

The Mafia 941

Chapter 941 The Value of a Newcomer

After reading for a while, Vicente learned more about the place he was in. Although Primrose had told him earlier that the Light Cay was the island he was on, it was not just an island; it was a continent!

Considering its size, the Light Cay alone could cover 40% of Polaris Realm. However, the residents of this domain, led by Stonewall, considered this and other domains of similar size to be mere islands, given the number of such enclaves in Anicane.

According to the books available in the house that would become Vicente's residence, all of Anicane's islands were as large as large parts of the Polaris Realm. But the population was not as small as that of Vicente's birthplace.

The population of the Polaris Realm, whether it consisted only of humans or magical beings, was not large. The largest states, regardless of race, should have a total population in the tens of millions, while smaller states had a few million at most.

Anicane had over 10,000 "islands" and each of them had a population of a few hundred million!

Last but not least, the city Vicente was in was huge, easily outpacing 3 million inhabitants, something you would rarely see in the Polaris Realm.

Another difference between Anicane and Polaris Realm was the percentage of inhabitants who were sensitive to magic. While in Vicente's home, half or more of the population didn't even have the ability to manipulate mana, in Anicane, 99% of the living beings were sensitive to magic.

However, despite the differences in power ranking, the cultivation method in Anicane was similar to that of the Polaris Realm.

Some races didn't need to hunt for pentagrams to become stronger, and they were usually the ones who supplied pentagrams to other races, while others needed to add pentagrams to their Magic Gems.

Upon arrival in Anicane, anyone who wasn't compatible with the local magic system would undergo a delayed Awakening Ceremony, which was basically the method Prische had mentioned when talking about those beings who weren't used to mana and had to start their cultivations from scratch.

Unlike the Polaris Realm, where Awakening was a rigorous and difficult process, in Anicane it was something simple that could even be done more than once on the same being.

This part caught Vicente's attention, and since he had no more books on the subject, he couldn't help but ask Prische about it.

She told him what she knew, that the second Awakening didn't give magicians new powers, but qualitatively improved the powers they had already gained in the first Awakening. But the second Awakening was not something that could be controlled. It was a natural event that could happen to magicians who met certain requirements.

Besides, the other things were just curiosities to him. The Light Cay was technologically advanced, but that shouldn't be something common to all 'islands'. The Light Cay was specialized in its forge and advanced technologies, while other islands might be specialized in different ways, so they might have very different characteristics.

But from what he discovered, it wasn't easy to get to and from the 'islands' of Anicane, so he shouldn't worry too much about the reality of other 'islands', at least in the short term.

Separated by the grandiose Thousand Seas Ocean, a journey between 'islands' could cost greater riches than anything Vicente had ever seen in the Polaris Realm. The journey, even the shortest travel from the Light Cay, could be so dangerous and long that it was only accessible to those at least at the 8th stage of cultivation.

For someone like him, an Archmage, traveling to any other "island" would be as dangerous as traveling out of the Seidel Kingdom when he was just an Acolyte!

With this information, Vicente could understand that he should focus on the Light Cay, especially Stonewall, for the time being.

As he had already read, the Light Cay was huge, with an immense population. Only in this small part of Anicane should he have enough problems and opportunities to concentrate on for a long time.

The Light Cay was led by Stonewall, the sect Vicente now belonged to. But it was not the only power on the 'island', and it was not comfortable enough in its position that there were no disputes or concerns from the sect about maintaining its position.

While Vicente was learning about his new home, at least two major forces of the Light Cay, with similar strengths to Stonewall, should be looking for loopholes to take the sect's place!

In this part of the reading, a full day after his arrival in this world, Vicente understood why Primrose and the others had welcomed him so well earlier!

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"So that's it... It makes sense." Vicente closed a red book in his hands, understanding what had happened hours ago when he arrived in the sect.

"Master?" Prische asked in a curious tone.

Over the last few hours, she had heard her master muttering to himself, sometimes pausing for several minutes while staring into space, and then making expressions of concern or relief. Sometimes he explained himself to her while trying to get the opinion of this artificial intelligence. Other times, he simply ignored her.

This time Vicente did not ignore Prische. He said to her, "Now I understand why you all treat me with respect and some value instead of just a nobody."

"Where you come from, is it customary to treat newcomers like dirt or like slaves, master?" She asked curiously, understanding what he had read and what he had in mind.

"No, but where I come from, someone like me would be imprisoned, perhaps even prevented from cultivating, until the whole truth about them was revealed. If they were a danger to the organization they had joined, they could be tortured or even killed." Vicente didn't hide the reality from Prische.

"A terrible, barbaric place," she said, sounding civilized despite the barbaric side her civilization also had.

"More or less. Things are more direct there. That can be bad sometimes, but it also has its advantages," he muttered to himself before speaking in a stronger tone. "But now I understand my position. Obviously, your society holds newly promoted people from lower planes in high esteem."

"Certainly." She shook her head in agreement. "Even though Anicane far surpasses any lower plane associated with us, and there is no shortage of geniuses anywhere in Anicane, it takes more than just talent to reach the top. Determination and experience play important roles in the cultivation process. But not every super talent has what it takes.

However, for hundreds of thousands of years, every newcomer to Anicane from the lower planes has performed important feats and reached amazing heights that are difficult to reach."

In short, geniuses like Vicente, capable of becoming the strongest of their planes and reaching Anicane, came to this world as "weaklings," but with a lot of potential, potential superior even to the native geniuses of Anicane.

Each person in Vicente's circumstances was highly valued by each power they belonged to and were often considered factors capable of upsetting the balance of power of the world.

In short, those who had more specialists who had ascended from lower planes were often considered more promising because of the advantages of first cultivating in Anicane at already higher levels and with great experience and determination.

Usually, people like Vicente went through wars, millennia of experience, and many more terrible experiences in their planes to reach Anicane.

But that wasn't all; cultivating at a high level in weak places was also an added advantage for these beings. When they arrived at a high-level place, it was easier for them to cultivate because they were more sensitive to everything in that reality.

In short, while a young local Archmage was fully accustomed to Anicane, a newcomer like Vicente could achieve breakthroughs just by breathing the air outside of special places like the one he was in.

Someone with his identity could grow up quickly and had the potential to become great figures for the future of sects like Stonewall or even entire 'islands' like the Light Cay!

Because of all this, people like Vicente were treated very well on every island in Anicane, given a chance to prove themselves before being treated according to their own merits. If they were enemies disguised as allies, they would eventually be exposed. If they were allies, they would eventually receive even more benefits than when they arrived in their respective forces.

Despite the negative implications behind this—being a target of their sect's enemy forces—there were definitely some very positive points that Vicente was happy with.

'If what they say about foreigners is true, then I'll be able to become a Grand Magus in less time than it took me to become an Archmage... If that stuff about time distortion isn't true, then maybe I can find out the truth before the worst happens in the Polaris Realm.'

Vicente clenched his fists as he considered the many implications of what he had discovered, especially the one that was most urgent to him.

"Prisiche, I've finished reading the books we had here. Are there any other books in this house?"

"No, master."

"Then tell me about the city we're in, how far I can go, and how to get to the Central Library." He ordered her, eager to continue his adaptation and learn more about this place.

Chapter 942 Getting to Know the City (1)

"Master, right now we are in Ravengarde. This is the capital city of the Light Cay, the home of Stonewall. We are in the center of the island, thousands of kilometers away from the sea.

But despite its monumental size, Ravengarde is not entirely accessible to you right now. Only the core of the city has the formations that protect our area from the dense mana of this region. If you try to set foot outside the 49 central city blocks, you'll explode and die.

But the most important services and areas of the city are available to you within the area you can access. Here you can visit the Central Library, the Combat Arenas, the Zoo, the Forges, in short, all kinds of services you might be interested in.

As for how to get to each area, just tell me where you want to go and I'll take you there." She finished with a smile on her face, looking eager to be walking around the city.

"Can you get out of this house? I thought you were part of the structure," He asked doubtfully.

"If you don't want to, I can stay. But the entire central area of Ravengarde is accessible to me and other artificial intelligences."

"By the way, are you and the other AIs connected in any way? What guarantee do I have that you're not at my side spying on me?" He asked provocatively, sensing that regardless of her answer, the power behind this place would watch him 24 hours a day.

