

Unfathomable 291

Chapter 291

This was a large magical academy with thousands of students and teachers. The people that they examined today were only a small fraction. There was a focus on the teachers this day but the bulk of people was composed by the students. It would have taken them a week or two to go over everyone here but the Archdemon threw a wrench into their plans.

With a loud howl from its toothy mouth the students and teachers that weren't tested started to change. Every person that was a demon in disguise shed it and started attacking the closest person to them. The monsters were outnumbered but they were much stronger than the youths. These were noble children that were brought up being sheltered by their parents and knights, fighting in true battles wasn't something that they were prepared for.

"Protect the students!"

"The students in the shelters are turning into monsters and attacking!"

"Activate the teleportation circle, call for the Falconian Knight order!"

Many shouts filled the area as the young students panicked. Some of them fought with the use of their magic while others just ran away in fear. Most of these young lords and ladies failed to stand up to the occasion and just hid away in hopes that others would take care of the demon situation.

At this very moment, the Archdemon was grasping the hands of the stone golem looking Vice-Principal. The red creature had grown another set of arms just for this occasion. It was now holding its opponent in check with those added appendages and pounding away with its pointy sickle hands.

Soon the rocky golem crumbled into dust and the person inside dropped down to the ground. He was in the middle of the chest cavity performing a spell so he wasn't directly harmed. After the creature caused irreparable damage to his stone form he was now out of energy, still alive but with no power to activate any other spells.

Luckily for him, there were some other magicians out here fighting as well. While the monster was trying to seal the deal long range spells started raining against its back. It turned around while the magical energy bathed its red skin, it was as if it didn't even care that it was getting hit.

"You insignificant worms, such trifling magics won't work on the Lord of Pain!"

It laughed and then opened up its large mouth. Zhang Dong had seen this type of attack and quickly signaled everyone to get down. Regretfully he didn't have much pull here and the wizards continued to fire off their spells.

What the monster was doing was a massive beam attack. The energy condensed into a dark gray sphere close to its mouth before being fired off. The beam wasn't uniform in size or direction as it burst forth into many smaller beams. The destruction that followed was massive as it melted into the buildings and magic shields that were in its way.

A massive explosion followed suit along with the screams of people that were in the range of the beam and without any protection. The largest of these beams was aimed at the spot where the Principal and others were standing. Regretfully this was also the area where Zhang Dong and Beatrice was at.

“Idiots...”

The dust started to settle revealing a golden glow behind it. Zhang Dong had been forced to use up quite a bit of Beatrice’s mana reserves to produce a big enough shield to protect the people around him. Due to the injuries that those higher level magicians had suffered beforehand, they were slow to react to protect the students around them.

“Thank you, great spirit.”

The dark elf Principal called out while getting off the ground. She was already drinking some colorful potions and her wounds were being healed. The same thing was happening to the other wounded magicians around here.

“Retreat for now, leave this to the adults, Prince Ludwig I will leave them in your care!”

The Principal shouted as the three turned to face the monster. They were quick to bring the fight to the Archdemon, mostly doing it to stall for time.

“L-let us listen to the Principal.”

Beatrice said while wobbling back while also drinking a mana potion. The prince finally nodded and agreed. Zhang Dong wasn’t sure if he realized that the enemy was too strong or if he just took the chance to act as a gallant knight to protect the lady he was interested in.

The group here consisted of moss head, carrot top, and a few other students of various genders. Isabella didn’t seem to be around and neither were any of her ladies.

“Leave everyone in my care, I will protect them! Lady Beatrice came with me!”

Soon a white steed materialized as the Prince performed his summoning spell. The creature that he possessed was the type that mostly increased his speed and wind spells. It could also be used as a mount while not being able to do much damage itself.

“I...”

Beatrice looked at the horse and the outstretched hand. Zhang Dong could feel that the girl’s heart was racing. It was clear that she was thinking some things that she shouldn’t at this dire moment.

‘Just get on the fairy horse...’

She snapped back to reality and finally grasped Ludwig’s hand. She hopped onto the white steed with his help and they were off. The other students didn’t say anything but some of the young women had strange looks in their eyes.

Soon everyone was retreating while the battle raged on behind them. From time to time a red skinned monster would try to attack them. There were even variations of smaller ones that were more in numbers than the people here anticipated.

“It must be the demon thralls, some high level demons can summon weaker minions to aid them in battle.”

The carrot head knight said while pushing his sword through an imp looking monster’s head. Zhang Dong was made aware of this as he could feel a lot of strange demonic energies popping up all around them. The so-called Lord of Pain was apparently summoning more monsters to help him in battle. There also could have been specialized demonic shamans calling those monsters over here.

For now, Zhang Dong decided to manage his powers. The students looked to be capable enough to take care of these lesser demons. Unless a tougher enemy showed itself he wouldn’t make a move.

‘Can those guys defeat that ugly demon?’

He thought back to the Principal and her aids. They were all in the core formation realm when it came to power but the monster outranked them all. He wasn’t sure if this magic academy had any precautions in place for demon attacks. It looked like it didn’t, it was hard to get in but it was also hard to leave.

The people running this place might have been a bit too prideful. They were so sure that no strong Archdemon would be able to sneak inside that they were lax with the defenses. He could see some mechanical golems running around but they were all at the foundation establishment level of power.

It didn’t seem like anything here was strong enough to handle this threat but he himself also didn’t have enough juice. If he could tap into his old core formation level of strength it would be enough, he just needed it to last for more than one attack.

“Prince we are here... but...”

They arrived at one of the shelters but the door was busted open and the magic circles that were used for the mana shield were scratched up in various places. There were traces of battle and even some dead bodies of young students and red monsters.

‘Damn...’

Zhang Dong looked at some of the dead bodies with worry. He wished that he could help these youths but there was only so much he could do in this situation by himself. It was impossible for him to just set off on his own and get to all of these crimson monsters. There was also the problem of keeping his host Beatrice safe and he didn’t really trust this prince to do a well enough job.

“How about we try the teleportation platform?”

Carrot top gave some advice and the people nodded. Using the teleportation magic to flee would be a good idea but Zhang Dong had a suspicion that it wouldn’t be that easy. While the whole place continued to rumble they moved onto the next building. During their escape, they came across other students that joined them.

Slowly the youngsters led by the green haired prince battled their way towards the teleportation circle. Zhang Dong was surprised how the others were to quickly fall in line, the moss head apparently had enough fame to make everyone submissive and follow his orders.

When they arrived at the spot where the chamber to the teleportation circle was supposed to be they discovered a collapsed entrance. There were even imps running around and attacking some of the teachers that were trying to get inside.

