-stage basilisk's hunt. Another was the auction Lukas had told him about weeks ago.

'I will participate in that auction and the competition for the main resource to be auctioned.' He considered. 'I also have to bring into my family the two friends of Lukas that Rory has already probed. With my current resources, I can easily meet their and Casey's demands.'

While Vice planned, Jasmine looked at him, wondering what such a person would do to her. Not fully trusting Mark and Layla to save her life, she was sure that she would have to act on her own or die at the hands of this man.

"Cesar, what do you want?" She asked, staring at the holes in his mask. "What do you expect from kidnapping a member of the Congregation of Revelations?"

Vicente pushed his thoughts aside as he looked at the pink-haired woman before him. "I hope your companions value your life. If that happens, once my companion has erased your memories of me, we can continue our lives without any problems for either side."

"Impossible. You won't let us leave with your gold." She said, confident that he wouldn't make such an easy move. "Cesar, if you kill us, you'll bring trouble upon yourself, even if you erase the traces of what you did against us. You must be wondering how we discovered you without you leaving any trace of your theft, right?"

"How did you do it?" He asked.

"That was my skill." She smiled at him, narrowing her eyes and forming a menacing smile. "I'm not the only one with such abilities. If I die, or if my whole group dies, someone will find out what happened to us sooner or later. By then, you'll be hunted down by the strongest organization in Polaris Realm!"

"It's not wise to threaten the one who has the power to kill you, miss." Vicente quickly put a blade to Jasmine's neck and looked into her eyes.

"If you want to kill me, go ahead. You'll be dead in less than a year." She said with some confidence. "But if you want to live, give up any foolish plans. We can make a deal that's beneficial to both of us."

"Is that so?" Vice removed his blade from her neck.

"Cesar, we're not that different. As much as you're a criminal, and I'm someone who works on a non-profit basis, we're two magicians willing to do anything for our own sake." She said as she ran her hands over where Vice had pressed her throat. "We don't trust each other, but we love our lives and are determined to become stronger. That makes us equal and could be the way out of this problem."

If you make a deal with me, you could get an important ally for your family within the Congregation of Revelations!"

"I will think about it," Vicente said, aware there would be positives and negatives to any deal he made with her.

Killing her and the other two would be the simplest. But he would still have to think hard about how to solve the problem.

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In the blink of an eye, 10 days would pass while Vicente traveled with Jasmine.

Meanwhile, Rory and his group finally spotted Millfall on the horizon, just a few hours away from their town!

Chapter 252 Back to Millfall?

Seeing Millfall in the distance, Rory smiled with satisfaction as he smelled the wet dirt on his way back to his town.

After leaving Vicente and the three level 1 Acolytes, Rory and his group had traveled a long way between the Alpine Woodpecker Forest and this town, which they were reaching.

But their journey had been calm. With the ammunition made by Vice before they split up and with the group stronger because of their new pentagrams, their journey had gone smoothly.

Neither unlucky enough to encounter powerful magicians nor forced to fight opponents, they spent nearly two weeks traveling non-stop.

Back in Millfall, the group now had much to do to increase the power of the Mazzanti family!

As soon as they entered the first street of Millfall, all the men smiled under their masks, seeing the place in a different light after their journey with Vice.

Their leader now had a yellow pentagram, and his powers had increased significantly!

As soon as he returned to the city, they would probably change everything about their situation!

But while they were in high spirits upon their return to Millfall, the group soon attracted the attention of the local powers, including the Mazzanti family itself.

Seeing two of the three carriages that had left town weeks ago, a soldier from the family climbed onto one of the sides of the carriage Rory was in and said.

"Welcome back, Deputy. We have some updates, but first, you should go to the Fuller estate. We've had some problems with the young lady in your and the Boss' absence." The man was direct.

"What?" Rory immediately lost the good expression on his face and became deeply serious as he considered something had happened to Nina.

With this concern, he said. "Very well. I want most of the group to go to the Mazzanti family headquarters. I'll disguise myself and see what I can do with the young lady."

"Deputy, that's not necessary." The man said. "During the incident with the young lady, the Mazzanti family was 'hired' to help House Fuller. There won't be any problems if you go there directly."

"Oh? Was it that serious?" Rory wondered.

"Yes, she was kidnapped and disappeared for a few days."

"What? How is that possible?" Rory immediately became angry. "How could you let this happen, you incompetents?"

"Someone kidnapped her at the academy. There was nothing we could do, Deputy. The academy doesn't allow guards to accompany students in all areas." The man said, feeling bad about being held responsible.

"Tsk!" Rory clenched his fists before changing his orders. "I want my group to go to the family headquarters and start dividing up the next team that will be hunting pentagrams. I'll take care of the young lady's problem."

"Yes, Deputy!"

So Rory left the carriage that had arrived in Millfall and went straight to the Fuller residence that early afternoon, accompanied by the soldier who had just informed him of the problems concerning Nina.

"Has anything else happened in our absence?" He asked.

"No, I mean, many things have happened, but most of them were in our plans. Only the young lady's situation has surprised us in the last few weeks, Deputy." The man replied.

"How is she now?"

"Well, I'd say. The young lady is very strong, and the day after she was rescued, she was back at the academy."

"Who rescued her?"

"Casey Rogers and Nova Bain." The soldier replied.

"I see..." Rory sighed at the sight of the Fuller family home, imagining that Vicente would be furious when he found out.

"Do you know who's behind this?"

"Yes, young master Marcus Symons."

Rory stopped before entering Nina's house and looked at the soldier's mask.

"Is this serious?"

"Yes, Casey Rogers saw the memories of one of the kidnappers... Anyway, we haven't done anything about it yet. And as luck would have it, Viscount Symons won't return from his trip for another two weeks."

The Mazzanti family group knew who was behind Nina's abduction. But they were almost certain that Marcus also knew that the Fuller family knew he had ordered it.

For the moment, Marcus hadn't moved, but that was because the Viscount was out of town, and the Fuller family had publicly hired the Mazzanti family's protection.

After Vicente's departure, the Mazzanti family began offering a residence protection service against thieves similar to those who had broken into the Irwin estate...

Not wanting to get into trouble with Cesar, Marcus was temporarily waiting for his father's return to solve all his local problems.

