

## The Noble 376

### Chapter 376: Greed

"We're almost there, Sir Clarens. Although it has been a bit complicated, the damaged key we found in the town lord's office was important; even though it's broken, it would be impossible to open it without that key. It's a very strong protection barrier, and the vault's material is extremely hard. It's a pity that, once we open it, the vault's barriers will become useless."

"What! Something so valuable will be damaged!"

"Come on, Clarens, that doesn't matter. We mustn't be too greedy. Besides, there's a chance that information on how to make it and so on is also inside, so what? Possibly also the core of the barrier, since we haven't found it anywhere else."

"Ugh! I think you're right. Yes, let's think positively."

With confirmation from one of the magicians who was in charge of unlocking the vault barrier, many people's expectations were high.

Some of the group watched intently, while the rest continued to explore the outskirts to make sure they didn't miss anything of value in the city lord's mansion. It was imperative not to leave any corner unchecked; there could still be something highly valuable.

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"Tsk, they're really wasting their time. Well, this barrier is so advanced that even if they were within soul conversion range, they would fall into it. Hmm... and it's very good, detailed and real; it even fills in the missing spaces. It's also based on mist runes... hmm, it's very compatible with she!"

"W-who?"

"It's nothing... or rather, Ophelia, why are you holding my arm so tightly?"

Not that I'm complaining about her chest rubbing against me, but I'm a little cautious. Not long ago, she bit me and injected a seriously lethal poison, which, due to her blessing, affected me a little; although I quickly purified it.

But anyone else of my rank would have died without salvation.

'Well, it was my fault... I got excited. It's a good thing she didn't ask where the hell a second member came from.'

"I-I... my legs...a-are still a little shaky."

"Hmm... I feel like that was only half the truth. Well, whatever. It's true, after a few hours of doing it, it's weird that you can walk. Do you want a massage? I'm very good at it."

While everyone was excitedly searching for and collecting treasures from the well-kept city, I—seeing no point in helping them—discreetly looked for a secluded spot with Ophelia.

We had only recently finished, but in my defense, I hadn't let my guard down and was always alert; not to mention that, technically, I was getting stronger.

That way, I could better cope with anything that happened. That was the obvious thing to do.

Besides, the good stuff was just beginning now that we had arrived at the city lord's mansion.

"Ye-yes, ah!... n-no... hmm... y-yes?... n-no, it's not necessary."

"Why are you hesitating so much? It'll be quick. I have to take care of you, you know? You may be able to endure much more than any member of my harem, but that doesn't mean you don't accumulate fatigue. In fact, I feel a you little tired now that you're holding my arm. Come on, I do this very often to the members of my harem."

"W-who...? Who are they?... Are they pretty? How many are there?"

"Huh? Why does your voice sound heavier and darker? Hmm... well, they definitely are, the most beautiful things that exist. And let's see, they are... hmm, can I count her? Yes, she's just playing hard to get and being tsundere. So that would be... no, wait, damn it, I really let my guard down with you. Ahem... I, David, have been single since birth. I don't have a harem or anything."

"B-but several times you've said that-"

"Ahem, minor details, lovely Ophelia. Ahem, let's not get into each other's personal lives. Remember, we only have a carnal relationship, that's all."

'Damn, could it be because her first impression is similar to Silvia's?'

That timid attitude makes me let my guard down; I feel like that's why talking to her feels like talking to Silvia, and it comes too easily to me. I must remember who I am right now and what I'm doing; after all, the end is near.

"I-I'm sorry."

"Well, as long as you understand. On another note, what do you think of the art I gave you? How do you feel about wielding a whip? It's one of the few weapons with a long range, and with your personality, I think it suits you, not to mention that you already know: whips, poisonous snakes. I feel a lot of compatibility... or do you want another weapon?"

"N-no... it's fine."

"I really don't understand why you keep acting nervous and hesitant. I mean, shouldn't you be a little more confident by now? At least with me, since I've seen and done everything there is to do, even counting the number of your moles, and you have a lot!"

"I-I-I-I... uek!"

"Yeah, I guess it's just your personality. And that's why I originally thought you looked a lot like my friend..."

Silvia stopped acting timid around me and even uses violence against my defenseless self, but it doesn't look like she's going to stop anytime soon. I'm not complaining, it's fun to tease her.

"W-who is she? Is she a woman?"

"Yes, and well... a tsundere who's not very honest about her feelings, who has a hard time expressing herself and going after the guy she likes. You know, she's a pain in the ass. I always tell her that if she's so hesitant and dishonest, she'll miss her chance."

"..."

"She always says she has everything under control and that I don't need to get involved, but she's not doing anything! She's a fool! Does she think that by doing nothing, the guy she likes will just come to her?"

"..."

"That's not how things work; she has to fight for it with everything she's got, especially because the other guy is a bastard who attracts women like flies."

"..."

"Yes, she's very frustrating, annoying, shy, for some reason now tsundere... and one of those who hits people, the wretched thing."

"..."

"Ahem! But even with all that, she's my best friend forever, and I love her very much. And I will definitely prevent her from exploding."

"E-e-exploding?"

"Yes, to top it all off, the idiot is potentially dangerous to herself and those around her... Ah, well, I guess it doesn't matter. The point is, don't be like her, understand?"

"Y-yes."

Yes, it's very easy to talk to her; without thinking, things came out of me again, but I don't think it matters if she knows I have a friend like Silvia.

I didn't mention any names, I didn't say anything that would give me away, so it's fine. Besides, it's good to prevent another tsundere from appearing in this world.

Umm... but speaking of friends...

"But Ophelia, what did that Fatima want from you last night? You two moved away and talked about something... is she your friend?"

"Ah, I-I... I can't say."

"Oh! You didn't lie to me because you knew I'd find out, right? I guess you don't want to tell me... She must be a client and you have a confidentiality agreement or something, right?"

"...I-i-I..."

"Nah, don't answer if you don't want to. Didn't I tell you? It's just a carnal relationship, I shouldn't meddle in your private life either."