“Did the monsters get to it before the instructors could call for help from the Falconian knight order?”

“Impossible!”

The students looked at the scene with horror in their eyes. It looked like combat was the only option now.

‘What should we do Mr. Leigong?’

‘Probably better to stay in the group, there is strength in numbers.’

“Okay everyone let us split up!”

Ludwig proclaimed while waving his fancy heavy repair around. In the young man’s eyes, it was best to split up and search for survivors and other possibilities. Zhang Dong knew on the other hand that this would just let the smaller number of monsters attack one of these groups that was diminished in numbers.

“You there grass hair, I don’t think that would be a smart idea.”

He decided to speak up, leaving things in these kid’s hands would only bring more harm to them. There was one way of them getting out of this alive and it would require all of these youths to work together.

“G-gras hair?”

The prince looked to the voice that spoke out and could see a somewhat smug-looking small humanoid spirit floating towards him. “This spirit of yours has quite the mouth, Lady Beatrice...”

The knight with orange hair commented from the side while getting between him and Zhang Dong. The other students looked at this lightning spirit in disdain for calling their heroic prince in this way.

“Silence!”

A loud crackle of lightning brought the attention back to Zhang Dong. Even in his depleted form, he was the strongest person here. The Prince was close but still not in the foundation establishment realm of power. When he released some of that spiritual pressure the kids started buckling under it.

“If you want to save your friends, you will do exactly as this Lightning Emperor orders! Now someone get some chalk, we need to draw a magic circle!”

After going through the magical books in the library he had come across a peculiar spell circle, one that could aid him in temporarily regaining some of his lost power. If it would work depended heavily on the youths here.

“With haste! We don’t have much time!”

The thunder sounded off again before the students got in gear, it was time to perform some magic.

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“Are you sure we should be doing this, Prince Ludwig?”

“Lady Beatrice’s summon was somewhat convincing... if it doesn’t work out we could...”

“Hey, Carrot top, Moss head, be quiet or I’ll zap you again!”

Zhang Dong shouted out from the side while finishing up with his drawing. What he was producing was a combination of a magic circle and an array formation from his own world. He was aiming for something similar to a spirit gathering array that caught ambient Qi from the surroundings. The only difference was that this one was using mana instead.

This circle would also be using all that mana to fuel the central person. It was very similar to the defensive and offensive formation that multiple cultivators used. The same ones that his clan used during the sacred ground that would boost their fighting prowess.

“That should be it... now as I said previously, gather at those locations.”

There were about thirty people here, they were all students. They looked at each other sheepishly but followed the instructions. Zhang Dong was acting in an overbearing way but had also promised that with this magic circle he would be able to help the teachers.

BOOM

A loud explosion sounded in the background followed by a magical tower collapsing. The self-proclaimed Lord of Pain was battling it out with the best magic users and knights that the academy had to offer. They were somewhat holding it back but for how long no one could tell. The monster was clearly stronger and without any reinforcements coming any time soon the outlook was bleak.

“Don’t get distracted and sit down in the lotus position, follow my instructions and you will all be safe. This is what I, the Lightning Emperor promise all of you!”

Zhang Dong tried to reassure the kids that had fear in their eyes. Luckily for him, people tended to believe spirits around here. Apparently, a spirit that would break a promise would be somehow punished by the laws binding this world. He wasn’t a spirit though so using a little white lie to get things done wasn’t above him.

Using his small form he presented the sitting position that the youngsters should take and continued with the explanation.

“Yes, now close your eyes and breathe in. The array formation will assist you in gathering the plentiful mana from the surroundings, just let it flow through you and into the formation! Yes, just like that!”

He was glad that everyone here was somewhat competent in pulling mana out of the air. It was a school filled with magicians and taking in mana was something that they learned from a very young age.

“Beatrice, are you ready?”

“Yes!”

The blond girl nodded while also sitting down in the center of this magical circle. All the other people were around her in circles. The outermost students were the weakest while the closer to the center the

stronger a person was. Due to this, the prince and his knight were the closest to Beatrice as they did have the highest mana reserves from this group.

A faint blue light filled the area and the giant magic circle that was composed of many geometrical shapes started to light up. Inside those shapes were peculiar-looking runes that started to glow brightly in a golden hue. Soon the outer circle was glowing brightly and the array was starting to activate.

‘Now listen up Beatrice, you are just the conduit. Don’t try to absorb any of that mana or you will sustain damage. Let it flow through you and I will take care of it.’

The girl nodded while trying to relax. Soon the two young men close to her were also concentrating on absorbing the mana and pushing it towards the person in the center. The moment the circuit was complete Beatrice felt a massive surge of energy rushing into her very soul.

‘Yes, just like that, let the power flow through you and into me...’

Zhang Dong was waiting for this moment. His small body started glowing in the usual golden glow that was far brighter than before. His form started to enlarge as he took on his full shape. Long white locks, a chiseled chin, and rippling pecs all behind his usual white robe were materialized.

He gripped his fist strongly and let the lightning energy flow through him. The arcs of blue electricity started going around his whole body as he tried to gauge how much power he was able to output.

‘... Great circle core formation at most... this will have to do...’

“Everyone, stay here. You will all be protected by my lightning, keep this formation going and I’ll take care of that demon.”

After nodding he materialized a protective barrier around the whole magical circle. Soon he was flying away towards the demonic being that caused it all on his mind, the Principal and her aides. He wasn’t sure if they would still be alive at this point, he could only hope that this would be enough power for him to get rid of that monster.

.....

“Was that all? The people of the races are unworthy to face the king if this is all they amount to.”

A grinning demon was looking at the defeated magicians that had faced off against it. For a moment they were able to hold him off but after running out of mana they were nothing but dead weight.

The crimson creature was now looking at the dark elf that was all bloodied up. Her companions were to the side, some of them missing limbs after getting them cut off by the sickle arms. If they were still alive was unknown but even if they were, their faith had been sealed, no one would be walking out of here in one piece.

“Are the demon lords always so chatty? Just finish it you bastard we will never surrender to demonic scum like you!”

The Principal spit out some blood to the side while looking with avarice at the ugly monster. She knew that even if reinforcements arrived it wouldn’t change anything. It would take several duke level magicians to defeat this monster, maybe only the current king could face it off in a one-on-one battle.

“Death by my hands is a blessing. I will reap your souls and present it to the king as a token of my devotion.”

The monster opened up its toothy mouth as wide as it could. A gray ball of demonic energy appeared in front of it and increased in size as the attack gained in power. With nothing more to do the elven woman closed her eyes. Thoughts of simple days in her youth filled her head and caused a single teardrop to form that combined with the blood on her face while it dripped down.

