

The Pathway Of Wisdom #Chapter 31: Angry and Broken To The Extreme. Part-1. - Read The Pathway Of Wisdom Chapter 31: Angry and Broken To The Extreme. Part-1.

Chapter 31: Angry and Broken To The Extreme. Part-1.

Jake Schild is the first-born son of Ethan Schild, a veteran Phase 1 Pathwalker who's one of the strongest people in the entire city of Ilma.

Pathwalkers themselves are quite rare to begin with, and only 1 in a thousand people succeeds in becoming a Pathwalker in their entire lifetime.

Those who can keep walking further and keep getting stronger are even more rare than that.

Jake was among the selected few people who were already born with immense talent and luck.

He was lucky because he was born in a loving family, he was lucky because he was born with a much stronger physique than his peers, and he was lucky because he had a supportive father who taught him with great patience.

Ethan taught his every skill to Jake and helped him reach strength beyond what his peers could even imagine.

With Jake's good talent, he learned fast and became skilled in many types of weapons and finally chose a sword as his main weapon, like his father.

By the age of sixteen, Jake was already strong enough to slice a boulder in two with just a single strike of his sword.

He had started training from the age of five, and by now, he was already strong enough to survive against 'Beast' class monsters and stand his ground against them.

Ever since childhood, Jake had seen his father protect others; he had seen his father work hard to save people and do missions for the church.

His father was his 'hero'! And Jake respected his father a lot.

As Jake grew up, he made several friends as he got to train with the orphans and soldiers that used to train in the army training grounds.

And Jake got to learn that others' parents, and especially their fathers, were not like his own.

Some of his friends had alcoholic fathers; some even used to beat up their wives and children, and some were complete deadbeats who never earned anything and just scolded them.

Only then did the young Jake understand how lucky and gifted he was to be born into such a happy and supportive family.

Indeed, he was talented, but without the support of his father, his talent would have all gone to waste by now.

Jake's mother was a hard-working woman; she not only took care of the house, but she even taught Jake an important rule of life.

{Death Before Disgrace.}

She taught him that it was better to accept 'death' instead of accepting 'disgrace' and 'cowardness.'

Under her teaching, Jake grew up to be a confident and fearless warrior; he would rather accept 'death' than run away from challenges!

Running from challenges, running from battles, running from fears, and running from death, he was told to never even think about these things, as 'honor' was everything to a true warrior.

When he found out that his father was sent to bring the infamous arrogant prince to their church as the 'saint,' Jake could not sit still.

His friends, the people he grew up with, and the people from the church were all nervous, and everyone was terrified at the thought of a royal prince living among them.

Jake, who couldn't accept such unfairness, couldn't sit still.

For some reason, he was constantly hearing bad things about that certain prince from various sources, and each new rumor was more exaggerated than the previous one.

By the time Alex finally arrived, everyone in the church was on edge, and they were all very nervous.

Most of them had already made up their mind to do various kinds of tests to figure out how to behave with this new lord of theirs.

The prince Alex was not only just a 'saint' in name, but he was also chosen by the oracle of their god himself!

He had more authority in the church than the pope himself!

Whatever he said, they would have to agree to it, as he was a direct representative of their god!

Jake refused to obey the commands of a person who was infamous for his arrogant behavior and immature demeanor.

And just like every fearless true warrior, Jake did not fear the royal power or anything in the world at all.

He directly challenged Alex, and even when pressured by his father's powerful 'aura,' he still remained determined and refused to retreat a single inch!

Jake had never seen his father get so angry at him, but he could not retreat; in fact, he didn't have the concept of retreat in his dictionary.

What made Jake the angriest was that Alex was still smiling and grinning despite being challenged by him.

Jake considered himself one of the strongest and most talented among the younger generation, and he was sure that he could easily beat Alex in a single attack!

Just from how thin and weak Alex looked, it was obvious he stood no chance against Jake.

And yet Alex taunted him with, 'Don't be late, and don't run away like a coward.'

Those words carried a lot of disrespect and hit Jake pride directly, causing him immense anger and frustration.

That night Jake trained continuously with eyes filled with anger.

...

Training Ground, Midnight.

There was a training ground located on the east side of the church where Jake often trained with Ethan when he was young, and it was still his favorite training spot.

"J-jake... you should rest now... you have a duel to fight the day after tomorrow..."

"Also... you haven't eaten anything at all; you should eat... y-your mom is worried about you..."

Jake, who was swinging his sword in frustration and practicing his sword swing continuously, snapped out of his daze when a feminine voice entered his ears.

He looked back and found his childhood friend and the second disciple of his father, Freya, sitting on a bench nearby.

She removed her helmet with a hesitant and embarrassed look on her cute face.

Her short greyish hair made her look extra cute, causing Jake heart to skip a beat after just a single glance.

"Y-you need to take care of your health too, you know... I will get angry at you if you stay in such a sour mood like that..."

Freya was a shy girl, and she stuttered a lot, as she found talking to others very difficult, and she had social anxiety.

Jake and his family members were the only people she found easier to talk to, as she had grown up in their care.

"Err... I-I was just a bit too emotional... Forgive me, you are right... I need to calm down..."

"Don't worry, I will go back to sleep after I am done training for one more hour..."

Freya shook her head helplessly at Jake's words as she got up from her seat.

"Promise me you will go back and take proper rest... I-I shall go now..."

Once Freya left, Jake went on to train for several more hours and only managed to get one or two hours of sleep that night, as Alex's insulting words kept revolving in his head continuously and didn't let him sleep.

That night, Jake had a nightmare in which he was being laughed at by Alex.

Chapter 32: Angry and Broken To The Extreme. Part-2.

After not being able to sleep properly, Jake felt tired in the morning, but for a trained warrior like him, this much was nothing.

He got ready and left for his usual training schedule.

Just like usual, he ate the delicious grilled meat from the stall located near the church and then went to the blacksmith shop that his father often went to and handed over his sword to him to polish and sharpen.

Swords get rusted fast when sharpened to the extreme; thus, most soldiers and knights only sharpen them when they are about to fight, and usually, they use practice swords for training.

The same was true for Jake; after giving the sword to the blacksmith, Jake went to the soldier's training grounds like usual.

Most of the young warriors of the city liked to gather in these training grounds and spar with each other very often.

The same was true for Jake; he was, in fact, the strongest among all his peers, and barely anyone stood a chance against him.

Most of them usually wouldn't even agree to spar with him, as he was too strong for them.

But today was different.

The moment Jake entered the training grounds, dozens and dozens of soldiers and even his own friends swarmed over to ask him for a spar.

Unlike usual, there was a glint of excitement in all of their eyes, and they were all eager to spar with him today.

Just yesterday, they were all trying their best to hide from him to avoid a spar with him, and today, they were eager to fight him on the spot!

It was such a strange and drastic change that even the trainers were pleasantly surprised, but as they were busy and were on a tight schedule, they didn't have the time to bother about this small matter.

