

The Pathway Of Wisdom

#Chapter 1: The Unfortunate Greed. (Prolouge) - Read The Pathway Of Wisdom Chapter 1: The Unfortunate Greed. (Prolouge

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Midnight, Under the Starry Sky.

"I didn't expect you to break your promise of never taking a life just to deal with me... it is my victory, I guess..."

A man lay below a cliff with a bullet wound on his abdomen.

Although he was bleeding and was on the verge of death, there was no such emotion called 'pain' on his face, which was very odd and disturbing.

In fact, he seemed very peaceful and calm even in this desperate situation.

"Don't be stupid... You forced me to do this. You are too dangerous of a man to be kept alive!"

A police officer wearing bulletproof armor was sitting right beside the dying man.

He had his back leaned against a tree, and there was a gun in his hand.

Even though the dying man was defenseless and on the verge of death, the police officer refused to put his gun away, and he was pointing it at the dying man's head while panting heavily.

"Haha... Seriously, dude, I am the one who got shot, and you are the one panting like that?... How did you even become a cop like that?..."

Hearing that question, the police officer replied angrily,

"First of all... don't talk to me! Just die quietly, you scum! Also, I have already told you many times how I became a cop!"

"I tried to warn you many times already! But you refused to listen!"

The dying man smirked at the police officer's words and replied in a weirdly calm voice,

"You do remember that I have planted a bomb that can kill-"

The police officer shook his head and interjected immediately.

"Don't bullsh*t with me! I know that bomb is fake! I know what kind of person you are better than anyone, you f*cking bastard!"

"You are a sh*tty bastard who can't see others in pain! You literally became a scientist just to make the world a better place for everyone!"

While speaking those words, the police officer could not keep his emotions in check.

"I always considered you a close friend! I warned you not to make rash decisions!"

"Many big companies now consider you a threat to their existence! They had bribed everyone from above to the lowest levels! If you are caught alive, you will be tortured to death, you bast*rd!"

"All your research will be stolen!... No, it will be destroyed!!"

The police officer could not keep his emotions in check; tears fell from his eyes as his hand holding the gun trembled.

He looked at his dying friend with blurry eyes and a pained expression.

"If I don't kill you here today... I will also lose everything... and you know that I became a cop to get enough money to afford my mother's medical bills!"

"I have a family to take care of too you know!"

"You have become a wanted criminal! I have been forced to do this, and if I don't, they will target my family!"

The dying man smirked at the police officer and replied,

"Hehe... so you have also decided to abandon the 'path' of bringing a better future to this planet... You do know that many people need the technology that I am working on, right?"

"This technology will make modern medicine hundreds of times more efficient and effective! You do understand that destroying it is a crime against humanity itself, right!?"

The police officer cried at the dying man's words, and his entire body shook as the guilt was breaking him from inside out.

"Forgive me... Forgive me, but I can't... I have a family; I have a daughter... t-they took her from me... they kidnapped her..."

"If I don't kill you, I will never see my daughter again... please..."

The dying man could only sigh at those words.

"I see... so those big companies have made their choice; they would rather let the common people suffer than let someone invent a technology to help humanity..."

"I should have seen this coming... I was too busy focusing on research that I forgot to consider the fact that not everyone wants to see the world prosper the way I do..."

A smile appeared on his face as he raised his hand toward the sky.

The night sky was just as beautiful as always; there were countless stars shining in the dark sky, and the moonlight was caressing his face, making him fascinated with the scenery.

"This is a 10/10 bleed-out spot... I am surprised you chose this scenery for my final moments... I completely took you for a blockhead..."

The police officer's knees went weak hearing his friend crack jokes even in this kind of situation.

"You... I hate you, man. I hate you... why did you become so close to me like this... It would have been better if we never became friends..."

The warm night breeze caressed the dying scientist's face as he replied,

"Hehe... I am usually very serious; I wonder why I am in such a weirdly calm mood..."

"Hey... You know, even if they kill me today, will that stop people from inventing new things?"

"Not at all, there will be more people like me... even if I die there will still be people in the future who will still continue my research. I have already made enough of a foundation for them..."

The police officer could not keep listening to his friend, as those words were killing him from inside; he refused to divert the direction of his gun, as he knew he might lose his strength to attack his friend if he retreated now.

"Forgive me, my friend... But I care more about my family than the rest of humanity! Everyone else can go to sh*t!"

"I j-just want my little daughter back man! I just want her safe!"

The police officer finally found his resolve as the face of his innocent daughter flashed in his mind.

He placed the gun on his friend's head and said,

"You are a wanted criminal who's wanted for researching illegal drugs; there's a shoot-on-sight order against you..."

"I am a police officer, I follow the law, I do not have the duty to go against my duty... I am not your friend right now; I am but a duty-bound officer..."

"Any last words?"

Hearing the question, the scientist grinned and spoke with a wide smile on his face; there was no pain or sadness in those clear eyes.

He even felt like joking in that moment.

"Hehe, delete my search history after I am gone..."

"Also, I hope that I get to pursue more 'knowledge' in my next life; becoming the best scientist in the world is my dream after all..."

BANG!* *BANG!* *BANG!* *BANG!* *BANG!* *BANG!* *BANG!

And with the last words said, the police officer emptied the entire clip on his friend's head!

The scientist's head exploded like a watermelon, and his brain matter splattered everywhere, making the scene look like something straight out of a horror movie.

Once his gun ran out of bullets, the police officer lost his composure and fainted immediately.

And thus, the journey of a talented scientist ended in an unknown ditch, and his body was never found.

He was labelled as a high-level terrorist and never mentioned again in media or records either.

His documents and identification were erased from the world as if he never existed.

All the benefits his research could have brought to the world, lost forever.

The world had lost a gem, humanity had been pushed back several decades, and it was a very unfortunate outcome but a very common one.

Chapter 2: The New Beginning.

Ilmora Plane, Kingdom of Kreimhild.

Near the Valley of Sorrows.

A carriage protected by dozens of mercenaries was slowly travelling towards the valley of sorrows.

Most of the mercenaries were rugged men, and each one of them was highly experienced and giving off a powerful aura.

The mercenaries seemed to be escorting the carriage while protecting it in a tight formation.

There was a paladin riding a horse and protecting it from close vicinity; his face was hidden under his white helmet engraved with gold designs.

The carriage itself looked extremely luxurious and was plated with gold and silver all over.

Even wild animals ran away after sensing the powerful aura of this entire convoy.

The bright moon was shining in the starry sky, and the moonlight was making the carriage shine like a gem.

And just like its exterior, the interior of the carriage was just as luxurious.

A young man with an extremely handsome face was sleeping on the comfortable seat of the carriage.

A frown appeared on the handsome young man's face as the carriage rocked and swayed due to the uneven road.

"ugh... hmmm..."

The young man slowly opened his eyes in a daze, and it took him a while to fully wake up from that deep sleep.

He rubbed his sleepy eyes slowly and he finally noticed that something was wrong with the environment he was in.

'Hmm... what?'

For a while the young man could not understand what was going on; he looked around him and found that he was sitting inside a carriage and everything around him was shiny and luxurious-looking.

He looked at his hands and found that they had shrunk.

"This is!?"

The first thing that came to mind was that he was kidnapped once again.

As a top-level scientist who's been researching things that threaten the dominance of big companies, it's nothing new for him to be kidnapped.