Vice's men knew that, so Rory was soon up to speed on his group's situation after weeks of pentagram hunting.

"Okay. That's enough time for Vice to return and for us to make our moves." He commented before entering the building and seeing Eve again after weeks.

"Rory!"

"Eve, the last few weeks must have been difficult for you..." He hugged the beautiful blonde and did not take long to talk to her about everything that had happened and what they were going to do now.

Even with Nina's problem, Rory intended to follow Vicente's plans to the letter, which were basically to keep them out of more trouble in the absence of their Don.

But in the meantime, Rory wanted to plan his future actions to deal with House Symons, find out who was on his side, who could be bought, and see what could be presented to Vice the day he returned from his trip.

With the resources Vicente should already have in addition to his gold coins, it was time for them to be more aggressive!

'I will contact Casey and the two I spoke to at the meeting with Lukas. I think I can secure enough resources for them to join the Mazzanti family full-time.' Rory thought as he talked to Eve.

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Meanwhile, at Viscount Symons' estate...

Marcos had just received news of Rory's group's arrival in town and was naturally concerned about Cesar's possible return.

"Where is he? Have you seen him?" He asked with a green expression, full of hatred for the incompetence of the men he had hired.

But worse than that. He wanted to scare Vicente Fuller. Yet, his actions seemed to have put the damned Cesar Mazzanti and his organization on him, something Marcus didn't want right now.

"We don't have that information yet, young master." A trusted subordinate of Marcus said in front of his leader, ignoring the naked woman on the bed where that young blond man was sitting.

This mature woman looked at young master Symons and said. "You should be careful with the Fuller family. A few days ago, I came home and saw my husband talking about some problem with students at the academy who had insulted Nina Fuller. Days later, they showed up injured. It seems that this Fuller family is not as easy to deal with as they seem."

Marcus and his subordinate looked at the wife of the academy director, where Nina was a student, not knowing how this might affect their next actions.

Chapter 253 The Arrival of Vicente Fuller

Four days later...

After finding out what had happened, Rory didn't do anything rash and turned his attention to following Vicente's plans and advancing some conversations for the group's good.

Marcus wasn't interested in getting into trouble with the current protectors of the Fuller family either, so he was also careful in his movements and hadn't done anything problematic in the last few days.

Apart from the expansionist movements of the Scarlet Syndicate and House Mazzanti, nothing out of the ordinary had happened in Millfall in the past few days.

Even Shelby, a young woman who sought the flames of chaos, was cautious in the short term, preparing for her moves that would unfold closer to the date of her wedding to Marcus.

With about a month to go before her wedding day, she was only waiting for Vicente's return and his reaction to one of her plans to proceed with her plans to throw Millfall into chaos.

Amid this local calm moment, the Royal Army post in Millfall had finally received the reinforcements it had been waiting for to begin its hunt for the 3rd-stage basilisk.

On the afternoon of the previous day, the first battalion in the region to hunt the basilisk had set out from Millfall in the direction of The Rocky Gorge.

That afternoon, another group of soldiers would leave for the area, a group that included Nova, who naturally wanted to earn merit in this hunt in order to eventually increase her position within the army.

And so, at daybreak, the city awoke with no unusual excitement for the new normal of the past few weeks, with groups of soldiers moving about and local powers working toward their own ends.

In the midst of it all, a young man with black hair and an unusual magical gem entered the city on horseback and rode quickly toward the center of Millfall.

After days of travel, Vicente Fuller was finally back!

Seeing his city, Vice had a smile on his face as he made his way to his house, where Nina should still be, as it was only a few minutes before she left for the academy.

Eager to see his little sister again, he parted with his men a few minutes ago and took one of the two horses from his carriage to return to the city with his real identity.

Meanwhile, the group of House Mazzanti men entered Millfall through a different entrance, quickly attracting the attention of the family men guarding that area of their territory.

"Hey, where's the boss?" A House Mazzanti soldier approached Vice's carriage shortly after seeing it heading toward the family's headquarters.

"He went to see the young lady." One of the three men there said. "Anyway, alert our people. We have trouble and a hostage with us."

"What?" The man looked at the car and climbed up one of the sides, then saw a woman with a hood over her head lying on one of the seats inside.

"What the fuck! Who is that?"

"You'll understand soon."

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While Vicente's men took Jasmine to the family headquarters, he arrived in front of her house, where he quickly ordered his men to remain silent while he went to surprise Nina.

Secretly entering their house, he moved cautiously into the kitchen, listening to the sound of people eating and Nina talking to Eve.

He then moved and appeared behind Nina, signaling to Eve not to be alarmed.

He placed his hands on Nina's shoulders, startling the girl, who immediately turned to see who it was.

"Brother!" Nina cried as she jumped and immediately hugged her big brother.

Eve finally smiled when she saw Vicente back and, well, relieved that the hunt for the pentagrams had worked.

"Vicente, you don't know how much I prayed for your return..." She said in an emotional tone. "You can't imagine the things that have happened in your absence... I want to sincerely apologize for failing in my role. I didn't think acting in your absence would be so difficult."

Vicente found this strange as he took Nina into his arms and held her like a baby.

Even though Nina was over 8 years old, with Vicente's strength, he could easily lift her.

"What are you talking about?"

As she enjoyed being rocked by her brother, Nina saw his expression change a few times as Eve spoke to him, explaining the problem that had occurred in his absence.

The genuine smile of being back home faded, soon to be replaced by a look of anger as his skin reddened and his veins showed.

There was a small shadow under Vicente's eyes, and anyone looking at him right now could easily feel a chill from his dark mood.

"Did all that happen?" He asked Eve after he had heard everything, knowing what Marcus Symons had ordered and also that Nina had only returned because of Nova and Casey's joint action.

"Unfortunately. We tried everything to protect Nina, but we have no influence at the academy, and this place turned out to be the weakness that led to all this." Eve sighed, aware that her group could have done more to avoid such a situation if it hadn't been for the rules of this academy.

But she couldn't deny her share of the responsibility for Nina's abduction. None of this would have happened if she and the Vice men had been stronger.

She felt guilty and wanted to do something about it!

"I see..." Vicente avoided looking at Nina at that moment, filled with rage.