She showed no displeasure at his question. "We are connected to the same data pool, so we all have the same common knowledge. But our personal experiences with our masters are stored in individual memories, so only I will know what you teach me and what I witness.

However, I admit that it is possible to access these memories and replicate them. But it's against the rules of the sect, and it's difficult to do. One would have to be very interested in you and have a lot of power within the sect to be able to do it.

There must be about five people in the entire sect who can do that, and they are all Grand Magus. Unless you have a reason to attract their attention, it would be unlikely to happen."

'She's more sincere than I thought.' Vicente looked away as he prepared for a walk through the city. 'But her answer isn't bad... I won't show Prische anything compromising. Most of the things I've talked to her about are also about my ignorance or a place that is simple and inaccessible to the people of this place.'

Prische finished her answer, "But the master has the possibility to deactivate me at any time. I don't recommend it, because I can really make your life a lot easier here, but it is possible for you to go to the machine room in this residence and deactivate the main formation. It can only be deactivated with your magic mark, so you'll have to use your powers."

"When did you get my magic mark?" This really surprised Vicente.

He had not yet displayed his powers in Anicane!

She smiled at him. "Our formations on the Nine Paths Platform have already read all the information there is to read about you, master. When you received your registration, your mark was already engraved on me."

"That's scary..." He stopped at the door of this residence, terrified and curious. "By the way, how much does your sect know about me? In particular, how much of my powers can the members of Stonewall find out by accessing my ID?"

"Everything," She answered briefly, watching Vicente's subsequent silence.

'Everything?' He swallowed his saliva, seeing he couldn't hide his majestic pentagram configuration.

"But that's good for you, master," she added after a moment. "Just as few people in the sect can access my memories, few can access your full profile. Even those who have access to it are obligated to keep information about sect members confidential.

The most that can happen is that they want to show you favoritism, considering how talented you are."

"Do you know my pentagram configuration, Prisische?" He asked, looking into her eyes, getting used to her more and more, seeing her less as an artificial intelligence and more as a living person.

"Which of the two magical forms do you want to know, master?"

"I see." He sighed in defeat and immediately tried to see things from her point of view. 'I really have to hope that this only helps me. I just can't let Stonewall's enemies find out. Otherwise, I'll be hunted without ever having done anything in Anicane.'

"Forget it. Take me on a tour of the area I can visit. I want you to show me my new home." He ordered as he left the built-up area of the estate.

She followed him in two jumps, thrilled to get out of the house and walk around the city.

"By the way, master, I don't know what your life was like in the Polaris Realm, but you need to eat and rest soon. During the year you'll be under the effects of ascension, you need to treat your body as if it were that of a mortal without cultivation.

I don't really understand the logic behind this, but those who don't eat and rest properly during their year of adjustment always have problems on their cultivation journeys. It must be because of the difference in cultivation between their original home and our plane. Anyway, just make sure you eat and rest every day."

Vicente was not surprised. He could feel his body changing to adapt to this reality, so it made sense for him to use local resources to speed up the process. As for the rest, it should be a way for the changes to happen faster and easier.

When the matter died down, Vicente found himself walking on a bustling sidewalk, from which he had a magnificent view of the city. He could see various vehicles flying from one side to the other, elevators, trains, flying boats, and much more.

To a newcomer who wasn't paying attention, the place might seem chaotic. But under Vice's scrutiny, he realized that there were very well-organized pathways, not only on the surface, but at various levels of the atmosphere.

Even though only a small area of Ravengarde was available to him, the area in question was as large and busy as the actual Metal City he had left behind in the Polaris Realm!

There were so many people in the streets that Vicente could easily blend into this place without attracting too much attention, considering the fact that there were several people with humanoid appearances like his own.

Seeing people coming and going in the area, looking like they were working, shopping, in short, living their lives, he asked Prische, "How many of these people are artificial intelligences like yourself?"

"Half of them, master. All the citizens of Ravengarde have some kind of AI in their homes. Not everyone has models as complete as mine, but in this area of the city, everyone definitely does."

"Impressive. I would never have guessed that so many of them are artificial beings..." Vicente murmured quietly.

"By the way, how do I buy things here? The resources I brought from..." As he spoke, Vicente remembered looking at his spatial ring for the first time, which contained only a few artifacts that reminded him of his family—such as a set of clothes of each of his wives and also of Annie, as well as portraits of each of them.

He changed his expression, feeling his heart heavy in his chest, as he couldn't help but forget what he was doing.

But Prische couldn't read minds, so she replied to her master, "The items you brought from Polaris Realm have no value here, master. Since there are some differences in the laws of our planes, nothing that works in Polaris Realm would work here. So they have no exchange value.

But newbies like you are entitled to an allowance from the sect until they start performing missions. Currently, you have 100,000 stone coins in your account. Don't worry about collecting them, I also have a virtual wallet function."

Vicente sighed as he put his thoughts aside, but he was happy that his spatial ring had survived the journey between the two planes.

"Stone coins?"

"This is the official currency of the Light Cay. You will earn that amount every month until you become an active member of the sect. When that happens, everything you do for the sect will be paid in stone coins, along with other special payments based on your achievements.

But I recommend caution, master. 100,000 stone coins should be just enough for you. Try to become an active member of the sect as soon as possible." She recommended, while Vicente was curious about the prices in this city.

But as long as he didn't know the price of the services most relevant to his strengthening and adaptation, he didn't want to spend money on anything that wasn't truly irreplaceable.

"I see... Let's go to the library and the other most important places in the area." He ordered her.

Upon entering the Central Library, Vicente stood in front of a place so large that it seemed to have no boundaries. Of course, if you looked at the S-shaped building behind this place from a distance, you would see all its boundaries. But when you entered it, the corridors and book passages were so large that they made the place seem infinite.

The interplay of light through mirrors and matrix that expanded the building's functional area also added to the sense of spaciousness within the place. This clever manipulation could even deceive someone as perceptive as Vicente.

The Central Library was the only truly free place in the entire central area of Ravengarde, so it was easy for Vicente and Prische to enter it.

Soon he was floating through the long corridors filled with shelves that went from the surface up to 150 meters high.

There were so many books that Vicente felt lost as soon as he reached the area and did not know where to start. Fortunately, Prische was by his side and showed him where to go in the immense library.

The place was divided into information about one of the ten thousand lower planes, or one of the ten thousand 'islands' of Anicane.

Each of these sections of the library contained many, many books, enough to keep even the most powerful Magus busy for months until they had read all the volumes available to them.

"This is truly incredible. How many books are there in that part of Polaris Realm?" He asked Prische, who had guided him through the book section on his old plane.

"I don't know... Thousands?" The blonde woman replied, putting a finger to her lips. "There are a lot of books around here. But most of them are ancient. They date back over a million years."

The books in the Central Library were not made of paper or easily perishable materials. Each book that could enter this place was inscribed on a version made of a nearly indestructible spatial type of crystal. Digital copies of these books were then available throughout the library and could be easily accessed by anyone.

Because of this information storage model, the books in this area didn't seem as old as they were.

"Do you know about this past information?" Vicente asked, imagining that the people of Anicane knew the prehistoric truth of every plane that existed in the universe.

"No," Prische said quickly and honestly. "There is so much information here that I would have to use all my processing power just to store all that information. I probably wouldn't be able to talk, walk, or do anything else. No one can learn that much, master.

That's why we have specialists in every area of the library." She pointed toward a man with glasses on his face, sitting behind a desk, reading, while he was free to attend to anyone with questions in his section of the library.

"There are specialists in Anicane that we simply call Scholars. They are individuals who devote their time to learning about specific things, usually in the theoretical domain. There are alchemist scholars, warrior scholars, but also scholars who specialize in the history of Anicane, the universe, the Light Cay, the Polaris Realm, and so on.

What I know about the 10,000 planes is as much as you can get out of Anicane before you come here. Something superficial, probably not as certain as you imagine, but better than pure ignorance." She finished.

"But you could hire an expert on the history of Polaris Realm and ask questions about the past of your homeland. I hear there's a specialist in the history of your continent somewhere on the Light Cay."

"Hmm? Are you saying there aren't many people like that?" He understood her tone perfectly.

"There certainly aren't. Currently, there are only ten great scholars who specialize in Anicane in the Light Cay, and five of them are members of three of the major powers on our 'island'. So an expert with knowledge of Polaris Realm is even rarer to find." She continued to lead him to the wing he was most interested in at the moment, the one about Anicane, especially the Light Cay.