Jake, who was hard-wired to never retreat and never run away from battle, could not reject any of them.

'W-what the heck is going on here!?'

With a confused look on his face, Jake entered the sparring ring and fought his opponent with a training sword.

Unlike usual, the opponent was extremely excited and actually tried his best to defeat Jake, but he was too weak to do much and was swiftly defeated in just a few swings.

But that victory did not make Jake feel happy.

Another opponent jumped into the ring right away without giving Jake a single moment of rest!

The same process was repeated once again, and the opponent lost easily once more, but despite the loss, the next challenger was still filled with motivation!

Jake couldn't fathom what was happening to him, and as he could not back down, he had to keep fighting and fighting continuously for several hours straight!

That day Jake sparred from morning till late in the evening and defeated dozens of opponents.

Although he managed to defeat every single one of his opponents, by the end of it all he was so tired that he barely even won the last match!

His arms and legs were shaking from exhaustion like crazy, and he was panting continuously!

And not only the tiredness, but he even felt a very weird sensation in his stomach!

His stomach was hurting like crazy, and his head was as hot as a frying pan from fever!

He could barely even open his eyes, and it took him immense effort to barely crawl back home that night!

Someone even poured cold dirty water on him while he was on his way back home, causing his fever to rise even more.

By the time he reached home at the speed of a snail, it was already past midnight!

Jake was so tired that he wanted to rest immediately, but his stomach didn't let him sleep!

His fever went out of control, and he got severe diarrhea that night, and he couldn't sleep properly for the second night straight!

By the time morning came, his situation was so bad that he could barely move!

****HUFF!* *PANT!* *HUFF****

Freya lent her shoulder with a look of concern on her face as she led him to the training ground of the Church, where the duel was about to be held that day.

"J-jake... you should postpone this duel... What happened yesterday was definitely not normal... this is... you..."

Freya and Jake were no idiots; by now they both understood what was happening and who had done all this.

It was likely the handiwork of that infamous 'Saint'!

"N-no... I can't postpone... he will mock me for running away from the duel! I will beat him no matter what!"

Even in that broken, weak, and tired state, Jake refused to back down.

Alex's words of insult kept stinging his body like poison needles! And he wanted to prove Alex wrong!

If he didn't reach the duel arena on time, he would be considered a coward! And he didn't want that!

His pride and his ego would never let him accept being called a coward at any cost!

What Jake didn't know was that Alex said those words to him exactly because of this reason.

Alex said that so that no matter what bad situation happens, Jake refuses to back down, as that would hurt his ego.

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

Each step was a nightmare to Jake, but he barely managed to reach the arena.

The time of the duel was set to 'Noon,' and thus the sun was shining right above the arena, causing Jake's already hot body to suffer even more from this heat.

All the members of the church arrived one by one.

Even some seats were arranged for guests that came to the church today because of the rumor that the strongest young warrior of the city was going to fight the prince of the empire!

Usually, the church is quite empty, as barely anyone comes to pray at the god of wisdom's church, but today it was different.

The news that the prince of the nation and the 'saint' of the church were going to have a duel today had already spread throughout the entire city for some reason like wildfire.

It was almost as if someone had deliberately spread the rumor and gathered these many people.

Jake even saw a noble from the count's family arrive to watch the duel!

The entire training ground of the church was now filled with people, and there were hundreds of people watching the show.

Jake, who looked as pale as a sheet of paper, stood under the heat of the sun wearing heavy armor.

"J-jake... this.. here is your sword. You were ill so I went to the blacksmith to bring it to you..."

Freya handed the sword to Jake with a concerned look on her face, but she knew that Jake was very stubborn, and thus she could only back away and let him do as he pleased.

Jake clenched his palm as he held his sword in his hand as he thought to himself,

'No matter what... I will not lose!'

Chapter 33: The Sinister Plan. Part-1.

Jake stood under the sun in heavy armor and kept waiting.

He kept waiting and waiting and waiting; two hours went by, and Alex still didn't arrive.

Every time someone was sent to bring him to the arena, he would send them back saying he would come in ten minutes as he was getting ready.

He kept delaying, and with each passing minute, Jake's situation worsened; he couldn't even stand properly, and he was barely supporting his body with extreme determination and grit at that point.

****Huff!* *Pant!* *Huff!****

After a whole two and a half hours, Alex finally arrived at the arena, and by that time Jake was in such a bad state he had already thrown away his helmet as he couldn't withstand the heat.

His heavy armor felt so heavy that he couldn't even move an inch, and his sword, which seemed as light as a feather at normal times, now seemed extremely heavy!

When Alex finally showed up, Jake's mind went blank from sheer anger and frustration!

His emotions went haywire, and he was so angry and broken that even Alex felt a tiny bit of pity looking at his helpless face.

"Oh~ my bad, little Jake, I got up late today and couldn't sleep properly at night so I was taking a small nap~ Yaawwwnnnn~..."

As he entered the arena, Alex stretched his body with a teasing smile on his face and yawned loudly as he rubbed his sleepy eyes!

It was clear that he was taking a nap and didn't come to the arena on time on purpose!

He already knew that Jake's situation was bad, and he made him stand under the scorching sunlight for nearly three hours straight!

Not only was Jake badly dehydrated due to his diarrhea, but he was now even more dehydrated due to the scorching heat of his heavy armor getting hot under the sun.

Alex's teasing smile and relaxed demeanor were even more infuriating to Jake, who was a very punctual and disciplined warrior.

"Yawwwnnnn~ Oh, little kiddo over there, give me that stick you are holding. I kind of forgot my sword so I will make do with that..."

Alex looked at a random kid who was playing with a stick and asked him to give it to him.

Those words were so disrespectful that Jake's eyes went bloodshot, and he lost all sanity in that moment.

"You!!! H-how can you!!! How can you disrespect the code of a warrior like that!!!?"

"Do you have no honour!?"

Hearing those angry shouts of Jake, Alex smirked and spread his arms open wide as he looked at all the spectators and said out loud,

"I am not a warrior, Jake Schild. I am not a swordsman. I have no need to follow the code of conduct that a warrior must follow..."

"I am a 'Saint' of the 'God of Wisdom'! Only those who know the 'Path' of strategy, the path of intelligence, and the path of tactics are qualified to be a 'Saint' of a God who is the most 'Intelligent' in this world!"

Alex smiled as he clenched the wooden stick in his palm with a playful look on his face.

"I am no warrior, Jake Schild, but I am a strategist. I believe in the god of 'Wisdom,' not in the God of 'War' and 'Battles'..."

"To be the believer of my benevolent god, you need not power, you need not money, you need not connections... You only need the thirst for 'Wisdom!'"

Alex didn't care what others thought of him.

He had the title of the god of wisdom's chosen saint! It won't be considered strange if he uses various kinds of strategies and tactics to defeat his opponent.

In fact, it was a much better choice to challenge him in a battle of strategies and tactics instead of a head-on power struggle, as that would make you vulnerable to many kinds of tactics.