“Oh no, you don’t!”

Before the attack could go through a familiar voice was heard by her. Baffled by it she opened up her tired eyes to witness a man in a white robe kicking the large mouth of the red monster upwards. The sheer force behind this kick forced the beam attack to shoot up while also shattering some of those pointy yellow teeth in the process.

“T-the spirit?”

She called out in surprise as the massive demonic beam shot up into the air and split into many smaller beams. It looked like gray stars were raining down from the heavens. Soon those beams collided with the ground and caused many small explosions around their location. Luckily there was enough space between them to not cause any casualties.

“He really didn’t pull any punches...”

Zhang Dong had appeared before them, his aura filled the area and caused the monster to buckle backward in surprise.

“Who dares?”

“I dare. You damn overgrown caterpillar!”

“A lowly astral realm being? I will eradicate your existence from this realm!”

The monster released its aura causing the rubble to shake. Every person that was close by could fear an overwhelming aura of evil moving forth. The moment it collided with their senses they were paralyzed with fear, unable to move or even scream for help.

“Don’t think you’re the only one that can do that.”

Zhang Dong’s eyes glowed in a golden color and his entire body shone. Several bursts of light started shooting out from his form. These rays enveloped the whole area and bathed everyone in its protective light.

“W-warm...”

The downed elf muttered while basking in the warm holy energies that Zhang Dong was giving off. There was a small healing property to this golden aura that was coming from the Lightning Emperor. Even though it wasn’t all that much it was enough for the Principal to get to her own two feet and go for a healing potion.

“What is this disgusting energy... it burns!”

A wail of anger and pain could be heard from the red monster. The holy element was doing wonders against this monster's skin that started to melt from just being near him. It wouldn't be that easy, when the monster noticed his opponent's aura it coated itself with its own to repel the holy element that was being used against it.

"Lowly astral being, accept your demise!"

The monster charged forward with its massive body and many legs destroying the ground below it. The sharp appendages that were once its arms had multiplied and were now slicing the air around while coated in some dark energy.

"Accept this!"

Zhang Dong didn't just stand there and do nothing. He closed his hand into a fist and condensed a sword of light. This was one of his first techniques that he didn't use in quite some time. With the added bonus of his holy dao the thunderlight sword looked like a spire of golden energy.

A clash between light and dark commenced. The creature swung its many blade arms around while breaking the sound barrier. With only using one hand he started batting away those attacks with the help of his energy sword. Sparks flew and more dirt was kicked up as these two beings of power clashed with each other.

"U-unbelievable..."

The Principal muttered while slowly moving away from the battle zone. She had found the Vice Principal with the bushy white beard with a missing foot and was slowly dragging him away.

While running away she had turned to the fight to see the spirit clashing with the monster. Leigong was far stronger here than he was during the arena match, she didn't know where this boost of power came but this was the best moment to reorganize.

The whole battle was now taking place in a different location than where the monster exposed itself. While slowly limping away the Principal came across one of the students shivering behind a large pillar. The characteristic drill hair made it obvious who this person was

"Why are you still here, you should have evacuated a long time ago!"

The blond lady looked to the bloodied dark elf with wide-opened eyes. After looking around for a moment she seemed to have made up her mind as she approached the two injured people.

"L-let me help you."

Normally the Principal would tell the child to just run, but she was far too tired and injured. Any help at this point would be appreciated.

"You have my gratitude, we must escape towards the inner parts of the academy while the spirit is keeping the Archdemo..."

Before she could finish the sentence a beam of demonic energy flew right towards the three people that were evacuating. Yet before this attack could connect with them a friendly white-haired Lightning Emperor swooped in to save them.

“You’re not very good at getting away are you...”

The small group of three was enveloped by a warm golden shield together with the spirit inside. His eyes glowing and flickering with lightning energy. The battle was not over quite yet as the monster’s scream caused everything to shake and crumble.

“Your end is nigh!”

“This might be harder than I thought...”

Zhang Dong muttered to himself while looking at the monster that was healing itself with its own demonic energy. His own on the other hand was running out, the students left behind to act as his batteries were probably not able to hold on anymore. He needed to finish this fast or else it could be the end for everyone here.

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People were floating around in a bubble while being slowly healed by Zhang Dong’s holy energies. He had moved forward to distance himself a bit while facing off against the red demon.

The situation didn’t look so good at his end as he could feel that his power was fading the more he remained in this world. The young students that he had left to lend him power were transferring less and less of it his way.

There was also the problem of too many unconscious and injured people around him. With them here he couldn’t really let loose any unconcentrated attacks in fear of killing someone in the process. This was also why he was using his thunderlight sword and facing the monster in close quarters combat. This technique was made of holy energy so it worked quite well against a demon like this.

‘I need to get them out of here first...’

“Listen up, I’m going to send you all into one location. There you will find my summoner, if you wish for me to defeat this demon you must lend her your mana.”

“Lady Beatrice?”

The one that asked was Isabella, the big drill-haired bully.

“Yes, that one. It would be nice if you forgot about your misgivings about her and lent her your power.”

Zhang Dong gave the girl a big manly smile before looking down at the Principal. She was the strongest mage here and also had the most mana. If she somewhat recovered and added her mana to the array formation that he created there would be a chance.

“I...”

The young blond lady opened up her eyes wide and it looked like she was thinking about something. There wasn’t much more time for chit-chat as the Demon Lord of Pain was now charging their way.

“Death will be your salvation!”

Zhang Dong rolled his eyes after having heard enough edgy one liners from this guy. He used a big chunk of his energy to pull every bruised and battered body towards the energy sphere. This caused some discomfort for the previous people within it but not like they could protest.

“Now go!”

With a little shove, they flew into the air as he aimed to place them somewhere close to the mana gathering magic array formation. Right on cue the monster was there, attacking with his many sickle-like hands. This time around he found it a lot harder to bat them away as his cultivation realm was regressing below into the late stage.

“I must keep my distance and stall for a bit...”

He was mad that no one in this academy was able to actually do anything about this demon. This also made him think back to his own sect grounds. Without his system’s detection ability some spies could make it through the cracks. There were the scanners but they weren’t at all locations and one rat or another could always make it through.

“Tch... screw of!”

The golden sword of light shone brightly as he brought it down on his enemy. He utilized one of his slashing attacks from his own swordsmanship style. Thanks to having reached sword heart before it gave him enough advantage to keep up even in a lesser realm of power.

“Your power is fading spirit, soon you shall succumb to pain!”

With the high-powered slice, he had managed to shove his enemy back. He even managed to slice through one of those bladed hands. Regretfully with time, it would regenerate itself back to its original form.

“Yeah well... your breath stinks...”