Vicente continued to be impressed by the things he discovered about the reality of this world, imagining that it would be interesting to talk to such scholars, but it would also be expensive and of little use to him.

It would certainly be valuable for the people of Polaris Realm to understand their ancient history. But was it of any value to him today? The most important thing for him now was the future, changing the situation for himself, or at least for his family.

So he came to the information area of the Light Cay, where there were even more books about this 'island' than in the area regarding the Polaris Realm.

In a way, this place had even more history than the one Vicente came from, even though it was much smaller.

Vicente found himself in a library within a library, with wings of books that talked about professions, geography, territorial division, cultivation, external and internal relations with the 'island', culture, etc.

He chose 30 of the most important and basic books and read them in the study area.

Because of the size of the place and the ease of access to the books, most people would think that Vicente's place was always empty. But that wasn't the case. There was always a lot going on in the Central Library, but because it was so enormous and its users usually went to different places each time they passed through, it wasn't common to find areas of the building that were crowded.

Vicente began his reading, learning about the division of power on the Light Cay, the major powers, the culture, interesting areas to visit, cultivation, and magical creatures.

On the Light Cay, as on the over 10,000 'islands' of Anicane, there were native and foreign beings who gave origin to pentagrams that could be absorbed by beings like Vicente.

Not only that, but unlike Polaris Realm, the people of Anicane had a good understanding of what was behind the formation of natural pentagrams.

Some had even mastered the art of creating pentagrams!

'It makes sense. That's why natural pentagrams appeared in places where there had been many deaths. By directing the elements that come from a soul that has just died, the chance of them condensing back into a single 'body' is very high. All it takes is a 'snap of the fingers' for the process of forming a pentagram to take place.'

Vicente thought about the formation of natural pentagrams.

But as easy as it seemed to control such a process, it wasn't easy at all. According to the book he had used to confirm his suspicions he had since his time in Polaris Realm, only a few powerful peak Grand Magus could manipulate elements to create pentagrams. And even then, only the most talented could create pentagrams up to the green grade.

Above the cyan grade, only magicians at the 9th stage or higher were said to be able to create such magical essences.

Because of the ability to create pentagrams, there were specialized shops selling magical essences all over the world.

This discovery greatly changed Vicente's perception of this reality.

'But if that's true, then the people here can easily develop their—'

He was thinking about something when he changed his mind.

'No. Impossible. Even if some specialists manage to create pentagrams themselves, the cost must be extremely high. The normal method of acquiring pentagrams must still be to hunt living creatures.'

He sighed, because if all beings in this world used 'natural' pentagrams, then they could all evolve their pentagrams as they grew stronger!

But as Vicente would later learn, most people in the Light Cay had a maximum of two pentagrams that could evolve continuously during their magical growth.

Besides this more important information, he also learned smaller things, such as how the technology of this world interfered with people's magical cultivation lives. Even though cultivators above the 4th stage could fly through the sky, and even though it seemed easy to achieve such cultivation in Anicane, there were very advanced vehicles in this place. Why was that?

Vicente learned that in Anicane, magicians were much more careful about maintaining their peak states than in Polaris Realm. A Paragon or even an Archmage would hardly lose a portion of their mana to travel between cities, for example. They would most likely use an existing transportation model to conserve their mana and be prepared for anything dangerous.

He soon understood why!

Unlike Polaris Realm—where there were few beings above the 4th stage and it was worth using their mana to travel between cities—there were too many beings with 6th and 7th stage powers in Anicane.

It was too dangerous to risk your power for a simple flight!

Only 8th stage or higher-level magical beings made such displays of power on this and other 'islands' of Anicane!

At this point in Vicente's reading, he devoted some of his time to understanding who his major enemies would be at the beginning of his journey in Stonewall, and what his role in that sect would be.

Chapter 944 Stonewall

In Light Cay, there were two major forces vying with Stonewall, both of which demanded the attention of someone in Vicente's position.

The first, the Templars of the Valiant, was a force considered just as strong as Stonewall, with a slight difference in history and alliances. The second was the Goldenguards, an up-and-coming guild that had been gaining ground on the 'island' for the past 300 years.

Besides these two forces, other important names were present and should be noted. The most important were the Mislead Vanguardians, the Disciples of the Obscure, and the Hellcloaks.

These forces were powerful, with the Grand Magus known to the 'island' in their strongest positions, and Vicente had to watch out for each of them, even those with little chance of taking Stonewall's position.

From what he had learned in his readings, each of the over 10,000 'islands' of Anicane had a dominant force that received new ascenders from lower planes. However, the position of these forces was not stable and could be changed.

There was no one except the members of these forces themselves who could maintain their positions!

Basically, about 850,000 years ago, a group of super powerful beings had created the Nine Paths Platforms and revealed them to the world. But each 'island' could only have one such platform. Therefore, the first power to create it was the one that could maintain a monopoly over newcomers from lower planes on their 'island'.

Since then, conflicts and wars to take over or even destroy these platforms have taken place on all the 'islands' of Anicane—the current reality of Light Cay.

Stonewall had been in charge of this place for over 800,000 years, but had almost fallen to its competitors several times. Although it had never lost its position, the sect was aware of its position and worked constantly to keep it that way for years to come.

The problem for Vicente? Basically, men ascended from lower planes like him had a lot of potential to grow and help maintain Stonewall's power. For the sect's enemies, killing people like him was one of the best ways to change the situation on their 'island'!

Learning about these forces brought up an old, deep-rooted thought in Vicente's mind.

'I need allies. My mafia methods can help me again, this time at the beginning of my journey in Anicane. I need to find a group of power-hungry individuals who are marginalized.'

He thought about the type of target that would normally be more receptive to approaches like his for the type of activity he had in mind.

In Polaris Realm, Vicente's mob activity at the beginning of his journey had helped him a lot. For weak magicians, there was much to be gained from strategic burglary.

For a young Apprentice, there were countless opportunities, as there were many Acolytes and Mages with resources 'waiting' to be stolen. But for a Sovereign or even a Paragon, there weren't many individuals with conspicuous wealth, even considering the entire continent. Also, the risks and rewards of going after specialists were not promising at all.

Given this reality, Vicente had put aside his mafia methods a bit during his journey in Polaris Realm. But now, in Anicane, he couldn't help but feel his old impulses filling his mind and heart.

'I'll see about that later. There are corrupt, arrogant, and dangerous people everywhere, and I can go after them without getting burned by the nicer, more law-abiding ones.' He thought to himself, leaving it in the realm of ideas and plans for now.

"Prisiche, what kind of activity will I have to get involved in at Stonewall once I find the Registration Center?" He asked, thinking about his future duties that might limit his movements and bring him into contact with potential faction members.

Vicente was no fool. No sect was uniform and homogeneous. There were certainly internal disputes within Stonewall, with factions, families, and other kinds of divisions vying for power, status, and resources.

"It depends a lot on you. The process of joining the sect is very individual. But someone will probably nominate you to develop your forging skills and learn our methods at the Forge Center.

In addition, there are common activities that the sect must engage in. Our machines and artificial intelligences do most of the basic work, but they are not as efficient in combat, solving complex problems such as disputes, and mediating conflicts.

Because we know so much information, our processing capacity is limited. We are largely programmed to assist our masters by reminding them of important information and performing simple activities on their behalf.

For example, you may have to fight for the sect, hunt down enemies, find resources, do business, and so on. Of course, in order to take part in any of these activities, you have to prove yourself capable and be properly registered in one of the sect's Centers."

He frowned and asked, "How is that?"

"The sect has several activity Centers. Each of them handles something. For example, the Combat Center is responsible for developing and ranking the sect's warriors. According to your rank in the Combat Center, you can be assigned to different types of activities that involve your powers on the battlefield.

The Diplomatic Center ranks the sect's negotiators. Without a good ranking in the Diplomatic Center, you won't be able to represent the sect in important deals.

Finally, there are Centers that focus on the sect's internal activities, such as training disciples, as well as those that deal with external activities, such as business, disputes, etc.

Some of these Centers are mandatory in order to carry out your activities as a member of the sect, but others are completely optional."

Vicente more or less understood the division of this place, which was nothing new to him. Having created a force as large as a sect on his journey in Polaris Realm, Vicente was well aware of the divisions needed for such a force to function, as well as its implications.

