

The Mafia 581

Chapter 581 Ancient Family Practice?

Layla commented when she saw Vicente's reaction. "Consanguineous relationships are not common on the continent, but there are cases like this everywhere.

In some areas, traditional families have followed this practice for millennia, marrying cousins, uncles and nieces, aunts and nephews, etc.

That is a powerful practice for keeping a family's lineage pure and strengthening certain traits. For some powerful clans, this practice is vital to their existence and perpetuating their powerful magical abilities."

Unlike on Earth, inbreeding in Polaris Realm didn't have the adverse risks of producing offspring with degenerative conditions and so on. On the contrary, this practice was able to merge the best genes from the same family and create extraordinarily pure and powerful bloodlines.

But most people couldn't accept siblings having relationships with siblings or parents having relationships with their children, so most people on the continent didn't follow such practices. However, there were no rules against this type of reproduction almost anywhere on the continent, and such things were relatively easy to find when traveling through these vast lands.

The young informant at the front of the group nodded in agreement and said to Vicente. "Consanguineous relationships between mothers and sons aren't common because of the strong presence of the patriarch, but the other relationships are pretty common.

In any case, don't talk about it too openly. Although many families on the continent follow the old ways, many keep these things secret or at least don't like others to talk about them.

While some use these methods to keep the family line pure, others just do it for fun, haha. These people will still try to sell their daughters as virgins to make alliances with other powers, so it's best not to talk about it too much." He laughed as he looked at the three in front of him.

Layla, Casey, and Vicente couldn't help but feel disgusted when they heard this.

Vicente loved his family and couldn't imagine how family members who grew up together could do what Malik's family seemed to practice.

Casey had an almost identical opinion on the subject. At the same time, no matter how much she knew about the practice, Layla also found it disgusting. She didn't have any siblings, but the idea of having a relationship with one of her relatives seemed extremely repulsive.

That informant then said. "Well, that's all I could access about him. Whether there's a little bastard or two of Malik's with one of his daughters, I don't know. I only discovered their relationship by accident. Few in the sect know about it, so it's quite possible he has more relatives."

"That's enough," Vicente replied, having already heard many names and targets.

They said their goodbyes, with Casey going after the informant to erase the critical memories he had of them, while Vice and Layla went in search of a private place.

"What do you think of all this?" Layla asked.

Vicente took the question the wrong way and said. "It's pretty disgusting. I couldn't imagine that people would be willing to sleep with their own daughter or other close relatives... I mean, there are so many men and women on the continent. Why do that with someone you grew up with and share blood ties with?"

Layla smiled and said. "Maybe that's what attracts these people... Anyway, that's not what I meant. What are you going to do about this family? The conditions here are very different from what we saw in Oldbarrow. Malik is in the sect, and his family is quite large..."

"Oh? Well, I think we're going to do a raid." He answered her question. "Malik is lucky. He will suffer less than Dax."

"Will we be able to deal with all of them without causing a major conflict in the Fallen Angels?" She asked him as they entered a local inn.

"We're going to strike at a sensitive time for this family." Vicente narrowed his eyes. "I imagine at least some of them will have to gather sometime during the day. I'll attack them alone at that time."

You and Casey will help me with my attack. I'd like to remove as many of Malik's friends and family as possible, but I can't do that without causing a bigger problem. So I'll settle for his family.

But it may be that our plan will have to be changed a bit in the middle of our journey... Anyway, we'll see when we invade the Fallen Angels."

"And when will that be?" She asked him.

"We will investigate this place in the next few days and discover how this sect's forces are faring. I have a feeling that some of the most important members of this organization are out of the city, but I need confirmation... But I plan to be out of this place in a week at the most!"

They went into a room, and Vicente quickly locked the door. Looking at Layla's curves, he put his problems aside and made the wild smile of someone who was hungry for something only she could give him right now...

In the blink of an eye, they were clinging to each other, she undressing him and he undressing her as their lips connected.

"Mmmmmmm~"

The two quickly had nothing covering their bodies and were already lying on the only bed in the room.

For the next few minutes, they would enjoy the time alone, both seeking the pinnacle of pleasure as they deepened their relationship.

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After some time, Vicente and Layla finished their intimate business and went to wait for Casey at the place they had agreed upon.

From there, they would eventually split up to go and observe the Fallen Angels sect's headquarters to study this organization's real situation and connect the information they had with what they would find in the next few days of action.

Over the next few days, they would find out who the sect's strongest elders were in the city, their current positions, and what an attempted invasion of the sect would look like.

In addition, the group would take time to meditate and train. Vicente would go a little further and dedicate one hour each day during this time to his study of forging. He had purchased several books and 4th-grade forging techniques on his trip here.

He would buy more study and training materials in Spiritbell for his evolution as a blacksmith, but with only one hour a day, he wouldn't be able to develop his skills to the point where he could produce 4th-grade items for himself and his companions.

In any case, he wasn't doing this to use these skills in his current plans but to continue his progress toward a higher position that he could use to help his family in the future.

And with that, the day of the attack on the Fallen Angels sect would soon arrive!

Chapter 582 Family Reunited

?Six days after Vicente's group arrived in Spiritbell, they finally took action against the Fallen Angels!

After discovering how "weakened" the sect was due to the movement of several 4th-stage specialists toward the Bone Mountains, the group found their opportunity to act.

Once Vicente could sufficiently investigate the enemy headquarters and find out where and how they would infiltrate the place, the group decided to act on the afternoon of their sixth day in Spiritbell!

It was almost always better to act at night because it was easier to hide, because of the ambient light, and because there was less movement of possible witnesses.

But each case had its own peculiarities. Vicente wanted to make Malik suffer before he died, so he had to act when most of the man's loved ones were gathered.

After a few days of studying the Fallen Angels sect, he discovered that the most important time for Malik's family was lunchtime when all of his wives and some of his children usually went to his residence.

How did Vicente find this out? He infiltrated the sect three times in the last few days and observed his targets closely, noting some of the family's more common habits and any problems he might encounter.

As a result, he adjusted his plans with Layla and Casey and finally began infiltrating the sect this afternoon!

After taking advantage of the gaps in the Fallen Angels' defenses, the three of them made their way to the hill where the sect's elders' homes were located and reached their targets without any problems.