In fact, he had a record of getting kidnapped and beaten every year or so at least once.

With every new invention, he was destroying one or two more companies, so it was not too surprising that thugs were hired to beat the sh*t out of him on a regular basis.

Thankfully, police were quick and strong in their nation, and the government was highly protective of their valuable scientists, so he was usually saved most of the time.

'Err... but I got killed by a police officer... not to mention that was my own friend... Wait! I was killed! How am I alive!?'

Only then did the young man realize that something was very wrong; he should have been dead by now, but he's still alive.

No medical technology can save a person who's suffered wounds as serious as his! He was shot directly in the head! There's no way he can be alive even after that.

'Could it be I have some hidden powers that I don't know about? No way, right?'

As a person who was used to getting kidnapped, he was very calm even in this situation; he knew that being calm and not panicking is the best thing you can do in such situations.

'I need to gather intel on my current situation-'

Just when the young man was about to start considering how to escape, his eyes fell on a mirror hanging nearby.

The entire interior of the carriage was rather luxurious, so it was not surprising that there was a mirror inside.

What was the most surprising was the face that was being reflected in that mirror.

"Wha!?"

The face in the mirror was insanely handsome; he had silver hair and golden eyes.

The young face in the mirror resembled that of a teenager, but even at that age, it was exceptionally handsome.

Just when the young man was about to scream in shock, a sudden headache assaulted him.

"Ugh!"

The young man closed his eyes and clenched his head with both of his hands as he endured the sudden outburst of pain.

A massive amount of information and memories started to rush into his mind.

'This is!?'

He became a bystander in those memories, watching them play out at an insanely fast speed.

He almost felt as if he was being forced to watch someone's life documentary at 10X speed. The headache was so strong that he felt as if his brain were splitting apart into tiny fragments!

He lost control over his body and fell down on the floor like a lifeless corpse.

His body had decided to focus the entire body's energy on the brain, and he momentarily lost control of his limbs.

"Ugh! Ah! Sh*t! oh sh*t!"

Tears appeared in his eyes, and he almost fell unconscious many times, but every time he was about to faint, more knowledge would rush into his head and forcefully wake him up again!

The endless agony lasted for half an hour.

"Huff... pant... huff... what the actual f*ck is... sh*t... this... huff... huff..."

The young man weakly got up from the carriage floor and sat back up on his seat; he found a handkerchief and wiped his tears and snot with an aggrieved look on his handsome face.

There was a leather water bag nearby, and he grabbed it to drink the whole of it in one go!

"Phew~... that was intense..."

He leaned his back on the seat weakly as if his entire body was devoid of energy, and he was feeling so hungry as if he hadn't eaten anything in ages.

But that was not the main thing on his mind at the moment; the words that kept revolving in his mind were.

'I f*cking transmigrated into someone else's body!!?'

Thankfully the carriage was fully noise-proof and enchanted; thus, no matter how loud he howled inside of it, there was no way anyone could hear his howls outside.

If not for that, the convoy would have already stopped moving the moment they noticed him screaming due to a headache.

"Err... What kind of movie plot is this!?"

A look of shock appeared on his handsome face as he looked at the mirror once again.

"This handsome face... I ended up in a really handsome dude's body, though... Is this because he's from a wealthy family?"

As a scientist who grew up in poverty and came from a rather humble background, it's impossible for him to understand the lifestyle of a wealthy, spoiled kid.

He looked at his own clothes and realized that they were quite luxurious, with even the buttons made of gold and diamonds.

'This attire... it's very flashy but... why is this thing so difficult to move in?'

"Ugh... what an unlucky day... first I died a sh*tty death and now I am in the body of some other dude... Everything's shrunk, even my pitiful little brother... sigh... what a sad life..."

Although he was a scientist, he had read his fair share of novels and had played enough games to know about things like transmigration and reincarnation.

It was a very popular trope used in many light novels, so he was able to accept his situation pretty quickly with his quick adaptation skills.

He closed his eyes and entered a meditative state to digest all the knowledge and memories that had suddenly entered his brain.

This was an old habit of his; he liked to close his eyes and meditate in high-stress situations like these, but before he could do it today, a knock on the door of the carriage jolted him out of his meditation.

At some point the carriage had come to a halt, and someone was knocking on the door of his carriage.

Chapter 3: She doesn't have a face. Part-1.

****Knock* *Knock****

The entire carriage was soundproof from inside out; thus, the knocking on the carriage door was quite faint, but the young man could hear it loud and clear.

He took a deep breath, calmed himself down, and opened the door lock.

The paladin that was leading the carriage was now standing near the door.

The moment the young man opened the door of the carriage, he saluted by placing his fist near his chest and spoke.

"Lord Saint, we have reached the entrance of the valley of sorrows; it's getting dark and it would not be optimal to cross the valley now..."

"Shall we camp near the entrance tonight? We can continue this journey in the morning..."

The paladin's left hand was always on the hilt of his sword while his right hand was on his chest.

He talked in a very respectful tone as if he didn't dare to offend the young man in front of him.

The young man's golden eyes were enough to put immense pressure on everyone he looked at.

"Hmm? Fine, we will camp near the entrance. Make sure to ask those mercenaries to clear the nearby area of any threats!"

"Also! Bring me something to eat! Sh*t! I am dying of starvation!"

The golden-eyed young man's arrogant voice resounded in the area, and the paladin trembled in fright as the young man seemed quite irritated for some reason.

'Wha!? What the fuck!? Why am I talking like this!?'

The young man himself did not know why he was talking in such an arrogant and irritated tone.

He was originally going to talk in a much gentler way, but his mouth translated everything in a much fiercer way!

'Ugh... is this what they call body and soul misalignment in the novels!?'

In novels when you possess a character's body, the traits of that body do not simply just go away.

It takes a lot of time and effort to make that body completely yours, and until then, it keeps going out of the user's control.

'Ugh, the previous owner's lingering thoughts are influencing me too...'

The young man shook his head and jumped down from the carriage.

"F*ck! Why is it so dark in this place!? You guys were traveling without even using a single torch!? Are you idiots!?"

The mercenaries seemed like they were used to the young man's complaints and harsh remarks; none of them even flinched a bit, and they hurriedly got busy with their own work.

One of them hurriedly brought a luxurious chair for the young man to sit down, and one of them hurriedly arranged firewood to light a fire, while the paladin brought a woollen coat for him and covered his thin body with it.

"Your holiness, you are blessed with the gaze of the gods; please make sure to stay warm and not catch a cold!"

The paladin was overly clingy and thoughtful; it was as if he was his nanny or something.

'Is this the life of a royal? Quite amazing...'

While thinking about various things, the young man sat on the comfy chair and relaxed as the heat of the fire warmed him up.

The cold night breeze hit his face and ruffled his silver hair as the light of the fire illuminated his surroundings.

He looked breathtakingly handsome even in this dim environment.

All the mercenaries hurriedly got busy with their work and started arranging tents; even the clingy paladin went away to personally cook food for his Saint.

'Phew... now that no one is staring daggers at my face, I can finally sort out everything in my mind...'

Many questions and troubles were floating in his mind at the moment.

What happened after he died? How did he come to this unknown place? Who brought him here?

But all those questions were less shocking and difficult compared to his new identity now.

'Alexander Augustus Von Kreimhild... or Alex for short...'

This long name was now his new identity.

He has become an illegitimate child of the emperor of the Kreimhild Empire.