‘Hope they make it there in time...’

He jumped to the side to evade another one of those beam attacks and the battle continued. Back at another location, a group of people were rolling in a big ball of light. This ball burst like a soap bubble to reveal many injured and unconscious people along with the Principal.

“Is everyone okay?”

The elven woman called out, the people that were conscious started groaning. Some of them were able to stand up while others remained silent. It was unknown how injured everyone was but there wasn’t really any time to care for everyone. The battle was still not over and the Archdemon still remained.

“Principal, I’m sure my father will arrive soon.”

Isabella commented while gathering herself to her own two feet. During the whole ruckus, she was separated from other people that she knew. The girls that used to hang around her were quick to run towards the shelters without even waiting for her.

“The Duke? ... let us hope so...Elobarin, can you walk?”

“Give this old man a second...”

The Vice-Principal was also here, he was missing a foot but after casting a spell green energy started condensing towards this injured spot. The man didn't grow a new foot but a one that looked to be made from wood. It was clear that this procedure wasn't anything comfortable as his eyebrows twitched in pain.

“That should do it...what is that?”

He pointed into the distance where a strange light was coming from. After a moment other people started to notice it too.

“Didn't that spirit say something about this? Could that be where student Beatrice is?”

Leigong the spirit had given them some vague instructions. They didn't really know what he meant by lending Beatrice a hand. They were slowly running out of options, the most powerful magicians from the academy had been defeated. If Leigong didn't come to their aid the group of people here would have been already dead as well.

“It is possible, we should investigate.”

The old man said while producing a wooden cane to help with his prosthetic leg.

“Please everyone, help the ones that can't walk we must move.”

After nodding the Principal moved forward along with the others. There were enough able bodies to help the other people on the way. When they arrived at their destination they noticed the large glowing shield and the students inside of it. Some of them were on the side and clearly passed out. Others were barely keeping up while panting.

There were also some charred bodies of what looked to be small imps and demons before the magical barrier. It was clear that they wanted to penetrate inside of it but were burned to a crisp during the attempt.

“This must be it... fascinating. What is that magic circle... it is gathering mana from the surroundings and focusing it into the middle...”

The elven Principal commented while the people here moved forward. Every mana and health potion that could be used was now emptied. While some people from the group tried to regain their senses others approached the large mana gathering array that Zhang Dong made.

“He said to lend his summoner mana?”

She looked inside this barrier and could see Beatrice in a sort of trance sitting in the middle. It was clear that the girl was taking in the vast amount of mana from the surroundings and channeling it somewhere. It looked like it was going towards the astral realm where her spirit resided; this was also probably why its power had increased by this much.

“Is it wise to give up our mana? Shouldn't we evacuate and wait for the Knights or the Dukes to arrive?”

“Y-yes, we should evacuate. Why are we even here?”

Some of the people from the side started calling out to the Principal as staying alive was the priority. None of them wanted to waste this opportunity to get away, no one actually believed that the spirit that helped them could beat an Archdemon.

“I think we should listen to what the spirit said...”

Isabella commented from the side while some of the instructors were shouting between each other.

“Silence! Don’t you feel ashamed for yourself? Act like adults.”

The Principal was mad that the instructors and teachers in this school that were hand-picked by to be the most talented were so cowardly. Everyone here was a noble, so she feared that they were used to the easy life too much.

“We will aid the spirit while we wait for reinforcements, not like there is a place to hide. Look around you, the academy has been mostly destroyed.”

She proclaimed while touching the golden magic barrier that was protecting the students inside. The others looked at this with fright due to the dead monster bodies close to the barrier. It looked like this magic was highly destructive and could hurt anyone that was touching it.

“Calm yourselves, this isn’t that type of magic...look.”

The moment she made contact with the golden light her hand just passed through. It looked like it was fine for people to go inside but not for monsters.

“I see... this is how it functions. Listen up, this magical circle will absorb your mana into it. Replace the collapsed students with haste before...”

The moment that she uttered those words a sound of a thunderous explosion could be heard by everyone here. The people turned to the direction of the noise to see a glorious Leigong flying their way. He was bouncing off the ground like a ragdoll and crashing into everything though. Ending his voyage by sliding for about fifty meters and making a small crater.

“W-why are you taking so long...”

The spirit groaned while grasping his head. He wasn’t looking well, there were visible injuries all over his body and mana was leaking from them. Spirits from the astral realm didn’t really bleed like people from the material realm. They would leak energy that they were composed of in the form of bright-colored energy bubbles. Even though Zhang Dong was slightly different his current body was also composed of various energies.

“Your end is nigh, astral creature!”

The demon lord was not far behind and he could clearly see the large array formation that was glowing in the background.

“What is this disgusting energy? Begone from my sight!”

“Shit...”

It looked like the plan had failed. The people that he shot over to the mana circle that he created to help him regain his strength were scattering to the sides. The only person that actually entered it was the Principal but the others were now running away for the hills. If he got an injection of power now then he might have stood a chance but it didn't look like the monster would give him any time for that.

The demon lord took aim once more, this time with a more concentrated beam. This monster seemed to not tire or run out of mana at all. It was now seeing the array formation as an eyesore and ready to destroy it along with the students and Beatrice inside.

Zhang Dong jumped to put himself between them and the monster's beam attack. Everything went bright as his holy energies and the demonic ones collided with each other. The massive torrent of pressure tossed everyone in the surrounding back while they screamed for help.

The monster grinned after looking at its opponent that even managed to injure it a couple of times. Zhang Dong was slowly fading away, his energy had run dry and even Beatrice was slowly losing consciousness. It looked like it was over for him but he had to somehow get the kids out of here.

'Can I toss them away from here... but this monster will follow after them anyway...'

"Thus begins the slaughter!"

The monster laughed but then something strange occurred. Isabella Hohenberg during the confusion had made it inside the mana gathering array and was now right next to Beatrice. She looked quite serious as she went down to her knees and grasped Beatrice's hands together with her own.

Isabella closed her hands and started focusing. It was clear that she wanted to aid Zhang Dong with her mana but at this point, he knew that it wouldn't be enough. That was what would have normally happened but for some reason, the two girls started glowing in an even brighter light than before.

"What is this?"

Zhang Dong was baffled by the strange light show that he was seeing. This wasn't all as he could feel his energy returning to him in truckloads. The hands that were fading away just a moment ago took shape and all the wounds that he suffered were mending themselves.

"Is this the fabled power of friendship? I thought those girls hated each other though..."

The monster released another burst of multiple beams as it noticed that something was wrong. This time around there was a change. Zhang Dong just waved with his finger and it looked as if time stopped. The beams that were about to collide with multiple targets stopped in the air, not budging a centimeter.