Vicente was very good at getting in and out of protected places. Even when he was only a High-level Mage, he could enter places protected by people and devices of the highest level. But now that he had advanced, he found it even easier to deal with 4th-grade defense items and 4th-stage experts.

Since the sect's headquarters hadn't been attacked for a long time, some of the men weren't as aware of certain weaknesses, which made the group's journey to Malik's residence even easier.

Once there, Vicente used Layla to lure more of Malik's family to the place, sending her to deliver false messages to those outside the estate at the time, while Casey manipulated the minds of some of the estate's servants and guards.

Neither Casey nor Layla would be directly involved in the attack Vicente was planning, but they would be crucial to his ability to get the maximum number of casualties there and then escape the area safely.

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Inside Malik's mansion, the man rose from his bed with some difficulty and was soon dressed in nice, comfortable clothes.

As he walked slowly toward the dining and party room of his residence, he had a smiling look on his face as one of his guards helped him walk.

His wives would do the job if he let them, but he preferred to have one of his servants do it.

As he made his way to the part of his residence where he could smell the pleasant aroma of food, he soon stopped in front of the entrance to the room to enjoy the view of his dining room full of his wives and children.

Malik was a man who liked his house full of women and children. He wasn't in the best of health, but as soon as he recovered, he wanted more children and women in his house!

Seeing all his wives there, his three daughters, and two of his sons, he couldn't help but feel happy to have almost his entire family there.

"Father..." Said one of the two young men sitting next to his favorite sisters, two twins who were on the same level at the start of the 3rd stage.

Malik's eldest daughter, a beautiful blonde with full breasts and wide hips, approached her father and hugged him, having not seen her old man for some time.

"Lena... I thought you'd left your old man." He said into her ear as he left the support of his subordinate to lean on his eldest daughter.

Lena smiled as she felt one of her father's hands move down her waist to one of her buttocks. "You know that's not the case. I was focused on a sect mission, and I had to cultivate for a while to recover from some battle wounds." She justified herself. "But I'm back now. As soon as you recover, we'll resume our training, haha."

A mischievous look appeared in Malik's eyes, but he soon sat down in one of the chairs at the large table full of dishes and plenty of food for his family.

"Let's eat. I'm starving." He said as he took a glass of wine and smiled at the sight of the girls and boys there.

Lena sat down next to her father and asked. "I heard that Dax died. Is that true?"

He looked into her green eyes and nodded. "Yes, some Mages from the Dark Path eliminated him for us... It's a pity that I didn't get the chance to do it, but still, it's better for him to be dead than alive. Because of that, the sect elders are now moving to take advantage of the current weakness of the Bone Mountains."

Lena looked at her mother and said. "That's good. We've had many battles with Dax's people over the years. Now we can concentrate on other things."

Lena's mother, a woman very similar to her daughter but with some more pronounced traits of maturity, smiled at her, not bothered by the death of her ex-boyfriend.

She had betrayed Dax with Malik, so there was no reason for her to mourn the man's death. She didn't exactly want Dax dead, but the man's long negative history against her family made his death a positive thing even for her.

While the people around the table chatted in cheerful tones, taking advantage of the return of some of them who had received messages that their father would announce something important at the end of lunch, a man in black suddenly appeared in the doorway.

When Vicente appeared, Malik was the first to see this strange person, frowning without understanding what it was all about.

Vicente did not hesitate to use his special ability to show himself to Malik. In a single instant, several metallic objects emerged from his body and then attacked the vital points of everyone in the room, except Malik.

Malik saw this as he tried to get up, quickly turning pale with fear as he saw a man suddenly appear in front of him, weapons blazing in the air towards his family members.

Unfortunately for him, Vicente was too fast for even the strongest and in their best condition in the area. It wouldn't be Malik, wounded and weakened, who could stop what was about to happen!

Chapter 583 Revenge Fulfilled!

Malik saw the bodies of his daughters, sons, wives, and subordinates in that dining room being brutally attacked by Vicente in various ways.

Vicente was ruthless in his actions, using bloodier methods to deal with Malik's daughters, who presumably had intimate relations with him.

He blew off the heads of Malik's three daughters while driving swords through the bodies of the man's children at the level of their hearts.

Large axes cut the bodies of three of Malik's six wives in half, while guillotine blades severed the heads of the other three women.

All this happened almost simultaneously, while only Malik suffered nothing as he watched his entire family being slaughtered in front of him.

He didn't bother to pay attention to the deaths of his subordinates around him, but he couldn't help but try to get up from his chair in deep shock.

"NOOO!" He shouted with what little strength he had, his face turning ashen and his hands shaking considerably.

In an instant, most of his large family was gathered there with him, and then they were all dead!

Vicente looked into Malik's eyes, who had nothing to cover his face. He waved a hand in the man's direction, and Malik immediately felt like someone was squeezing his neck.

"You bastard! Who are you? Who sent you?" He asked with difficulty as he looked at Vicente, full of anger. But he had no foolish hopes. This person would surely kill him. He just wanted to know what this was all about before the situation ended.

Vicente made sure that his enemy knew the origin of these deaths and explained with a calm look on his face. "About six years ago, you fought Dax of the Bone Mountains in the Scott Province of the Seidel Kingdom. Your fight that day caused the death of my mother, was primarily responsible for the death of my father, caused the blindness of my older sister, and the deafness of my younger sister.

I eliminated Dax and everyone he cared about before I came to you, Malik. Now it's your turn to leave this world and pay for your crimes."

Like Dax, Malik had no idea at the time that he had caused casualties in his fight against such a man. They were too focused on hurting each other to pay attention to anything around them.

"I see..." Malik murmured with difficulty as he closed his eyes. "Finish what you came for."

He didn't want to accept his death or the death of his family members. But the disaster caused by this revenge was already irreversible, and he had no power to avenge his beloved family members or defend himself.

As a warrior who had lived for many years and knew what revenge was, he knew Vicente had the motivation to act against him. There was no need to argue.

Since the situation was as it was, he could only accept his end.

It wasn't what he wanted. It wasn't what he would do if he were at his best. It was simply his destiny.

He could cry out for Vicente's mercy and try to take revenge one day. Apart from the fact that it wouldn't work, he didn't know if he wanted to live in this world after seeing the death of almost everyone he loved.

The enemy also looked quite young, so did he have a chance to get revenge?