'Marcus... I thought you were smart and could do business with a rival. I thought giving you a chance before, but that's not going to happen now!' He thought, seeing that the Symons family could only become his enemy.

As someone who could negotiate with enemies and live with them, Vicente wouldn't think of exterminating opponents without good reason. But when someone crossed his line, there was no going back, no way to repair his relationship with them.

If he decided to eliminate someone, he would not stop until his goal was achieved or he himself died!

Since Marcus had targeted Nina, a poor, helpless, crippled child, there was no forgiveness for him!

Even though Nina was okay and seemed to have suffered no irreparable damage, there was no way Vicente could forgive Marcus' insolence!

"So that's it... Well, that's good." He said as he set Nina down again. "That clears everything up. That's better. Now, nothing is stopping me from acting against him. I have nothing left to think about."

"What are we going to do?" Eve asked.

"For now, nothing. First, I want to know what's happened since Rory got back. Did he send the next group out to hunt pentagrams?"

"Yes. I was supposed to be in that group, but Rory asked me to wait for his return so as not to leave Nina alone." Eve commented, eager to go after her pentagram to become stronger.

"I see. I'm sorry, but you must watch over her for now. Besides that coward Symons, we have other problems to deal with that will keep me and Rory busy. Stay with her for a few more days. You'll go with the next group."

She smiled as she looked at Nina. "Don't worry. I just want to get stronger so I can protect her better. I'm not leaving without someone to take care of her in my absence."

With that, Vicente soon left with Nina and headed for the academy.

Chapter 254 It Could Have Been Worse?

Minutes after leaving home, Vicente was already outside Nina's classroom, where he, Eve, and two Fuller family guards were standing.

In front of them, a beautiful orange-haired woman looked at them with interest but subtly showed her concern about what had happened and what it would force Vice to do.

"Vice, I tried my best to help before. I didn't expect him to do what he did over something that doesn't even exist." She said, also feeling a little guilty since Marcus had only done what he had because of his jealousy of what might exist between her and Vicente.

Marcus would never have ordered Nina's kidnapping if it hadn't been for her relationship with Vicente.

"Unfortunately, that's how dirty noble society works." Vicente understood that Shelby was not to blame.

As much as she had been involved, she had never acted inappropriately toward him, nor had she given him any real reason to believe they were having an affair while she was engaged to Marcus.

Marcus had done what he had done because of his selfish thoughts, strange worldview, and arrogance.

As much as Vicente didn't think Shelby was as trustworthy as Nova, he didn't blame her for what had happened.

"That's part of the reality of nobility." She sighed and regretted that Nina had to go through that and see a bit of the reality everyone associated with nobility had to deal with.

'Do you understand me now, Vicente? Do you understand why I hate them so much? What Marcus did is nothing compared to what other nobles or even members of royalty would do.' She sighed as she lowered her head, glad that the foolish Marcus had acted and not some truly terrible nobleman.

In the worst case, someone in Nina's situation could end up as a slave on the black market and be lost forever...

Vice didn't think the same way as Shelby, but he had in mind that the corrupt nobility of this world could be much worse than Marcus.

That made him hate the situation that had befallen Nina twice as much because she had narrowly escaped something that could have been ten times worse.

As strong and promising as he was, Vicente didn't want to have to avenge Nina in any way.

Revenge was something that wouldn't change reality. Even if it were often enough to make someone feel less bad about injustices, someone who suffered a loss wouldn't necessarily have their reality repaired by revenge.

Someone who was abused, traumatized, or killed wouldn't have the main thing about what happened to them changed.

What had already happened couldn't be changed, no matter what the revenge potential of the person behind the victim.

Vicente didn't want to have to take revenge because he didn't want someone more important to him to suffer things he couldn't change. So, in the situation he was in now, he couldn't help but feel many times worse than he should have in this situation, hating Marcus and what had happened much more than he would have expected.

"In any case, you have my support, whatever your plans are, Vicente," Shelby said solemnly.

"Hmm, I guess following your previous plan won't be bad." He told her, remembering the 3rd stage basilisk hunt. "I'm ready to go after the beast."

"Oh?" She remembered this unfinished matter. "Are you sure? I don't want to offend you, but are you capable? We're talking about a 3rd stage beast. I told you about this hunt earlier but didn't expect the royal forces to act so quickly."

There's already a battalion heading towards the central area of The Rocky Gorge."

"Already?" Vicente didn't know that and was naturally surprised.

"Yes, they left yesterday afternoon. Another group will leave today, and the third and last group to go to that area will leave tomorrow." Shelby informed him. "Your friend Nova Bain should join the hunt in the group that leaves this afternoon."

Vicente retained that information about Nova and asked. "How long do I have to join the hunt without losing the chance to collect the resources that might be in the basilisk's nest?"

"A week. If you take longer than that, I doubt you'll get anything out of the hunt." Shelby was honest, even though she didn't know if Vicente had anything to gain by going to The Rocky Gorge.

"That's enough. I'm going to try to focus on taking care of some of my group's business for the next few days, and then I'm going to head to The Rocky Gorge." He said, aware he would have to use every opportunity in front of him if he wanted to deal with the Viscount's family. "Can I count on your help?"

"If you're willing, I'll give you all the information and support I can." She agreed, not doubting Vicente's abilities.

'Even though he's not yet strong enough to deal with 3rd-stage beings, he'll have a chance to succeed if he's careful and doesn't expose himself by being sneaky.' She looked at him and thought that things might work out for them if he used his competitors, avoided confrontation, and wasn't too greedy.

With that decided, Vicente let Shelby return to her class while he quickly made his way to the academy's directorate, where he wanted to meet with the head of the institution.

What had happened to his sister was unacceptable! How could an academy, where even noble students attended, allow a security breach so great that a student was kidnapped inside the academy?

So they quickly arrived at the main office in the administrative wing of the academy, where a beautiful black-haired woman, someone Marcus knew well, was working as the secretary.

Seeing the new arrivals, that beautiful, mature woman swallowed her saliva and stood up, realizing that her husband was going to be in trouble.

'Vicente Fuller!' She recognized the black-haired young man at the head of the group coming toward her.

"Welcome to..." She was about to speak, forcing a smile at these people when Vicente interrupted her.