Although he doesn't have the authorities and powers of a royal prince, he's still a genuine 'Prince' of the Kreimhild Empire.

But that is not his only identity; aside from being a prince, he's also a chosen 'Saint' of the temple that worships the **God of Wisdom**.

'A brat who's a good-for-nothing... has too much arrogance and immaturity...'

The original Alex's memories have been forcefully injected into his mind, and although he hasn't experienced them personally, he knows almost everything about Alex right now.

This is one of the main reasons why he was able to easily order around that paladin without others noticing that the person inside the body had changed.

'That paladin... it's a good thing he's only been with Alex for the past two months or so; if not, it would have been easier for him to notice changes in me...'

Alex could instinctively feel that the paladin whose name was 'Ethan' was definitely not a normal person; he was giving off a very powerful 'aura.'

'I have sensed that kind of 'aura' before... It resembles that 'serial killer' who had slaughtered dozens of people...'

As a person who's been frequently kidnapped and beaten half to death many times,

Alex has seen many types of criminals and thugs; among them, the one who was the most dangerous and was giving off the most eerie vibes was a serial killer who nearly killed him once.

Thankfully a fully equipped special forces team raided the area and made a hedgehog of the guy with bullets on the spot, saving Alex's life.

'That paladin... is he one of those superhuman powerhouses from novels?'

The original Alex was a complete airhead who never cared about anything; he had no interest in learning anything, and all he did in his entire day was just mess around.

He didn't even attend the classes of the personal tutor assigned to educate him and never learned any combat skills either.

Due to which, he has no memory of the power structures of this world.

But there is one thing for sure: there are definitely superhuman beings present in this new fantasy-type world, as the original Alex has seen a person in his memories who can fly without needing a jetpack or anything else.

'First things first, I don't know if I am inside a novel or a game world like in those popular tropes.'

'I am inside a very weak body; I am very thin and likely can't even run for a minute or two before collapsing...'

'This world is still in a feudal era and various religions exist in this world too... Also, the industrial revolution has only just begun a few decades ago...'

Alex was sure that this earth was not his world, and that was because there were two suns in this world's sky.

It was currently night, so he could not confirm it, but from the memories in his head, he knew that one of the suns of this world was quite similar to his previous world, but the other one was a red dwarf.

A red dwarf is the smallest type of star in the galaxy, and they are much cooler compared to other types of stars.

'The most troublesome thing is not that this world has two suns; it's that I have been kicked out of the royal palace and am on my way to the Temple of the God of Wisdom right now...'

While looking at the mercenaries in the distance, Alex sighed in exhaustion.

'I am gonna get killed soon, aren't I?'

Chapter 4: She doesn't have a face. Part-2.

As mentioned before, the original Alex was an immature brat, but there was one thing that stood out in him compared to other princes.

He was born with silver hair and golden eyes!

The Kreimhild empire's royal family is said to have been founded by an ancient 'Hero' who was blessed by the God of Wisdom.

According to the legends, every blessed 'saint' of the god of wisdom has silver hair and golden eyes.

Moreover, when Alex was born, an oracle of God was bestowed to the pope of the god of wisdom's church that a chosen saint of the god of wisdom was going to be born in the royal family once again.

And Alex was born on the same night when that oracle of God was bestowed.

The Pope personally came and named the child 'Alexander,' which means 'Protector of Men.'

Alex did not grow up in the church, as he was a prince, and he stayed in the royal palace until he became 16 years old.

He became 16 years old two months ago, and a paladin was sent by the church to bring Alex to the church so that he could take over his duties as a chosen 'Saint.'

Alex, who was already a spoiled brat, did not want to go to the church at all, but his father did not have any particular attachments to this spoiled brat of a son, and thus Alex was kicked out of the palace mercilessly.

He was irritated and angry, but what could he do? The paladin was strong, and even if Alex punched him, his own hand would be hurt.

So, he had no other choice but to obediently go with the paladin.

As Alex did not have any authority or power as a prince, he had no subordinates or knights to serve him.

He was a very rude brat whom no knight wanted to serve at all, and thus he had no other choice but to hire a bunch of mercenaries to escort him through the dangerous wilderness.

Ethan, who's his paladin, is also just as much of an airhead; he's loyal to his work and duty, never questions anything, and does whatever he's ordered.

He only met Alex two months ago and has been serving him as his subordinate ever since.

'I am definitely gonna die... if not tonight then tomorrow...'

A sharp glint appeared in Alex's eyes as he stared at the fire and looked at the mercenaries from the corner of his eyes.

'Around 40 people or something... most of them look like regular humans but I don't know if there's any so-called superhumans among them...'

As mentioned before, the original Alex was an idiot; he didn't even investigate the background of these mercenaries and gave the money to Ethan to hire them.

Ethan himself is an airhead and likely didn't think too much and got tricked easily.

'They charged very little; each one of them is on a horse, which is very optimal for running...'

'Area proximity is the valley of Sorrows, which is famous for its dangerous environment in this nation, very optimal for committing various crimes.'

'Only one paladin as a guard and a sh*t ton of money and luxurious goods, I am a like a sexy lady seducing them with my seductive poses...'

Alex doesn't know whether that paladin is really a superhuman or not, but considering that he's a regular human who's just a little stronger than others, it's easy for a group of people to easily deal with him.

'Optimal time would be when the morning is about to arrive...'

People are most vigilant when they know that the situation is dangerous, and they tend to lower their guard when the situation is about to become safe.

Just when it would seem that they have safely passed the night, the mercenaries can attack and loot everything.

Then they can easily run away and hide in some secured hideout prepared beforehand.

Why is Alex so sure about this, you ask?

Because up until now, Alex hasn't seen a single non-combat person among the mercenaries.

In usual mercenary groups, there's bound to be a medic or logistics person who's not good at fighting and is responsible for other work.

In fact, from original Alex's memories, he has seen his brothers hire a lot of mercenary groups during their monster hunting festivals.

And this mercenary group is entirely made of combatants; they are all equipped with only the necessary amount of food and water.

They are extremely well prepared for the kill-and-run tactic.

'Phew... am I overthinking this? I do have a habit of overthinking, but usually my intuition is very correct...'

'I might need to run tests and some experiments before I confirm the situation... Also, I need to create some 'vaccine' before this 'virus' takes my life...'

Just when Alex was in a daze, his obedient and lovely paladin, Ethan, brought him his food.

"Your holiness, your food is ready! Don't worry about anything; I have already tested it myself. It doesn't have any poison or anything of the sort!"

Alex shook his head, took the bowl, and drank the bland soup given to him by his loyal paladin.

'This tastes horrible... like some weird cough syrup or something...'

Although the food didn't taste good, as if it was made by a very unskilled person, Alex had no other choice but to force himself to eat it.

He was hungry and needed energy to keep his brain functioning.

In a situation where his physical capabilities were way too weak, he needed to rely heavily on his brain, and that needed energy.

Ethan also removed his helmet and drank the same soup while sitting on the ground beside Alex.

His hair and pupils were brownish.

He had ordinary looks, and despite being in his mid-thirties, he was very flexible. He could sit in a lotus position even when wearing such heavy armor.

'That armor, it's very flexible and well made... how much money they splurge on that thing?...'

'If my memory serves me right... isn't the church of the god of wisdom currently in great peril... they are almost extinct and there's only one main church building is left...'

Alex sighed and stopped himself from getting distracted.