Malik was a reasonable person. When he heard Vicente's answer about his motives, this man didn't say any more than necessary.

Vicente clenched a fist when he saw the man's reaction. He wanted to see a little more pain in his opponent's eyes. But his intuition told him that Malik was at rock bottom, suffering greatly from the losses he had just suffered.

"It's a pity I don't have much time. Otherwise, I'd leave you to live with this bitterness, Malik." He said, remembering the pain he felt when he lost his mother. "Consider it your good fortune. Goodbye!"

With those words, Vicente squeezed the air with the hand controlling the muscles around Malik's neck, destroying that part of his opponent's body instantly.

Malik's head separated from his body as he flew into the air while Vicente fulfilled his revenge, his attempt to bring justice in his mother's name.

He collected all the spatial rings from the bodies in the dining room and walked slowly through the bloody area, thinking of Kate and Andrew.

'Mother... Father... I kept my promise. I brought justice for your deaths!' He felt something inside of him change, while his murderous intent didn't seem to diminish.

In Vicente's space of consciousness, Torne sensed this as he watched his surroundings, seeing the two gems move as the stronger one seemed to be connected to the weaker one by a trace of darkness.

'That...' Torne looked curiously, seeing his master taking another step towards the Dark Path.

Until that day, Vicente's first Magic Gem had been yellow. But as the young man walked among the brutalized bodies of his targets, the darkness of his second gem suddenly penetrated the first, making it larger and stronger in his space of consciousness.

As this happened, not only did Vicente's murderous intentions grow stronger, but traces of negative elements were infused into the gem while its color changed to a brilliant green!

Torne said nothing to Vicente as he watched with curiosity, having never seen anything like this in his life. But Vice was a magician with two Magic Gems, so he assumed that someone like that could display different talents as they grew stronger until they revealed their true talent with the stronger gem.

'The master's powers will become even more decisive...' He thought to himself until Vicente left the mansion and quickly ran into Casey and Layla.

"Time to go." He said as he made his friends turn invisible next to him.

Meanwhile, some men from the Fallen Angels sect led the three of them to one of the exits of the sect, all controlled by Casey's mind powers.

Layla and Casey didn't say anything to Vicente after his return. They just followed him to the exit.

They would use the early advantage to get away from the scene of Malik's relatives' deaths, and only when they were close to the sect's main exit would alarm bells start ringing around the headquarters.

"I wonder what's going on?" One of the sect's guards at the entrance to this place wondered when he heard the alarm bells indicating that they should lock down the entire organization.

"Evan, let me through. I'm following Elder Malik's orders. Part of his family was attacked, and he asked me to check on his other children." Said one of the men under Casey's control.

"What? Are you serious?" Asked one of the guards standing in the way of Vicente's group.

"Open the passage! Or do you want to explain yourself to the elder?"

With this question, the passage opened for them before closing again.

With this simple movement, Vicente and his two allies successfully left the headquarters of the Fallen Angels!

Chapter 584 Going Their Separate Ways

After leaving the headquarters of the Fallen Angels, Vicente, Layla, and Casey followed under Vice's invisibility until they left Spiritbell.

As they left the most dangerous part of their escape, they began to move faster, with Layla using her powers to run away while Vicente flew away, taking Casey with him.

They would continue to move east for about an hour, moving away from Spiritbell as fast as they could.

After that time, they would begin to slow down a bit until they stopped near the banks of a river in the middle of a wooded area of this sparsely forested state.

"Well, time to say goodbye." Vicente smiled at Layla and Casey, feeling that it was finally time for them to return to the Seidel Kingdom to help his family and report on what had happened so far.

Casey and Layla looked at Vicente, both a little reluctant to part with him but aware that it was necessary to get the vampire as far away from Saltstar City as possible.

Casey took a deep breath and squeezed one of Vicente's hands, feeling that they would both have less weight on their shoulders from now on.

They had both taken revenge on their enemies and solved past problems!

"Good luck on your journey back to the kingdom, Vice. When you return, let's have a drink and talk about your experiences." Casey said sincerely, smiling at his friend.

Vicente nodded to the man with the long black hair and assured him this would happen. "Of course."

Layla hugged him and gave Vicente a tongue kiss, not caring that Casey was there.

After a moment, she told him. "Be careful. I don't know what you're planning but remember you have a sister to take care of in Saltstar City. Don't think you can risk it now because you have nothing to lose."

"Don't worry. I still have too many goals to risk myself for no reason." He smiled at her concern.

"Will you hunt your fourth pentagram now?" She asked curiously.

"No. It will be difficult for me to get a good pentagram in my current situation. I'll wait for more family members to become stronger, and when I become a Sky Sovereign, I'll see about that."

"Won't that be risky?" Casey asked.

"No. I should be fine until then. My magical base is pretty strong." Vicente said, reassuring them both.

"Then I'll try to help you with your future hunting," Casey said before Layla said something similar.

Vicente didn't doubt that they could help him because even if their talents weren't as high as his, they could advance quickly with good resources. Of course, this would be more difficult from now on due to the amount of resources they could find in the Seidel Kingdom and the fact that they were very close to the level that people with their talents normally reached.

Talent didn't limit how far you could go. Still, after the 4th stage, it would become difficult for those two to keep improving by cultivating hard or using resources.

But the main difference in terms of talents was how well you could use their skills to display characteristics outside of the curve.

For example, Vicente could fight against Sky Sovereigns when he was a High-level Mage. On the other hand, Layla could, at most, run away from an Earth Sovereign at this level, but only because her skill was focused on speed. If she had Casey's skill, for example, she would hardly be able to do that at the same level.

Even if they didn't have talents as high as his, Vicente felt they could help him if they could raise their levels a little more with his support.

Even if they couldn't fight much above their level, they could undoubtedly do support work that few others could do!

Vicente gave them some spatial rings with resources for them to consume and others for them to give to Rory before they finally parted ways.

Leaving Vicente, the two of them would walk at a more moderate speed since Casey couldn't move at the speed Vicente flew or Layla ran.

As they moved, he suddenly asked something that had caused him some doubt moments before but which he hadn't brought up in light of their parting.

"Hey, Layla, is it just me, or was Vicente's Magic Gem green?" He asked.

"Huh?" She looked at him as she thought about Vicente's face, slowly realizing this fact that she had ignored.