"You had your fun, now become a good punching bag for me!"

Zhang Dong cracked his knuckles as he charged forward, he wouldn't let this sudden boost in power be wasted.

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A whirlpool of bright golden energy surrounded two blond-haired maidens while people watched on from the sides. The moment they touched a sort of trans took them over. Their bodies were now

floating up in the air while the two young girls were holding their hands together, not letting go as they spun around in place.

Not far away from the girls was another person that was going through a transformation. The Lightning Emperor Leigong that was about to fade away was just getting his second wind. His body was reconstructing itself as many tiny wisps of energy condensed onto him.

“Not sure how this is possible but I’m not complaining...”

“How could this be... what is this wretched light!”

Zhang Dong had now stopped the Archdemons attack that he shot out through its mouth again. The dark rays were frozen in the air while he kept his finger pointed forward.

“Be turned to cheese!”

With a small flick, the demonic energies did a U-turn and shot towards the creature that fired it off. The monster put up some defenses but the demonic rays managed to do some damage. This damage was fast to close up as this creature’s vitality was quite high.

“You can’t regenerate if there are no particles left to regenerate...”

A massive spike in holy energy caused the whole academy to rumble once more. This power was many times above whatever the Archdemon could output and left the Principal and other magicians in awe.

Zhang Dong wanted to end this fast with the strongest attack possible. How long his new power boost would last was unknown, he needed to use this energy before it ran out.

“This matters not astral being, you will fall like the rest!”

The ugly monster wasn’t having any of this as it charged forward once more. If the ranged attack didn’t work then maybe close range combat would seal the deal. Unfortunately for the Archdemon during his charge, its opponent vanished for a split second.

“Think fast!”

With a swift kick to the face, the Lord of Pain was sent tumbling into some buildings. This kick was packed with holy lightning energy causing the monster excruciating pain, its screams were quite audible to everyone here.

What followed was a one sided beat down. The denizens of this world looked on as the white haired Leigong kicked the huge demon around as if it was a football. There was no end to the hits and the creature had no way of countering the faster opponent. Soon it found itself floating up in the air with many shattered bones and broken teeth.

“yOu...sHaLL... pErIsH...bY...mY...hAnD”

“Not if you perish first.”

Zhang Dong first had to incapacitate his enemy. With swift kicks and punches, he had caused some surface-level damage to make the monster’s regeneration to kick in. He had noticed that during this

period the monster would lose most of its speed. The last part was flinging it up into the air as it didn't possess any flying capabilities that he was aware of.

There was also the bonus of making the monster crash into the giant demon repelling barrier that this academy was surrounded with. This protective bubble was just what he needed to keep this monster in one place.

When the creature connected with this shield he could see the demonic energies and it counteracted each other. It was causing it some harm but it wasn't enough to kill it. This type of barrier was there to keep things out and not to destroy them.

"Okay, wait there, this is going to be a big one..."

Another light show was started that piqued everyone's interest. The spirit named Leigong turned into a large sphere of energy that started expanding in all directions. This energy egg started floating up while constantly growing in size till a cracking sound was heard.

"By the gods... what is that?"

"C-could it be..."

The stunned magicians below could see a giant webbed wing appearing from the torrent of bright energy. It was truly gigantic and followed by another one to the other side. Soon a large golden dragon head was seen by everyone. The people that witnessed Zhang Dong's arena fight remembered this head but not it was attached to the rest of the flying beast.

"A-ancient D-dragon?"

"How is it so big?"

The Principal and Vice-Principal called out with wide-opened eyes. The large dragon that they were seeing was at least fifty meters in height. The wing spawn was even larger which made this majestic creature look even bigger than it already was.

Thanks to Beatrice and Isabella, Zhang Dong was able to reach a state of half-step into the nascent soul. With that, he was now able to manifest his soul beast out into the open. He chose it as it possessed quite the ferocious breathing attack that worked wonders on demonic beings alike. It was backed by holy and lightning energies as well as plasma, this would make quick work of this Archdemon.

"iMpOsSiBIE! HoW cOuLd oNe oF tHe oLd oNeS sTiLl bE aLiVe?"

The Lord of Pain shouted while fighting against the magical barrier that was keeping him from regenerating fully. Regretfully for the red monster, it was too late for him to flee. His opponent in the form of a golden dragon was already charging up his breath attack.

'Ancient Dragon? Old One?'

The names that were getting thrown around made Zhang Dong raise a brow while looking at his soul beast taking aim. It seemed that his soul beast's form was quite popular in this world. Maybe thanks to this he would be able to gain some notoriety, luckily for him, most people liked golden holy element dragons.

With a final burst of energy, the dragon moved its head towards the trapped opponent. It opened its large maw to release a torrent of heated plasma and holy energies. It looked like a giant beam of sun radiation shooting out of the dragon's toothy mouth and it was on a collision course with the Archdemon.

"iNcOnCelvAbLe... hOw cOuLd I... mY kInG..."

The monster was unable to dodge while being affected by the academy's large protective barrier. It was bathed in sun-like flames of Zhang Dong's soul beast, the particles that it was made from quickly evaporated into nothingness. The demonic energy that was shielding it previously didn't even last for a second.

He made sure to perform the attack for a bit longer. During his travels, he had come across many monsters that could regenerate themselves. Without making sure that the monster was really dead he wouldn't feel comfortable.

'I think it's dead... I can feel that its demonic soul has been erased... but what is that?'

Zhang Dong had traded spots with his soul beast and was temporary in his own soul realm. His little Ai helper Bob flew over as it also discovered this item.

'Nuclei signature detected'

It started glowing red as he had told it to alert him whenever it found anything about the cubes. It would seem that it was inside of this monster for some reason and it couldn't be harmed by his dragon's breath.

"That's enough, I'm coming out..."

He needed to look at this with his own eyes. The energy that he was given was now slowly fading away, there wasn't much time before he would be forced to take a backseat once again.

The people that were looking up had to avert their eyes as the dragon's breath was far too hot and bright. When they glanced back up they could only see the large dragon vanishing and Zhang Dong appearing out of the blue. For all intents and purposes it looked like he was the dragon while in reality, it was just his soul beast switching out with him.

While the people were in a state of shock and awe and before the unwelcome guests that he also noticed came over he decided to grab the item he was looking at.

'It looks corrupted...'

What he was holding wasn't a cube but a dark crimson gem.

'Is this really it Bob?'

His Ai companion started beeping after a little ding he gave an answer.

'Affirmative, this is a portion of a Nuclei but it is incomplete. Should I begin the absorption process?'

'It's not complete? How better are my chances of getting home... my own sector after I absorb this thing?'