"We're here to talk to the director of this place that claims to be the best academy in the city. Tell him that Vicente Fuller is here to demand answers about the incident with the student Nina!" Vicente said loudly enough for the academy director to hear his words in the office behind the wall where his wife was standing.

She rushed into her husband's office, not even needing to say anything to the middle-aged man with black and white hair to alert him to such a morning problem.

"What are we going to do? He's absolutely right to come here." She said to her husband, aware that if it hadn't been for the academy's rules, it would have been difficult for Marcus to kidnap Nina there.

She herself had helped Marcus with the arrangements for Nina's kidnapping, but even so, she knew she didn't have much room for her husband to escape this difficult conversation.

"Shit! We have no choice. Let them in. I'll take care of it." He told his wife, thinking he could handle that problem with another situation. "A lot of Nina Fuller's rivals keep showing up injured. That should be enough for me to deal with this Vicente."

She heard it and immediately left the office to let Vicente's group in.

Chapter 255 Dealing with the Academy?

As he entered the office of the academy director where Nina had been studying, Vicente ignored the man with black and white hair who smiled at him as he showed one of his hands.

His men and Eve stood at the entrance, looking at the director, while Vicente walked slowly through the room, which was excessively decorated with books, paintings, and trophies.

Although it wasn't a harmonious place, it had a beautiful view of the academy's central courtyard, where children usually played day and night.

"Director Milo Burt, I never thought I would meet you. I graduated from the Academy of Stars of Martell Village without ever seeing the director. But my sister, one of the top students at your academy, had her safety threatened inside your facility after only a few months here. How can you justify this? How do you plan to solve this problem?"

Hearing Vicente's forceful tone, Milo looked at the young man with his smile frozen and cursed him with a thousand different names in his mind.

'Fucking brat. Who do you think you are to question me like that?' Milo thought to himself, but he didn't dare say it to Vicente's face.

Even if the young Fuller wasn't a nobleman or someone of great local prestige, he couldn't treat Vicente as if he were a nobody.

What had happened to Nina had drawn the attention of all the families with young people studying at the academy. If he treated Vice the wrong way, it could become a problem for his academy.

Ordinary academies in the Seidel Kingdom were mostly private institutions. As the academy's director, Milo was one of the majority shareholders of this entity and could naturally be severely hurt if the academy suffered losses due to ill-considered words.

But even so, Vicente wasn't a nobleman to speak to him in that tone!

"Vicente Fuller, don't be so arrogant as to come into my office and act as if you were my boss," Milo said, looking Vice in the eye as if he were an adult correcting a child. "What happened to your sister was a tragedy for which I'm very sorry. But this is a unique case in our history. Don't act like it's the academy's fault. There's nothing I can do.

Besides, as far as I know, your actions may have caused the incident with Nina. I heard that the kidnappers didn't ask for anything in return for her freedom." He said, looking at Vicente suggestively.

There were usually two kinds of kidnappings—the simplest, aimed at an exchange, and the most complex, used as a threat.

Nina's kidnapping looked more like the second type, usually involving problems before the kidnapping.

Vicente knew it better than Milo, but that man was too bold to tell him.

"If you don't want to take responsibility for what happens inside your academy, allow families to protect their members inside the study area.

My sister was only kidnapped because of your stupid rules..."

"Stupid rules? These rules are meant to protect our students from aggressive young people who are incapable of thinking rationally." Milo commented in a harsh tone, glaring at Vice. "Did you know, Vicente Fuller, that some of your younger sister's rivals occasionally turn up injured after disagreements with Nina?"

"Oh? You seem to be accusing me of something, Milo. That's a very serious accusation. I hope you have proof." Vicente's eyes narrowed as he sat down in front of the man.

"No, I'm just speaking casually." Milo laughed sarcastically. "It's funny how often that happens. Some students even call sweet Nina the Shadow Tyrant."

"Kids are mean by nature," Vicente said, aware that some of his men had actually had to deal with a few kids who had disagreements with Nina.

Nina didn't look for trouble at the academy. She had few friends, and when she wasn't with them, she usually kept her distance from the other students.

Being deaf and having limited mobility, Nina was ostracized by many young people her age or older.

She didn't have a problem with being ostracized herself, and Vicente didn't want to interfere. Dealing with it would be essential for Nina to mature. But some kids who excluded her mistreated her, and some even made threats or tried to hurt her.

That was something Vicente couldn't accept!

If Nina had 'normal' physical abilities, he would teach her how to defend herself. But since that wasn't the case, he wouldn't let his sister get beaten up at school!

So, his men had taken care of Nina's problems personally for the past few weeks.

"But it doesn't matter what happens to these kids. If they're in trouble, that's up to them. It has nothing to do with what happened to Nina, Director Milo. So I hope you'll make an exception and allow my men to accompany her from now on. I guarantee they won't disturb the order of your academy."

Milo looked at Vicente silently, seeing his threats had failed to frighten the 'immature' young man before him.

"If you don't like how we do things, you can take your sister to another academy, Vicente Fuller. I'm not going to change my rules for one student." Milo said with a teasing smile on his face.

"Is that it?" Vice closed his eyes. "I hope you're right. Regret is a tough thing to deal with."

"Are you threatening me?" Milo stood up, releasing his level 4 Acolyte aura.

But Vicente felt nothing, got up from where he had been sitting without difficulty, and walked slowly towards the office's exit.

"Have a good day, Director Milo. I hope you have nothing to do with what happened to my sister. If you did, may God have mercy on your soul." He left, leaving the man looking at him in disbelief, a little scared.

Meanwhile, Vice muttered to Eve and his men. "I want you to take care of him. Use our influence to expose him and remove him from his position. In the meantime, contact those who can replace him. We'll have someone we trust in the director's position."

With that, the group soon split up, with one of the men staying behind to wait for Nina outside the academy while Vice and Eve went in different directions.

Thinking of his priority, his younger sister, Vicente set off in the direction of Nova's residence while Eve went to send some orders to the Mazzanti family!

Chapter 256 Unthought Acts?

Meanwhile, at the Mazzanti estate...

Jasmine had just arrived at Vicente's estate and was quickly taken to the detention area.