"That's right. His gem was green! But it should be yellow!" She muttered as she thought of that face she had seen many times when they were intimate...

How could she have missed something so important?

"I wonder what happened?" He asked her.

"I have no idea. Maybe it's one of his abilities?" She tried to think. "He can manipulate the light around him to make himself invisible, so maybe that's it."

"So, was he showing us false information, or did he finally show us his real talent?" Casey asked.

"I don't know. But it's very likely that his talent is not yellow. Maybe his real talent is green."

The two continued to discuss this and soon disappeared into the forest.

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As he watched Layla and Casey disappear over the horizon, Vicente looked at the area he was in, where a small river flowed toward a waterfall not far away.

The medium-sized trees filled with colorful leaves swayed in the relatively light breeze that was blowing through. At the same time, the sky was completely blue in the middle of the afternoon.

'What now?' He asked Torne.

'Now we can go to the place I told you about, master. But first, I must inform you that your powers must have mutated somehow earlier. Your first Magic Gem is now emitting a dark green color.'
Torne said, drawing his master's attention to this fact.

'Huh? Really?' Vicente walked over to one of the riverbanks and looked at his reflection.

'I can't explain what happened. But your second gem must have affected the first one to change and become stronger. Your powers should be a bit stronger now.' Torne explained before returning to the matter he had to solve with Vicente.

'But do you want to go directly to the location of my old organization? We'll reach that place in about 15 days if we move without stopping.'

'Hmm, please lead the way.' Vicente agreed.

With that order, Torne soon led Vicente to the first Cataclysm Order outpost they would enter.

Vicente didn't expect much, nor did he have many plans for the Cataclysm Order, but with this experience, his plans for the future would change!

Chapter 585 New Mount

After a few days of travel, Vicente had covered most of the distance between his previous position and the Cataclysmic Order post to which Torne was taking him.

That place was on the southeastern coast of the Kenyth Empire, just four days away from the state's border with the Seidel Kingdom.

Vicente had traveled there for most of his journey without encountering any high-level problems, and until the previous day, he had only fought against early 4th-stage beings.

But today, as he approached The Vile Altar that Torne had taken him to, he encountered a late 4th-stage magical creature.

It wasn't just a 4th-stage creature; it was a special magical being from the Dark Path!

The strength of this shadow creature was not just limited to its level!

Vicente was currently fighting against this creature, a kind of dark bird that looked very similar to a giant crow, with four eyes and a pointed horn on top of its head.

However, this creature had special powers. When it fought Vicente, it would occasionally use its element of darkness to create a black mist in the area, camouflaging its movements and reducing its target's visibility.

This bird's scream was terrible. Every time it opened its mouth to scream, Vicente had to protect himself from the ultrasonic noise, which could injure even someone with his qualities.

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'Damn it! That's an annoying animal!' Vicente said to Torne as he moved through this mountainous area of the empire's coast.

Several shields hovered near him, lessening the power of the bird's ultrasonic attacks while preventing any attempt by the bird to attack him directly.

With its beak open, this bird was dangerous, but with its beak closed, it was even more so. Its beak was as long and sharp as a dagger!

'That is a good challenge for you, master.' Torne said, not surprised by the presence of this negative creature in this area. 'Other abandoned places in my old organization will probably have beings similar to this bird.'

Negative entities are attracted to places like The Viel Altar. Places like that have a higher density of negative elements than other ordinary places.'

Vicente moved against the bird, not holding back after just over a minute of being attacked by the creature.

His other two pentagrams appeared as the darkness around him suddenly diminished in the presence of these two essences.

The bird that flew to attack Vicente's body then changed the look in its eyes as it not only felt the electromagnetic fields in the area change perceptibly but also felt a negative sensation coming from Vice.

That was the kind of feeling that only assassins or Dark Path magicians emitted, so this beast immediately understood the kind of opponent it had chosen.

As it tried to change its trajectory, this bird encountered Vicente, who flew toward it and quickly closed in on it while several metallic weapons followed him against the bird.

Swoosh!

The bird narrowly dodged one of Vicente's blades, but soon after it felt its wings flapping without changing its position.

It had escaped a deadly attack aimed at its heart but had fallen into Vicente's trap!

As its electromagnetic field was drawn towards Vicente, the creature had no choice but to try to dodge.

One of Vicente's hands reached for the bird's large neck while he controlled the metals in the creature's body to make it more vulnerable to him.

"I will not kill you, beast. You'll serve me better as a mount!" Vicente's three pentagrams moved from his body as he began the traditional method of taming beasts when one was not a professional tamer.

By using his pentagrams to leave a mark on the giant crow, Vicente made it scream in agony and rage as the bird tried to break free and run away.

As strong and impressive as it was, this creature had nowhere to run, being so close to Vice. As soon as he began the process of marking it as his mount, the beast realized that its free fate was over.

But when Torne left his body and showed this young man was not of the Light Path, the bird didn't feel so bad, feeling that at least it wouldn't be dominated by an individual who would weaken it with a path different from its original one.

Dark and light path beings could live together and work for the same purpose. But the kind of environment that was positive for one was usually harmful for the other. Not only that, but if there

was some kind of master-animal, master-slave relationship between the parties, entering certain locations could be positive for one and negative for the other.

Not every special place worked this way, but there were places where the elements associated with light would attack those associated with darkness, which could work as medicine for some but as poison for others.

If two beings were connected, like Vicente and Torne or Vice and Bart, when one of the parties entered such a place, the other being would be affected in some way.

Usually, the master's side, being the dominant side, would never be harmed, so the ones who usually lost out in such relationships were the beings in that bird's position.

Seeing Torne was a relief for it because, unlike Vicente, this creature knew that not just any being would agree to give a ghost a home!

Only someone with an even stronger affinity to negative elements than a ghost would accept such an existence.

The bird stopped resisting, and after two minutes, the relationship between the master and mount was established between them.

"Master." The bird lowered its head, feeling a bizarre sensation coming from Vicente that made it want to lower its head even more.

It hadn't felt that before. Otherwise, it would have run away in fear. It understood that it had made a mistake and underestimated the great being that would now be its master.

Vicente looked at the bird with interest and asked. "Crow, from now on, you will be called Onyx."

"Onyx is at the disposal of the master." It readily accepted Vicente's decision and gave up its old name to accept the new one.