"There is almost certainly competition between Stonewall members in each of these Centers. This will certainly cause me some headaches within the sect, but there's nothing I can do about it. I have to get through this in order to grow in this place and change the situation for my family as soon as possible.

I'd better deal with these things now. I won't be able to leave this place for a year, so I'd better focus on preparing myself to have the best chance in a year.'

Vicente got up from his seat and walked towards the exit of this extensive library.

"Prisiche, in the state I'm in, can I consume local resources? What will happen if I try to cultivate and process magical resources?"

"Nothing good, master. I don't recommend that you try to cultivate or even consume any resources this coming year. I know it might seem absurd for you to stop cultivating after doing so all the way here, but your current situation is delicate.

Even without trying, you're absorbing mana from your surroundings. So what will happen if you cultivate or absorb resources? Nothing good!

Besides, you'll get stronger in the next few months without even trying. So it's more worthwhile for you to focus your time on other things, like learning more about your profession, training your powers, and adapting to our reality.

Even if you are an Archmage, don't compare the Archmages from where you come from with the Archmages from Anicane. I recommend you fight in one of the city's arenas to experience your current powers and the level of your opponents.

The fights in the arena are guaranteed to be fair, and the referees will stop any opponent who risks your life, so it's a perfect place to train at a high level."

"I see. That sounds good." He muttered as he made his way to the exit of the Library.

He agreed with Prische. Fighting was always the best way to adapt, to look for points to improve and to understand their own situation. But not only that, every activity he would do in this place would be a chance to reach people he could bring over to his side.

'For now, I won't tell Prische about my interest in forming a faction. I'm sure I'm being spied on. And even if these people don't mind me forming a group, I'd better hide my plans as much as possible.'

He followed the slender blonde woman and soon arrived outside the Library, where he planned to visit a few more places before going to the Registration Center to make his Stonewall membership official.

He already had an ID card, but his registration needed to be activated before he could actually start living as part of this force.

"By the way, Prische, if I can't cultivate, I can't use resources, so how can I use these 100,000 stone coins? Is it all just so I can feed myself?" He asked, still not used to this reality.

Chapter 945 The Needs of an Archmage in Light Cay

"In answer to the master, the needs of a magician in Anicane are many, even more so for one who has recently been promoted from a lower level, such as yourself. As I've said before, you will need to feed yourself well over the next few months, which will easily take 40% of what you have each month.

In addition, as a blacksmith, you will need to purchase your own materials to create artifacts. The sect will give you materials to try out, but they won't be enough for you to fully master your new

skills, nor will they be able to be used in artifacts for sale. So you'll need to buy materials. That alone would be enough to bankrupt you, master.

You'll also need to buy books on techniques, access to some services in the city, self-defense artifacts, and forging artifacts.

As I said, the amount you have now is just enough to survive. If you want more than that, you'll have to become an active member of the sect and collect stone coins quickly."

She explained to him, talking a lot as she always did when answering his questions.

Being an artificial intelligence, Prische almost always tried to cover all relevant aspects, even if only briefly.

After her answer, Vicente walked around the central area of Ravengarde, familiarizing himself with the local service options and their respective costs.

There was only one currency in the Light Cay: the stone coin.

As a result, a stone coin wasn't worth much—after all, weak, low-level people used the same currency as the strongest people in the area.

Something simple, of 1st grade item, would cost a few stone coins. But a higher-quality resource, useful to 6th stage magicians, could easily cost tens of thousands of stone coins.

As a result, resources of 7th grade or higher were completely inaccessible to the current Vicente!

'I thought these 100,000 stone coins were a lot, but they're incredibly few. They probably gave it to us to make us spend it quickly and force us to join the sect.'

Vicente understood the situation newcomers like him would be in.

The sect wouldn't really force anyone to do anything that wasn't in their own best interest. But they certainly encouraged newcomers from lower planes to quickly become active members of the sect.

From what Vicente could sense, after a single walk around the available area of the city, if you weren't careful, you could easily spend the 100,000 coins in less than three days.

Ravengarde's possibilities were very good. Someone like him could easily come into contact with 7th grade resources and be dazzled by how easy it could be to gain resources that would cause massacres of continental proportions in their old planes.

However, if one forwent all these opportunities and just use their coins to feed themselves, it was quite possible for such a person to spend the entire first year in Ravengarde without getting involved with the sect.

Yet, this would also mean that at the best time to adapt to this reality, such individuals would waste an entire year doing nothing really productive.

Vicente wouldn't do that even if the sect didn't encourage it, so he wasn't bothered in the least by the encouragement Stonewall gave newcomers like him.

In addition to the high-quality products that were readily available as long as one had coins, the place also had several interesting places to visit.

There was a cultivation tower in the middle of the area, where Vicente knew he wouldn't be able to go for the next year, but which he could use after the break to quickly cultivate. From what he had heard from Prische, this place had special cultivation rooms that could make Archmages advance in a matter of hours.

The problem with this place was the cost. An hour's use of one of the cheaper rooms cost 50,000 stone coins.

Vicente also discovered an artificial pentagram shop where one could not only buy pentagrams and absorb them quickly, but also pay for a special pentagram evolution service.

At this point, he couldn't help but ask Prische about it.

She answered him. "Natural pentagrams can evolve. But even animal pentagrams can be improved. After all, if they are in the same beasts, they can grow with the strengthening of those creatures. So it's possible to improve even that kind of essence."

This intrigued Vicente and made him remember how one of his pentagrams of bestial origin had evolved upon his arrival in Anicane.

"How is that possible?" He asked. "I understand these pentagrams evolve as long as the ones that created them exist. But after absorbing the pentagram, the magician cannot strengthen it."

"The magician themselves doesn't really have that ability. But with a special device, you can temporarily release your pentagram from your body and let it enter an artificial body that will develop it for you," she said, with a twinkle in her eye.

"But that's only for geniuses and the children of great experts, master. It's cheaper to buy a cyan pentagram than to make a green pentagram become cyan, for example."

Buying a cyan pentagram would already be impossible for 99% of the people in this world, so the evolution Prische described was really for very few individuals.

'Fortunately, my pentagrams are already of excellent quality and I don't have to pay for such a service.' Vicente sighed as he continued to learn what an Archmage like himself would need to use during his journey in this place.

Even though it was only his second day in this place and he still had a lot to learn, he wanted to go to the Registration Center later today to activate his Stonewall membership status.

There was no time to lose. The sooner he started, the sooner he could progress beyond this area of Ravengarde.

If the mana out there was so much stronger than here, his cultivation would be swift after his first year in this place!

Even though he was only a 3-Star Archmage, he already felt confident that he would be a peak Archmage or even a newly promoted Magus in just over a year!

He continued his journey through this enormous area of the city, learning more as he continued.

He had arrived in the city a day ago, but hardly anyone in this place seemed to value people like him as much as the books said they did. However, it wasn't because he wasn't valuable to the sect, but because there were hundreds of people like him in this place!

In the past 500 days, 189 people who had been promoted from lower planes had come to Ravengarde and joined the sect!

Just as many had arrived in this area in the previous thousand days, some of whom had already perished, and some of whom had left this area covered with matrices to protect newcomers like Vicente.

Still, there were at least 300 people of similar status to Vicente living in this area, enough for everyone to be used to newcomers from lower planes.

But even though the people there treated people like him naturally, that didn't mean there wasn't respect and special care for people of that status. Everywhere Vicente and Prische went, they were well looked after.

Finally, a few hours after leaving the residential area where his home was, Vicente finished his journey to the Registration Center, a grandiose building that looked like a bunker on the surface.

There were no windows around the large rectangular building, while there were many guards around the area. But even though it didn't have a very welcoming facade, the place was beautiful in its own way, with golden details, a few statues here and there, while people walked from one side to the other.

When he entered the main hall of the Registration Center, Vicente felt like he was entering a large terminal from an airport on Earth. The traffic in the area was really intense, as people with large pieces of luggage made their way from one side of the entrance hall to the other, with a few "baggage" checkpoints.

There were several self-service terminals, counters with probably artificial intelligences similar to Prische at work, and lots of signs and projections showing the directions.

But Vicente didn't need to find himself in this place to know where to go. Prische took the lead, grabbed one of her master's hands and pulled him toward where he needed to go to activate his registration in the sect.