While eating, he observed the movements of the mercenaries and noticed something that made him frown a little bit.

There was a young girl among the mercenary group.

"Hmm? Who's that young girl, Ethan? I don't remember seeing her among the mercenaries before..."

Ethan who had his back against the mercenaries smiled a bit at Alex and replied with a smile,

"What are you saying, Lord Saint? You are quite good at joking haha..."

Ethan didn't seem to be taking Alex's words seriously, and his next words made Alex feel like a chill ran down his spine.

"Your holiness, there's no young girl among our group."

"In fact, why would we bring a young girl on such a dangerous trip?"

"This is near the valley of sorrows, you know, and there a monster-infested forest in that direction not far from here."

Alex's eyes widened in shock as he hurriedly looked in the direction of the mercenaries once again, and without a doubt, there was a young girl standing there.

She was leaning against a tree, and Alex could not see her face, as it was too dark around that place.

No mercenary seemed to have noticed her presence, and she was watching them all quietly without making any movement or sound.

The young girl seemed to have noticed Alex's gaze in that moment, and her head rotated like a robot in his direction.

What Alex saw at that moment almost made him faint from shock.

The young girl did not have a face.

Chapter 5: She doesn't have a face. Part-3.

The young girl did not have a face; her eyeballs were hanging out of their sockets, and she was giving off a very creepy aura.

Alex's heartbeat almost stopped as he slowly put his bowl of soup aside and got up from his seat with his eyes wide open.

"Ethan... get ready for combat; we are under attack..."

Ethan was surprised by Alex's weirdly calm and deep voice; he noticed that the look on Alex's face was solemn and his eyes were fixed on a single spot.

****BOOOM!****

Just when Ethan was trying to understand the situation, the young girl's body twisted in various directions creepily, and a powerful shockwave spread in all directions as she opened her mouth to scream!

****AHHHHHHHH!!!!****

Her scream was so loud and powerful that it created a shockwave and blew away everything around her!

All the nearby mercenaries were taken aback by this sudden change in the situation, and some of those standing closest to the 'monstrosity' had their bodies blasted inside out!

Meat and organs flew in the air along with the debris and fell everywhere as the blood splattered everywhere on the ground.

The moonlight fell on the 'monster's face as she stood on top of a mangled corpse.

Thankfully Ethan managed to react on time due to Alex's calm warning and stood in front of Alex to be his shield.

A massive boulder flew in their direction and hit Ethan head-on.

'Am I going to die again so soon?'

His ears were bleeding from hearing the loud noise, and he felt as if his eardrums had been burst apart. He could not hear anything, and his body was paralyzed due to fear.

He could not even move his legs.

'Ugh, the body of a child is so inconvenient; I am urging it to move but it's refusing to follow my orders...'

Alex himself was not a coward, but the body he was in was that of a sixteen-year-old kid who had never even suffered any small injuries in his life.

It was normal for his body to freeze in fear of a horrific monstrosity.

BAAAMMM!

The massive boulder collided with Ethan, who had already donned his helmet back, and shattered on the spot as if it had hit an unbreakable wall or something.

"What!?"

Alex was so surprised that his body even forgot about its fear after watching that scene.

'That boulder was the size of a car!! It shattered after hitting him!? So, Ethan's a superhuman after all!'

As if noticing Alex's shock, Ethan unsheathed his sword and spoke in a calm voice,

"Your holiness, I am paladin who's sworn his loyalty to the church of the god of wisdom; forgive me for not reacting earlier..."

"It's my fault that I didn't notice and let this monster get so close to you."

Hearing Ethan's calm and confident voice, Alex calmed down his trembling body, took deep breaths and said,

"I seriously can't hear what you are saying right now, but whatever you are saying is irrelevant right now..."

"First of all, nod your head if you know what this monstrosity is?"

Ethan shook his head and immediately denied it, which meant he didn't know what this unknown being was.

Alex took a deep breath and looked in the direction of that monster once again; it turned out that after attacking once, the monster started feasting on its prey.

It twisted its body, walked in a weird posture, and started eating the intestines of the dead bodies scattered everywhere while letting out weird noises.

Even though his eardrums were destroyed, Alex could still hear those weird noises right in his head.

'It's enjoying its meal... it's happy...'

Alex's body was weak and pathetic, but his mind was that of a genius scientist; he immediately started assessing the situation.

'Subject has the ability to hide its presence and sneak up to others without getting noticed...'

'Also, that previous attack, that was 'sound' and 'shockwave' manipulation; it's using some kind of bizarre ability to manipulate 'sound'...'

Alex immediately figured out that this bizarre beast was likely amplifying the power of its scream using some odd power.

After all, there is no way a normal organism's scream can create a shockwave so strong that it can blow away boulders the size of cars in the air.

'It purposely chose an area where all the mercenary were concentrated; at least half of them have been killed on the spot and quite a few have fainted...'

Alex noticed that aside from the head of the mercenary group and a few of his strongest underlings, most of them were in a dire situation.

"Ethan, can you deal with that thing while protecting me at the same time?"

Ethan was indeed strong; Alex had never seen anyone as strong as him, but the opponent was using 'soundwaves' as its weapon. There was no way Ethan could fight while protecting Alex from those soundwaves.

Thus, he immediately shook his head and denied.

"Heh... Quite a tough spot we are stuck on, aren't we?... By the way, how did you protect your own ears from that monster's attack?"

"Wait, forget the question; I can't hear you even if you tell me about it now... thankfully that monster's a bit f*cked in the head..."

If it was Alex in the position of that monster, he would have continued to blast everyone with soundwaves until everyone was dead before starting to eat his prey.

But that monster wasn't doing it; this made Alex figure out one thing instantly.

'It's recharging!'

The monster blasted off its prey once and didn't continue using its powers but instead went off to eat the organs of the prey it had already killed.

Every creature becomes prone to attack when they are in the middle of eating and have their guard down. Why would this monster let its guard down after only attacking the group once?

The answer to that was simple: it was eating its prey to recharge and get the energy to let out another blast!

'That previous blast was insanely powerful; it must have consumed immense amounts of energy. no matter what world it is, everything need's 'energy' to function!'

Alex looked around and found a kerosene lamp lying nearby; he grabbed the lamp and spoke to Ethan.

"Quick, find a horse; we are escaping, Ethan. That's my order!"

Ethan was not going to disobey Alex's order; he immediately grabbed Alex and placed him above his shoulders before running toward the place where their horses were.

All the mercenaries that were alive also reacted to this and instinctively followed the two.

While being carried on Ethan's shoulder like a sandbag, Alex's gaze fell on the flora and fauna around the area.

'Come on! Come on! Just one will do!'

He constantly looked around for a particular plant that grew up in the wild sometimes.

While all of them ran towards the horses, the monster finally reacted, and massive eerie tentacles burst out of its body.

Those tentacles were actually big intestines bursting out of its stomach, and they lifted the disfigured monster in the air, and it started chasing its prey while screaming horribly.

****KRRRAARRAHRAHR PEPPEPEPEHHHKEERRERKEREKERE!!****

Every noise it made caused everyone to feel nauseous and uncomfortable; some mercenaries who were at the back of the running group were affected the most.

Their eyes fell out of their sockets, and their nose, ears, and mouth started bleeding uncontrollably.

"ahhhhh!!! Ahhhhhh!!! Save me!!! Ahhhhhh!!!! Nooo!!!!!"