As a wise man once said,

{If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles!} (Source: Sun Tzu, Art of War.)

Alex already knew from the get-go that he was physically very weak and was no match for Jake in any possible way if he fought him head-on.

But Alex was no idiot; he was not going to fight Jake in the field that benefited him the most. He decided to fight Jake in a battle of tactics and strategy, which was his domain of expertise.

Alex had listened very intently whenever Ethan explained anything to him ever since he came to this world.

Ethan himself revealed all of Jake's weaknesses to Alex unknowingly.

He told Alex that Jake liked eating at the vendor, and he loved the grilled meat a lot.

So, what did Alex do? Of course! He went and bribed the vendor to mix unhealthy stuff in Jake's food!

The food vendor was just a poor guy, and in front of money, he could only bend his knees; he had no other choice.

Jake ate that food and had a stomachache!

Alex didn't stop at that; Ethan had told Alex about the training ground where Jake often went for training when they first entered the city of Ilma.

Alex took advantage of that too.

He stood near the entrance and waited for a suitable target to come out.

When a poor and haggard-looking soldier with a depressed face came out.

Alex bribed him and told him that he had to spread rumors among the young trainees that if they won in a spar against Jake that day, Freya would accept their proposal!

Alex had already inquired about Freya, and she also trained in the training grounds along with Jake and others, and it was obvious to Alex what young men in their teenage years used to think.

Most of them had a crush on Freya; they all liked her, and thus he only had to spread a random baseless rumor and just watch the show from the sidelines!

They all ran up to fight Jake and tired him out one by one.

Even if any of them had won, Freya would have rejected them later anyway, so it didn't matter much.

Jake was the only one who suffered from it all; not only was he tired, but the bad food he ate spread in his body due to all of that hard exercise.

The final nail was the dirty cold water that got splashed on Jake when he was on his way back; Alex had actually paid a cloth washer to do that to Jake.

Alex had seen his ironing and cloth cleaning shop when Ethan and he entered the city of Ilma, and it was located exactly on the path that Jake used to take every single day!

It was all planned from the very beginning!

Chapter 34: The Sinister Plan. Part-2.

Everyone who knew Jake personally was shocked after seeing him in such a battered and weakened state.

Even Ethan was deeply shocked.

Alex had asked Ethan to stand guard on his door all night long for the past two nights, and he even kept bringing Ethan around with him everywhere, as he didn't want Ethan to go home.

If Ethan had gone home, he might have gotten swept by emotions and might have helped Jake, as he couldn't have seen his son in such a terrible situation.

Thus, Alex kept Ethan close to prevent him from seeing Jake's condition.

Thus, Ethan was shocked when he saw Jake in such a bad condition, and it took him a lot of restraint to grit his teeth and stay silent.

He himself taught his son the code of honor, and thus he couldn't possibly get in between Jake's fight and try to help him.

Ethan was duty-bound and had no other choice but to stand aside and watch the duel happen.

Many were confused, and many were angry at Alex's sinister conspiracies, but no one dared to raise a single voice of complaint against Alex because, deep down, everyone was afraid.

All of them understood one thing: if even a powerful warrior like Jake could be reduced to such a helpless state, they all were even more vulnerable to Alex's sinister plans than him!

They stood no chance against Alex! To them, Alex seemed like a demon with human skin!

Freya, who watched the entire scene, couldn't help but shiver in fear at Alex's sinister nature.

'Saint?... this man, he's a living and walking demon!!'

Alex smirked at Ethan and spoke.

"Oi, oi, don't just stand there, referee; start the duel. Do you want our little Jake to keep standing in this summer heat all day long?"

"Hehe, I don't mind delaying, but I wonder if little Jake can keep himself stable anymore... keke..."

Ethan shook his head in helplessness at Alex's words and raised his hand towards the sky.

"Under the watch of the god of wisdom... Let this duel commence!"

According to the usual sacred duel rules, you weren't supposed to attack or harm your opponent before the duel, but Alex was no warrior, so the rules didn't technically apply to him.

Thus, Ethan could not say that Alex had used unfair means to set the outcome of the duel before it even began.

Once the duel began, Alex smirked at Jake and spoke in a teasing tone.

"Come little Jake, I don't mind giving you the first move... look here~ my broad masculine chest is wide open~ If you dare strike me down~"

Jake gritted his teeth in frustration at Alex's infuriating words and clenched his sword as he shouted with bloodshot eyes,

"No matter what tricks you use!... I will not lose!!"

As a final ditch effort, Jake took a throwing stance, and with sheer determination and grit, he threw his sword at Alex.

Unlike usual, Jake didn't have much energy today, and he was so weak that he was forcing his eyes to remain open so as not to faint.

Thus, his sword-throw attack didn't carry much strength either, but even then, it would have been fatal for someone as weak as Alex, but Alex came prepared.

****Crack!* *Shatter!****

The sword collided with Alex's chest and shattered on the spot, causing Jake's eyes to open wide in sheer shock!

"What!? H-how can!?"

Seeing that shocked look on Jake's face, Alex couldn't stop his laughter anymore.

"AHAHAHAHAH!!! YOU REALLY THREW IT AT MY CHEST!!! YOU FELL FOR MY TRICK AGAIN!!!! AHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!!"

Alex started laughing so loudly that he had to hold his stomach as it started hurting from laughing too much!

"Oh man!! How can someone be such a big idiot!"

Alex opened the first two buttons of his loose robes and revealed the chainmail armor hidden under his clothes!

As Alex was thin and skinny, he took advantage of the fact that he could hide a thin armor under his loose and baggy clothes!

Alex already knew that Jake was mentally and physically very weak at the moment; thus, he was very vulnerable to psychological cues!

And taunting Jake to hit him in the chest was a trick of Alex so that Jake wouldn't hit him in any other location!

'Well, honestly that one was quite a gamble but without risk it's impossible to gain something in this world...'

Moreover, Alex already knew that Jake's sword would shatter and break apart!

It was, after all, not his real sword!

Alex had already bribed that drunk swordsmith to swap Jake's sword with a weak clay sword, which was very brittle and weak even when dried up!

Freya never held Jake's sword, so she had no idea what it usually weighed like and what its actual features were; she didn't even observe it properly before handing it over to Jake!

Jake himself was in a bad condition and didn't have the mind to properly notice the difference and changes in his sword at the moment!

It was as easy as breathing for Alex to just give a random cheap wine bottle to that drunk blacksmith and make him do his work!

He was completely unreliable!

"You really should rely on better people, little Jake; they all sold their dignity for just a little bit of money and benefits..."

"If it was me, I wouldn't even be angry at my rival; I would be more concerned about myself and wonder why I was so bad at judging people..."

Alex's words pierced Jake's heart like arrows, and with his final bit of energy exhausted from that final sword throw, he fell on his knees and collapsed on the ground instantly!