Watching his men finish closing Vicente's hostage's cell, Rory looked at her interestedly, having heard what had happened after his group split from Vice's.

Having heard from the three men who had accompanied Vice to Ironcrest what had happened and who that woman was, Rory was aware of the resources his friend had at his disposal for the family but also of the current trouble over him.

'More trouble? Why is it that every time we get close to having some peace, something happens?' He asked himself, remembering that after they had left for the Alpine Woodpecker Forest, he and Vice had thought that they would be able to grow up in peace for the next few months without any major challenges.

They had to hunt pentagrams, find a way to use the Irwin family's resources, and then prepare to deal with the Scarlet Syndicate.

All things considered, everything was going well for them, and soon, they would be able to reach the ideal situation of no more local problems. From then on, they would have peace to grow.

But out of nowhere, new problems had arisen. Now Vicente had a ridiculous promise to keep in ten years. There was the situation with the Symons family and Nina, but also the problem with that woman from the strongest organization on the continent, the Congregation of Revelations.

Thinking about it, Rory was not in a good mood, feeling that the Mazzanti family's situation was even more difficult now than when they were dealing with the Defiant Tyranny.

'Somehow, we're now even more screwed than before. How is that possible?' He looked at the beautiful woman while wearing a metallic mask on his face.

Meanwhile, Jasmine looked at Rory and asked. "So this is the dreaded Mazzanti family? Looking at it from the inside, it seems ordinary to me... How did you manage to steal from the Irwin family? I'm really curious."

Rory looked into her eyes and said. "Miss Jasmine, are you planning a robbery? Please leave that to the experts."

"Haha, you're funny. But when I think about how much you've accomplished, I believe that's a really tempting option. I wouldn't mind taking a little risk with such good prizes." She joked, seeing that Rory had no intention of talking about it.

"Anyway, 'Deputy,' what are you going to do with me? Where's your leader?"

"Miss Jasmine, take your time. He'll see you soon enough. For now, tell me about your position in the Congregation of Revelation. Which temple do you serve?"

That woman had been talking to Vicente for the past few days about some kind of partnership to prevent both sides from perishing with their current problem. So, Rory wanted to talk to her quickly so he could help his friend evaluate Jasmine's proposed deal.

Maybe Vicente already knew a lot about her, but Rory still had to verify her information.

He would do that while he let his friend do other things and start solving some local problems.

"I'm from..."

...

While Jasmine was answering Vicente's questions, a blond man on the roof of a building in the center of Millfall looked thoughtfully to the east of the city.

'Cesar Mazzanti, huh? It looks like you're more complicated than we thought.' Such a man from Ironcrest thought, having arrived in Millfall and already knowing practically everything there was to know about Cesar.

He didn't know Vicente's identity since he had no special ability to reveal such a thing. However, he had found out enough to mention some crucial points to his partners at the Ironcrest Awakening Temple.

'Time for me to go back.' He decided to head back to his city. 'I will let Levi decide what to do with you!'

...

Meanwhile, Vicente was in the dark about another brewing problem that would hit him in a few weeks.

Unable to solve all his problems, he arrived at Nova's house and looked at the place with emotion.

He wanted to visit Nova for her. But after everything that had happened and how important she had been in saving Nina, he was there to thank her.

Pa! Pa!

"Nova, it's me, Vicente." He said as he knocked on the door a few times.

Nova would be leaving this afternoon with an army battalion. Still, Vicente was aware that she was at home at the moment.

His information network was much better now than it had been weeks ago, and Vice now had observers keeping an eye on his main interests on the ground.

He knew that Nova, who was supposed to be on her last hours of pre-departure leave for a new mission, was at home right now.

After a minute of waiting, Vicente saw the front door of that residence open.

"Vicente!" Nova shouted as she saw the face she hadn't seen in over a month.

She immediately hugged him and couldn't help but ask him to forgive her for letting Nina down. "I'm sorry for what happened to your sister, Vice. I was out of town the day she was kidnapped and couldn't help her sooner."

"Don't worry, it's not your fault." Vicente smiled at her as he hugged her waist. "Anyway, you saved her. Without your help, Nina could have suffered much more. So, I thank you, Nova. You had no obligation, but you did what you did for her regardless."

"Nina is like a little sister to me. You don't have to thank me." She looked into Vicente's eyes as she hugged him.

Staring at each other in silence, they didn't stay still for long. Feeling the great tension building up between them, they were both inside the residence in the blink of an eye, kissing like long-separated lovers.

This time, Nova wasn't as rational as on other occasions with Vicente, and before she knew it, she was half naked in his arms and on the way to her bedroom.

Vicente, too, was lost in emotion and soon was with Nova in a way he had never been with any other woman in this world.

Without much thought, the two would spend the next two hours in that apartment getting to know each other on a much deeper level than they had ever attempted before!

Chapter 257 Shocking Revelation?

At the end of their carnal reunion, Vicente and Nova were lying on her bed, both extremely sweaty, heavily breathing as they stared at the ceiling.

Vicente had a satisfied expression on his face and could easily fall asleep now that he felt very relaxed.

On the other hand, Nova had an uncertain expression on her face, not knowing whether to focus on how good it felt to have done everything intimate one could do with someone of the opposite gender or how worried she was about what she had done.

That was a traditional society, and she herself had the goal of giving herself to the man she loved and with whom she would one day have a family!

But without thinking, she had gone to bed with Vicente and done things that couldn't be undone!

That was frightening, and she couldn't help but stare at the lamp on her bedroom ceiling, confused to the core.

Her heart was pounding while her mind was racing. Unlike Vicente, even if she wanted or tried to sleep, she couldn't.

'What have I done?' She thought, wondering if she had taken the right 'step' in her relationship with Vicente. 'I think I love him, but does he feel the same way about me? Or have I wasted my purity?'

It scared her, but she didn't dare to ask Vicente such a question.

Vice didn't have much on his mind at the moment. After having fun, pleasuring his companion, and finally finishing his carnal moment with Nova, he wanted to rest and sleep. Unfortunately, he couldn't do that now because he had business to attend to.

"Nova, this was all fantastic. I don't know what you have in mind, but this was no casual moment for me. You're not only someone I trust, even with my sister, but you're also someone I feel very comfortable with. I'd like to continue what we have here." He calmly said, knowing how Nova was.