"AHHHHH!!!! I HAVE A KID PLEASE SAVE ME!!!! AHHHHH!!!! AHHHHH!!!!"

"My eye!!! My eye!! Ogggg!!! Ahhhhhhh!!!"

Horrific shrieks of pain and fear rang out in the eerily silent forest.

Seeing this situation, Alex's eyes widened.

'It can also do mental and soul-type attacks!?'

Chapter 6: She doesn't have a face. Part-4.

"Oi oi oi, what the f*ck is that thing!? Why is it so bizarre and strong!?"

Alex, who had never seen such weird monstrosities, was shocked to the core.

'Other protagonists get golden fingers and stuff when they get reincarnated. Why is it that when I got transmigrated, I got thrown in hell!?'

'Did I somehow ended up choosing the hell difficulty!?'

Not only did the monstrosity not stop to eat this time, but it also grabbed the injured mercenaries and ripped apart their stomachs, killing them on the spot.

Then it rolled their intestines and internal organs and stuck them to its own body!

It was so horrible to watch that Alex could not believe his eyes.

One man was in fact still alive when his internal organs were forcefully gouged out of his stomach and got used as ornaments to decorate that monster's hideous body!

"Come on, Ethan! We are dead meat if we don't make it out of here today!"

Ethan nodded his head, sheathed his sword, and focused entirely on running while carrying Alex on his shoulder.

The horses were actually tied to trees near the entrance to the 'Valley of Sorrows,' and most of them were also in a panicked and frightened state.

As they say, animals are more perceptive when it comes to danger, and their instincts help them survive many disasters like floods and earthquakes.

The horses were struggling with all of their might to break the ropes tying them to the tree branches.

Some even broke the tree branches and ran away.

Just when Alex thought that they were close to their goal, the situation changed again.

The horrific monstrosity raised its head and shrieked at the sky!

HHHHHHHAAARRRRRRRRRRRRRAAAAAA!!!!

That shriek was so loud that it spread in a few kilometers of radius, and even Alex felt his mind suffer serious damage from the mental attack!

"Cough! Cough!"

He coughed up a mouthful of blood as his eyes went bloodshot and his nose started bleeding continuously.

But despite all that, Alex did not dare to lose his mental focus; he kept checking the environment, as he warned Ethan.

"That was definitely a call to summon help... There might be more monsters coming over soon; we need to escape!"

'Come on! Where is that plant! F*ck!'

Ethan hurried forward and grabbed the reins of his horse.

Ethan's horse was not like other horses; it was trained, and it was Ethan's trusted companion, which had been with him since Ethan was young.

It didn't panic, and the moment Ethan came, it bit off the rope tying it down and let Ethan sit on its back instantly before running off on its own!

Alex was surprised at how intelligent that horse was, and he patted its back with a smile on his face.

"You are our last hope! Bring us out of this hell!"

As if understanding his words, the horse ran at full speed while avoiding all obstacles.

"Ahhhh!!! Ahhhh!!! Take us too!!! Please!!!"

The mercenaries were frustrated by the fact that Alex and Ethan managed to run.

"F*ck! I shouldn't have taken this mission in the first place! Sh*t!"

As they say, greed often brings disaster.

The mercenary group decided to take the mission with the hope of getting rich in one go.

They were planning on robbing Alex of all his money once inside the valley of sorrows!

But the appearance of that weird monstrosity messed up all of their plans!

****hhharrrrhhh!!!!****

The horrific monstrosity spread its tentacles and grabbed a frightened horse.

It raised the horse high in the air above its disfigured body and ripped apart its stomach to bathe in the blood and internal organs of the horse.

Then it wore the skin of the dead horse with its tentacle, and all of a sudden, its movement speed increased!

****neeejiiggggggg!!!!****

As if the monster had become faster by absorbing the blood of a horse, it ran faster and caught up to the mercenaries in a matter of seconds!

The mercenaries tried to get on the frightened horses but failed, as they didn't let them get close.

Alex then saw hundreds of eyes appear one by one in the darkness.

Weird-looking monsters crawled out of the woods with their disfigured bodies and started blocking the entire area.

Ethan held the reins of his horse, drove straight into the narrow valley, and rushed forward.

'The area around the valley is too rough and steep; the horse can't take us through that area. Only this valley is our way out but if monsters appeared on the other end, we will be finished!'

"AHHHHHHH!!!!"

The dozens of weird-looking monsters ripped apart the mercenaries one by one and started eating them when they were still alive!

Blood splattered everywhere as organs fell on the ground.

The mercenary leader had his heart dug out of his chest as he watched the monstrosity with horror painted all over his face.

His hands and feet were tied by the giant tentacles, and he was not even able to resist!

'Sh*t sh*t!! sh*T! All the mercenaries are dead! If things go this way we are the next target!'

'And that monster can do mental attacks! Even if I manage to survive, after getting hit by so many mental attacks, I will end up become a retard or a brain-dead corpse!'

The monster's eyeballs that were hanging in the air glowed all over, and it started opening its mouth.

Alex noticed this phenomenon and figured out that the situation had become even worse than he had thought.

'That thing's eyeballs glowed when it used the soundwave attack to kill massive numbers of mercenaries before...'

'It's done charging! It's going to attack our horse to stop us!'

Noticing this situation caused Alex to feel even more desperate, and he could almost feel the hand of 'Death' caressing his face once again.

Alex looked in all directions desperately, and he finally found the plant he was looking for.

Just when the situation was getting increasingly desperate and horrible, Alex finally found those familiar 'white' flowers nearby!

"It's a do or die now!"

Alex threw the kerosene lamp on that particular plant with all his might, causing the lamp to shatter and ignite a fire!

The grass inside the valley of sorrows was very dry, and it ignited almost instantly, causing that particular plant to also get caught in the fire!

And luckily for Alex, the wind direction was in his favor.

Strong winds rushed inside the valley from the front and pushed all the smoke toward the horde of monsters, while Alex and Ethan remained unaffected by the smoke!

"This is it, Ethan! Now is the chance to run!"

Ethan could not understand why Alex had made that particular plant ignite and what 'chance' he had created, but he believed Alex's words.

All the monsters suddenly fell into chaos after that smoke hit them; this helped Alex and Ethan to make it out of the Valley of Sorrows alive!

Alex and Ethan did not stop at all for an entire hour and rushed straight without a single second of rest.

Finally, the horse could not run anymore and got exhausted.

They had to stop near a small stream of water; Ethan helped Alex walk and sit near a tree.

Only after he leaned his back against the tree stump did Alex finally manage to take a sigh of relief.

'I survived...'

Chapter 7: The Knowledgeable Saint.

"Lord Saint! You are losing too much blood! Let me heal you!"

Ethan did not rest and immediately got to work.

He walked over to the horse and brought out a vial containing a golden liquid from its saddlebag.

"I have a habit of carrying some food and essential equipment with me; here, drink this..."

Alex took the vial with his trembling hand and barely managed to drink it without fainting on the spot.

He was hungry, tired, and heavily injured at the same time.

He had just transmigrated into this world, and a horrific tragedy happened to him right after!

He almost died twice in the same day!

The monster appeared so suddenly that Alex didn't even have the time to properly eat, and he barely survived by a hair's breadth!

****Gulp****

As Alex gulped down the golden liquid, his entire body felt warm and comfortable.

A mysterious power spread in his entire body, and all of his injuries started to heal at a speed visible to the naked eye!