"/\_\"

"What? Why the sad face? Did you want to tell me something? Ah! ... They opened it! I wonder if this will break the..."

[[Haaah~ I guess it was inevitable... Greed will truly accompany humanity no matter the era. Haaah... But like a weapon, it depends on how it's used.]]

"Huh? What the hell is this all of a sudden?"

We could be talking, but I was paying attention to what my brother and the other leaders were doing. I wanted to see if what was in the vault was the real deal.

And I wasn't very surprised that, when the barrier broke, the city barrier broke at the same time, although it was only partial and only one of its functions, it seemed that it wasn't a simple situation.

From what I understood about this barrier, I knew that was a possibility, and I wasn't really surprised that everything around us changed: the almost new and well-kept gardens and facade of the mansion became ruins covered in weeds.

I wasn't surprised because I could see this coming from the beginning. Illusions and I don't get along: I have my blessing that prevents any illusions that alter the mind.

And the others who use mana, like this one, to recreate things. I can see through them with my eyes of lust.

But what does surprise me is that voice. There was nothing like it in my memory; it seemed to come from where my brother was, but it spread throughout the city.

[[I don't know you or what intentions brought you to my city. To you, I will only be an old man from an era and a kingdom whose name, hopefully, has not yet been lost to history.]]

"...Hah, right."

Now that I think about it, there might be something here that I didn't know. Since, technically, when my alternate self and Willian came, it wasn't a virgin place... If I think about it, this is a classic: an elderly voice, speaking grandiloquently and with an existential tone... There is some kind of legacy here.

'Is it because of the sprout? Nah, that's impossible.'

[[That you have come this far... as fate would have it. Behold my legacy: let the greed that burns in your hearts decide whether you are worthy of inheriting what my city left behind.]]

"Oh, a theme of greed. Hah, they're disappearing. Oh! Tests. This will be great."

"D-David, they... we..."

"Oh, calm down. It must be a test. Haven't you been through one before? You know, old people who have no family, they just can't die in peace and sometimes they leave legacies like this... Well, we'll be gone soon too, get ready, don't stray from me."

"Y-yes."

Well, it varies from legacy to legacy, but if they were group trials, if we stay in touch, they'll probably keep us together. I really wasn't expecting anything like that, but if there are additional profits, I won't complain.

[[Disrespectful boy, who are you calling a lonely old man? I had family and many friends. Besides, do I look like an old man?]]

'Shit, he heard me.'

Instead of disappearing, the source of the voice manifested in front of me and looked very angry.

Chapter 377: Perverse Legacy

"Ah, old man, did you hear what I said?"

[[More than clear, kid.]]

'Shit.'

Me and my big mouth. I knew why we weren't disappearing; it seems the old man heard me. Now he's standing in front of me, and well, he doesn't look that old, around 40, but in my defense, his voice does sound old.

Now that it is in front of me, it seems to be just a soul. Being a ghost or spirit is not impossible, but remaining conscious for so long is.

'Hmm, maybe he made a deal with some god to keep his soul.'

There are really many ways to leave a legacy: relying solely on your methods, borrowing a little divine territory, like William's legacy, leaving it in a dangerous and inaccessible place, making some deal with a god or powerful entity that transcends the ages so that it is inherited correctly, and so on.

All of those are considered legacies of some kind, and with my skill—which I haven't really been able to use—I can inherit it completely, skipping all the trials and annoying stuff.

But I don't think it's worth it since I only have three attempts and only the 14 god-hunting legacies are worthwhile.

I think raising its rank would give me more uses, but I don't know how to raise its rank. I was already lucky that with the last one, I didn't need to activate it and...

'Wait, now that I think about it, I didn't use it, but I avoided all the trials and traps along the way. Hmm... that would mean that—'

"D-David, the s-sir is angry."

"Ah! Oh, sorry, old man, I got distracted for a moment. What were we talking about?"

[[Disrespectful brat, I already told you I'm not an old man. Not only do you speak ill of me, but you even ignore me. Hey, little bastard, I—]].

Suddenly, possibilities for the skill I had dusted off came to me, but I was interrupted by Ophelia, who was very scared of the old man, who was looking at us—or rather, looking at me—with a very frown, because I ignored him and got lost in my thoughts.

Just as I am doing right now, well, I am listening to it, but it is just a reprimand and it is not important.

I wasn't really afraid; I am a perfect counterattack against spirits no matter how strong they are. I can counteract their strengths, so it doesn't matter if he's angry with me or not; I've even analyzed the barrier: even if he uses it on me to attack me, I can break my way out.

[[And... Haaah~... whatever, I'm too old to argue with you.]]

"So you are an old man, you're just pretending with your appearance."

[[It's just a saying. I died at forty-nine, ugh!!... Haah~, I'm not going to argue with a brat.]]

'I think that's already very close, plus you're not counting how long you've been dead, huh? That's denial of reality.'

I mean, he's a damn centuries-old spirit; he's old no matter how you look at it. I wanted to complain, but I think he's already very angry, but he didn't seem seriously angry.

Maybe with the right words he'll still let me into his legacy; I wanted to try my luck to see if I could get something good out of it.

"Ahem!, so, venerable sir, why haven't we been included in your great legacy? I mean, it's just Ophelia and me left. Isn't that a bit too exclusive?"

[[Yes, only the two of you were left out. I see that you understand what this is about and want to enter, but you and that girl are not going to enter my trials.]]

"What, just because I called you a lonely old man? That's so mean. Well, what could I expect from someone who created that barrier to deceive people. Does it amuse you to see how everyone is happy to get pieces of illusions with no real value. What a twisted mind."

This old man doesn't want to negotiate, so I don't care about anything else. I'm going to find where he keeps his treasures on my own; if it's around here, I'm sure I can find it with my Eyes of Lust.

[[Ugh! I'm a spirit, but I feel like my blood pressure is going to rise. Ugh! Before I get really angry, I'll tell you that you won't be going in because you two are the only ones who didn't feel greed for the city's treasures.]]