"This way, master." She said in her usual good-natured tone, racing a distance of 300 meters inside this place, reaching one counter available in the area.

She told Vicente to give his ID to the woman on the other side of the counter, which he quickly did and began his journey as a de facto member of Stonewall.

"Vicente Fuller, from Polaris Realm..." The attendant read the form with Vice's basic information, confirming a few things with him before moving on.

"Very well. Your Stonewall membership is now active. Follow your holographic companion around our center to learn more about your functions, rights and duties from now on."

Chapter 946 Vicente's Position in Stonewall

After activating his Stonewall membership, Vicente followed Prische through the Registration Center until they reached an area where several self-service machines were set up along a long gray wall.

"Master, the functions of Stonewall members are confidential, so only the member themselves and their artificial intelligence can know the full range of their activities. Your activities will shape what kind of disciple you will be, so only you have access to them." Prische motioned for Liam to place his ID on the rectangular machine in front of him, where there was a glowing screen and a place to place his ID.

Intrigued by what lay ahead, he complied with the instructions, eager to uncover the mysteries that awaited him along his new path.

Once he inserted his ID into the machine, the screen instantly changed, displaying a vibrant welcome message followed by a menu.

{Wallet}

{Missions}

{Mandatory Activities}

...

{Status}

{Affiliations}

He scrolled through the screen with his finger, surprised by the abundance of options available for him to explore.

But the five options that stood out to him were the most important, from what Prische had told him. But all the options had their advantages for him to observe and understand what they were for.

"Choose {Mandatory Activities} first, Master. That's what you want to know the most right now." She recommended as she pointed in the right direction.

Vicente did as he was told and soon saw a new screen with several text boxes appear for him.

{Forge Center}

{Activity: Develop your forging skills.}

{Goal: Become a 7th stage Blacksmith.}

{Progress: 0%.}

...

{Combat Center}

{Activity: Develop your Warrior skills.}

{Goal: Become a Magus.}

{Progress: 33%.}

...

{Medical Center}

{Activity: Develop your skills as a Doctor.}

{Goal: Become a 6th stage Doctor.}

{Progress: 0%.}

The last of the three mandatory activities lay before Vicente, and he looked at it with a mix of surprise and curiosity. While he had the skills to help treat and heal the injured, he had never studied medicine.

Stonewall didn't seem to see a problem with that, and was interested in developing his latent potential.

Vicente then clicked {Back} and then {Missions} to see what would happen. However, all he got was a message that he still had no missions selected.

"Master, the {Missions} tab only shows the missions you have selected. You need to go to the Missions Wing of the Registration Center where you can add missions to your ID.

I recommend you visit this wing today. Many of the sect's missions are long-term tasks that will take you weeks or months to complete. So it might be interesting to familiarize yourself with them and even choose something.

However, I don't recommend beginning a mission right away. Begin your activities in the three centers listed in your {Mandatory Activities} to get to know your limitations in the Light Cay and the nature of the natives' power." She instructed him, and he couldn't help but agree.

But before he left, Liam continued to explore the options available to him. He clicked on {Affiliations} and once again saw an empty option that he would either have to create a faction/family or join an existing group to develop this option.

From what Prische explained about this option, once he had the {Affiliations} tab working, several interesting things would become available to him. For example, when joining a faction/family, members of the same affiliation were obligated to follow the rules behind that group. There was no need to make contracts. All you had to do was add the affiliation to your ID, and you had to follow the rules of that group.

Leaving an affiliation was very difficult, as only the owner of the faction/family had the ability to undo those connections, so it was something delicate that had to be considered very carefully before any decision was made.

There were other advantages, such as tracking the progress of your party members, knowing the health status of your companions, etc. It was a very useful interface for group management.

From what Prische said, machines like the one he was using could be purchased, so it was very common for group leaders to use them to manage their teams from their own homes.

This was of great interest to Vicente, as it could make it much easier to set up his mafia family in Anicane.

He didn't want to join just any group. He wanted to form his own faction, so this would help him a lot.

After looking at the {Affiliations}, he looked at the {Status}.

{Vicente Fuller}

{Cultivation: 3-Star Archmage.}

{Origin: Polaris Realm.}

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

{Rank: Outer Disciple.}

{Professions: 6th stage Blacksmith.}

He read off his status options, some of which could be tapped, leading to other tabs on this interface, such as {Rank} and {Professions}.

When he clicked on {Rank}, he saw a simple diagram of his possible future positions in the sect, with the rank of Outer Disciple glowing a bright white, while the positions above it were all gray. They went like this: Inner Disciple, Outer Elder, Core Disciple, Inner Elder, Core Elder, and finally, Master.

The order showed the level of power and influence of the sect members, which, as Prische added, was not limited by numbers. That is, there could be 'n' magicians with the same rank, including the highest rank, Master.

However, it was so difficult to achieve the requirements to become a Master that, in normal times, there was hardly a single person in the position of a master, and the leadership of the sect was usually done by a group of core elders.

Anyway, moving on, in the {Wallet} tab, Vicente saw his 100,000 stone coins, where he could store not only those coins but also other special rights.

The stone coins were definitely all he needed to continue his life in the sect. When someone completed missions in the sect, they wouldn't receive merit points, but they would receive stone coins. These coins could buy resources, pay for promotion exams, and much more.

Because of this, Vicente quickly understood that the sect didn't limit a member's methods of growth. If you had a good ability to produce and sell resources, you could easily grow without doing many missions.

But in a world where influence and bargaining power could be as important or more important than merit, how could the sect prevent its members from doing their best to grow?

This brought a smile to Vicente's face, because with this, he could grow exponentially even with cultivation restrictions and without having to earn much merit through missions.

But the {Wallet} tab could hold more than just stone coins. You could earn some special rights in the sect, and until you used them, those points would be available in the {Wallet} tab.

...

In another 10 minutes of analyzing the screen in front of him and his options, Vicente would fully understand the system behind it all and more or less understand how he could grow up in Stonewall.

'From what Prische said, the rank of a member of the sect greatly influences the type of mission and rights he has. If I want better opportunities and better pay, I'll have to become a high-ranking member. The best way for me to do that is to develop my forging skills, learn medicine, and form my new faction.'

He clenched his fists. Having a clearly defined path ahead of him would help him contain his fear of completing his journey and helping his family. So he took his ID out of the machine and looked at Prische.

"Let's go to the Mission Wing. I want to add a few activities to my record before moving on to the Medical Center." He made up his mind how he wanted to start his activities in Stonewall.

Prische walked ahead of him and led him to the wing, where he could learn about the missions available to someone of his power and rank within the sect.

For the first time since his arrival in Anicane, Vicente felt a little more relaxed, enjoying having a well-defined "ladder" of growth to begin his ascent.

He wasn't worried about his cultivation speed or the formation of his faction. In the next year, he would have to deal with many areas of this sect and eventually make his contacts. At the same time, his strength would continue to improve without him even trying. All he had to do was concentrate on following the initial routine given to him by the sect, and he would eventually find his own way to his greater goals.

Then, feeling a little more at ease about the future, Vicente entered the Missions Wing of the Registration Center, where he found an enormous hall with over 10,000 activities available!

Stonewall was a large sect with a well-defined hierarchy, but the Registration Center contained activities and services ranging from things for Outer Disciples to activities for even Inner Elders!

Chapter 947 Choice of Missions

Prisiche quickly directed Vicente to the missions' wing for Outer Disciples, an area of over 300 square meters where holographic walls, small pyramids with screens on their sides, showed different activities.

"Master, there are at least 3,000 missions available for Outer Disciples. Outer Disciples are usually magicians of up to the 6th stage, so there are plenty of activities for them, since most Light Cay beings are limited by that stage," Prisiche said to him.

As much as there were 7th, 8th and even 9th stage beings known in this grandiose world, Magus level experts on their own were already as rare as Sovereigns in Polaris Realm. There were certainly many Magus in Anicane, but they were a small fraction of the community.

If there were 10,000 Magus in Light Cay, then the current generation on the 'island' was probably one of the best in history.

The numbers of experts above this level were even smaller, as were the numbers of Paragons and Archmages in Polaris Realm.

Naturally, the sect's Outer Disciples were the ones who had the most activities to themselves, as they didn't have at their disposal services that reached most of the magical beings on this 'island.'