"What have you been doing in this area, Onyx? Did you find any interesting places for your elemental affinities nearby?" Vice asked, for although Torne knew that there was a post of his

religion in this area, he did not know the exact location, as the terrain was different from the last time he had been there.

Chapter 586 Entering an Abandoned Altar

The surroundings of this coastal area had changed in the centuries since Torne had passed through. Much had happened in the meantime, with the fall of the Cataclysm Order, and then the time had caused vegetation to cover previously open places.

The bird heard Vicente's question and used one of its wings to indicate a spot ahead. "There is indeed an interesting area nearby, master. I've been living in this area for about a year, and this morning, I couldn't help but try to defend my territory against a stranger..." It looked at Torne and then asked. "Are you going to that place by any chance?"

"Hmm, lead us there, Onyx." Torne agreed and told the beast to lead them to their place of interest.

Tamed or enslaved magical creatures followed a natural hierarchy based on length of service and power level. Since Torne was at the same level as the bird and had served Vice the longest, Onyx obeyed him immediately and set off for the place Vicente was looking for.

Onyx soon stopped in front of an area covered with mud and some creeping plants facing the coast.

From a distance, no one would notice that something was hidden there. But when he looked closer, Torne recognized some details in the surroundings.

"This is the place." He commented as he momentarily observed the state of this former secret place of his organization.

In Torne's time, there were basically three types of Cataclysm Order sites. The most common of these were ordinary altars, which usually contained magical awakening platforms and not much else. These were simply places to help families of Dark Path magicians so that they would have places nearby to awaken their family members' powers.

The least common of all was the secret altars, where the religion usually kept small groups and plenty of resources in case of serious problems. Finally, there were the public altars, where members of the organization usually went to help other practitioners of the Dark Path, sometimes acting in daylight to defend their cause.

The first and last types of places of this religion were the most attacked in the last war before the end of this organization.

The place that Vicente had found in Torne, in the province of Scott, was of the latter type. As such, that place had been attacked and swept away by the forces of the Congregation of Revelation.

As for this place in the Kenyth Empire, it was one of the organization's secret outposts that might not have been attacked because only members important to the religion knew about these places.

Such individuals would rather die than give up their companions or secret locations that might one day be useful to possible survivors.

The members of the Cataclysm Order hated the Congregation of Revelation deeply. So, if there were any chance of revenge, the elders of that force would not spoil their chances by opening their mouths to talk about these secret places.

In short, the only possibility that this place had been explored or destroyed was if some survivor of the order had come to this place after the war or if some enemy had followed some survivor there.

However, these things would be difficult to achieve, as few people knew about these places, and even fewer had the keys to enter such altars.

"Master, please summon your Cataclysm Moon Pendant," Torne said to Vice after scanning the area around the ruins.

Vicente did as he was told, and then Torne explained it to him. "All the secret places of my religion were properly locked after the guards left their posts. Only with a special key could one enter one of these posts."

"And that's what this necklace will do?" Vicente asked

doubtfully.

Torne laughed and said. "Of course. As the most valuable item

in our order, this necklace can give you access to all ranks of my order, master. After all, this was the artifact that only the Master of the Order could wear casually!"

"Oh?" Vicente followed Torne as he made his way through the metal artifacts floating around him.

Onyx followed behind them towards the entrance of the place, not finding it difficult to use the same path as them.

Although he had a 'giant' body, it was nothing compared to what birds normally looked like. Onyx was only a little taller than Vicente. And with its wings retracted, its size was much less, so it could keep up with its master and Torne.

They soon passed the main entrance to the altar. This place was hidden in the crevices of the rocks in this area, and few things in the surroundings indicated that this was no simple abandoned place.

Only someone with Torne's knowledge or Onyx's elemental

affinity could understand its value.

Passing through the entrance, which was not very obvious from the outside even if it weren't covered in undergrowth, Vicente and his two companions reached the passage that would lead them to the secret location of the Cataclysm Order in this area.

Entering what looked like a well-crafted cave, Vicente and his two companions soon found themselves in front of a large round metal door.

On the door were a series of symbols and entrances through which the mechanisms could be moved either with the appropriate password or by using one of the keys to this post.

Torne said to Vicente. "Master, put some mana into the Cataclysm Moon Pendant."

Vicente did that until a gray glow emerged from the object that looked like a crescent moon.

As he did so, every mechanical and non-mechanical structure in the area shook as the mana inside stirred, making Vice and Onyx realize how right Torne was.

Torne clenched his skeletal fists as he felt this, finally back in a 'preserved' place of his religion after millennia!

After about 20 seconds, Vicente's necklace stopped emitting the glow, and the round door in front of him began to roll aside, revealing a dark passageway to them.

Torne said. "Keep your necklace around your neck until we leave this place, master. It's not a good idea to wear it for a long time, but the Cataclysm Moon Pendant will do you good in this place."

Vicente draped the pendant around his neck and then walked down the passageway that opened before him, following Torne while Onyx trailed behind, watching his back.

Torne quickly spread his senses over the area, taking in the

good and the bad. There were things they could use to

strengthen themselves and prepare for the future, but not as

much as this place had once held.

"It seems that some companions came here before us, but

they did us the favor of leaving things for us. There are some

things here you need to see, master."

Chapter 587 Cataclysm Order vs. Congregation of Revelations

After realizing that the place they had just entered had been visited before, Torne moved on to the underground levels of the area.

This outpost was a place where groups of the order could temporarily stay below the radar of local forces and, if necessary, act quickly and decisively in support of the order's interests.

It was also a place to store the group's resources so that members of the order would have an option in desperate times.

As such, this secret altar had a total of four levels below the entrance, one of which was the living and sleeping area for the members who previously lived there, another was the training and cultivation area, and the last two were related to the resources of this post.

Torne led the way for Vicente to the third level of the basement, passing some interesting places in the building until he reached what looked like a large vault.

Just beyond the stairs that led to this place was a metal door, 10 meters high, 8 meters long, and at least 40 centimeters wide.

Passing through it, after opening the entrance for Vicente, the three of them entered an area of 100 square meters where several shelves divided the space.

On one side were two of the four walls, and the shelves closest to those walls held the magical artifacts that remained there. Meanwhile, on the other two walls and the shelves closest to them were potions, pills, crystals, minerals, in short, a variety of raw resources or those prepared by professionals.