"Oh, I'm sorry for the misunderstanding. You're not a lonely, mean, sadistic old man, ahem!.... So that means we'll get our reward without a trial, right?"

[[Yes, ugh... I honestly know what you were doing and I want to throw you in there, but rules are rules, and you didn't feel an ounce of greed for my legacy. You fulfilled the conditions in a way that I regret not having foreseen.]]

"Oh, man, start over there! Then I shouldn't worry about being disrespectful. Besides, why don't you accept that you are indeed old? You're a spirit with signs of baldness."

I mean, if he mentioned rules it means he got help and it's not totally under his control. Although it's still too early to conclude that it's the same. In a way it's like Mirk, that even though he didn't want to give us the keys and open the vaults for us, he was obligated to do it no matter how he felt at the time.

[[Damn kid! ugh! To think that someone would evade the test like that... goddess Elyth... what terrible karma I still carry, that even in my last moment of consciousness I have to meet someone like that.]]

"Elyth?...Ah!, the goddess of illusions. do you worship an evil goddess?!"

[[What!!! How dare you, you brat, what evil goddess? Elyth is a benevolent goddess that my family has always faithfully followed, and though it was only by inheritance, having her blessing was my greatest pride in life. Even if it's against the rules I-I]]

"Hey, calm down, man. I'm just saying things have changed around here, you know? She's on the side of the demons now."

[[What!!! What's this nonsense you're saying!!!?]]

"Well, that's only on this continent; who knows outside of it. She's more of the neutral faction. I guess in your era she supported the humans on this continent."

Yes, it's only mortals who draw such clear boundaries between supposed good and evil. What here is an evil goddess elsewhere is a benevolent goddess.

It all depends on the circumstances. Even Aeloria is feared in some places as a perverse and dystopian goddess, and I agree with those people: they are nice people, whom I will later visit.

[[...Boy, I don't understand what you're talking about.]]

"Nothing, don't listen to me. Anyway, give me the rewards; I hope I'll be as good as if I had to pass the tests of your legacy."

[[Fuck, you're obviously full of greed! Why doesn't the legacy suck you in?]]

"Nah, I don't really expect much from such a remote legacy, but maybe I'll find some good stuff for the girls in my harem. Get out what you got, old man."

[[Haaah~, it's a pain talking to you. Well, here's what you can pick. You and that girl can pick three total each. That's your privilege, since normally you could only pick one. Haah~ six items wasted on two perverts]].

"S-so-sorry "

"Don't listen to him, Ophelia. The old man is only complaining to himself; he can't do anything to us. Oh, let's see what's good here."

Suddenly a screen appeared in front of me. I found it interesting; it reminded me of what I thought was a system. I saw several things, including what the group thought they found to be the 'magic, space, or the poison healing magic, there were also various materials and arts...

'Oh, there's a vitality-based poison art. Phew~, lucky I closed the deal before I got here. Well, it's not as powerful as the one I gave him and it's from daggers... let's see, what else is there?'

'Hey, don't you think it's more important to ask the old man about the evidence?'

'Ah, right.'

That old man distracted me, but there was no forgetting why I came here. Anyway, I was already looking for the entrance to the test site and the legacy.

If I found it and that old man didn't give me something good, I would break in with Qetesh's help and see what's inside.

There was also the fact that my theory could be wrong and that, in fact, it was in that legacy that my brother was crippled, which would make this old man my enemy.

But first, he had to understand what kind of place the old man had taken them to.

"Venerable old man."

[[Fuck, talking to you is going to kill me even though I'm already dead, and I have a name. It's Artur; call me that instead of old man. Also, don't get distracted; I'll soon be going to supervise the last three tests,

so you have to choose or someone else will take it for you. Or are you not satisfied with only being able to take three among all these things? If so, you have to moderate yourself. If you don't know, this world has something known as karma, it's an invisible law that-]]

"Old man, don't lecture me about karma, I already know that. It's not about rewards; inside your test is someone very important to me, and I'm worried about him getting hurt or wounded. So even if it's not necessary, I want to go."

[[Oh... brat, even though you seemed like a trashy person, I sense true and pure intentions. You seem to be honest with what you said; I see that even you would put yourself in danger for someone else. You have something to protect... but don't worry, they're in an illusory space, so any harm they receive is illusory and-]]]

Fwosshh!

The old man was giving me his words, and they made sense. Given that Elyth was involved, it was no surprise that it was an illusory space, and from what I knew of such places, it was rare for real harm to occur. Much less did it seem like the place where my brother was crippled.

But before he finished, it looked like someone had stepped out and appeared not far from us. I was going to see who it was, but....

"..."

[[...]]

"..."

[[...]]

The old man and I looked at the person who came out, then we looked at each other, then we looked back at the horrible state of what had come out, and then we looked at each other again, as if to confirm that what the other was seeing was correct.

"..."

[[...]]

Then, even though it wasn't a pretty picture, we went back and looked at what came out and then looked at each other again.

"H-he's fine."

Yeah, if it wasn't for Ophelia - of all people - breaking the awkward silence, we might have repeated this a few times. I mean, that came out contradicted what the old man was telling me; not to mention getting hurt, the deplorable state he came out in was something that left me in disbelief.

"Old man, what the fuck!, that's obviously not right, what do you mean illusory space? Besides, what kind of perverse legacy did you create for him to end up like this? 눈\_눈"

Yeah, sure, and bullshit. The first to come out was the dwarf leader of one of the three factions; if I heard correctly, his name is Clarences.

I'm guessing he either died or, like my brother, was crippled, because he's not someone my alternate self knew either. But more importantly: he came out in a state I didn't want to see, but again I felt the need to confirm and think about how the hell he ended up like that.

While lying face down, something was sticking out of him... I really don't know how to describe it, except that he was acting as the base for a flagpole.