But that put a doubt in Vicente's mind. "Does the sect only accept magicians from the 6th stage upwards into its ranks? What about newcomers on the magical path? Don't you nurture your own geniuses?"

"We certainly do, master." Prisiche smiled at him. "If you pay attention, there are missions here for Archmages, Paragons and even Sovereigns. But below that, one can't do missions and must focus on the Academy."

Stonewall had a complex system behind its operation. Vicente didn't have to worry about most of it, as he was already an Archmage. But if he had been a local who managed to enter Stonewall at the

beginning of his magical journey, he would have had to go through the Academy, one of the sect's Centers responsible for training juniors.

The Academy, however, was in another part of the city, outside this area protected by formations, where newbies from lower planes had to stay for a period.

Prisiche added, "If you must know, to enter the sect one must have a minimum cultivation of Mage or receive an invitation from at least one Outer Elder. But honestly, below the 3rd stage, hardly anyone can join our force."

"So that's it... Truly different." Vicente understood a little more about the system of the force he was now part of.

"For someone with your characteristics, master, I recommend the missions for medium and high level Archmages." She pointed toward the more complicated missions for Outer Disciples.

Stonewall classified missions according to the minimum level required to complete them. If a mission depended on at least a 1-Star Archmage, then the mission rating was 1-Star Archmage, simple as that.

Prisiche stopped next to a screen 10 meters long by 3 meters high and pointed to it. "Here are some missions I think you'll find interesting. I recommend choosing 2 to 4 of them and not coming back here until you've completed at least half of them."

Vicente looked at the over 50 missions available on that large screen, missions ranging from 4-Star and even 9-Star of the 6th stage.

He quickly identified a few that caught his eye because they were either interesting to him or strange, the kind he didn't expect to find there.

{Supply Mission}

{Activity: acquire or negotiate essential supplies for the sect.}

{Requirement: reach level one of the Diplomacy Center.}

{Rank: 5-Star Archmage.}

{Prize: 70,000 stone coins and a fraction of the profit from the deal (if successful and if it exceeds the mission creator's expectations).}

...

{Magical Ritual Mission}

{Activity: attend and learn a magical ritual important to the sect (for more details, accept the mission).}

{Requirement: none.}

{Rank: 6-Star Archmage.}

{Reward: 50,000 stone coins.}

...

{Artifact Recovery Mission}

{Activity: recover the Elemental Command Scepter lost during an external activity from an Inner Disciple of the sect (for more details, accept the mission).}

{Requirement: permission to leave the sect's core area.}

{Rank: 7-Star Archmage.}

{Reward: 100,000 stone coins.}

All the available missions had extremely interesting payoffs for someone who only had their 100,000 stone coins.

"Why would a lower-ranking mission pay more than a high-ranking one?" Vicente asked Prische.

"The payment is according to the difficulty of the mission, master. Its classification only shows the minimum level required. But, for example, a 6-Star Archmage can take the magical ritual quest and the supply quest, but it may take him longer to complete the supply quest.

Its requirement increases the difficulty of the quest and, even if you've already completed this requirement, you may not have the individual at your disposal that you must negotiate with.

The ritual mission, on the other hand, can probably be completed immediately, as long as you have the minimum power required to succeed in it."

He nodded, showing that he understood that point while he looked at other missions.

She took advantage of his silence to continue advising him. "I suggest you take on missions with requirements, like the supply mission, master. This will help you learn new skills, force you to take part in more of the sect's activities and, in the end, will pay you more.

As much as this means you'll have to dedicate more of your time to these missions, most of them can only be completed by disciples who can leave the area we're in or have skills confirmed by one of the sect's Centers. You don't have much in your favor at the moment, so accepting missions you'll be able to do in a few months or after a year is best."

Vicente nodded at her as he read out another interesting mission.

{Training Mission}

{Activity: train with the Outer Disciple *** in the core area of the city (for more details, accept the mission)}.

{Requirement: sign a contract accepting the consequences of the training, relinquishing a later quest for revenge for training injuries.}

{Rank: 6-Star Archmage.}

{Prize: 55,000 stone coins}.

"Do Outer Disciples launch quests too?" He asked her.

"No. Normally, only Elders can do that. So this disciple probably has a master within the sect, who has at least the function of Outer Elder. This mission must be to help this disciple temper himself better. Missions like this are quite common, master."

She paused for a moment and looked him in the eye. "By the way, you should accept this mission. It doesn't seem too difficult for you, and it will help you understand your current powers better."

"Don't missions like this have some kind of deadline? Isn't it better if I carry on with my obligatory activities for a few weeks and only then look at it?" He asked.

"They do, but usually disciples have up to three weeks to start a mission like this once they accept it. That's more than enough time for you to learn what's necessary before fighting this disciple."

Vicente pondered for a moment, feeling that he would also improve his cultivation over the next few weeks, probably reaching 4-Star. Besides, he was really curious to test his powers on Anicane. He had improved a lot since leaving Polaris Realm, and had also significantly evolved the abilities of his pentagrams.

So he quickly accepted three missions, the {Training Mission}, {Magical Ritual Mission} and {Supply Mission}.

With these three missions and his compulsory activities, he should be busy for the next year.

Prisiche guided him to the self-service machines in the area, quickly showing him how to add missions to his ID.

The moment he did, he could access the hidden details of the missions, learning the names of the individuals he would have to meet to complete each of them. They were all very detailed, with the

names of magicians, the places where one could find them, the process for completing the requirements, and even the rules for redeeming the prizes.

For the moment, Vicente just kept in the back of his mind that he should start solving the requirements of these missions soon, but he wasn't in a hurry to start today.

Before that, he intended to start his mandatory activities, the most important ones for him to kick-start his journey inside Stonewall.

But he wouldn't do that until tomorrow. After hours of walking around the central area of Ravengarde, he needed to follow Prisiche's advice to eat and rest.

As soon as he left the Registration Center, he headed for a restaurant that Prisiche had helped him choose, where he would soon sit at an individual table and wait for his first meal in Anicane.

As most of the beings in Light Cay looked very human, he imagined their preferences wouldn't be so different from his own, which could mean tasty food for him.

But regardless of the taste, he was prepared to eat anything to help his body adapt more quickly to this place!

Chapter 948 Back in the Polaris Realm

While Vicente went ahead with his initiation into Stonewall, Lauren was showing the first signs of waking up after an entire month of cultivating in the same place he had left her.

Within the roofless tower, Lauren's eyes were restlessly darting around, her pentagrams on the verge of materializing outside her body.

The vibrant glow of her green Magic Gem illuminated the space, causing the mana surrounding her to quiver in response to her presence.

Abruptly, a streak of purple lightning materialized in the sky, capturing the attention of the elf, eagerly awaiting Lauren to end her cultivation.

Ever since Vicente had left and the two elves had gone off to sort out the situation with the new journey of the continent's forces after Vice's departure, this golden-haired woman had stayed behind to wait for Lauren.

Sensing that her wait was over, Syvis stood up, going as close as she could get until she was stopped by the special effects of the tower created by Vicente.

The 6th stage armors also moved, lining up at the exit of this tower, ready to welcome Lauren and carry out the mission passed on by their creator.

Then, about 10 days earlier than Syvis and her companions had first assumed it would take Lauren to finish absorbing Demien Bloodthorne's blood, she opened her eyes.

Simultaneously, the Book of Death showed itself, while her five pentagrams appeared, already transformed after her qualitative improvement. As she became an Archmage, two of Lauren's pentagrams evolved, with her first and third pentagrams reaching the green grade.

Standing up, feeling her cultivation at a new level, Lauren felt a desire for more power, a thirst that would accompany any newly promoted magician.

With an extra space available for her to complete, she could now hunt down her sixth pentagram and reach the true peak of her powers!

However, after stabilizing her powers at the level of a Beginner Archmage, the power rank she knew was valid for Polaris Realm, she couldn't help but think of her brother.

"Vicente." She said as she came across the tower enveloping her, quickly spotting several inscriptions of Vice there, ancient artifacts of his, and even a bronze bust.

'He's gone.' She tried to calm herself as she felt a pang in her heart, gradually letting her powers return to her body, watching her surroundings with longing.

For her, it had all happened in the blink of an eye. In a moment, he had given her Demien's blood and then she had closed her eyes, opened them and found herself in this current situation, in the 6th stage and surrounded by this metal structure.

'I have to get back to the family. Weeks may have passed and the vampires may be acting up again.'