During their many conversations, Vicente discovered how traditional Nova was and that she wouldn't pursue a relationship like theirs without a future between them.

There was no such thing as casual sex in Nova's world.

She might have made a mistake today, but if Vice didn't show interest in a more formal relationship with her, he was sure she would move away from him to avoid making any more 'mistakes.'

Vicente wanted to stay by her side, and not just for his personal goals, so even though it was still early, he showed Nova that his interests weren't superficial.

"Do you really want it?" She looked at him, a discreet smile forming on her lips.

"Yes, you're important to me." He smiled back at her, making her feel perfect.

"I feel the same way about you. I'm glad we think alike, Vice." She hugged him and smiled in a way that made Vicente happy, as if her smile was everything to him, able to erase all problems from his mind.

"About what we did today, I didn't want to, but it was the best thing I've ever done!" She murmured to him, wanting to do more, much more.

"But you have your obligations, and I have mine." Vicente smiled at her, seeing that they that they thought the same.

"Yes, I have to leave Millfall for The Rocky Gorge in less than two hours..." Nova lamented, aware it would be an important opportunity for her but still a little annoyed that she wouldn't be able to do more 'things' with Vice.

She longed for more after uniquely discovering herself!

Vicente laughed and said. "Don't worry, we'll see each other again soon. Then we'll have some privacy."

"Oh? That makes me nervous." She laughed back.

"How about we meet when you get back from your hunt? I'll take care of some problems while you're gone, and when you get back, maybe we'll have a few days together." He suggested.

"That's good for me."

The two of them got up, finding it difficult to shower together and do nothing else. But their wills were strong, and with appointments to keep, they did nothing more than exchange a few kisses until they got dressed and said goodbye.

...

After leaving Nova in front of the royal army headquarters in Millfall, Vicente went to the Benson residence, taking advantage of the fact that it was still daylight to continue with his real identity.

At night, he intended to return to his identity as Cesar Mazzanti to care for Jasmine and his family's affairs.

However, he wanted to talk to Benson about his options now that he was a level 2 Acolyte. In addition, before returning to his identity as Cesar, Vice also wanted to stop by the local blacksmith's association and try to contact Lukas.

Before approaching him as Cesar, he wanted to bring the blond guy closer to the Fuller family.

With these plans in mind, Vicente soon found himself outside the Benson estate, where his master's metal dummy soon granted him access.

Arriving at Benson's door, Vicente was greeted by the man with a cry of surprise.

"Vicente? You're back?" The old man with short white hair approached him with a smile, expecting his student to be stronger due to the pentagram hunt.

"I'm fine, master." Vicente laughed, not expecting such a warm response from Benson. "I was very lucky. After almost dying, I accomplished something incredible."

"Oh? That's good. Then let me see your second ability. I want to know how it will affect your path in the forge." He said, eager to see Vicente's second pentagram.

Upon hearing it, Vice took a deep breath. 'If I show it to him, and well, I have no choice but to, he'll connect the dots and discover that I'm Cesar Mazzanti.'

"First of all, master, I have something important to discuss with you about myself. It concerns my second pentagram, so we need to talk about it." He solemnly said, causing Benson to take a step back as he saw that his excitement over the forge had to be put aside for the moment.

"What is it? As your master, you can tell me anything, Vicente. I'll do my best to help you as long as it's within my abilities." He said as he positioned himself like a de facto master, with his hands behind his back and a thoughtful look on his face.

"Well, there's no other way to put it... I'm Cesar Mazzanti, and Cesar Mazzanti is me."

Chapter 258 Obvious?

After Vicente said he was Cesar, Benson was silent momentarily, seeing that it all made sense.

'Indeed. Their skills are identical! But while Vice uses his forging skill, Cesar does it by killing his opponents! I hadn't thought about the possibilities of his skills in combat!' He pondered, realizing he had neglected to look closely at what had happened in Millfall.

He had been so busy at the forge, thinking of ways to outdo himself, especially his great rival, that he hadn't noticed something so simple.

'Come to think of it, with one exception, whenever Vice was "traveling," Cesar was in town! Only the last few weeks have neither of them been in Millfall!' Benson clenched his fists, determined to leave his forge for a while to interact with the local powers.

"I see. So you're him." He murmured after a minute's thought. "What should I call you then?"

"Call me Vicente, master. That's my real name. I only use the identity of Cesar to protect my real family. My little sister is all I have, and I don't want to endanger her with what I do." He was sincere. "However, to achieve my goals, I have to take risks in things that could affect her. So I act like Cesar when I have to work."

"I see..." Benson walked around Vicente and looked at the young man with a different eye.

Vicente was no longer the young prodigy of the forge. Now, he was much more than that, someone capable of killing people in unimaginable ways.

Not only that, he was now a person with a much more robust past than Vicente Fuller, someone with several enemies and problems to solve.

Before saying what he thought of the situation, Benson asked. "Why did you decide to tell me this now? You could have done it before but didn't for obvious reasons. But what's changed now?"

"My second pentagram," Vicente answered directly, his eyes following his master as he saw Benson circling him. "When you see it, master, you'll understand me. There's no way I could keep hiding the truth about myself from you, so I've decided to tell you once and for all.

But don't get me wrong. I didn't tell you about my identity before because of my sister. I wouldn't have bothered to hide it from you if it weren't for her."

'I'm willing to risk it, but I can't do it casually with Nina.' He thought silently.

"Oh? Then, show me the pentagram. I want to see what you've come up with." Benson said with great curiosity.

Vicente did not hesitate any longer and quickly showed his master his second essence, which was connected to the first Magic Gem.

As he moved his mana through the gem, causing it to glow brightly, Vicente suddenly made a holographic figure appear from inside his body, gradually increasing in size.

When that characteristic figure appeared, with inscriptions on its sides and a perfect three-dimensional body the size of a circular maintenance hole cover emitting a yellow glow, Benson almost felt his soul leave his body.

Seeing and feeling a 3rd class pentagram, yellow, on a young 2nd-stage Acolyte, he almost put aside the fact that Vice was already close to level 3 and couldn't help but be shocked by the quality of his disciple's second essence.

"That..." He choked.