'Calculating... 5,1%...'

He frowned after hearing that, before Bob told him that one full cube would give him around a 30% boost in the chances of getting back to his family. This incomplete nuclei on the other hand just got him a measly 5%.

'This is better than nothing... probably these other Archedemon's that call themselves Demon Lords have these with them. Their King will probably have the biggest one yet...'

From what he knew there were five Demon Lords, which would bring his chances up by 25% after he killed them all. The Demon King was their boss so his Nuclei could be twice or many times more capable. It might push him past the 50% mark which could be enough for him to get home.

'Killing these demons is probably the fastest way of taking care of things here but...'

He looked down to where Beatrice and Isabella were before. The two were still grasping each other but slowly descending to the ground. From what he could tell their souls had some kind of strange reaction to each other the moment they got close inside the array formation. The other girl's soul was strangely similar to Beatrice's, he would need to investigate this later as now wasn't the time.

He was holding the corrupt gem in his hand now after his soul beast had returned. At least that is how it looked to the people around him as there were more of them here now. While he was disposing of the Demon Lord he blasted a hole through this magical barrier revealing what was on the other side.

This barrier kept the outside as well as the inside hidden. It was constructed to not let people from within see any landmarks to keep this place hidden. Now it was gone and he could see the sky above him and also some steep rocky formations. It turned out that this school was built inside some kind of huge volcano. Even if someone looked from outside they wouldn't be able to see any of the buildings that were placed inside.

This wasn't all that he was looking at. There was a certain large black dragon looking at him, behind it were other lesser flying dragons with people on them. It was clear that this was the 'cavalry' that was late as always.

On the largest beast there sat a man with blond hair and a matching yellow beard. It was clear that the people outside witnessed him destroying the Demon Lord and now they were watching as he turned the monster's corrupt gem into powder.

"How could this be... an Ancestral Dragon Emperor!"

He could hear the man call out while the other dragons became loud. They soon floated downwards and dropped all of their heads down. It looked as if they were prostrating themselves in front of him.

'Do they think I'm some kind of Dragon Lord? Well... if this lets me get more resources then it's fine but for now it looks like the time is up...'

Zhang Dong looked at his hand that was previously holding the corrupt gem. He had absorbed it but now his body was going transparent. He used the last of his time to move his hands behind his back and do his usual 'Senior-straight-like-a-sword' pose before he faded away into mana particles. This signaled the end of the battle and the end to the demon menace in the academy.

Chapter 295

“Huh?”

“Rise and shine~!”

“W-what is this...”

“Glad to welcome you back amongst the living, want something for that dry mouth?”

A dumbfounded Isabella was looking at a white-haired man behind a tiki bar. There were various colorful cocktails sitting on that bar counter and the wind was making the bamboo chimes hit against each other.

There were some large totems to the side along with tropical trees and even hula girls dancing in the background. Along with the man there, there was also Beatrice that was slowly getting on one of the wooden barstools. She looked not as bewildered by this whole predicament as if she had gone through the whole thing before.

“Here take a seat, relax. We need to talk about a few things, I bet you are confused but that is because of the soul resonance you two had gone through.”

“Soul resonance?”

This time it was Beatrice that spoke up first.

“Yes, you seem to be connected more than by your bloodline.”

After the battle was over Zhang Dong returned to the soul realm but there he also found both of these blond girls. Seeing Beatrice there wasn't anything out of the ordinary but now he also saw the drill blond that was supposed to be the villain here.

Both of them were a bit out of it after trance they were through so he prepared a nice tropical setting for them. Something like this was quite easy to him, by shaping his soul repeatedly he was gaining familiarity with it. The more he did it, the stronger it became and the more access to his spiritual energy he gained.

“This is knowledge that isn't that well known so let this Leigong explain.”

During the stay here he had gone through all the possible books and scriptures that this academy had to offer. Thanks to his special disposition he could even go through the Principal notes and the old archaic books. Through this, he knew a few things and one of them was this soul resonance.

“You see, this is a very rare occurrence and only happens between two or more members of the same bloodline. It also depends on how remarkable the ancestor was that you were drawing power from.”

“Ancestor?”

Isabella finally decided to join the group as she awkwardly sat on one of the bar stools. Next to her was a drink with a little umbrella in it. It had a strange light pink coloring to it that was strangely alluring. The young girl resisted the temptation of giving it a sip as she had no idea where she was.

“Yes, with the soul resonance you can call up the powers of your ancestor and materialize them to some degree. Your souls must be quite similar to a powerful summoner, thus you were able to lend me enough mana so I could exert more of my original power.”

This is what he learned from the books. He was sure that the other magicians in this world would know about this as well. What they would do with the knowledge he didn't know. Beatrice wasn't fond of the main house that Isabella was from.

Then Isabella wasn't very welcoming to Beatrice that she saw as some upstart trying to go out of line. Now the two girls would need to work together and help him defeat all the demon lords. This was something that he needed to do as it was his only clue to finding more cubes.

“Yes, it must have been someone good with mana as your powers increased exponentially. Thanks to you two I managed to slay the Archdemon.”

“You were able to defeat a Demon Lord?!”

Isabella jumped to her feet while slamming her hands on the tiki bar counter. The drinks started shaking around while she looked at Zhang Dong in disbelief.

“I knew you could do it Mr. Leigong.”

On the other hand, Beatrice gave out a sigh of relief, she at least had belief in his power. After spending so much time in his soul dimension she had also grown accustomed to his quiriness.

“Of course, that little demon was nothing. If I had access to all of my power I could crush it with my little pinky!”

Zhang Dong gave out a laugh while Beatrice rolled her eyes a bit. After being close to him so much she kind of knew that he liked to joke around a lot. She also knew that he might be telling the truth as his power was something real.

“Where are we... how do we get home... what is this place...”

Isabella on the other hand was slowly waking up to the reality of this moment. She was on a strange tropical island. There was a large golden dragon playing around in the water in the background. It looked to be wrestling with some kind of huge prehistoric-looking fish. There were also the hula dancers that after a while started to vanish into thin air.

“Don't be afraid, we are just in the spirit realm.”

Beatrice smirked a bit while looking at her old enemy. She was glad to rub it in and Zhang Dong could tell that she was liking the fact that Isabella was acting afraid.

“Spirit realm? H-how can this be...how do we go back home...”

“Calm down little girl, no one is going to harm you. Due to the strain on both of your souls, your bodies went into a coma. With time you will recover while I nourish you back to health with the help of my own power. Look.”

Zhang Dong pointed to the side and Isabella followed his finger. There a rift opened up to show what was happening in the real world. Both the girls were together in one room and were being watched by some adults. The man that had ridden the dragon was also there, besides him was a familiar-looking man in a mustache.