On the shelves between the two parts of this area were some special resources, scrolls, and the like.

According to Torne, places like this were always full of resources and artifacts when the order was in place.

At the moment, the place was about 35% full, with a few items of each type here and there, but not so many that one could pick and choose.

"I think the group that was here before the Cataclysm Order took some items with them before they left. After that, someone must have returned to this place." Torne said to Vicente and Onyx.

Vicente looked at the items there with interest and saw that although there were few things there, everything was between the end of the 3rd and the end of the 4th stage. The artifacts' efficiency was quite high, while the consumables had reasonable purity rates.

"Why would someone come to this place and leave things here?" Onyx asked the obvious.

Torne said. "Only high-ranking members of the order knew about such places. And even someone like me didn't know where all the secret locations of the group were.

Those who knew about these places were very loyal to the order. If they could somehow help the order come back to life, they would certainly do so."

"Do you think whoever came here before us intentionally left things for those who came after?" Vicente asked with interest, seeing that these people from the Dark Path who belonged to the order were not simple.

"Of course. The order has fallen. That's a fact. Even if there are survivors, bringing it back to life is a difficult task that cannot be done by one person.

Whoever came here left things behind that they probably wouldn't miss, and that could help give the order a 'breath of life' if someone else found the opportunity." Torne gave his opinion.

"It could also be that the person who came here was looking for a specific item. For example, every secret outpost has maps with the locations of other secret outposts.

No such outpost has all the locations of the others, but they do have the locations of different places that can lead members of the order to different resources and opportunities." He explained as he watched Onyx and Vicente scan the items available on this level. "Whoever came here might have picked up the map information and some resources before leaving."

"What is the purpose of the Cataclysm Order, old Torne? For that matter, what is the purpose of the Congregation of Revelations?" Vicente asked as he stored some items from the area in his space ring.

Torne thought for a moment. "The order was born out of the need for representation for the magicians of the Dark Path. Since ancient times, Dark Path magicians have been seen as villains, representatives of death and evil.

Some are truly consumed by their powers, becoming abominations that spread terror wherever they go. But many are in control of their emotions, have wishes and desires, have families, and don't want to fight or hide all the time.

Darkness exists naturally in the world, so eventually, a cult for the darkness magicians was born as a form of defense and alliance. But eventually, it became much more, gaining prestige and new goals.

There was no goal of domination behind the group, but there was a will or desire for change. We had been on a crusade for millennia, trying to show the continent that we were an essential part of the stability of Polaris Realm. We wanted to change the influence of the religions of the Light Path and avoid the unjust persecution of the magicians of the Dark Path simply because of their elemental affinities.

To do this, we would have to stand behind governments and have our own spheres of influence, of course. But we didn't want to destroy our rivals.

The Congregation of Revelations is different. This group has always wanted to dominate. Their purpose is not to cultivate mana on the continent nor to breed powerful new magicians. You've

probably heard the Temple Master talking about how he hopes to meet the next Archmage of the continent, right? That's nonsense.

The temple members keep a close eye on those who have the potential to become Archmages. Those who can be of use to it are allowed to live or are even brought to its side. But those who can harm it are eliminated without anyone knowing."

Torne laughed at that part of the story. "They say we Dark Path magicians are mad killers. It's not a lie. But the Light Path magicians of the Congregation of Revelation have killed at least ten times as many creatures on the continent as we have."

He paused for a moment while Vicente watched him and then finished. "The Congregation of Revelations aims to choose the leaders and 'gods' of Polaris Realm. Their goal is to control everything on the continent, from life and death to the most trivial things.

Vampires are terrible, but if the leaders of the Congregation of Revelations could do 10% of what vampires are capable of, they would have enslaved almost the entire continent and would be as bad or worse than vampires."

Chapter 588 Vicente's Next Pentagonam?

"You were very lucky, master. If your true talent had shown up after your Awakening, you'd probably be dead by now, or you'd have been brainwashed by the Congregation of Revelations and become one of them." Torne finished his speech while Onyx stared at him, mouth agape, aware that this force was not a good thing but worried about being around people who clearly had dangerous ideas or inclinations.

"Brainwashed? Does the Congregation of Revelations use that kind of taboo method?" Vicente asked, stopping what he was doing.

Torne laughed. "Not with ordinary people, because it's not worth it. But with someone who has the potential to become an Archmage or even something more powerful, you can bet on it. The temple members will do anything to maintain their power and influence.

If you get the two women, the Nun and the Devotee, to give up critical information about the Congregation of Revelation, you're sure to find some terrible things... I wouldn't be surprised if they were hiding secrets about the path to the 7th stage, what lies beyond Polaris Realm, and other critical issues."

Vicente narrowed his eyes. "Do you think someone with this information should release it to the public?"

"Hell, no! But if they were the order, they'd never pretend to want the best for the continent if they had such important information for the progress of the continent's magicians... The worst thing is not the selfishness of those behind the temple, master. It's their hypocrisy. Many think that the temple is what protects the continent, but is it? Who can guarantee that the temple isn't actually the great parasite of Polaris Empire?"

"A crook who stands by what they do is more trustworthy than a lying politician who does the same secretly," Onyx commented to Vicente and Torne.

"That's the point."

"Sigh! We'll see about that later. You have many reasons to hate the people of the temple, old Torne. But I don't doubt you. Layla's organization certainly hides a lot. I've sensed that even before my Awakening." Vicente sighed as he commented on the subject.

"I am relieved that the master understands the reality. I have my reasons for cherishing the order and hating the temple. But I don't think I'm influenced by the way I died. I sincerely believe that the order is morally superior to the temple and must be reborn from the ashes." Torne said as he gestured with his skeletal hands.

"Only you can do that, master."

"Rebuild the order?" Vicente looked at Torne with a smile on his face. "That would be difficult."

"Not as difficult as you think. With the Throne of Darkness, it's only a matter of time before a legion of Dark Path magicians follow you. Eventually, you will have no choice but to have your own Dark Path group."

"That's a conversation for another day, old Torne. I haven't met any Dark Path magicians yet, except for the people from that damned sect." He went back to analyzing the items around him, most of which were suitable for Dark Path magicians.

The absorbable resources would be very good for beings like Vicente, Torne, and Onyx but not so much for members of the Fuller family in general.