"But... But that should be impossible! How did you manage that? How is it possible? Vicente, you... You should be dead!" He said in disbelief, seeing and feeling reality but feeling like it was all a dream.

"I don't know. In fact, it wasn't my choice to absorb this pentagram, master. But it connected with me before I had a chance to escape, so I was forced to do my best and absorb it... Fortunately, I succeeded." He said in a light mood, showing Benson that he himself didn't understand what had happened.

"But I passed through Ironcrest and met Professor Newton. He asked me to observe him from time to time and made himself available to answer my questions. Maybe he'll discover something in the future."

"Newton?" Benson knew that name because the professor was a talented theorist in the field of forging.

Newton could learn anything, as long as it wasn't a pentagram skill or a Magic Gem characteristic. But his skills would never be enough for him to be an engineer, blacksmith, alchemist, doctor, enchanter, tamer, etc., at the same time. To actually practice these professions, one would have to have natural abilities that he did not have.

As such, Newton was not active in most of his professions. He merely learned and mastered the fields of knowledge by being a theorist or even a scholar of those fields.

But even though he didn't work as a blacksmith, Newton was an outstanding theorist, someone Benson respected for his talents and thoughts.

Hearing Newton's name from Vice's mouth pleased Benson. It meant that his student had a good supporter, someone who could help Vicente go further!

As Vicente's master, Benson only wanted him to grow up, so the fact that the young man had other teachers along the way didn't bother the old Millfall blacksmith.

Then he put aside his shock for a moment and said. "Vicente, show me the skill of this pentagram and how it affects your first skill when used together."

Vicente smiled and said. "My second ability has to do with field lines. It gives me the ability to see and manipulate electromagnetic field lines around me."

As he spoke, he used his ability and subtly caused distortions to appear in his surroundings, with some metallic objects in this forge shaking and bluish rays appearing here and there.

"When I let this pentagram influence my first ability, I can form electromagnetic barriers, manipulate metals more easily, and even 'give' electromagnetic properties to things I manipulate or touch." He said as he demonstrated for his master.

Benson watched as Vicente quickly extracted the metals from an ore before it took the form of a shield capable of repelling things.

At the same time, he noticed that the space around Vicente was distorting, and Benson easily understood how it worked.

'Oh? If I try to get close to you, my speed will get slower and slower, which could make the distance between us infinite.' He wasn't that shocked, but he liked it.

Such a thing wouldn't stop someone of his level from catching up with Vicente, but it could make a big difference against weaker people!

Seeing all it, Benson naturally loved his student's new pentagram and was already theorizing about what this young man could do with these new abilities!

Chapter 259 Robot Armor

"With this ability, I think you'll be able to complete some of my projects, Vicente!" Benson said as he looked at his student with a twinkle in his eye.

Benson had several dreams about forging. He wanted to see his projects gain life, something others had told him was impossible to achieve.

He had been quietly developing his projects for years, always looking for talented young people to help him develop them and bring them to life.

He didn't care if someone else finished his projects. As long as he could see some of his ideas come to life and succeed, that was good enough for him.

His ego wouldn't stop him from achieving his dreams with the help of others!

He felt he could achieve his goals with Vicente's help after seeing the recent improvements his student had undergone.

"Huh? Master?" Vicente didn't know anything yet, so of course, he didn't quite understand what that was all about.

Benson noticed his student's confusion and took a few steps back.

"Vicente, don't worry about your identity. It's safe with me. I don't see any problem with you being who you are." Benson said, settling that before moving on to his interests.

"But you should be careful who you show your magical abilities to. From the moment you show your powers as Cesar, anyone who sees you using your magic as Vice will realize you're actually the same person."

"I am aware."

Benso ran a hand through his beard and smiled. "Anyway, I'm glad about your progress. You must have benefited greatly from the pentagram. That's why your magic is so strong today, and you've already reached level 2. If you continue to work hard, you can reach level 3 soon.

As for your new traits, they will serve you well in the forge. From what I've seen, you can already easily extract metals from minerals. Your next step in forging is to further alter the properties of the metals under your control so that they combine in more interesting ways for your purposes.

By doing so, everything you make will have more power and, if you wish, can carry some of your properties. For example, the shield you've created can be very effective against attacks based on the elements Earth and Lightning. But it's still weak. If you deepen your skills, you might be able to create something that can even affect the environment around you."

As he said everything, giving Vicente a lesson, Benson had a twinkle in his eye and gradually got to the part he most wanted to discuss.

"... In this way, one day, you may be able to create an artifact with your own abilities, based on your affinities, of course. That will be the beginning of a new era for you as a blacksmith."

Then he nodded to the metal doll he used as a butler on his estate and said. "This is a failure of mine, but in your hands, it could become a success."

"A failure? What do you mean, master? It looks like an excellent autonomous puppet to me." Vicente commented as he recognized the first of his master's creations that this old man treated as his most important secret.

Benson laughed. "It would be if its purpose was to be an ordinary doll capable of doing basic services. But this one is to be a full body armor, a dream of mine."

"Full body armor?"

"If it worked properly, it could function as a robot armor. It would assist its wearer in many different ways without forcing them to give commands, while the wearer could command only the essentials and concentrate on their own powers.

With it, a person without the ability to fly could fly at high speeds, have blades hidden in their hands and feet, but also solid defenses along the entire length of their body," Benson expressed in a tone that showed Vice how important it was to the white-haired old man in front of him.

"That sounds like an iron man..." Vicente laughed as he listened to Benson. "But would it work in the magic world? I know how valuable such armor would be, but would it be feasible to rely on something that could be damaged at any moment? A single elemental attack outside of one's domain can quickly end a battle." He remembered Jasmine's attack.

But Benson didn't care. Every project had its flaws and risks.

"... Eventually, armors like this one could function independently of their wearers and perform missions for their owners! That would be revolutionary!"

"That sounds like it... But it doesn't sound like something a blacksmith would do. It must be very complex, the kind only engineers could do, along with blacksmiths and enchanters." Vice commented.

Benson looked at him with a smile. "You're not wrong. In that case, this armor would never work the way I imagine it because it would have to have a lot of mechanisms and magical inscriptions that would consume much mana. That would result in low efficiency."