“Father?”

“Pappa?”

Beatrice named her father quite traditionally while Isabella on the other hand referred to him as pappa. She noticed that both Zhang Dong and Beatrice looked at her in a funny way, this caused the girl to blush.

“Yes, they are both there. I’ve spoken to them about this so don’t worry, in a few days you will recover and be able to return to your bodies.”

Zhang Dong thought back to a day before, this was the moment that he brought down the demonic being called the Lord of Pain. The salute that the dragons gave him was quite unexpected but it also gave him the leverage to proceed with his little plan.

The person that came riding on the dragon was a Duke and current leader of the main house that Isabella was part of. He was the most powerful summoner in this kingdom that used his black dragon to battle foes. Thanks to Zhang Dong’s draconic soul beast they thought that he was some kind of old Heroic Ancestor Dragon. This made things easy as they took the whole soul resonance explanation easily.

He had explained to the Duke the connection that the two girls had. The man was hard to read as he kept quite the poker face. He didn’t know if the man liked the idea of her daughter having a similar soul to someone from a weak branch house. It was possible, these noble types saw their weaker relatives as nothing more than moochers.

Their existence was dependent on the main house but now it seemed that this branch family was standing out. Zhang Dong was afraid that these people would not like how things are turning out. First was the grandfather that was one of the more capable summoners, even close to this Duke in power if what Beatrice’s parents said was true.

For now, the Duke was cooperating with him but this was probably due to the status of ‘Dragon Ancestor’ that he had now. What would happen if he wasn’t there anymore was bothering him. He needed to make Beatrice strong enough to fend for herself in one way or another.

“So, you two can get acquainted. Why don’t you two try working together?”

“Us working together?”

Beatrice’s face contorted a bit while looking at Isabella. The blond with the drills narrowed her eyes as well before turning her face away.

“Why do I need to work with the likes of her?”

“The likes of her? What do you mean by that!”

Beatrice jumped up to her seat while slamming the poor tiki bar with her fist. The wood started buckling under the pressure and even broke in a few spots.

“Not even an ounce of dignity and decorum!”

Zhang Dong wanted to facepalm as the two girls started to argue. He knew well that Isabella was the reason Beatrice was being bullied in the academy. This was something she knew as well, working with your bully was not an easy thing to do. Why Isabella had it out for her wasn't out in the open, he attributed it to the pretty boy with green hair.

He was her fiance but was showing more interest in Beatrice than Isabella. If he had other girls on the side wouldn't really surprise him. In this country, high nobles were allowed to have mistresses but only one wife.

Normally Isabella's parents and the royal family would never allow the prince to take Beatrice as a wife. But then he appeared, a super-strong spirit that was able to defeat a demon lord. With this Beatrice's stocks would flourish and she would be seen as a proper marriage candidate. The moss head was also not the crown prince, so he could be used as a pawn to get other powerful families on the side of the royals.

What he needed to do now was to somehow get these two girls to work together. They were stuck here with him so they would need to interact. Speaking with others wasn't his forte but he would probably need to play the nanny in this situation.

“That's enough!”

A crack of thunder and lightning resounded through the entire place. The sunny sky turned cloudy, hurricane-like winds picked up and rain started to fall. The two girls instantly looked to Zhang Dong who was now out of his bartender role and back in his white robe.

“Stop bickering, you're acting like little brats both of you.”

He pointed his finger at the two while they backed away.

“You will have to learn to work with each other from now on. The lives of many are at stake, do you think the demon lords will wait?”

One of the Archdemons was dead, news of this would probably reach everyone in time. Maybe the demons already had gotten this information and were now preparing for a counterattack. Beatrice and Isabella were now both in danger and he wouldn't be able to protect them unless they performed their soul resonance.

“Please great spirit, appease your anger.”

Isabella, who didn't know Zhang Dong well, was quite afraid while Beatrice grumbled under her breath. But after he gave her a glare she also started apologizing, the fear of balancing heavy objects while running away from menacing beasts was still with her.

“Good. Now we can talk about your future endeavors!”

The weather turned back to normal and the girls were handed fresh cocktails.

“Endeavours?”

“Yes, you two must learn to get along with each other and also be able to perform the soul resonance when the time comes!”

“You don’t mean?”

Beatrice gulped while backing away.

“Yes, we are going to do some special training!”

“Noooooooo....”

The sound of the waves blocked away the screams of the two girls, soon their new training would be starting.

Chapter 296

“G-great Ancient Spirit, is this truly necessary?”

“Yes... do we really have to do this, Mr. Leigong. I’m not sure how this is supposed to help...”

“You dare question my methods?”

“I dare not Great Spirit but...”

Isabella answered while looking at Beatrice that was narrowing her eyes at the spirit called Leigong. For one reason or another, the scenery changed to a large dance hall. It looked like a party fit for wealthy powerful nobles.

The hall was large but mostly empty. The floor was polished to a shine and made from some expensive stone resembling marble. There were some yellowish patterns here and there that made everything look as if it was bathed in gold.

Isabella was wearing a lovely-looking yellow ball gown with a lot of beautiful accessories. She looked quite dolled up for the occasion. On the other end, there was Beatrice that looked a bit maddened by the fact that she was wearing a noble man’s clothes.

The two were opposite each other and it was clear that they were supposed to dance.

“Your assignment is to dance! One will lead while the other will follow. Also, be wary of the sharks and alligators below!”

This was another part of this strange scene. The dance floor was quite large but at the edges, there was a pit filled with water. In this water, there were many flesh-eating fish, alligators, and even sharks.

“But...”

“No buts, now start!”

Zhang Dong clapped with his hands and the two girls looked at each other. Beatrice was used to the strange training methods that her spirit offered her by this point, thus she was more relaxed. On the

other hand, Isabella didn't know what was happening. The spirit told her that both of them needed to practice their soul resonance but how dancing would help with that was unknown.

With a clap the music started, a large beam of light was pointed at the pair and indicated the start of the spectacle. The two girls looked at each other with mixed expressions. The two weren't very close with each other. They were actually more akin to enemies than friends. The predicament with the Prince going for another woman than his fiancée brought this upon them.

"You should start dancing... otherwise..."

While the two looked at each other with spite the stage started getting smaller. The sounds of splashing and gnashing of teeth forced the two girls to move forward. The two had gone through extensive etiquette and dance training in their youths so they knew how to perform.

The problem was that one of them needed to play the part of the man and lead in the dance. This would fall to Beatrice but Isabella wasn't that eager to follow at that pace. Thus it resulted in stepping on feet while the awkward dance continued.