Torne said. "Keep that in mind. With the Cataclysm Moon Pendant and my help, even without using your Throne of Darkness, you can create a group that will work for you through the shadows of your family.

There are unimaginable benefits to having your own Awakening Altar and religion with potential followers across the continent. I'm sure that every day newly awakened Dark Path magicians are looking for places willing to accept them.

Most of these places have something to do with the bad reputation of our path. If there were another place for this kind of magician, many would come to us without us even trying."

"I will keep that in mind," Vicente commented as he finished collecting the resources in this place, leaving nothing for a potential visitor to see after them.

"I'm not leaving anything in this place, old Torne. The non-

absorbable items here are precious to my family, and the others could be useful to the three of us but also to Nina." Vicente said to his slave.

"Yes, your sister probably already has an elemental affinity for darkness. Some of these resources can be used now to try to improve her condition, but the others might help her to become stronger in the future." Torne agreed with Vicente.

He didn't want to leave anything for others. If Vicente went through with what he was planning, they would bring the order back to life and they would need resources like this in large quantities.

Torne didn't know what might happen in the future, so it was better to take everything with them.

So, after Vicente finished collecting the coins and crystals that were on this third level, they went down the stairs at the end of this area and descended to the final underground level of this secret altar.

Once there, Vicente and his two companions encountered another series of defenses on their way to the most valuable area of the entire altar.

But with the Cataclysm Moon Pendant around his neck, Vicente had no trouble disarming the defenses and barriers in front of him, and he soon gained access to a small spherical area where a small bridge led to a stone in the center of the area.

On the stone were some inscriptions and a small pocket where the most valuable resources of the place were kept.

Vicente stopped in front of it and quickly read the small text engraved on the stone before seeing a small old map below the text.

"These are the locations of other secret altars like this one, master," Torne said as he memorized the locations.

"And what's here?" Vicente pointed to a shiny metal object that contained a relatively strong spatial distortion for a space ring.

"Some resources can only be preserved under special conditions, master. There is a higher form of spatial storage that can contain life. This device in front of you has a small spatial dimension that can hold living beings.

It's not a lot of space, but it's enough to hold magical plants, small animals, and even a magician.

In the case of the device in front of you, I don't know what might be inside. It probably contains some powerful plants and herbs, probably at the 4th stage."

The purple glow on Torne's neck grew stronger, and he said. "It's not impossible that there's a living being within it with a pentagram that's useful for someone like you, master.

All you have to do to find out is put some of your mana into this device."

Chapter 589 A Good Start

After hearing Torne's answer, Vicente poured some of his mana into the device on the stone and closed his eyes.

Then, in the middle of the darkness, he gradually felt a space of about 200 square meters with his mana. At the same time, he felt a miniature version of it appear in his mind.

The details of what was in that small pocket of space didn't take shape right away. What was most powerful there first appeared in this mental 3D image in Vicente's mind, like stars appearing in the sky.

For a moment, that area seemed to have nothing, and then Vicente felt 10 powerful auras appearing.

While he was feeling this, he saw some of the area's surroundings, where there was grass and a small lake, as well as enough atmosphere for the environment to be sustainable.

Noticing the smallest details of the area, Vicente felt small insects, some small animals like birds, trees, and ordinary vegetation incapable of absorbing mana.

Not everything in this world had that ability. Even in a magical world, normal things without this ability were necessary to maintain the balance of things.

"Interesting..." He commented to Torne and Onyx. "There's a sickle-shaped weapon in this place. Why would someone keep that in this place?"

"Oh?" Torne wondered as he put some of his mana into the device to see what it was.

"That... I see. This weapon is special, master." Torne said when he understood what it was. "This is an evil weapon. It has a special will and can do things ordinary weapons cannot do. Even though it's 'only' a 4th-grade item, it's probably a match for ordinary 5th-grade weapons.

If it were stored outside of this space, it would possibly turn this area into a den of ghosts, negative beasts, and other beings that would alert the empire's forces to the presence of this secret location.

So it was stored in this pocket space to not expose the secret altar."

"Oh? And what is it capable of?"

"Because it has a will of its own, this weapon should be able to affect its surroundings, even without the command of its owner or user.

When used directly by someone, it is likely to cause two types of special damage to its targets: energy drain and inability to heal. If you are injured by it, you will quickly lose your mana and be left with a wound that can only be healed by a special type of healing magic.

As for the weapon's wielder, they should receive an aura of protection from the darkness when wielding this weapon. That can be very good during a battle, as it gives the individual an extra layer of defense. Still, in other situations, it can cause problems because of the weapon's aura.

Either way, it's a pretty powerful weapon."

"It really seems to be," Vice commented as he focused on the other items in this space, where there were two special beasts with pentagrams in their essences, while the rest of the seven interesting items there were special gems and magical plants.

Torne saw what Vicente was looking at and said. "Magic Gems are found in nature like this before they are integrated into magicians, master.

When a magician reaches the 4th stage, they have enough mana to use their powers to refine these gems. Once refined, the gems can be stored in places similar to the Awakening Platform, where you awaken your powers.

There are all kinds of gems on Awakening Platforms. But in nature, they are very scattered and usually have very specific affinities. In the case of the gems in this place, they all have a strong affinity with the elements of the Dark Path."

"That makes sense. Your people have awakened the powers of magicians in the past." Vicente muttered.

"You will be able to do the same in the future, master."

Vicente smiled but said nothing before opening his eyes and seeing the surroundings of the spherical area they were in.

"Can I enter a place like this?" He asked Torne out of curiosity.

"I wouldn't advise it," Torne replied. "It's possible for any magician to survive in such a space, as long as they don't destroy its ecosystem. However, something inside that pocket space can't get out independently.

That is to prevent living things from escaping it.

So if you were to go in there, master, you wouldn't be able to come out on your own because only someone on the outside could get you out. But that would be too risky, and you might end up stuck in that place for much longer than you'd like.

But you don't have to. Use the Cataclysm Moon Pendant and connect this device with you. That will give you omniscience over this space and also the ability to have it without attracting attention."

"I can wear something like that?" Vicente looked at the thing, which didn't look like a spatial ring and was rather conspicuous.