The physical and mental pressure was too much for him, and he couldn't withstand it anymore as he fainted on the spot!

"I hereby declare the duel's end! Saint Alex has won this duel with overwhelming victory!"

With a look of sadness on his face, Ethan announced the end of the duel as he hurriedly ran over to help Jake.

Freya and others also finally managed to snap out of the daze and hurriedly carried Jake on their shoulders and took him away to the infirmary!

Alex shrugged his shoulders and returned the stick he had borrowed from a kid back to him.

"My bad, kid; I actually ended up winning without even needing to use it..."

The poor kid was so terrified of Alex that he nodded his head like a chicken pecking on grain and then ran away with a terrified look on his little face.

Alex didn't care about that as he looked at the people gathered and shouted in loud voice,

"Everyone! The God of Wisdom welcomes all those who want to become wise and intelligent like me!"

"If you want to succeed in life! Having an amazing brain is the path to success!"

"Devote yourself to our benevolent god of wisdom, and he might grant you immense wisdom like me!"

Obviously Alex was not going to let that rare chance go so easily, so he started his swindler act as he immediately started swindling people to join the church and convert to the faith of the god of wisdom.

'Ahem! What swindling! This is clearly me being humble and benevolent to them!'

'I am a humble and benevolent saint giving them all the opportunity to learn and gain wisdom!'

Chapter 35: The First Spark of a Revolution Ignites. Part-1.

To Alex, the duel was just a mere side quest; the real benefit of it all was the popularity he would get out of it.

Alex himself was a 'Royal Prince' and the new 'Saint' of the god of wisdom church, but the church was in a dire state at the moment and didn't have the money to do publicity stunts at all.

To spread the faith of the god of wisdom, Alex needed something that would catch the attention of many.

If it was usual, he would need to organize various kinds of campaigns to deceive people into becoming believers of the god of wisdom by either giving them food or clothes for free or by giving them something valuable.

But those kinds of methods are very bad for a church, and those kinds of believers are usually not loyal enough and won't contribute much to the faith of the god of wisdom itself.

Alex needed some other way, and the duel came right on time.

He used the test and trap of his enemy to his advantage and made the duel into a publicity stunt for the Church of Wisdom!

He used the money he got from selling the diamond and asked Ethan to go and hire some people to start spreading rumors and gather as many people as possible.

Alex not only asked Ethan to arrange the arena for the duel but also asked him to put everyone in the church to work and clean up the church and get it ready for the day of the duel.

By defeating Jake, a powerful and talented warrior, with his wisdom, strategy, and tactics alone, Alex proved that intelligence and wisdom are just as important to a person as physical strength!

He proved it all right in front of hundreds of people and horribly terrified them with his insane shrewdness.

This way, not only did he publicly announce his arrival in the city of Ilma, but he also brought a lot of attention to the church of wisdom with his deeds.

At least a few dozen people out of the hundreds will now be tempted to join and learn the teachings of the god of wisdom.

The others, on the other hand, will spread the word of the duel through word of mouth and will unconsciously spread the name of the god of wisdom on their own.

This will attract more people to the church and create a new revival opportunity for the nearly dead faith of the god of wisdom!

Every bit of this plan was calculated and polished by Alex over the course of the past few days.

And it succeeded so well that even a noble related to the count family was attracted over today.

Clap!* *Clap!* *Clap!

"I heard a lot about your arrogant nature Prince Alex, but today I personally got to understand that no matter what the rumours say, the person in the centre of it all is definitely not to be trifled with..."

"Greetings! I am Zeil Von Ilma, the third son of Count Foley Von Ilma, the current head of the county."

As most of the people left the arena, Zeil made his way to Alex's side with his knights tagging along with him.

"Don't call me prince here; I got kicked out of the palace by my father. Just call me Saint Alex from now on..."

"Hmm, I won't mind if you call me the humble and benevolent saint too... I am very kind; I like people who praise me though..."

Alex nodded his head as he patted Zeil on the shoulder with a satisfied smile on his face.

His evil-looking grin made Zeil shiver a bit, and he hurriedly dodged aside, as he wasn't sure if Alex could curse him by simply touching him.

Zeil had seen how horribly Jake suffered and how much Alex bullied him; that was an incident he would never forget in his life.

"Prince... err.. ahem! Saint Alex, well, I came over after hearing the rumours that the prince of the nation was here-"

Before Zeil could finish his sentence, Alex looked at him and said,

"I am kind of tired right now after having a duel. How about you tell your subordinates to go and ask someone to arrange a tea table for us both?"

"We can talk while sitting peacefully... ugh, after getting hit by that sword attack, my back is killing me!"

Immediately Alex started pretending to be seriously in pain with top-tier-level acting, causing Zeil to be taken aback.

"Wh-what? B-but weren't you hit in the chest though? How's your back hurting instead-"

Alex didn't let Zeil complete his sentence as he shouted,

"Oh!!! My back! My back! I am about to split apart in two! My upper torso will fall on the ground!"

"Hurry! Bring me a chair!"

Zeil hurriedly asked his knights to go and ask someone to arrange a tea table and a chair for the two of them.

Even Zeil's knights were in shock after seeing this situation and couldn't find words to say anything.

The moment Zeil's knights left, Alex stopped pretending as he stood up straight, looked right into Zeil's eyes and said,

"So? What deal did you want to discuss with me?"

"I have helped you get rid of your surveillance; now say it before your lovely little knights come back and cling to you again..."

Zeil was so taken aback by Alex sudden change in voice and tone that his jaw almost fell on the ground from shock.

"Y-you... you really are quite good at messing up with people..."

"No disrespect intended.... But I kind of feel like punching you for some reason Saint Alex..."

Hearing Zeil's words, Alex rolled his eyes and replied in a calm voice,

"Don't worry, I hear that a lot; you are not the first one to feel annoyed by me..."

In fact, Alex was even more annoying in his previous life!

He caused immense headaches for big companies and made several of them go bankrupt!

There were some people who were saying that Alex was purposely researching things that would make companies go bankrupt overnight!

To the tall, handsome CEO's of the companies, he was a walking nightmare, and many of them saw him laughing at them in their dreams! *(Disclaimer: No Female Lead novel alpha wolf CEO's were harmed in the making of this Chapter.)*

"Come on man! We don't have enough time to be standing here all day like idiots in this scorching heat!"

"Spit out what you wanna say already!"

At Alex's constant urging, Zeil could only speak out hurriedly in helplessness.

"I want to make a deal with you, not as the prince of the nation, but a deal with the Saint of the church of wisdom..."

What he didn't know was that putting this urgency and pressure on him was also a trick of Alex to put Zeil on the disadvantageous side.

When in urgency and pressure, people tend to lower their own demands and become more susceptible to taking rash actions.

Alex used that to his advantage, as he wanted a dominant hold of this deal for himself.

He already knew that there was no way Zeil wouldn't have come over here for some kind of deal; Alex just wanted the advantage to be in his hands.