With that thought, she headed for the exit of the tower. But as soon as she set foot outside this area, she came across several 6th stage armors kneeling down and welcoming her.

"Welcome again, Miss. Congratulations on your success in reaching the 6th stage," said the intelligent armors left by Vicente to help her and talk about everything that had happened.

Lauren was very intelligent. She immediately understood what they were there for and even though she saw the elf with the golden hair and 6th stage cultivation, she stopped where she was and waited.

The main robotic armor said to her as it approached her, "Our creator has successfully left for the Supreme Continent.

Before he left, he created us and asked us to advise you and talk to you about everything that happened that day.

After you started cultivating, a trio of elves approached him and made a deal with our creator.

When he left, two of the elves went ahead with their plans, leaving this woman to talk to you."

"Do you have any news of what has happened on the continent since he left? How long exactly have I been in seclusion?" She asked as she looked at the pointy-eared woman watching her with a smile on her face.

"It has been a month, Miss, since our master's departure. However, we remain unaware of any developments on the continent during this time. Nevertheless, this elf may possess the answers to your inquiries."

Lauren nodded and made her way to Syvis' side, while the robotic armors followed close behind.

"Lauren Fuller, congratulations on reaching the 6th stage," Syvis said sincerely, aware that this human woman was Vicente's chosen one to lead humanity against the monsters in his absence.

"My name is Syvis. I am an ally of your brother and an elder of the Elves Tribe. Before he left, Vicente made an agreement with us to help us complete our objectives for the Supreme Continent while we helped the Fuller family deal with the calamity in Polaris Realm.

By now, the rest of your family should know about our agreement and be preparing to fight side by side with the coalition of tribes from Majestic Treefrog Grove. My fellow tribesmen took care of that while you were in seclusion."

Lauren didn't doubt it, having already heard from Vicente about his encounter with the elves of Majestic Treefrog Grove, but also what the Supreme Continent must be like and his mission in going to that place.

"What is the current situation on the continent, Syvis? Do you know anything about my family's situation during my seclusion?" She asked what concerned her the most, leaving to consider the partnership with the elves and beasts of Majestic Treefrog Grove for the future.

Syvis nodded positively. "I know a few things. Your family is fine. They escaped from the main Metal City before Vicente advanced to the Supreme Continent. Right now, they're hiding in a metal city built by Vicente. But you'll have to go to one of the Cataclysm Order outposts and contact your family's people to get this information.

All I know is that your family is well and commanding Vicente's forces and the order in hiding. Anyway, the continent isn't at its worst, if you ask me. Vicente eliminated the strongest of the vampire coalition before he left. There were five vampire Archmages left, but none of them were as strong as Demien and one of them has already died at the hands of my companions from Majestic Treefrog Grove.

The other four, however, escaped after hunting down some human Archmages. I'm afraid they're in hiding now, in seclusion, to process the blood they've absorbed and ascend to the level of Intermediate Archmages."

Lauren's eyebrows drew together, as she couldn't help but turn pale. "That's terrible."

"Yes. The upside is that, for the next 10 years or so, we'll be free of 6th stage vampires. You and the others will have that time to get stronger and prepare for the final showdown against the vampires.

In just over 10 years, we will either defeat the strongest of the vampires or we will die and all will be lost," Syvis said in a decisive tone, with no doubt that everything would be decided then.

She doesn't expect Vicente to generate results for them in the meantime. In fact, everyone left behind is fully satisfied with what Vice has done for the continent. By killing the strongest vampires and leaving only four tough enemies behind, he has set the continent on an interesting path.

Vicente had solved the worst of the crisis, given weapons to the continent's forces and helped many to grow stronger. He had done more than anyone could ask for, so it was the duty of the forces left behind to overcome the ultimate challenges with their own hands!

Lauren clenched her fists as she thought about it, for a moment looking up at the sky and imagining that she should do her best to ensure that they went to Vicente and not that he had to come to them.

A smile appeared on her face as she swore an oath in her brother's name.

'You gave me the blood of Demien Bloodthorne. When the time comes, I'll give the blood of those damn 6th stage vampires to Annie, Nina, Nova, Lina and Layla!

Vicente, one day we will make our way to the Supreme Continent. Don't think you'll be alone in this place!'

Syvis saw the smile on Lauren's face and remained silent, but she couldn't help feeling a shiver run down her spine. She felt that perhaps the vampires were in more trouble than they were.

After a moment's silence, however, she asked, "What are you planning to do now? I know you must be eager to return to your family's side. But you've just advanced a stage. It might be interesting for you to hunt down your sixth pentagram first. This will give you more power and methods of protecting yourself and your family."

"You're right. Before I go back, I must first get a cyan pentagram for the space of my sixth essence."

With that decided, the two, followed by the 6th stage armors, set off from the area of that metal tower.

Chapter 949 Situation of the Fuller Family

Meanwhile, to the northeast of the Kenyth Empire, in one of the safest areas of the state, untouched for most of the calamity so far, there was a metal city hidden among the vegetation of a lush forest.

In this green place, marked by flat terrain and nearby beaches, various metallic creatures in the shape of beasts, such as birds and monkeys, could be seen flying from one side to the other as if they were living beings native to the place.

But under close observation, one would realize that these were not natural creatures of this area, but artificial ones, created by the most talented and powerful blacksmith the continent had given birth to.

'The northern sector is clear.' One of Vicente's most unique robotic armors said as it flapped its metallic wings in the air, hovering not far above the level of the trees.

'The south is clear too,' said a metallic horse, its eyes glowing an intense red as it ran like a wild animal.

Deeper into this area guarded by animalistic robotic armor, were men armed with humanoid armor, but camouflaged with vines and tree leaves.

Some were even covered in mud near one of the swamps in the area, ignoring the strong smell of the mud while maintaining their vigilant stance.

The metal city there was not extensive, with only 8,000 inhabitants at the moment. However, it was the current headquarters of the Fuller family, the most important place for humanity to protect in the current context of Polaris Realm.

Nina and Annie lived there, as well as Nova, Layla and Lina, the core of the most important continental force in the fight against vampires and monsters!

At the center of this place, sitting in a lotus position on top of the tallest building in the city, was a silver-haired, pointy-eared individual, a 6th stage elf.

As Syvis had already told Lauren, the elves had made contact with the Fuller family. Although she herself didn't know exactly where the family was, one of the elves with Intermediate Archmage cultivation had been positioned with Vicente's family to protect them.

In this city, there were also some names Vicente knew, such as Rory's father, who was currently a Low-level Paragon, but also Newton, Benson and Bart, all of whom were on the same level as Rory's father.

Prisiche was also around, as well as having a similar cultivation to these individuals. She was currently Nina's chief advisor and was rarely without Vicente's young sister.

As for his wives, the three had recently finished a seclusion, after having absorbed parts of the blood sent by Vice to their group weeks ago.

All three had reached the end of the 5th stage, having strengthened significantly to the point where they already felt they could reach the legendary 6th stage in the future.

Nina had also taken her chance and reached the Low-level of the 5th stage, having even achieved her fifth pentagram.

After Vicente's departure, they had all improved a lot, taking advantage of the chance he had given them, but also not making mistakes that would cost them their lives.

Even stronger, they were all living safely in this little-known city on the continent, intending not to put themselves in danger for at least the next two years.

In their opinion, the continent was at its most sensitive now that Vicente had left. Given what they represented to vampires and monsters, it made sense to stay in seclusion and let the monsters forget a little about how terrible Vice was.

But that was temporary. As soon as the situation stabilized, they intended to move against their enemies, not wanting to wait to be rescued.

Just as Lauren had thought, they wanted to reach the Supreme Continent on their own and show Vicente that his efforts had not been in vain.

Meanwhile, they lived their lives quietly in this city, camouflaged by nature.

Even Annie was committed to following in her father's footsteps, having already started her activities at the local academy, where none of the ordinary inhabitants of the area knew who they were.

Despite everything, Vicente and his family wanted Annie to have an ordinary childhood until she awakened her powers.

While she was studying at the academy, Nova and the other three women were gathered in an underground building, from where they had been running the Cataclysm Order since they arrived in the city.

All three had serious expressions on their faces, their attention fully focused on resolving the calamity on the continent.

"So Lauren has awoken?" One of them asked after Newton brought the news that had just arrived in the city.