"That kind of thing we wear on our wrists, master. It looks flashy now, but that's because it has no recognized user as its owner. The moment you connect your aura to it, you can control the aura it emits and make it look like a simple, unimportant bracelet," Torne explained.

Vicente promptly did what he was supposed to do, wearing the Cataclysm Moon Pendant and easily showing the item that it belonged to the Cataclysm Order and that he would keep it from now on.

High-level artifacts like that couldn't just be taken. If you weren't strong enough to destroy the previous owner's mark or didn't meet other requirements, the best you could do was gain access to a fraction of its properties.

This bracelet belonged to the Cataclysm Order, and even though there were no other magicians' marks on it, only the order's leader could move it.

When Vicente identified himself as such while wearing the necklace, he quickly gained access to the essence of the item, and it didn't take long for him to leave his mark on it and take possession of it.

Then the bracelet floated in the air in front of Vicente, flew to his right wrist, and settled there without Vice having to make any effort.

Feeling his connection to it grow exponentially, Vicente sensed what Torne had said he could do and promptly disguised the item by making its aura disappear.

A smile broke out on his face as he fulfilled his purpose there.

"Old Torne, I don't know if I'll ever be able to revive the Cataclysm Order as you knew it. But I will look for other places like this. The resources of your old organization are interesting."

Torne just smiled. This was a great start!

Chapter 590 Qualitative Evolution: Climate Control

?After deciding to go after other Cataclysm Order outposts in the future, Vicente didn't leave this secret order outpost right away.

He had gathered some exciting resources for himself, Torne, and Onyx, and this was a place with enough security levels for them to stay longer and take advantage of the opportunity.

After collecting the special bracelet, Vicente went with Torne and Onyx to the second level of this outpost, where this secret altar's training and meditation area was located.

Once there, Vicente didn't hesitate to tell Torne and Onyx about the best compatible resources for them before selecting other things compatible with his two gems.

Vicente, Torne, and Onyx were very different, even though they all had an affinity for darkness. Torne was a ghost. Onyx was a beast, and Vicente was a magician. How magical resources affect them would vary greatly because of their particular characteristics.

In Torne's case, magical essences capable of strengthening the spirit would have the most positive effect on him. In contrast, items capable of improving the body would not affect him at all.

Onyx would benefit from the opposite of Torne. Items that could strengthen his body would be much better for him than those that could strengthen his mind.

Vicente could be positively affected by both types of resources. Still, he had a greater affinity for items processed by magicians, such as potions and pills.

There was a reason why magicians had developed so many magical resources that were artificially altered. It wasn't just an endeavor to create a greater variety of options but also an attempt to improve the success of magicians in absorbing resources.

Magicians couldn't process the essence of magical herbs as well as beasts. They used special techniques and skills to create pills and potions to make the most of magical resources.

Thus, Vice was left with some pills and potions, while Onyx was basically given two types of herbs to eat and use to his advantage.

As for Torne, Vicente gave this ghost a crystal capable of nourishing the spirit.

With these resources in hand, each would enter into their own particular forms of meditation in the altar's special cultivation area.

...

A few hours after the three began their little retreat in the secret outpost of the Cataclysm Order in the Kenyth Empire, Vicente

experienced several improvements in his abilities related to his two Magic Gems.

His level hasn't changed, but the density of his mana has increased dramatically, and his ocean of mana has become more concentrated.

However, his most important improvement was not related to his energies but to his ability to understand and control his elements.

After consuming pills and potions that could increase his abilities related to the elements of darkness, earth, and lightning, he felt something different in his gems, while his pentagrams of natural origin trembled with the qualitative changes he was experiencing.

He was still meditating, so his improvements were ongoing. However, after a few hours of meditation, he approached an important point where he would once again change one of his essences.

While he could more easily perceive the earth and lightning elements around him, something natural as one becomes stronger, he felt his first pentagram begin its evolution to the next qualitative level!

The ground below where Vicente stood began to change around him as small bolts of lightning shot from his body into the surrounding area, making Torne and Onyx feel the changes in their master.

But neither of them stopped what they were doing, confident that these changes would not harm them, as they were somehow part of Vicente's powers.

As they continued their meditations, the phenomena around Vicente intensified, affecting practically all of the surroundings, while metallic objects began to form in the vicinity without Vice doing so.

At the same time, the electromagnetic fields in the area changed, and the sunny day over the area where Vicente was suddenly changed, and thunderstorms began to form.

Vicente and his group didn't know it, but that day would bring a significant climate change to the entire coastal region they were in, something that would affect an area of more than 200 square kilometers.

But all of Vicente's attention was on how his essences were changing with the resources he was ingesting: his second pentagram was getting new lines and cyan symbols, while the first was turning completely yellow.

Crack!

When he reached the point where he could go without a bigger change in the first pentagram, Vicente felt like something had broken in his body.

The previously orange pentagram changed as if it had been reborn and glowed an extremely beautiful golden yellow.

But the most remarkable thing was not its appearance but the fluctuation that came from it, which was now much more like the sensation that came from the first pentagram of Vicente's second magical form.

Following this advance, Vicente felt his first gem gain more power and space within his consciousness as he suddenly noticed its new abilities.

'Atmospheric Control...' He gave his new ability a name.

He noticed the magnetic storm over the area they were in, causing the aurora borealis to appear near the area while heavy clouds condensed there.

The changes brought about by these phenomena caused other local climatic features to change, forming the storm that was already rapidly affecting this coastal part of the empire.

As he felt this, Vicente also felt a change in the land around that area, feeling more mana around him than was normally the case.

Now, he could affect the atmosphere around him, even bringing rain to arid regions and temporarily increasing the mana density of certain areas!

He opened his eyes as he finished his progress, feeling that his level was much closer to the highest point an Earth Sovereign could reach.

He would still have a long way to go to become a Sky Sovereign, as the differences in levels grew exponentially with each advancement. However, he was now much closer to the next level than he was at the beginning of the 4th stage.

'It looks like it won't be long before we see each other again, Lauren.' He thought of his sister as he clenched his fists with determination.

'I have already avenged our mother, now my next mission is to get you out of the clutches of those damned Nixlas' Shadows!' His eyes sparkled as he imagined the future when Nina would be less dependent on him and he would have everything ready to go after Lauren.

He wasn't in a hurry, but with this improvement, he couldn't help but feel closer to that goal than ever before!