He had tried a little bit of everything and had reached the point in his journey where he was looking for special talents that might solve some of the problems that were holding him back.

Benson knew if he had to rely on the partnership of professionals, as Vicente had said, his plans would not come to fruition.

"But it's different for you, Vicente. Electricity is behind almost everything that makes armor like this work the way I plan. If you make it with your special powers, it will be possible. It won't have to have as many mechanisms as items made by engineers and blacksmiths because of how you manipulate metals. And it will be able to have electrical properties, given your mana.

You would need precision and technique to make it work, which you don't have yet, but I can teach you.

With all this, I believe you can test my theory when you reach level 5." He said in an excited tone.

"Do you think it will work?"

"Possibly. But even if it fails, it will still be better than what I have achieved. I'm sure of that." He replied confidently before adding. "Anyway, if you help me with this, Vicente, it will also be important for you. As interesting as your weapons are, they have a limit you haven't thought of yet."

"Oh?" Vicente became a little more interested in what his master had to say.

Chapter 260 The Weakness of Guns?

Vicente's guns were the most important and valuable things in the Mazzanti family. They kept him alive and were what had made his family capable of growing considerably in recent months.

If they had any defects or problems that would limit him in the future, he needed to know as soon as possible so he could think of countermeasures.

Benson knew how vital these weapons were to Cesar Mazzanti, so he decided to use something he had already realized to draw his student's attention to his plans.

"Vice, I don't know where you got the idea for your weapons. But as ingenious as they are and as useful in the hands of low-level people, they have a fundamental flaw that will limit you in the future."

He slowly picked up some materials from the surrounding area to show Vicente as he spoke.

"Vice, what happens when a reservoir has much more in it than it can handle?" He asked as he held a brown ore in his right hand and infused mana in it.

"It explodes." Vicente took a few steps back before the ore exploded.

"It does explode. But an ore suffers from this because it has low properties. An artifact's properties can exponentially multiply if you manipulate its metals. But even after that, such artifacts will still have their limitations." He picked up a 1st-grade dagger and infused it with his mana, quickly making it explode.

"Different metals, different forging processes, in short, anything you can think of can enhance these characteristics. But at the end of the day, the ingredients of an artifact will always have their limits, and so will the artifacts.

Your weapons are excellent, but it's unlikely that you'll ever be able to create 4th-grade weapons." Benson's eyes narrowed. "A Sovereign's mana is so rich that magicians of that level or higher can't infuse all the mana they have in their bodies into weapons. At most, they can infuse fractions of their power or even use artifacts, but without infusing their mana into them."

Auxiliary artifacts were very good for low-level magicians and ordinary people in general. But at a high level, individual power was the most important thing. Even people with low talents prefer to use their special abilities rather than artifacts once they reach the 4th-stage.

That didn't mean they didn't use artifacts. But they didn't rely on them!

That was the point. Such strong experts used artifacts to help them at certain times. But they relied on their pentagrams and spells when it came to life and death.

Benson knew it and also knew that if Vicente wanted to grow by relying on his weapons, his limit would be the beginning of the 4th stage, something impressive, but it wouldn't put him at the top of Polaris Realm.

"In other words, your weapons will be limited to the 3rd stage. In addition, you won't be able to do anything. Whenever someone tries to use more power than an item can handle, the weapon in question will explode, just like the items I showed you." He finished exposing the weakness of firearms.

Vicente didn't doubt Benson, for his master's words were based on the principles of forging.

'Materials have limitations. If they can't improve them qualitatively, the day will come when my men will be so strong that my weapons will be useless.' Vicente became more serious.

"If I become..."

Benson understood what Vicente was about to say and expressed. "My answer is not generated by any limitation on my part to see the way ahead.

I may not know everything you will one day, Vice, but the basic laws of forging don't change, regardless of the level of the blacksmiths.

So, becoming a 4th or 5th-stage blacksmith won't solve your weapons problem once and for all. At most, you'll be able to improve your artifacts so that they can withstand being used on high-level bodies."

"If that's true, then there shouldn't be any higher-level blacksmiths, master. After all, what good is a 5th-grade weapon if it can't be used to strengthen a Paragon?" Vicente asked.

"Such a weapon is great in the hands of a Mage or a Sovereign." Benson surprised Vicente a bit.

That was the purpose of artifacts in this world. Use high-level artifacts when you are still weak to increase your potential in battle!

Using 5th-grade artifacts between two Paragons would add nothing to the battle. However, a Sovereign using items of the same rank would have a great advantage over other Sovereigns.

However, using these weapons couldn't be based on putting all of one's mana into these items because then they would be damaged, as Benson had said.

"The problem with your weapons is that they depend greatly on how your men infuse mana into them and fire energy-charged bullets," Benson explained differently. "In the case of a magician using a sword, they will rarely infuse their weapon with much mana. On the contrary, they will use their mana in their own body or in their techniques. That changes everything."

Vicente listened to his master's answer and thought. 'It seems the problem with my weapons is that they are not designed to help. They completely replace the powers of the magician behind them. They rely only on mana and their own properties.'

"But Vice, as much as you can't increase the characteristics of your weapons much further, it's not necessarily the end. You might be able to reach the 4th-stage because of what these weapons can offer you. Also, if I'm right in my theories, the robot armor might solve your problems."

"That? But wouldn't it have the same limitations as my weapons?" Vicente didn't understand.

"Not exactly," Benson said after thinking about his project for a long time. "Your weapons depend on the power of the user to work as they do. Even if you can change them somehow, it won't change much in the future.

But my armor, built by you, has the potential to be independent of the user. Everything about it will depend on you, the creator. If you can give it some of your characteristics and make it work properly, it can be as strong as you are!"

Hearing Benson's excited tone, Vice understood what his master was trying to tell him.

Such armor might be of little help to Vicente, but for his weaker men, it would be just as important, if not more so, than for him!

Considering his situation, Vicente couldn't help but remember his sister and how something like this could be perfect for her.

'If Benson is right, even if Nina doesn't awaken her magical powers, she could still be a powerful woman wearing armor like this! He encouraged himself, feeling he could no longer turn back, and looked at this project with fresh eyes.

"Okay, I understand. I'm interested in studying this armor right away, master." He said the words Benson had been waiting for.