As for where the pole —which was thicker than my legate's spear— was inserted, it wasn't pleasant to look at or describe, and the worst part is that I didn't understand whether it was just a pole, like an iron staff, or a pointed weapon, like a spear, a halberd, or even...

'Ugh, I-I shouldn't think about that, it might cause mental contamination.'

"...Ah, wait, boy, don't look at me like that, I know what happened here."

Chapter 378: Disappointed

"Of course you know, after all, it's your perverted test."

[[No, that's not it. Listen to me, the first test is about fighting a knight one rank lower than the person, but it gets stronger depending on the greed of the person facing it, it would become stronger.]]

"Go on, you old pervert, 눈\_눈 but keep in mind that everything you say will be used against you."

[[Hey, lad, let me finish and you'll understand. Besides, they become more ruthless and unscrupulous because, well, those whose greed is stronger than themselves don't deserve my legacy and also deserve some punishment.]]

"눈\_눈 hmm... So you're telling me that the illusion of his trial became so real and sadistic that it left him in that state?"

[[Exactly!, I'm glad you understand. I really didn't expect there to be someone so greedy. And look, besides the spear... yes, let's believe it's a spear, there's nothing wrong with that, it's just that that guy's greed was abnormal.]]

"눈\_눈"

[[I didn't expect something like that either. You know, I should condemn this level of greed, since greedy people are the ones I hate and hated the most in life... but now I feel more pity than anything else. I feel like I should have put some filters on the test.]]

"Hmm, well, old man, it seems you're free of guilt, and you're not a dirty old man, just an old man."

[[Stop calling me old man, you damn kid! Call me Artur.]]

Well, it seems that the old man is not a weird fetishist. His explanation made sense; that's the dangerous thing about magic or things that have to do with illusions: they deceive people and, if they are powerful, they can turn false things into real ones.

The place where the old man is conducting his test doesn't seem powerful enough to cause a phenomenon like that, but it seems that the test was so real and so intense that even when he came out of the illusion, that dwarf believed he had something stuck in him.

He must have believed it and felt it, to the point that it became a real phenomenon of his own making.

Yes, in fact, that spear is made of his own mana, which, under the deception of the illusion, he formed himself, which makes it even more tragic.

Right now, I'm really glad I'm invulnerable to illusions that affect the mind, or I might end up like him someday.

"Well, I'm calmer now, let's see."

The old man wasn't lying; he was a ghost, but even when they are just souls, they replicate unconscious bodily reactions, although they are more difficult to distinguish. I was paying enough attention to understand that he wasn't lying; angry people are easier to figure out.

And since the dwarf seemed to be an exception and the worst that could happen, I didn't have to worry that that was where my brother was crippled.

I turned my attention back to the list.

Yes, there are many things, and I think many are what the expedition group had supposedly found.

I was going to use a space to get the Lunorite for Rosy, one of my three goals in coming here. Unfortunately, there was none of the other metals I needed.

I also hoped to find something good, like a magic branch that I didn't have and that would be useful to me, like crystal magic.

Or an unconventional art like the 'SUPREME SACRIFICE ART' I got from Willian's legacy.

And in fact, there were several magic branches and a few dozen arts, but the more I looked...

"Ah! Ex-exalted a-art!"

At that moment, I heard Ophelia, who was apparently looking at the same list as me, and I understood her, to the point that I couldn't help but speak to the old man.

"Hey, old man, what kind of crap is this!"

[[Huh? What are you saying now, crazy boy?]]

"Old man, you really don't have anything good. Of the arts, the only decent one is a mid-range exalted one. That would only help up to the second rank of soul conversion. Look, even Ophelia is surprised at how bad they are."

"E-eh, n-no, I, I heard that only royalty has such a powerful one..."

"Huh? What are you talking about? The one I gave you is higher rank than that."

"Hic! I-I-I have hiccups... Uek!"

"Now you have hiccups and you bite your tongue? Aren't you getting worse? Well, man, back to the matter at hand, is this really the best you have? I was expecting at least an Archaic rank or at least a higher Exalted one."

[[What the hell are you talking about, kid? I was one of the richest men on the continent! And I'm proud of my great collection. And what you're asking me for is something on par with the royal treasure of Talunhai!]]

"Oh, right... hmm, I guess my last legacy set the bar pretty high."

[[Huh? Whose legacy was that?]]

"Ahem, no, that's not important, man. At least in magic you seem to have some good stuff. Tell me something: that branch of space and time magic, what do they do? How am I supposed to know if I should choose it if I don't know what runes or spells they have?"

[[That's what I'm here for. Yes, although there's only one spell in each. Let me tell you that the space spell expands the space inside an object several times over, and the other one slows down time. Yes, these two are fundamental spells for creating storage artifacts. Pretty amazing, right?]]

"...That's it? No attack spells, slow spells, or anything like that? You don't even have a basic space attack spell?"

I was more than disappointed. My alternate self left me special branches, but nothing attack-related: only movement, protection, defense... but no offensive spells.

And I don't have time magic, or rather entropy magic. I don't have any runes, let alone a spell, but I know what it is. The element of time doesn't really exist, it's not even a non-elemental branch; it's something that simulates time.

My alternate self calls it entropy magic: it's like star magic that has more than two elements that conform it, and this magic is created from a fusion of ice, darkness, and the variant of the earth element that is gravity and the variant of the fire element that is heat.

And yet it is an exception because, as far as I know, there is no one with an affinity for entropy or any god of entropy.

It is a very peculiar branch of magic, and is usually known as temporal magic due to its effects.

What this old man has is just a spell, and one of the most basic ones, used to create storage. It doesn't really interest me.

I mean, why would I want to make storage? The runes alone can serve me, but I really don't have time to discover a branch of magic that is based on four elements, starting with a simple basic spell, and from what I know, it's even more complicated than the spatial and stellar branches combined.

It's a waste of time and might not lead to anything. I really expected more from this legacy.

[[...boy, stop getting lost in your thoughts. Besides complaining, just knowing this could make you very rich. Storage is always crucial. Or is there something better in this era?]]