Chapter 36: The First Spark of a Revolution Ignites. Part-2.

As the royal prince was now in the city of Ilma, it would have been obvious that the local ruler of the city would come and visit him in person to pay his respects to the royal family.

Even if Alex was just an illegitimate child and an exiled prince of the nation, he was still a 'prince' nonetheless.

Alex was also quite confused why the count hadn't visited him in the past few days or sent anyone as his messenger; thus, he asked Ethan about it.

And it turned out that Count Foley Von Ilma was not in the city at the moment, as he had left to visit the Grand Church of the Goddess of War and Combat with his son.

He wanted his son to become a paladin of the church of war and combat and wanted him to become a powerful warrior in the future.

In the past few days, Alex hadn't been idle; he tried his best to find time to read books and learn the common knowledge of this world.

For that he even read a lot of old newspapers and books from the library, but due to time constraints he hadn't learned much yet.

But even he knows that if the church or the god can be considered the most famous in this world, then it would definitely be the Church of the Goddess of War and Combat.

The Goddess of War and Combat has a massive number of believers, and nearly all warriors in this world worship her, as they consider her to be the ultimate source of all strength and combat arts in the entire world.

All knights, warriors, and even soldiers—everyone who wants to be strong and hopes to become a powerful Pathwalker well versed in various arts of combat worships her and hope to become a paladin of her church.

Unlike the God of Wisdom's church, which only has one paladin, who is Ethan, the goddess of combat and war's church has thousands of paladins, and it's rumored that all of the generals of the nation are her firm believers.

Her believers follow the 'Path of Indomitable Strength,' and each of them is stronger than the other.

In this dog-eat-dog world where superhumans and powerful Pathwalkers exist, it's obvious everyone hopes that they will also achieve immense strength and will be able to stand invincible in the world.

The lord of the city of Ilma wanted that kind of future for his son, and there was nothing wrong in wanting a better future for his own child.

But that didn't mean others would let his dreams come to reality just because he wanted that.

"As you might already know Saint Alex, if the lord of Ilma succeeds in his goal of making his son a paladin of the goddess of combat and war's church, the influence of the god of wisdom will completely shatter in this city..."

"The god of wisdom's church will cease to exist and even the current low number of believers will likely abandon the faith..."

Zeil looked straight in Alex's eyes and said,

"With your smart mind, you might already be able to guess that I came here because I want to cooperate with you..."

"I am the third son of Count Foley and I am in no position to inherit the family head's position... if my oldest brother succeeds in becoming a paladin, I am finished..."

"The Ilma County only has barren lands and just a few poor villages. Aside from this city of Ilma, there is no room for all of us to exist here peacefully..."

A cold look appeared on Zeil's face as he spoke in a suppressed voice.

"It's either I kill my brothers or I will eventually be exiled and sent to some monster frontline to work as a nameless knight..."

"And everyone knows what the probability of death happening in that kind of scenario... so, either I kill them first and usurp the power or they will do so before me..."

Alex smirked at those words and nodded his head.

"Yeah, if even the city that has been the headquarters and the final bastion of the god of wisdom church turns into a vassal of the church of war and combat, the faith in god of wisdom will never improve again..."

"It would basically be the end for me too, as I can't return to the royal palace either..."

Saying those words, Alex stretched out his hand towards Zeil with a devilish smirk on his face.

"How about we become friends Ziel Von Ilma... I promise you the sovereignty over the county of Ilma, you promise me popularity for the faith of the god of wisdom..."

"It might not seem easy, but we both don't have any other choice right now..."

Without a single bit of hesitation on his face, Zeil raised his hand and shook his hand with Alex as he said with a smile on his face,

"I expected it to be much difficult but you are surprisingly easier to talk to Saint Alex..."

"I, Zeil Von Ilma, pledge you my loyalty, Prince Alexander. I pledge that I will be a faithful believer of the god of wisdom from this day onwards, and I hope to cooperate with your holiness till the end of time..."

Only when Zeil took his pledge did they both let their hands go, as they had solidified their cooperation with that oath.

"Good, truthfully, I expected some scheming fox to appear to plot against the city lord with me... but you are just as good of an option too..."

Alex himself is an exiled prince of the nation; he can't possibly usurp the county of Ilma in his name. He needs someone to do the work for him, and Zeil came right on time.

In the first place, Alex agreed to the duel because the main reason was to attract the attention of a cooperator.

Alex already knew that no matter what world, ambitious people always exist everywhere; you just need to use the right methods to attract them to your side.

Showing off his scheming methods was a way to attract nobles to believe in him.

If he was just a random weak abandoned prince, Zeil wouldn't have dared to believe in him, but with his abilities proven, it was much easier to believe in him.

"So we need a new name for this 'revolution' bringing organization. What shall we call it... hmm... how about 'Revenant'?"

"After all, we are bringing the faith of the god of wisdom back and reviving it from a near-death state..."

At Alex's words, Zeil smiled and nodded his head.

"Well, that's not a bad idea. I am looking forward to the day when this revenant army will win us a better future..."

The lord of the city was not really that bad of a person, nor were his two older sons.

The only reason why Alex and Zeil wanted to usurp power was for their own selfish goals and ambitions, but that's just the natural order of this world.

To be a great person, to be a great Pathwalker, you need to walk on a 'Path'; you need great ambitions and the resolve to walk on that harsh 'Path.'

Alex had no grudge against Lord Foley; he just wanted a better future for himself and the Church of Wisdom. It was as simple as that.

Chapter 37: The First Spark of a Revolution Ignites. Part-3.

But of course, Alex was not an idiot; he wasn't going to truly and fully trust Zeil either.

Currently he was just creating a foundation for his future revolution and for his future ability to control the entire city of Ilma from the shadows.

It was not an easy task by any means, but Alex couldn't bear to suppress his ambitions just because the 'Path' he needed to walk was too thorny.

To reach his goals, to make his ambitions a reality, it was inevitable that he would have to walk on this thorny 'Path' whether he wanted to or not.

"Lord Saint, Lord Zeil, the tea table has been set; let us escort you..."

By the time Alex and Zeil finished up establishing their secret cooperation, the knights returned.

They were all swift and efficient people, so it didn't take them a lot of time, but even that small time frame was enough for cunning people like Alex and Zeil to set up their plans.

If they had carried out their meeting in some secret locations using some secret methods, they would have garnered more attention and vigilance from the subordinates of the count.

But as they carried out their meeting wide open in the middle of a training area in broad daylight, it became easier to have others let their guard down.

Alex nodded his head at the knight and stepped forward with Zeil while talking.

"So the county of Ilma is mostly barren, then what do you guys survive on usually?"

Now that the deal was done and they had people around them, Alex immediately changed the topic to something random and casual instantly.

Zeil rolled his eyes at Alex's ability to change topic so suddenly and replied in a rather uninterested voice,

"Well... it's just barren lands and poor starving villages everywhere; only the area around the city is good for farming. The rest of the area is quite rocky and bad for plant growth..."