"This is!?"

The paladin ignored Alex's shock and placed a hand on his chest before chanting,
"O Lord of Wisdom, bless your child with your protection."

[Basic Divine Art: Heal!]

Ethan's hand glowed with golden light as he healed Alex with a calm and focused look on his face.

'I see.. no wonder religions are so prominent in this world, 'divine power' exists in this world and it can heal others!'

Alex felt that the power of the golden liquid that he drank was boosted and controlled after Ethan used his skill as a paladin.

'He likely does not have enough divine power to perform a powerful healing method, so he gave me a healing vial and then used its properties to create pseudo high-level healing effect...'

'That's a clever idea. How did this guy think of it?... no, someone must have taught him about this skill...'

Alex's exhaustion was reduced tremendously as his injuries were healed at a rapid pace.

His bloodshot eyes became normal, and his eardrums that were irreparably damaged were also fixed instantly by this magical healing ability.

Once the healing was over, Ethan handed Alex a clean cloth that he brought from the saddlebag of the horse.

"I know it's not up to your standard but I only have this on me for now... you can use it to wash your face, your holiness..."

Alex did not have the energy or urge to argue with Ethan, and he was grateful that Ethan saved his life, so he took the clean cloth and got up.

"Phew... I can finally hear everything normally; I almost thought my hearing was gone for life..."

He took a deep sigh and walked over to the stream.

His face looked pale, as he had lost a lot of blood, and he was even feeling a bit feverish, as his body was too weak to withstand this much burden.

"Thankfully, I managed to find a 'Datura' plant at the last minute; otherwise, that monster would have killed us there..."

Ethan tilted his head in confusion at Alex's words.

"I have been meaning to ask about that actually... Why did those monsters stop chasing us after you burned that plant, Lord Saint?"

Alex washed his face in the clear water and wiped his face and ears with the cloth before answering in a calm voice,

"Datura is a highly toxic plant that grows in temperate regions where temperature is around 28 degrees Celsius..."

"When burned it releases highly toxic smoke that can intoxicate anyone in a matter of seconds; its smoke is poisonous and very harmful for everyone..."

"Moreover, it can even cause hallucinations and various other problems if inhaled..."

The moment Alex was being chased by that monstrosity, he noticed that it actually had a nose.

Moreover, it was bathing itself in blood, which means its skin was working in such a way that it could absorb outside things through its skin membrane very easily.

Alex used its ability against it; he looked for a type of plant that could spread toxic poison. This way, when the smoke interacted with the monster's body, it likely became intoxicated.

'It was extremely intelligent and was using tactics to hunt down its prey, so it likely had a brain. If it had a brain, then it's possible for it to fall for hallucinations...'

Alex didn't expect more monsters to appear when escaping, but that was no longer important; as long as they inhaled even a little bit of that toxic smoke, they would also end up in a similar deranged state.

He thought of this plan when he noticed that the temperature of the area was quite decently hot even when it was night.

And the air was also not that cold; in other words, it was possible to find a 'Datura' plant somewhere in the area.

'Well, it was mostly luck and a big gamble...'

If there was no such plant in the vicinity, Alex and the horse both would have been instantly killed by the shockwave of that monstrosity.

Ethan might have survived, but even he would have struggled to escape that place without a horse, surrounded by hordes of monsters.

'If that monster had managed to fire off his shockwaves even just one second earlier, we would have been dead...'

The monster lost sight of them due to the heavy smoke and could not accurately target them.

Many factors came together, and only then did their survival become possible.

"In short, that monster and its underlings will likely stay in a deranged state for quite a while now..."

"After our rest is over, we must get going as soon as possible; it's better to be safe than sorry. we should make as much distance from that place as possible..."

Ethan could barely understand Alex's detailed scientific information, and most of it was too complicated for him to understand.

"Y-you are really knowledgeable, Lord Saint..."

Alex took a deep breath and said,

"What? You thought I was just a brat who knew nothing at all?"

"Even though I am a prince who's never faced any difficulty before, I am still the 'chosen' saint of the God of Wisdom, you know!"

"If it's about knowledge, I might not lose to anyone..."

In this unknown land where Ethan was his last straw for survival, Alex needed to make sure that he was not considered a liability.

He is physically weak, but he must not let that weakness break him; he needs to show Ethan that even with this weak body, he's still capable of doing quite a few things, or he might have to face the risk of losing Ethan's loyalty.

Alex can't lose Ethan's support right now, as he's the only person who can bring Alex out of this hellhole right now.

'Err... Forgive me, little Ethan, I might have to use some emotional and mental manipulation tactics to make you work for me...'

"Well, forget about other things. Do you know where we are right now?"

Before Ethan could ask any other questions, Alex changed the topic.

Ethan brought out a map from the saddlebag and said,

"Hmm, we have crossed the valley of sorrows; if we rush as fast as possible, we can reach the city of Ilma in about half a day!"

Chapter 8: I want a gun!!!

Alex bit a piece of jerky as he rode on horseback.

He did not know how to do horse-riding, so Ethan was walking in front, leading the horse while holding its reins.

'Phew, thankfully, we are not that far from a town...'

They were now on a decently maintained dirt road, and Alex could even see some farms in the distance.

The sun was starting to rise, and the darkness of the night had started to fade away.

The headquarters of the church of the god of wisdom is located in the city of 'Ilma,' the word means 'knowledge,' and Alex felt that it was a fitting name for the church of wisdom to be located in such a city.

According to the map, it takes about half a day to reach the city of Ilma from the valley of sorrows, and there is a small town in between them.

Alex decided to stop by that small town, as he wanted some clean water and some other food for himself.

'That strange healing skill of Ethan did heal me... but I am still feeling very feverish and even my face is pale... it's likely because I lost too much blood and might need to take some rest...'

Even while riding the horse, Alex felt sleepy; the warm morning sunlight was very comfortable, and the fresh air of the open grassland was also very nice.

"By the way... why is it that we took such a dangerous route to reach the church? Is there no other route aside from the 'Forest of Demonic Rifts'?"

The valley of sorrows is located very close to a massive forest; Alex saw the full map and figured out that most of those weird monsters came from that forest.

Ethan had also never seen that bizarre monster, and it was definitely something rare.

Alex had a memory of the 'Forest of Demonic Rifts' in his newly acquired memories; apparently, that bizarre forest has 'spatial rifts' that open at random places at random times, and they spew out bizarre monsters.

The original Alex heard that a battalion of well-trained knights got killed when they were on an expedition near the 'Forest of Demonic Rifts.'

It's a very dangerous place where hundreds of monsters lurk, and most people avoid even talking about it, as they think that even mentioning its name might inflict you with a curse.

"It's not that there are no other routes; it's just that they are not available for the time being..."

"We would have to through a desert or a sea route if we wanted to choose another routes... compared to those places, this route was actually the most safest..."

"Monsters don't usually come out of the forest of demonic rifts. I travelled all alone from the city of Ilma to the royal capital and I didn't meet a single monster along the way..."

Ethan shook his head and spoke in his usual calm tone.

"I think our luck was very bad yesterday; usually, it's near impossible to meet such powerful monsters so randomly..."

"I have fought monsters my entire life, your holiness. But even I have never seen such a powerful monster before..."

"The most surprising thing about that bizarre creature was not its strength but the fact that it was evolving and improving while in combat!"