"No... hmm... yes, they're rare and expensive."

Come to think of it, this continent doesn't even have that technology, and storage devices are exported from outside, from the Talunhai continent, the largest continent and the center of the southern region of this world.

That's why they're so expensive and only the elite own them. But with the most powerful innate power this body has—my family—I easily equipped my entire harem and even those who couldn't afford one like Ban, Silvia, and Lys, and I have some extras stored away.

Come to think of it, most things here would be revolutionary and would boost the magic-art technology of the Five Kingdoms, although it doesn't compare to what I have.

'Hmm... I feel like there's something wrong, that I'm overlooking something.'

[[Tsk, so kid, are you just complaining to annoy me? Make up your mind. Some have started to pass the second test, and I have to guide them through the third; if someone else takes it away from you, don't blame me.]]

"Fine, but one thing: these weapons, what rank are they made for, roughly?"

At least I thought I could get something good out of the weapons that were there.

I was hoping there would be something useful, at least so Ciel could remodel it. Weapons don't have a strict rank, but you can deduce the rank from the materials and craftsmanship.

For example, with lunarite, you can make weapons of morphogenesis 8, 9, or even 10 if the blacksmith is competent and you have other good materials.

And here there were codes like 'sword shadowglint Iron', which allowed me to deduce from the material that they were for people of morphogenesis 7 or 8, but some did not have the name of the main material.

I had obtained an evaluation artifact that I hadn't been able to use much from Willian's legacy, which could tell me the materials, the quality, and thus help me evaluate them better, but since it was only a list, I couldn't use it.

[[Hey, kid, don't be surprised, but I have a weapon made of Phantom Silver, which was highly coveted in my time.]]

"Oh, I don't know that material. Oh, here it is... What are the approximate ranges of weapons made from that material?"

[[Hehe, it's a weapon that even someone in soul conversion can use.]]

"So?"

[[So what?]]

"What approximate rank? Three, four? More?"

[[Uh... well... rank one... ahem... maybe two.]]

"What crap! I heard that in the previous era this continent was unified and was a powerful empire. How come you only have crap!?"

[[Brat, you're the only crap here! Where the hell are your standards? Or what, are you telling me that this is now a continent where a weapon like that is considered crap?]]

"...Ah, no, you're right, I don't think there are many."

[[You little shit, you're fucking with me! Choose quickly! Let's get this over with! If I keep talking to you, I'm going to die... no, I'll turn into an evil spirit!]]

'Well, if you do, I'll purify you.'

Yes, I think my senses are a little distorted, not only by my memories, but also by William's legacy. The first king, Maximilian and his group, came from outside the continent, and who knows how far he had travelled, accumulating many good things.

And even if it did not leave much to the kingdom due to karma or some other reason, perhaps, despite being divided, the five current kingdoms are more powerful than the ancient empire that existed here, even though they lack many other things.

'Come to think of it, even William's legacy was very limited.'

#### Chapter 379: The Same Tastes

The first king left behind only things that would promote growth; no art surpassed the rank of "Exalted," of high rank that would lead to the third conversion of the soul, And there were only two: one he left in the last vault and the one he left to William, although the latter was still incomplete.

The rest, although greater in quantity and variety, were not very different in rank from those found here.

And personal weapons were only for him to use until the first or second soul conversion. Even he had placed restrictions on them so that lower ranks could use them.

Of all the weapons, the best and the one that was compatible with me, even without the seals, were the poisonous gloves, which were made to be used by someone no higher than rank two soul conversion, someone with some resistance to poison or specialized in defense or vitality.

And the defensive or offensive artifacts weren't too powerful either.

Everything was designed for the early stages of growth, for William's companions. The most complete were the magic branches, but that works differently.

While there are complicated and powerful spells that require a certain minimum rank to cast, even the simplest fireball is feasible at any rank, since one cast by someone with seven morphogenesis is a world apart from one cast by someone with one or two morphogenesis, even if the same runes and spells are being used.

Only in the last vault were there things that didn't seem to be initial items, such as the breath of sunlight, the crystal magic branch, the egg, the assessment artifact, the teleportation scrolls, and so on, but I guess it was meant more as a hidden reward for Mirk than something that those facing the test would inherit.

'Let's see, on this continent, besides the treasure that William hasn't searched for yet and the other four sprouts, I'm not aware of any very advantageous legacies, although there are some that have materials to increase stats... Oh! Right, upgrade materials, yes, this old man doe have.'

I almost overlooked something important: the materials that help you become stronger. I assumed that this continent doesn't have many, but legacies are different, and luckily, that old man had some.

The one that particularly caught my attention was Phantom Vine, a very rare vine that is very beneficial; when dried in the sun for a while, it became an excellent elixir for improving the body's constitution, and in my case, I suppose it will improve vitality and defense.

The latter, in particular, was my lowest stat. I took a quick look and...

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Name: Seraphina Silvercrest

Race: Human

Rank: Superior Evolution

Gender: Female

Stats:

Strength: 401

Mana: 412

Agility: 398

Defense: 308

Vitality: 420

Skill:

Purification ( $\Omega$ )

Morphogenesis (A)

Eyes of Lust (A)

Dual Synchronization (A)

Protection of Lust (A)

Affinity for Plants (+A)

Affinity for Darkness (+A)

Flexibility (+A)

Heir (A)

Primal Regression (A)

Shadow Assimilation (A)

Affinity for Light (A)

Doppelgänger (A)

Parallel Thinking (A)

Affinity for Lightning (A)

Pheromones (B)

Fertility Control (B)

Berserk (B)

Affinity for Runes (B)

Regeneration (B)

Resonance (B)

Affinity for Hellfire (B)

Affinity for Ice (B)

Affinity for Spears (B)

Affinity for guns (C)

Demonization (C)

Heavy Weapons Mastery (C)

Enchantment (D)

Corruption (F)

Affinity for Light (EX) – Sealing

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Yes, I think it's okay to choose them. My defense is almost a hundred below the rest, that vine could help me increase it a little, although it would also increase my vitality even more, but that doesn't matter.