He nodded affirmatively, saying, "The elves sent us this message saying that she should look for us in the next few days. Before then, she's going to hunt down her sixth pentagram and make sure she's not being followed."

"It's a relief to hear about her success." Nova sighed at these words.

Vicente had sent Demian's remaining blood to two different posts. Combined with these two places, five high-level magicians had the chance to absorb Demien Bloodthorne's blood, three of them direct family members and two of them members of the order.

Of the five, however, two were killed while in seclusion, with monsters having attacked them and sacrificed themselves to prevent the strengthening of those two. Only the remaining three left their seclusion safely, having reached Beginner or Intermediate Archmage level.

Besides these, another 14 men were given the opportunity to use the blood of the vampires sent that day, 11 of whom had become stronger, 2 had died and one had not improved his strength.

The pills and potions that were to be made from the vampires' organs were just finishing being prepared, so the group waiting to use them hadn't yet been strengthened by their help.

"With Lauren in the 6th stage and with six pentagrams, we'll be able to do a lot of things to deal with the enemies," Layla said, aware of how effective the Book of Death was.

With the Book of Death reaching its current spiritual quality, they could certainly deal with enemies in a safe and efficient way. It would be enough for Lauren to see the faces of the enemies and she wouldn't even have to fight to eliminate them!

"We have to meet with her first and use our men to understand the situation on the continent. Vicente put a target on his back the moment he revealed the Throne of Darkness to the continent. Let's not do the same with Lauren. We must use her power wisely," Nova said firmly.

Lina agreed as she added something else, "If we can give Nina time to act alongside Lauren, that would be even better. With the power of the two, it's possible that we could defeat the strongest enemies."

"We'll have to go all out at some point, though." Newton stated the obvious, but which these women seemed to want to avoid for the moment. "Nina will grow stronger as she faces powerful opponents. But to do that, we'll need to expose not only her, but also Lauren. So I don't recommend caution for over three years from now.

It's good that we remain hidden for now. But we can't delay too long. The fight will be dangerous one way or another. Better that they have a chance to develop before the enemy leaders awaken."

The three women remained silent for a moment, unable to stop pondering this point. Each of them was a powerful warrior with a lot of combat experience. They knew how valuable the opportunity to fight enemies was.

"Sigh! It's a shame we have to count every positive and negative. But we'll see the best time to let Nina and Lauren show themselves to their enemies. We'll try to hide them as much as possible," Lina said, while the other two agreed.

With that decided, they continued with the next matters they had to resolve, with Newton there to help them with guidance. As a 5th stage scholar in several of his professions, he was invaluable to any group on the continent.

Meanwhile, they tried to think minimally about how Vicente was doing and how long it would take for them to see him again.

As much as they looked forward to it and wished him well, they didn't want to be overwhelmed by the thought of how far away they were from their dear husband. Besides, they really had enough problems to keep them busy most of the time they weren't cultivating.

Chapter 950 Nina and Annie

While Vicente's women were working to keep the family situation stable, safe and secretive, Nina was with a group of Paragons in that same metal city.

As Vicente had recommended a long time ago, she wore a mask on her face that altered not only the appearance of her face but also of her cyan Magic Gem.

But the group at her side at this moment comprised individuals who had served her since she was a High-level Mage, reliable warriors who knew her real identity.

"Keep training hard. We'll get permission from the family soon, and then we'll go into combat," Nina said to the men training in this area of the local order's altar, where there were several training platforms.

Her men were fighting in different corners of this area, each of them bearing on their chests the symbol of the group they were part of, Sentinels of the Order, the primary guardians of humanity today.

"Yes, Commander!" Several of them shouted simultaneously, while a blonde woman, who could take any man's breath, walked two steps behind Nina.

"Miss, I've heard some rumors about the end of your older sister's seclusion," Prische said to Nina.

As much as Newton was talking to Nova and the others about it now, several important members of the Cataclysm Order and the Fuller family were already aware of the news.

Nina stopped when she heard Prische, and couldn't help but turn and look at this woman, whom Vicente had left as her advisor.

"What? Is this serious?" A smile shaped itself on Nina's beautiful young face, which, even hidden by a false appearance, was as beautiful as she was naturally.

"She's hunting her sixth pentagram right now. As soon as she gets her sixth essence, Lauren should find a way to us." Prische confirmed what she had heard, which she sincerely believed to be solid and true information.

Nina clenched her fists as she stood in the middle of this training area, considering the significance of the end of Lauren's seclusion.

'Nova and the others probably won't let me go. We've just moved and Annie needs somewhere safe for at least a year or two before we risk it. But Lauren's success is also a guarantee that we'll face the strongest enemies left on the continent. I have to prepare myself. When the time comes, I'll join her and sacrifice myself for the continent in the same way that my older brother did.' Nina was determined to fight the monsters and finish what Vicente had started.

She felt indebted to him and didn't blame him for any problems. In fact, she saw him as a hero for the continent and the Fuller family, who should never be blamed for not having completely resolved this crisis.

Now he was on the Supreme Continent working as best he could to help his family and the Polaris Realm, so she didn't want to let herself get carried away by sad thoughts about his departure. She wanted to focus all her time on getting stronger and helping the humanity take back its power, ultimately eliminating the vampires from the continent.

'The continent's forces can't wipe out that damned race, but maybe Lauren and I can. As long as I become an Archmage in the future, I'll certainly help big sister a lot in eliminating those parasites!' Nina formed a determined smile on her face before turning and heading back the way she had come.

As much as one side of her wanted to leave and go hunting and then meet up with her sister, she was going to follow her family's plans, keep Annie safe and prepare herself better before putting herself in the spotlight.

The current Nina was much more mature than the little sister Vicente had throughout most of his journey in Polaris Realm. She was much calmer to act little by little than her explosive speed of cultivation would suggest.

'With the end of the vampires, one day I'll find my way to the Supreme Continent. By then, the family will be stable and Annie will certainly be a powerful magician.'

"It's good to know that Lauren is on the move. For now, stay tuned for more news about my sister. In the meantime, we'll continue with our plans to prepare for the future. Our most important enemies won't be back for another decade, so we have a lot of things to do."

"I'll keep an eye out." Prisiche smiled, enjoying seeing Vicente's sister's current position.

As she looked up at the sky, she couldn't help but think of that formidable man who had defeated her in the past. 'Vicente, you have built an excellent girl... She will become as well known and powerful as you in the future. I'll make sure her name isn't forgotten either.'

They moved on, soon leaving that Cataclysm Order post, dressed in more ordinary clothes and masks disguising their real identities.

When they stopped in front of the academy at the end of the afternoon, they greeted Annie, who was smart enough to know that she shouldn't mention the names of her real family members and should assume the identity of a refugee from the calamity in this city.

But hidden in the shadows, men from the Cataclysm Order kept their presence close enough to Annie to act if necessary and protect the current Altar Master.

Around Annie's neck, beneath her clothes, was the Cataclysm Moon Pendant, an artifact that Nova, Nina and the others made sure Annie wore for at least six hours every day.

In particular, they made sure she wore it mainly when she was at the academy, as they preferred her to have her problems concentrated inside this place under their control.

Her karma had been altered for weeks, but nothing too serious had happened to attract their attention. However, it was in everyone's interest that the sacred item from the Cataclysm Order helped generate the best kind of power and talent possible, so they were following Vicente's recommendations for using it.

"How were your lessons today?" Nina asked as she took Annie in her arms, while the young girl giggled subtly.

"Well, I'd say. Today I learned about what the continent was like before the calamity... It was such a magical and beautiful place. It's a shame things have changed so much." Annie said in her most formal and intelligent language for her age.

But even with good words, she couldn't hide her childish voice and some feelings that children couldn't hide as easily as adults could.

Prisiche smiled at Annie and promised. "Things will still go back to the way they were, little Ann. Perhaps you'll finish the work of you-know-who and bring joy back to these lands."

"Hmm, we'll certainly give you room for that. Just work hard at the academy and one day you'll get your chance." Nina nodded to her niece in agreement with Prisiche.

"I'll do my best!" Said the little girl as she showed a hand sign, swearing her words.

The two adult women laughed back at the simple residence where they lived with Annie and Nova, where, in fact, they only stayed when Annie was at home.

The place still seemed a little unfamiliar to them. With so little time in this city, they still had to get used to this 'home'.