"If only we had the ability to turn barren land into a green forest like those arrogant elves..."

Zeil shook his head helplessly.

He himself didn't want to fight his father and brothers in a bloody battle for power and money.

But he had no other choice.

He only had the option of either leaving and dying in poverty or usurping power with force and cunningness.

If there was some way to turn the barren lands of the Ilma County into a vast forest rich in resources, he could have just left to build his own new territory and lived a life of peace.

But that wasn't an option for him.

Elves are famous all over the world, as they are considered the favored children of the 'World Tree' and are able to borrow its power to make even barren land into a resource-filled forest.

Moreover, their amazing beauty and physical strength make them one of the strongest and most arrogant creatures in this world.

"Talking about resources... the county of Ilma is rich in underground caves and hidden dungeons filled with monsters and beasts all over..."

"I won't be surprised if there are some abhorrent class monsters hidden in those deep underground dungeons somewhere..."

Zeil felt quite sure while saying those words, even though he himself seemed quite fearful of the existence of such powerful monstrosities in this region.

"Haha, well, if such powerful monsters attacked our city, we would be dead in just a few hours anyway, so why worry? Live free and happy like me!"

"I got kicked outta the royal palace only to be thrown in this backwater region, you know!"

The strongest Pathwalkers in the city of Ilma were barely just intermediate-level warriors, including Ethan.

Obviously, they all stood no chance against monsters that could shatter cities and bring disasters on major scales.

"By the way, how strong are these knights of yours? Will they be able to stand if I give them my Jake treatment, or are they stronger?"

The knights escorting Alex and Zeil gulped their saliva, and some of them even shivered a bit at Alex's words; none of them wanted to end up like Jake.

Jake was a talented, exceptional warrior; he could handle all that abuse from Alex. They surely can't do such a thing and might just collapse after a few tricks from Alex.

But Alex wasn't talking to them; Alex was using double-meaning words and Zeil understood his words as he replied,

"Err... the knights of our county are mostly trained by Phase 1 Pathwalkers, and most of them are experienced people who had earned their title of knighthood by slaying a 'Beast' Class monster alone."

"We don't have many of them, only a few dozen, but they are all strong and experienced people. I wouldn't be surprised if they manage to join the ranks of the dozen Pathwalkers working directly for my father..."

Zeil even spoke those words with an arrogant and confident tone to make it seem like he was proud of them.

But in actuality he was answering Alex's hidden question in a roundabout way.

Alex had actually asked him what the strength of Lord Foley's private army actually was, and Zeil replied to it in such a way that the knights wouldn't suspect them.

Even if they found something, they will only think that the newly arrived prince was only curious about the forces protecting the city; they won't be able to guess that a new revolution was being planned right under their noses.

"Hoh... well, I did hear from Ethan that there are nearly five thousand soldiers protecting the city; it's quite reassuring after knowing that the city is safe with these people around..."

At Alex's words, Zeil replied while performing perfect acting of an arrogant noble,

"Hah! Not five thousand! That's just the number on the surface! We actually keep a lot of reserve force!"

"After all, many young people do military training before going back to their family work, like farming and stuff; they can all be recruited to defend the city in cases of emergency!"

To others it might sound like Zeil was boasting about his father's amazing city and his amazing control over it, but to Alex it sounded completely different.

Zeil mentioned the people who were considered reserve forces, and Alex immediately understood that Zeil was trying to say that these people were possible good targets for their secret organization.

Revenant currently only has them two as its earliest members and its founders; it needed the support of more people to actually make it into a real mighty force.

They needed talented and intelligent people to create this secret force, and when the time and opportunity arrived, they would use them to finally carry out the revolution.

Alex and Zeil were currently only igniting the first few sparks of the revolution; there was still a long way to go.

'Man... I am such a benevolent and good saint; I am saving those poor people from hard farm work and labour...'

'I am giving them a new purpose in life; there's no way anyone is kinder and more benevolent than me in this world, right?'

'Oh, dear God Of Wisdom, give your precious child strength and wisdom to help all the poor lambs in this world...'

Chapter 38: The First Spark of a Revolution Ignites. Part-4.

Church of the God of Wisdom, Front Garden.

Sitting under the shade of a tall tree in the garden on a chair, Alex took the tea served by Zeil's knight from the table and sipped it as he leaned on the chair in a relaxed manner.

"No wonder there are rumours that you were an immature and arrogant prince, saint Alex... despite being a royal prince, it seems you never focused on the table mannerisms..."

Zeil felt amused seeing Alex show such a lazy attitude; nobles usually have all the mannerisms drilled into their bodies like reflexes of a swordsman. Alex clearly never learned them, or he wouldn't have been sitting like that.

"Hah, who even cares about all that bullsh*t, and truthfully speaking, I already knew that I will end up becoming the saint and will be exiled one day or another ..."

"I was just enjoying my life to the fullest back then... nothing wrong in it, I think..."

Obviously, Alex had hundreds of excuses ready on the spot; he could lie without blushing, and he could even offer heartfelt sympathy after punching someone.

To Alex, lies, deceit, emotions, and acting skills were all just tools to get his work done; he didn't care what method he had to use.

For honest and loyal people like Ethan, Alex can behave softly and generously; for tough and stubborn people like Jake, he can behave domineeringly and evilly, and certainly he has the ability to act lazy and crafty too.

"Talking about mannerisms, you seem to have focused on it a lot... what else have you learned, swordsmanship?"

Zeil understood Alex's words and spoke with a smile on his face.

"Haha, you must be joking Saint Alex; swordsmanship is not for weak and thin people like us. I am well-versed in the ability to jump ropes though..."

Alex narrowed his eyes as he laughed at those words.

"Haha, that's quite funny. I would like to see you jump ropes one day; that seems kind of fun..."

Zeil shook his head with a smile on his face as he said,

"No no, I am well versed in the ability to help others jump ropes; I personally don't do that usually as I have very bad athletic abilities..."

Unlike Zeil's knights, who were confused by his words, Alex wasn't confused in the least bit and knew exactly what Zeil was talking about.

'So, he's got contacts with drug dealers and drug manufacturers... that's some real shady business... well, that sh*t does sell a lot and our secret organization will need money anyway so I don't care...'

'The medical knowledge of this world isn't that advanced or perhaps people would be smuggling organs illegally too...'

Divine power and holy water are used for healing disease and wounds in this world, so scientific medical techniques are not that well developed or researched much.

'Thinking about drugs and stuff, I can actually start creating herbal medicines and stuff to make our own church a bit more reliable and famous...'

'Aside from that, I can also create shady stuff too and circulate it in the underground markets...'

Money, power, intelligence, and connections—that's all that mattered. As long as you have all that, you can achieve whatever ambition you have in your heart.

As for others, Alex doesn't care about that; his 'path' is only his own to achieve. If there are some casualties for the sake of a greater good, it doesn't matter to him.