'Let's see... there's nothing really good in magic... oh, wait, that branch of mist magic.'

I already had two of my choices. I checked again more carefully and, in the magic branches section, I saw the branch of illusion magic, based on mist or water and fire.

I thought that seemed to be a strong point here, and from what this old man said, he was blessed by the goddess of illusions.

"Old man!"

[[What?! Have you already made your decision?!]]

"Well, one last question: what is the illusion branch about?"

[[...]]

"What? Why aren't you answering?"

[[...Why do you want to know? To insult it? And call it rubbish? Let me tell you that this was something given to me by the goddess herself... ahem, well, she gave it to one of my ancestors. But she gave me permission to pass it on. It is the most valuable part of my legacy.]]

"Oh! Then what about—?"

[[Stop asking useless questions! This is exempt, and the goddess gave me the freedom to refuse to grant it to you. Only I decide who gets it, and I have decided that you will not have it.]]

"Huh? Why? Did I do something to you, man? I thought we had something special."

Well, I understood that I had upset him from the start, and that's why I was looking for a way to get in.

Now that I saw where the dwarf came from, and some others who also seemed to fail, although they came out unconscious, it became easier for me, but the legacy didn't seem good enough to risk attracting the attention of Elyth or her subordinates.

Besides, in order to leave no evidence, I would have to cut this old man's connection to the goddess, and I was actually starting to like him a little.

'Hmm, what to do...'

[[The only thing special is how your fucking head works, that it even dares to ask me that! You little shit. Besides, you look like a warrior. What do you want that for? It's just your greed for something valuable and strong.]]

"Hey, you're wrong about that, old man. It's not for me. My girlfriend has an affinity for mist, and she has an innate blessing from the goddess of illusion."

[[What?! Kid, what did you say? That girl has an affinity for mist? And she's blessed by Elyth!]]

"Ah, no, man, you're wrong. She's not my girlfriend."

"/\_\ "

[[Eh? No?... But they both looked like demonic rabbits all day... What would she be if she wasn't your girlfriend? Look, she even looks sad. It's not right to deny your girlfriend, lad.]]

"Ahem, it's just a carnal relationship. Ahem!. Don't change the subject, man. Well, my girlfriend could use this branch of fog. The magic branch of mist I have is more of an attack type than an illusion type, so yours, it has illusion and deception spells, would be useful to her."

[[Kid, tell me something: what is the name of her blessing?]]

"What for?"

[[Just tell me! If you tell me, I'll consider giving it to you.]]

"Well, let's see... yes... 'Mask of Illusions'."

I don't think it matters much to say something like that. It's not like he know who Aurora is, and I doubt they'll meet.

[[That's one of the three possible blessings that can be innately awakened in my family. It can't be a coincidence. But I was the last one, and my wife and children... ~was there another encounter with humans?...Kid, tell me something: what race is your girlfriend?]]

"Hmm, old man, why the question? 눈\_눈"

His muttering seemed suspicious to me, but I wasn't going to reveal that Aurora was half-demon to a stranger without a good reason.

[[눈\_눈, kid, you're acting suspicious. Tell me, are demons and humans also in intense competition in this era, or did the regional deal break down and so there's war... or did they reach an agreement?]]

"No, there is no agreement and the deal is still in force; even so, there is sabotage, and the enmity is very strong. A madman is going around blowing up lots of things. But, old man, why the sudden change of subject and curiosity? 눈\_눈. Also, tell me something: is the test being carried out within divine territory or is it just an illusory space?"

The old man was accusatory and evasive. He wanted to get something out of me, but he also seemed to be hiding something with what he had just muttered.

Although I would like to take this opportunity to raise a question that has just occurred to me: on reflection, it may be different from the case of William's legacy.

After all, there are many ways to create an illusory space even without the help of a god, and if that is the case, I can infiltrate it without the old man, the goddess, or any of their subordinates noticing.

The rest may not be so good, but this seems like a very useful branch of magic; perhaps some of its spells will be useful to me as well, and since I will eventually gain affinity with the mist, it would be fine...

[[boy , you're the one changing the subject. I already told you that those who are in the test are fine. Besides, I don't understand what that nonsense you said was... How could I use something like divine territory? But more importantly, you said earlier that the goddess of illusion is on the demonic side. Could you explain that to me again? 눈\_눈 Is there a family there that inherits her blessing?]]

'good!!... it's not in divine territory. Now I just have to wait for the old man to leave and...'

"I don't know, old man, I was just rambling. I'm an ignorant young man, how would I know what a god thinks? But tell me something: you seemed offended when I said that earlier. Now there's a kind of understanding on your face. Are you thinking about something? 눈\_눈"

"Damn it, brat, let's get to the point: is your girlfriend a human or a demon? And if she's a demon, what race is she? Depending on your answer, I may or may not give you this magical knowledge. Let me tell you that even though I never left this continent, I reached the first rank of soul conversion, and even then I couldn't do half of these spells. My ancestor had reached a very high level and was greatly favored by the goddess of illusion. I would say this is far more valuable than everything else combined."

'Why is he so interested? If I tell him she's part demon, he won't give me the... ah!, wait... what did he say?'

I was more focused on getting that magical branch for myself, since he seemed evasive, and I suspected that the fact that Aurora was half-demon would be bad, but now that I paid attention to him, his careful and cautious words, as well as his murmurs and insistence, seemed to be due to...

"Old man, don't tell me your wife was..."

[[Okay, I'll say it: yes, my wife was a demon. Well, I fell in love with a demon, and in my era—and from what you said, even in this one—it must be something not very acceptable, right? And all my children were mostly demons.]]

"Old man, you fell in love with a Krixis, a demon of lust. How fickle!"