Alex felt chills run down his spine every time he thought about how that bizarre creature became faster and stronger after it bathed in the blood of that horse back then.

It was a horrific sight and a mind-shattering experience; thankfully, he's got the powerful mind of a genius scientist, or he would have been suffering from severe PTSD by now.

"Actually... I was very surprised by how calmly you handled the situation... Your holiness was magnificent in battle!"

"Even though it was your first time confronting such a powerful monster, you managed to keep yourself rational and even managed to trick those monsters! No wonder you are the chosen 'Saint'!"

Ethan's words made Alex feel ashamed.

'Err... I am nothing special; if we are talking about being strong, a guy like you who can easily tank boulders being thrown at him is more abnormal...'

'My luck is really bad; how did I end up encountering such a hideous monster on my first day of transmigration?...'

Even if he hadn't met the monster, the mercenaries were also not good people; they might have attacked Alex and Ethan perhaps.

Surviving in that scenario would have been more difficult.

'Dealing with mindless monsters and dealing with intelligent humans are two completely different things...'

That bizarre monster was indeed intelligent, but not to the extent of being completely self-conscious; if it had been that smart, survival would have been impossible.

If it was not present and Alex had to fight the mercenaries, first he would have had to make sure that he and Ethan had a safe escape route or a proper plan.

'I might have had to poison their food or use some other tactic to weaken them first so that Ethan could deal with them more easily...'

'But would a paladin like him have agreed to kill a human?... I am not sure if he would have even followed my plan of poisoning them...'

Alex had a lot of thoughts swirling in his mind at the moment; he was confused about his transmigration, he was confused about this new world, and there were a ton of other questions too.

But he could only sigh and stop himself from thinking too much for now.

'I am not in a good condition; overthinking might cause me to faint on the spot. I need to conserve my energy...'

'Ugh, this jerky tastes so bad...'

The jerky was the only food in the saddlebag, and Alex had no other choice but to make do with it.

'Talking about jerky... it seems that the church of the god of wisdom does not restricts its followers from eating meat...'

Back in Alex's previous world, there were some religions that taught not to eat other animals, as those animals were also precious living beings.

Alex himself didn't believe that much in religion, as he was a scientist, but now that he's in this new world, he has no other choice but to learn everything from scratch.

'If they were restricting their followers from eating meat, this paladin Ethan would not have been carrying jerky around as emergency ration... it would have been dry fruits or something else...'

Food, clothing, societal structures, and beliefs are fundamental elements that teach you about a place's culture and heritage.

By knowing what kind of food and clothes a region has, you can also know a lot about their local culture and heritage.

'Aside from getting to know about this world more... I need to get stronger too; I need some kind of personal strength...'

Alex has already had a near-death encounter due to his lack of strength and his weak body. If he wants to survive in this monster-infested world where powerful beings roam around freely, he needs strength.

'I wonder if there are rifles or anything like that in this world...'

According to the memories of the original Alex, this world is not all that backward; the kingdom of Kreimhild is in the midst of the industrial revolution right now.

'If there is a rifle... even if it's just a primitive version, I need to get it for my safety...'

'My physical capabilities will take a long time to grow... but with a gun I can do 'freedom-type Breathing technique'...'

'All in all, I want a gun!!!'

Chapter 9: Wrath of heavens? Bullsh*t!

Town Leonbrave. Morning.

****Step* *Step****

The sound of metal boots stepping on the stone path rang out near the entrance of the small town.

The old guard sitting in his chair as guard was jolted awake when he heard that loud noise coming closer.

He opened his eyes and saw a tall paladin donned in full body armor leading a horse with a young man sitting on the horse's back.

"Oi oi, is your town lacking young folks? Why is an old fart with half a foot in his grave sitting as a guard here?"

"Are you the only man left in this town or what?"

The old man hurriedly got up from his seat and immediately started explaining.

"Err... that's not true; it's just that most of them are busy working on the farms and don't have time to be sitting here as a guard..."

"Wait!! Who are you?"

It took the old man a while to remember that he should be the one asking questions of these unknown strangers, not the other way around.

Although the old man was weak and frail, his eyes still had the indomitable spirit of a soldier in them.

His hand was firmly clenching the broken stick supporting his body, and even in this old age, he had solid footing.

'He's giving me the same vibes as of a retired combat sport veteran...'

Alex's current body was physically very weak, and he knew that he might even lose to this random old man if they fought, so he didn't want to sound harsh, but his mouth kept speaking on its own.

"Old fart, hurry and leave this 'job' position; leave a vacancy for young folk to get a job!"

"You can't even see this gorilla-sized paladin!? It seems age has not been kind to your eyes..."

The old man almost lost his balance and coughed up a mouthful of blood after being scolded this much by a kid.

But before the situation could escalate, the benevolent and kind paladin immediately deescalated the conflict.

"Don't feel disheartened; his holiness is harsh with words, but all he's trying to say is that you are too old for this kind of difficult work."

"Staying under sunlight all day long and working this hard might deteriorate your health even faster."

Ethan stepped forward and brought out a medal engraved with the symbol of a book and spoke with a gentle tone,

"I am a paladin of the Church of Wisdom, and this here is His Holiness the Saint of the Church of Wisdom."

"Our convoy got involved in a deadly battle against a powerful monster and only the two of us managed to make it out alive..."

"We are looking for a place to rest..."

The paladins of the various churches in this world had a very good reputation; most of them were trained to be benevolent and kind from the very beginning, and thus they were liked by everyone.

Many passing paladins have helped small remote villages and towns before, and this has improved their reputation even among ordinary people, let alone nobles.

Hearing Ethan's words, a happy smile appeared on the old man's face.

"So, you two are saviors sent by God to help us poor folks from our sins! Thank you, please enter!"

Ethan didn't find the old man's overly enthusiastic behavior weird, as this was normal for him, and he had seen this kind of scene many times before.

But for a modern man transmigrated into this feudal era, this enthusiasm was enough to give him many clues.

'The transportation system is still very bad; it's not developed properly. people are less educated and they are prone to believing in superstitions easily...'

'I don't know everything in detail, but if these ordinary people need the help of churches for problems, then it means the empire itself is not working efficiently enough...'

As Ethan led the horse inside the town, Alex noticed that most towns were made of mud and wood; there was no concrete at all.

The older techniques of cutting stones in various shapes and fixing them to create sturdy houses were also being used.

The best thing about the town was that there were stone-paved streets here and not just some dirt or mud stacked together.

"I don't know if we can even rest in this run-down place... Do you guys even have anything to eat?"

"Why do those children look so malnourished..."

As they say, when you want to assess how good a place is, look at how happy the children are.

Alex immediately noticed several children playing with each other in the streets.

Most of them looked malnourished, weak, and fragile.

Even when playing, they were very sluggish and didn't smile often.

At Alex's words, the old man leading them inside replied in an awkward tone as if he was ashamed of talking about this matter.

"Lord Saint, this is the problem I was talking about... Our farms have been cursed by the wrath of heavens."

"Barely anything grows anymore; we are forced to eat less and even children can't eat a full meal... it's very unfortunate..."

Alex's eyes narrowed at the old man's words.

"Wrath of heavens? Do you even know what you are talking about?"

"What is this old fart spouting about, Ethan?"

At Alex's question, Ethan sighed and spoke in a sad voice,

"There is a curse that affects many farmers; after a few years of farming on a land, its productivity becomes very bad even after adding manure..."