"By the way, how's the city's trade?... Is there anything we have that's unique that only we export?..."

Zeil shook his head at Alex's words, and replied,

"As you know, the Ilma county is pretty much just barren land. legends do say that there are lots of hidden secrets under this vast land but we haven't found anything as of yet..."

"Alas... only if there were some precious ore-rich areas in our county, we would be able to increase our exports and improve the economy of the city..."

Alex nodded his head at those words.

"I see; that's quite a pity. I hope we end up finding some rich mineral areas somewhere..."

"Why not create search parties to look for ores inside dungeons... it will hit two birds with one stone: monster threats will be reduced and the chances of finding ores will increase..."

The underground cave systems on this barren land were huge, and there could possibly be many treasures hidden underneath it.

All they needed was a capable exploration team.

'Sigh, if only the adventurer's guild or something like that existed in this world... it seems there are only mercenary organizations not adventurers or anything like that...'

'If I get the chance, I might try to create a new adventurer's guild though...'

Just like any other man, Alex also wanted to taste the thrill of adventuring into dangerous places and discovering forgotten treasures and hidden relics of long-gone eras.

"No no, those underground caves are swarming with monsters and powerful beasts; there's no point in stirring the hornet's nest unnecessarily..."

"Perhaps someday if we have powerful Pathwalkers, we can try to investigate those dangerous places thoroughly..."

Zeil understood that Alex was trying to ask if there was a possibility to establish a hidden headquarters or location for their secret organization in the vast barren land or in a dungeon somewhere.

But as most of the dungeons had frequent monster activities, it was not suitable to carry out such a plan.

"It's actually better to just stay at home and enjoy the view; I prefer the view from the grand clock tower, actually..."

Alex sighed as he sipped his tea.

'The grand clocktower?... there is a possibility to create hidden base near it?... How does this guy know about such a thing?'

Even Alex was surprised by Zeil's words this time, and this also made him understand that Zeil had been seriously working on this matter for a long while and he had even already confirmed a good hiding place by now.

"You are quite knowledgeable about the scenery of the city, it seems... I would like to tour around with you someday..."

Zeil smiled and nodded his head as he got up from his seat after finishing his tea.

"Of course, I know the scenery and the city of Ilma very well Saint Alex. I have lived here my whole life, I have read a lot of books and maps to know as much as I can about this beautiful city and its history..."

Alex nodded his head at those words as he thought to himself,

'I see, so he was able to find some old maps and city layout blueprints from somewhere and read through them and managed to locate hidden areas either near or under the grand clocktower...'

'And as these were likely very old blueprints, there's a possibility that not many people know about their existence either making them safer and reliable...'

Alex also got up from his chair and shook hands with Zeil once again.

"Send me a letter whenever you want to invite me to go sightseeing, Saint Alex. We are already friends; you don't need to hesitate at all..."

"I hope we will get to meet soon, Saint Alex."

Alex also smiled back and bid his farewell as he replied in his usual arrogant tone,

"Well, if I am free enough, I will write you a letter..."

Chapter 39: There's a lot of work to do.

Zeil took his luxurious carriage and left.

Looking at the fading carriage in the distance, Alex thought to himself.

'I was expecting both factions to approach me but it seems that the other faction does not have much interest in me...'

The Ilma family was likely split into two or more factions, and it was confirmed by Zeil's conspiracies.

The first faction was led by Count Foley, who wanted his eldest son to succeed, while the second faction was led by Zeil, who was conspiring to usurp power and lead a rebellion.

'Has the second son also created his own faction or is he supporting the eldest son?'

According to what Alex had found out through Ethan about the Ilma family, Count Foley only had these three sons and no daughters or any other children.

He seemed to have affairs with other women, but he didn't have any illegitimate children at all.

'He either didn't acknowledge them as his children or just got them eliminated before anyone could find out about them...'

Thinking this far, Alex shook his head and stopped himself.

'Forget it; it's got nothing to do with me. It's not a modern world; crime and abuse of power are rampant here. There's nothing special in this matter...'

Even in the modernized society in Alex's previous world, there were many people in power who often abused their powers and did a lot of horrible things.

Corruption and nepotism were rampant even in his previous world despite it being a modern society, so it was nothing too out of the ordinary that in this medieval time period, it was even more prominent.

Alex shook his head and went back inside the church and nodded his head in satisfaction when he saw quite a few people praying to the half-broken statue of the god of wisdom.

'Oh~ benevolent god of wisdom, look! You have got new believers now... You must be quite happy, right? Hehe...'

Whenever someone noticed him walking by, they hurriedly bowed their heads toward him in fright.

Alex passed through the corridors, asked a random member of the church where the infirmary was, and walked inside the infirmary with the usual arrogant look on his face.

"So, how's the situation, Ethan? He will be fine, right?"

Ethan, who had just finished treating Jake with his divine power and was sitting on a chair nearby panting heavily, nodded his head at Alex's question and gave a wry look.

"Your holiness really didn't show him any mercy at all... his condition has stabilized now but if he hadn't been treated by divine magic by someone as skilled as me..."

"Things would have become out of control and he could have..."

Ethan seemed a bit dissatisfied that Alex beat up Jake so badly; to console him, Alex shrugged his shoulders and spoke.

"Well, I only went so harsh on him because I knew you would be able to control the situation no matter what... still, considering he's your son, I held back quite a bit you know..."

"If he was an enemy or something, he would have been in a much worse condition... no, perhaps we won't even have had anything left of him to heal anymore in that kind of scenario..."

Alex spoke those words with a wide grin on his face, making everyone in the room feel a chill run down their spine.

He looked completely relaxed while saying such cruel words, and his young age and small physique added extra points in his creepiness.

"By the way, can you reattach severed limbs, Ethan?"

At Alex's question, Ethan shook his head in confusion.

"No, I can't do something that complicated... you needed to help someone in re-attaching limbs?... perhaps the pope might be able to do that but I am not really sure..."

"Our benevolent god governs over the domain of wisdom after all, not the domain of life and protection, so healing skills are rare among our church members..."

Alex nodded his head, feeling a sense of relief.

"Thankfully I didn't use 'that' on Jake then... he might have lost or two of his limbs forever in that case..."

"I need to be more careful when planning from now on..."

It was first Alex's first time making a nearly superhuman-level person kneel, so there were bound to be mistakes.

But of course, he will not make such simple mistakes again; he will have more ideas about what limits he needs to follow.

"Y-you had even more plans ready for him?... Y-your holiness is really worthy of being the chosen 'Saint' of the god of wisdom..."

"Y-you are really blessed with tremendous wisdom and intellect..."

Ethan and everyone were so shocked at Alex's words that they couldn't help but stutter and step back a bit to make some distance from him.

Many of them were frightened, and many of them dared not even look him in the eyes anymore.

Despite being just a short young kid, Alex had already solidified his strength and power over the church in just one move.

Winning the duel not only helped Alex gain a reputation outside the church, but his reputation inside also improved.