[[Ugh... she was an enemy we captured, and during her time in our prison I started interacting with her, and she was very beautiful. Oh!!, wait. You even know she's a Krixis, so you too, boy! Who are you calling fickle...? You're not the one who's charmed]]

"No! It doesn't affect me. I mean... you must notice it, right? Since you interacted with them, the guys charmed by a Krixis act like idiots."

[[Oh, that's right. Ahem... I definitely wasn't either. She had an artifact that suppressed any charm, and yet I still love her, even as I am. Ahem... No!!, wait! If what you said is true... you're implying that...!]]

"Yes. Exactly. I can't believe I have the same tastes as an old, almost bald man!"

[[No, not that, you bastard... Hahaha. This is no longer a coincidence: she is my descendant. My wife and children's race was Krixis. ]]

'Hmmm... but now that I think about it, that old man has black hair.'

Considering that Aurora has black hair from birth and that her father was blond and her mother had pink hair, that peculiarity is noticeable.

I think it would have been a problem if it weren't for the fact that she had golden eyes, or that they had something to confirm her lineage.

But if there was no doubt, it meant that it was possible that color came from someone in previous generations. As the old man says, it no longer seems like a coincidence.

[[Hahahaha!], I did my best to let them escape. It was always my greatest regret not knowing what happened to them and not being able to do more for them. But with the empire about to break apart and many wanting my wealth, surrounding me, I couldn't. But if I have a descendant, it means they were able to live. Hahaha~ That's the best thing I've heard since my death!]]

"Hey, old man, don't go ascending or anything, give me the rewards first!"

[[You little shit, do you think I'm an evil spirit or something? I have to fulfill my part to ascend.]]

"So... about the fog magic? Are you going to give it to me or not?"

[[Tsk, you're ruining my good mood. Honestly, I hoped that the demons would discover my legacy so they could solve this mystery, and better yet, if there really was a descendant, pass on this magical branch to... Hey, little shit! Now that I think about it, I was cheating on my descendant with that woman! How dare you?]]

Chapter 380: Lumora

"Hiii! I-I-I...!"

"Ah, Ophelia, I forgot you were here. You need to make your presence more pronounced."

"Y-yes."

"Just pretend you didn't hear anything we said."

"Y-yes."

[[Hey, kid, give me an explanation.]]

"What explanation should I give you? Why do you care about my private life? I have a harem anyway, and later I'm going to tell her and the rest what happened here."

[[Ugh! You cheeky little shit... why did my descendant get involved with someone like you? You're not even handsome...]]

"Shut up, you're no big deal either, and you're going bald."

[[Ugh! I was handsome when I was young! Damn you... fine, whatever. I really can't ask for more than what you told me. Just knowing that my lineage continues because my family survived is more than enough. Fine, I'll give you the illusion magic, but even if you covet it, make sure you pass it on to her too.]]

"I hope it's useful. You know, I already have my hands full with other, better magics, but yes, at least it will be very useful for her."

[[You really piss me off, but... I'm glad it's like that... huaah~. Well, kid, I'm trusting you here, since I have no way of knowing if what you said is really true.]]

"Old man, do you see any falsehood or bad intentions in me?"

[[That's the weirdest thing. I know the type of people who are like you: vermin who use any method or person around them without any scruples to get ahead. They only look at their goals and don't care about their surroundings or who they affect.]]

"..."

'Is this old man looking for a fight? Who is he calling vermin? I'm a decent person, nothing like what he said.'

[[But at least you seem to care about those closest to you, and I guess my descendant is included, which is good. Someone like you is not someone to be against... Hmm, well, I've made up my mind. I'll give you the... You know what, I'd better not give you anything.]]"

"Hey, old man, do you want to fight after all? Don't you think I can handle your spectral body?"

'Yeah, after all, I'd better loot this old man who's playing with me.'

[[Come on, kid, I'm not afraid of you. You've been... ahem!... I mean, do you think I would stoop to fighting? ... ahem... and I wasn't referring to fog magic, ugh. I already told you I'd give it to you, ugh! Unfortunately, I'm a man of my word.]]

"Then what are you talking about?"

[[I mean that I won't give you a legacy that has been passed down from generation to generation in my family, in addition to the fog magic. No, it may even be much more valuable.]]

"Oh, is there such a thing? What is it?"

[[Don't even look for it, it's not on the list. I thought about just giving it to you, but really, as the saying goes, seeing is believing.]]

"Man, you're one of the most talkative legacy keepers I've ever met. You yourself said there wasn't much time left. Get to the point, what do you want?"

[[Look, my legacy will stay here. I mean, as you can see, I have dozens of things, and each person who comes in can only choose one thing—two or three if they're lucky and meet certain conditions, like you and that girl. And since my tests are so difficult, if I have to say so myself, I think it will be a long time before I leave.]]

"Really?"

I mean, I don't know anything about this legacy. I thought it was a one-time opportunity like William's and then it would close, but if his legacy works as he say, some things don't add up.

[[Yes, but this is something I designed and established under the supervision of the goddess. This is not a place where you can cheat, so there are no more rewards than the three you will get. And my proposal is that if you bring my descendant, I will give you—or rather, give her—that reward.]]

'This old man keeps talking about the goddess as if he had seen her. Hmm, I wonder... Nah, she wouldn't get involved in something like this. It must have been a subordinate who made a deal, which is why you have to follow the rules so strictly... Hmm, on the other hand, bringing Aurora...'

"Well, I don't think it's a problem to bring her in. But tell me what you're talking about? I mean, you're not talking grandiosely about something that really isn't, are you?"

Anyway, I was planning to come back here to hunt chimera wolves, so stopping by here would be no problem.

[[Hahaha, so you weren't lying after all. Well, I'm sure this won't disappoint you, because what I'm going to give my descendant is... the location of my ancestor's legacy.]]"

"Oh, another legacy? That ancestor of yours sure had some good stuff, didn't he?"

[[Of course he did, boy! He was an agent and highly favored by our goddess. It is said that he was one of her best chosen. You know, even the place he left is not simple. The place is in the central continent. It is so difficult and dangerous to get there that no one in our family ever had the strength or opportunity to go there]].