The moment Alex heard those words, he immediately understood the problem.

"Wrath of heavens bullsh*t! Isn't that just mineral deficiency in soil!"

"Ah, yes, you guys don't have fertilizers so it's understandable..."

Alex was originally going to scold them that they were being careless by not adding fertilizers, but then he remembered that chemical fertilizers were invented very late in the Industrial Revolution era.

'Hmm, even if we consider adding more manure to farms, there won't be enough livestock to produce that much manure to deal with big and many farms...'

The population of the town seemed much lower, and thus there will be less livestock and less manure production.

'Err... this is quite a difficult situation...'

"At this point, might as well open up other locations for farming and let the previous land recover with rain and manure over time for a while..."

"By the way, are you guys using the three-field crop rotation system? What about lime or chalk for farm enrichment?"

"What about chicken? You can raise some on your farms for pest control and manure and stuff..."

Alex's words were all going from right above the two fellows' heads, and they looked at each other as if they could understand each other's feelings of astonishment without even talking.

"Forget it, just take us to your town head's house; we will talk it out with him instead..."

Seeing that the two airheads could not understand his words, Alex just shook his head and admitted defeat.

'Sigh... if only I had some golden finger or something, I could be like those protagonists in the novels who use various magical skills to look cool...'

'There are also protagonists with kingdom-building-type systems; that would have been a better option for me...'

As a scientist, Alex felt that it was a shame that humans were living in such ignorance of knowledge in this world.

'Humans are destined for stars! Technology is their biggest weapon! We must always strive for improvement!'

The moment Alex had these thoughts in his heart, he suddenly felt a 'sensation' spread through his mind.

'Hmm? What was that?'

Alex tried to sense it again, but that unknown sensation in his mind disappeared just as suddenly as if it never existed in the first place, leaving him confused.

'Am I hallucinating because of hunger?'

Chapter 10: Life is Unpredictable...

The town of Leonbrave has been governed by the Leonbrave family for generations.

An elder of the Leonbrave family becomes the mayor of the town generation after generation.

Alex didn't find this information too surprising, as he himself is in the body of a prince and is a part of this feudal era now.

It's pointless to argue with these poor people about how they should establish a proper governing body for their town.

To them, filling their stomach is more important than protesting against their town head.

Alex and Ethan were led to the central house in the town, and it was also not that impressive either.

Even the mayor's own house looked dilapidated, so Alex ruled out 'corruption' from the list of problems in this town.

"Uh... Are you sure this old man is the town head?"

Alex was baffled when he found out that the town head was actually a man so old he looked like he was already a corpse.

He could barely even open his eyes and didn't even seem to respond to others' voices.

"Are you kidding me? How do you expect such an old person to lead you all? You are out of your mind to still be thinking about making him work for you all..."

Alex couldn't help but sigh.

"Err... Your holiness, the Leonbrave family only has him left and there are no other people left to become the next town head... that has put us all in great trouble..."

Seeing Alex shake his head in disappointment, the old guard hurriedly explained.

"By the way, does any caravan or anything pass by this town? Is there anyone in your town who's been to the nearby city of 'Ilma'?"

All of a sudden Alex changed the topic and asked a completely irrelevant question, making the old guardsman confused.

"Your holiness, you must be joking... That city is the holy ground of the church of wisdom; how can us lowly folk be allowed to enter it?"

"Some caravans do pass by here but not often..."

Hearing that answer, Alex nodded his head.

'As I thought, the church of wisdom seems like it's in great peril... people in this town are so helpless and just a basic level of kindness can make them convert to the faith of the god of wisdom...'

'But the church hasn't stationed anyone here despite the town being so close; this means they don't have enough people to control the nearby areas...'

Alex knew very little about this world, so most of his thoughts were guesses, but he was trying to prepare a mental map of everything while adapting to this new world as fast as possible.

'Poor people, etc., are not able to enter the city of Ilma, which will restrict even trade caravans and others...'

'This will impact the economy of the city of Ilma heavily... they aren't even trading with people in their local area, and they aren't even spreading their faith...'

'The situation is worse than I thought... I doubt they even have a decent number of troops in the city to send to other towns to help in case of emergencies...'

Alex hasn't even been to the city of Ilma as of yet, but he was already starting to figure out the situation there from just the small clues.

"Who's the most intelligent person in your town then?"

When Alex asked that question, the old man's eyes shone as if he had someone in mind.

"I see, you have an answer for that question. Bring that person to me by evening. Aside from that, arrange a clean set of clothes for me..."

"If possible, bring a small meal for me and this paladin..."

After giving his order, Alex entered the house of the village chief with Ethan and found that there wasn't even a chair inside to sit on.

"Sigh... life really is unpredictable..."

Alex shook his head, as he didn't even have the energy to complain, and he just sat down directly on the floor as he leaned his back against the mud wall.

"L-lord saint, you don't need to sit on the floor... I will go look for a chair or something..."

Ethan was shocked that Alex, a chosen 'saint' and the prince of the nation, didn't even hesitate to sit on the floor, and he felt obliged to do something for Alex.

But Alex waved his head and said,

"Forget it; you have been walking all night on foot while leading the horse. Sit down and relax a bit. Don't you get tired wearing all that heavy-looking armor all day long?"

Hearing Alex's question, Ethan removed his helmet and replied with a smile,

"I am a paladin of the church of wisdom. I have devoted my loyalty to my benevolent god. I am protected by his gaze..."

"As long as I am faithful to my 'Path,' I will always have the strength to be strong and keep moving forward..."

When Ethan mentioned the word 'path,' Alex felt the atmosphere in the dilapidated house become a bit heavier but then it became normal right after, making Alex confused.

"A 'path,' you say?... What do you mean by that-"

Before Alex could finish his question, a little kid walked inside with a sheepish smile on his small face.

He looked scared yet excited at the same time as he made his way to Alex and Ethan.

"L-lord Sait, I-I... Are you really from a big big city?"

Alex looked towards the door and noticed a few other kids peeking inside the house with an anxious look on their little faces.

'I see... they must be curious about the outside world...'

Just like Alex had already guessed, this remote town was cut off from the rest of the world, and they were barely having any trade with any nearby cities.

So, most people didn't even know what cities looked like, and children were eager to hear stories about them.

Thinking about this, Alex put a smile on his face as he spoke in a gentle tone,

"Yes, you can call me big bro Alex! And I am from a big, big city!"

The kid was having difficulty pronouncing the word 'Lord Saint,' and thus Alex didn't mind letting him call him with a nickname.

Ethan could not sit still and wanted to tell Alex that a saint must always be respected, but Alex stopped him from speaking with a glare.

"Hehe! W-what do cities look like then? Are they all shiny and nice? Mom said that everyone in the big cities is happy and gets to eat a lot of food! Ehehe..."

Alex could not break the little kid's heart and decided to tell him only half the truth.

"Well, it's true that there are luxurious houses and lavish foods in big cities... Work hard, and try to become a knight! Perhaps one day you will also be able to go there!"

The little kid was happy after hearing Alex's words and ran away to tell his friends about it!

He had a lovely and happy smile on his face; he was imagining a happy and bright future within his mind.

"Lord Saint... that kid... His life force is very weak; he might not make it past this year..."

Ethan's calm voice shattered that happy and lovely imagination.

"I didn't want to know about that... sigh, forget it... Life is always unfair and unpredictable like that; it's pointless to argue about it.... sigh..."