Now, he had become qualified to control the church more deeply, and no one would dare to conspire against him.

'Still, the main culprit has yet to be found... whoever it is, will likely go dormant for a while after losing to me so horribly...'

'I need to wait for an opportunity to strike at him hard enough and catch him in one go...'

Alex glanced at Jake, who was sleeping peacefully, and Freya, who was holding his hand carefully, and a smile appeared on his face.

'Hoh, so she likes him?... that's quite nice; it might come in handy someday...'

"I am going to the library. Tell him to visit me once he's awake. he has to fulfill the promise which he made while standing in front of the statue of our benevolent god himself..."

After saying that, Alex took the apple placed on the plate for Jake and left the room to head straight towards the library.

'They might hate me, they might fear me, but I don't care... all I want is control so that I can get all the information of this world for myself...'

The grand library might have all the knowledge of the world, but that was just a rumor; there was nothing confirmed yet.

And Alex didn't like putting all his eggs in the same basket; he preferred making several plans for the same outcome so that in case one fails, the other one works.

'I need to start researching the history and all the stuff related to this nation now...'

'I have wasted too much time on unimportant stuff; I need to start gathering information from now on, as much as I can!'

If it wasn't for all the hectic troubles and plans he had to make to make the duel as perfect as possible, Alex would have already dived into the grand library and wouldn't have come out of it for an entire week!

'Aside from studying, I need to start improving my physical fitness too; it will be easier for me to trick opponents if they end up assuming I am weak physically...'

'Also the plan for 'Revenant' needs some fine-tuning and modifications... there's a lot of work to do...'

Chapter 40: The Interesting History. Part-1.

After walking into the grand library, Alex went around and found all the volumes of the book that talked about the history of the Kreimhild Empire.

It had seven volumes, and each book was as thick as a brick; there were hundreds of years' worth of data recorded in them, and Alex had to read it all from beginning to end.

Aside from those seven books, Alex also found a book called 'How It All Began.'

The title was quite interesting, and it was a collection of the myths and legends of ancient times about this world and its origins, so Alex took it and decided to read this one first.

He sat down on a chair and put his legs up on the table as he placed the book on his lap and slid open its first page with a relaxed look on his face.

...

{It all began from nothing.

Before the sun, the moon, and the world.

There was nothing.

From that absolute void and nothingness,

Came the 'Perfect Being.'

The power of 'creation' manifested from nothingness itself.

The world was created; the gods were born!

The Path was created, and the destiny was determined!

The Gods were assigned authority and realms were born!}

...

The first page only had this one long text, and it seemed to be a legend told by many churches and in many mythical stories.

The next few pages of the book explained that many holy books that record the commandments and the oracles of the gods have mentions of this same text.

This ancient text can be found in the holy books of nearly all gods and all churches; the same seemed to be true for the holy book of the god of wisdom.

'This universe is considered to be created from nothingness?... Was it something like my previous one? several scientists also suggested that the universe was born from 'Big Bang'...'

The 'Big Bang' theory was very famous in Alex's previous world, and many scientists believed in it, but it wasn't proven yet.

'Paths, destiny... this world has developed in a completely different way compared to my previous one...'

'What exactly makes a person ascend to the next realm? What exactly determines that a person has crossed an 'Obstacle' and they have ascended to the next 'Phase'?'

'And where exactly does this mysterious power of 'Ascension' come from? I have a lot of questions in my mind and I need to find answers for them one by one...'

Alex wasn't too worried, and he had no reason to hurry; he had a long life ahead, and he needed to slowly unravel the mysteries of this world one after another.

'No one becomes the 'all-knowing' in just one day; it will take time for me to reach that kind of level...'

Aside from this creation myth of the world, there were quite a few other legends recorded in that book.

For example, according to the elves of this world, the world was created by their world tree, who they believe to be their goddess of life.

The World Tree is a gigantic tree that is so big it puts mountains to shame, and elves believe it to be the physical body of their goddess; they worship and protect it with all their might.

Humans have only ever managed to see the 'world tree' from far away, as nobody is allowed to get close to it aside from elves.

They believe that the 'Goddess of Life,' the 'World-Tree,' created the Ilmora Plane on which they all exist today, and her roots hold the entire plane stable.

'Wait.... Wait wait... this world, it's not a 'Planet'!?!? what the f*ck!?'

Alex was quite surprised when he read through the explanations and details described in that legend.

He was so surprised that he immediately got up and decided to find some astronomy-related books to confirm the situation.

And sure enough!

It was mentioned in many places that their world, on which everything existed, was a massive 'Plane' called Ilmora, and it was covered by a massive 'Plane Barrier.'

This plane actually had an end!

If you start moving towards one direction and keep moving until the end, you will eventually reach the 'Plane Barrier' and will not be able to move any further!

'So... is it like a massive floating island that's covered in a gigantic bubble-like barrier that prevents you from falling off the floating island, as outside is just endless void?...'

All the physics and math that Alex had learned in his long time as a scientist was not mostly useless.

He was now in a completely different world that seemed to behave in a completely different way, and there were even things like 'plane barriers' that seemed to defy many laws of physics that he knew of.

'Good thing I didn't become arrogant and started preaching to others that the world was a big ball floating in space circling around the sun...'

'By the looks of things, it might be possible that the two sun of this world might be the one revolving around this Ilmora Plane...'

'The night sky of this world is just like the previous one... but does that mean that all those stars are actually just other planes where similar beings live?'

The more Alex thought about this matter, the more confused he became, so he stopped thinking about the time being and started to read the first book again.

Aside from the legends of elves, there was also the mention of dragons.

According to popular belief, it was possible that dragons, who were mighty and near-immortal beings of great power, might have created this world with their strength.

'Are even dragons and elves using 'Pathways' to become stronger or do they have some other methods?'

'This world is really filled with a ton of mysteries... the more I know about it, the more excited I get... I want to explore this world so badly...'

A smile appeared on Alex's face unknowingly as he kept reading further, and he found something intriguing.

According to the words of many dwarves that humans have encountered before, it's said that aside from the world of light, there's also a world of darkness.

The world of light refers to the upper area of this humongous floating island of a plane, and the world of darkness refers to the lower area that is hidden in darkness and never seems to receive any sunlight.

Legends say that there are demons and dark creatures residing in that place, and it's referred to with the word 'Underworld' by many creatures.

No one dares to go into that place, and it's said that whoever has dared to go there has never managed to come back alive.

Many horrific monsters and beasts crawl in that dark land, and they are always in the mood to invade the lush green upper land of the Ilmora plain.

'The structure of this world is really something I have rarely ever seen in any novels... mostly they just slap a planet and put everything and everyone on the same planet...'

'The areas for all kinds of creatures seem to be divided quite properly in this world... or should I say they live in habitats that favor them the most?...'

Humans are situated on the 'Eastern Continent,' while elves and many other species seem to live on the 'Western Continent.'