Oh, if it's a legacy to the standard of the central continent then it must be something decent, although I still have to make sure. This old man may be puffing up his ancestor more than he was.

"Do you know what rank your ancestor attained and what's in there?"

[[No, the rank is not known, but some records allude that he ascended to a higher world. And about the legacy, it is only known that there was everything there that he could not leave us because of the great karma it entailed...]]

"Oh, he ascended. At least he was in the Deep Connection rank. It seems it'll be decent."

[[Hmm. Boy, you're really weird. Someone would be seriously excited about this opportunity, but you... you just seem curious. Rather, even with what I said, your only impression was 'it'll be decent'.]]

"Man, I don't know what you expect from me."

[[Ahh... I don't either. You're really strange. You seem to have your aim in a faraway place. Where are you aiming for? I feel like my ancestor's legacy, to you, feels like an extra windfall and windfall towards your goal, rather than a life goal.]]

" you want me to make my life goal something I just found out about?"

[[Haah~, I guess you're right. Just because that's mine and my ancestors' life goal doesn't mean it's yours. Anyway, we're running out of time, have you decided yet?]]

"Yes, I want the lunarite, the ghost vines and... well, the mystic magic. man, but one more thing: are you sure the legacy hasn't been looted yet? I mean... how long has it even been?"

[[Hmm, well, I honestly can't assure you of anything. That's just the way it is: if someone with good karma found it, that was the destination. But I think it's still there. My ancestor left a strong illusion, traps and self-sustaining security like the one in this city, to protect him. That was said to be his specialty. Not to mention that although I told you it's on the central continent, it's only the entrance. Apparently the legacy is hidden inside a dimension called Lumora, and even the entrance was very much hidden by him, so it must not be a-]]

"What did you say, old man!!"

[[What, why are you shouting all of a sudden?]]

"Did you say Lumora, are you sure that's its name?"

[[Yes, that's how it appears in the information my ancestor left behind. I guess it must be a small dimension a bit big, since he also wrote that there were more opportunities in it besides his legacy. Although I didn't really understand what he was referring to in that part, is it perhaps a shared small dimension for leaving legacies or something like that?]]

"What the hell... what small dimension? Lumora is another fucking world, old man. It's even bigger than Aetheria we're in!"

[[Another world?]]

"No, that's not what's important. Hahahahah... man, now you really made my day! I didn't think I'd find a way to go to another world before the door opened! Hahahaha."

[[...]]

This is great, this is the best thing I had ever heard. And not only because that world has a lot of resources; in it there was something very important: in that world there are two of the fourteen legacies, and if I don't take more than five years to go, I can claim them before those who were destined to find them.

This could cause a great positive change in the plans of my alternate self and myself. I never thought this expedition could be so fruitful.

"Hhahahaheuhuehue!".

[[Boy, you look crazy. Well, it's about time to say goodbye. So, are you okay with this or not?]]

"...well, yes."

I hesitated for a moment because I quickly thought of going to get it myself, but who knows if it was along with the rest of the stuff, and I would risk losing something so valuable. So it's better to go the legal route.

I'll try to get back as fast as possible with Aurora, because I honestly don't know if this old man will last here as long as he says, because at least when my alternate self came with Willian he didn't exist and there wasn't even the slightest rumor.

[[Well, boy, excellent. I want to see her already; I wonder if she'll look like my wife or kids. Eehm...good. I have to supervise from the third test on. but since you're coming back, it'll just be a see you soon... which I don't know if that's a good thing or not.]]

"Goodbye, old man. Before I go back I'll speak positively about you to my girlfriend. I won't tell her you're bald and old, so fix yourself up a bit or she'll be disappointed."

[[Damn it, as if I could... ... definitely stay out of the barrier when you come back or I'll turn you to ash.]]

That was the last thing the old man said as he faded away.

My alternate self completes and explores many legacies, and in comparison, this old man was pleasant and seemed eager to talk, unlike other legacies who always act solemn or mystical or do not even show up.

If I think about it, it was nice to talk to that old man a bit; if he were alive, I feel we would get along well.

Swosh!

"Ah... oh, so it was in."

A small light appeared in front of me and three objects appeared. I also finally found that things were stored in that illusory space, but that information doesn't matter anymore.

I quickly put them away and looked around. There were certainly a lot of people and none of them have woken up yet. I guess we have to pretend to be unconscious before they wake up.

"Well, Ophelia, it looks like you're not very good at faking it, so I'm going to knock you out. Brace yourself."

"I-I... why? Ah... the sir... ah..."

"What? Did something happen with the old man? Ah, didn't you say goodbye? Did you like him too? I guess he was someone nice and easy to talk to, though I didn't want to accept that he was old and almost bald."

[[That I'm not old, shitty boy! No... rather, girl, I forgot your stuff. Tell me quick, time's running out.]]

"I-I... no... no."

"Hey! Don't talk to her like that, it makes her anxious. Ophelia, what did you choose?"

Without a doubt, she needs to intensify her presence more; she made the old man forget his work, even I had forgotten it.

"I-I didn't choose... I-I... I don't know."

[[Well, girl, don't blame me if you get the leftovers later, you missed your chance! Now you have to wait for the others to lose or pass and only then...]]

"Wait, old man! Give her the poison sanction magic branch, also give her the most powerful whip and the highest quality alchemy cauldron you have."

[[Girl, is it okay for him to speak for you?]]

"Y-yes."

[[Okay, now I'm really going.]]

Saying that last one, I guess this time he did leave.

"Well, that was a big windfall. !!! Ah!.... hey, Ophelia, tell me something before I knock you out. I guess you're good at making poisons, huh?"

"Y-yes."

"Then tell me something..."

As soon as the old man left I began to feel the tension grow. Something began to tingle on the back of my neck, and without any basis I felt something was about to happen, an invisible countdown type thing that made my skin crawl.