"You need to understand your partner more, your spirits must become one. When one leads the other follows..."

Zhang Dong looked from the side while examining the dance. This was actually a very basic way of training people to work with each other. In his sect, something like this was used to teach new disciples to work with each other during formations. It was required to know their partner while performing specialized movement techniques in combat formations.

Dancing was a good way to bring people together. Though most of the time they would perform the same dance side by side, mimicking each other's movements at the same time. He went with a more noble dance due to the upbringing of these girls but it might have been a bad decision as they weren't working together that well.

Isabella wasn't willing to follow Beatrice's lead during the dance. Beatrice on the other hand was very forceful in guiding the dance, not willing to pace herself. Thus the two were awkwardly moving around and soon the sharks came into play. The stage continued to shrink due to their failures to sync up and thus their end was nigh. Both of them fell down into the pit filled with sharks, their screams filling the air.

This was nothing but an illusion but the feeling of wetness was quite real as the two found themselves back on the same stage with drenched clothes.

'Hm, it looks like their dislike for each other is keeping them from working together... how did they even manage to get in that state of soul resonance in the first place...'

He tried to remember back to that moment. Beatrice was close to passing out before Isabella moved into the picture. The two collided with each other by mistake and somehow went into the state of a trance.

'I might be able to force this state by tweaking the spirit gathering formation... but a forced technique will always be weaker...'

Zhang Dong knew that if the two learned to work together this soul resonance could get stronger. It might even be able to boost his power towards the nascent soul level. It was unknown how strong this demon king was in this world. He was probably above the demon lords that were at the great circle of core formation level.

'If he is at the half step into the nascent soul level the forced method might be enough... If not...'

There was also the option of gathering more mages into the gathering formation to fuel his transformation. Getting people to cooperate with him would be the hard part. Isabella's father seemed to be wary of him but due to the dragon ancestor title he was willing to work with him.

The number of core formation experts was also limited. To get enough power to push him towards the nascent soul level he might even require a thousand of them. These two girls on the other hand pushed him into the half step realm even with a forced soul resonance. This was an easier way to give him a power-up.

Otherwise, he would need everyone in the academy to power him during a fight against the Demon King. If the other demons would just let them power him during the final battle was something out for debate.

"Okay start over again, remember you have to work together, if not for yourself do it for the people close to you."

The girls looked at him while thinking. He had already explained to them that if they lent him enough power he would take care of the demon menace that was plaguing the whole continent. This was something they were willing to believe as he did trash the Lord of Pain quite easily with their help before.

What followed was a myriad of trust-building exercises between the two girls. Dancing wasn't the only thing Zhang Dong was making them do. To some, it might have looked like he was giving them random tasks but in reality, there was a purpose to this madness.

One of the exercises consisted of them being chained together and having to run away from some ferocious monster. Another one pitted them in various sport events against some soul constructs that he made. Unless they were willing to work together they would not be able to persevere in these tasks.

The days passed and while it did the girls continued to recover their lost soul power. While Isabella was here he also used some time to teach her some new techniques to gain more mana. He wasn't directly connected to her soul but when Beatrice was close by there was a soul connection formed. Through it, he could pull her into his world after she recovered.

'Think I might have overdone it a bit...'

In his attempts to get the two girls together he had forced them to live in one room. They had to eat together, clean together and even bathe together. They had started out staring daggers at each other but after a while, something clicked. Now he was looking at the two again, they were even braiding each other's hair and applying makeup that they were able to produce with the help of soul power.

"You sure look cute with this hairstyle Lady Isabella."

“Not as cute as you~”

They laughed and smiled at each other while continuing to play around in the soul realm.

‘Think they started acting like this after seeing that...’

He was thinking about the time ago when the girls asked him to show them what was happening in the material world. Through his summoner he was able to peek around the room they were sleeping in and a bit further beyond.

There was no reason to refuse so he obliged. To his surprise, there was a certain moss head hanging around them. At first it looked that he was just there to leave some flowers along with sweet words. The problem was that the girls wanted Zhang Dong to see what he was up to outside the room. There a little scene played out that he wasn’t expecting.

“My prince, it might be harder to court lady Beatrice after this event.”

“The harder it is, the better the rewards will be my friend. You saw what that spirit could do, we need to have its secrets!”

Quite the scene played out behind the doors as the two were leaving. It was now clear that the prince had ulterior motives which was Leigong the Spirit Emperor. Apparently, he only approached Beatrice to get to her secrets. He might have even wanted to steal him from her in some way or another.

“Will lady Isabella be fine with it?”

“Isabella? She has already been sworn to me, she just needs to follow the path that was laid out to her. She won’t mind a Mistress or two.”

It was clear that this prince was quite the character. He closed the connection before the girls could hear too many chosen words. This reveal had shattered their worldview quite rapidly. At first, they didn’t want to believe it but soon rage took them over. It was clear that the two were now dead set on getting back at the casanova of a prince.

‘Well, at least they can focus on one enemy... thank you moss head, your sacrifice will be remembered!’

He did a little prayer for the pretty boy in his head. In the near future, he might have to give him a little thrashing if the girls deemed it so. This would all be to increase the soul resonance and bring him closer to his own goal.

“Okay, listen up you two. Your souls have recovered and will soon be drawn back to your bodies. For now, continue with your training when you return.”

With the new techniques at hand reaching a level of a foundation establishment expert wouldn’t be a dream anymore. How long it would take both of them to get there was vague as it depended on them. Zhang Dong felt that if that happened they would be able to boost his power even more, maybe enough to propel him back into his true realm.

“Isabella!”

“Beatrice.”

The two sleeping beauties were back amongst the living and their parents were there. The man with the mustache was more reserved than the blond haired Duke that was hugging his daughter.

“Let us return to our estate!”

The Duke called out while checking Isabella from head to toe. Beatrice’s father didn’t say anything for now as there was a little agreement made beforehand. It looked like the Duke was trying to not follow through with it. Thus Leigong the Dragon Ancestor had to make an appearance again.

“This wasn’t what we agreed on. Your daughter is to aid me and my contractor in defeating the Demon Lords.”

A little clash of wills was upon them, the Duke was quite strong so a diminished Zhang Dong couldn’t really make him budge just yet. The little stare-off between the Duke and Zhang Dong’s small version was broken through Isabella’s words.

“I wish to stay with Lady Beatrice’s father, we will lend them our flying ship, the Jergintarth!”

“But sweetie...”

He could see the girl with the drill hair pouting with a disappointed look while the Duke tried to appease her. It was quite obvious that she had him wrapped around her finger. If they could use that to their advantage then it would be fine, getting a mobile flying vessel was something that was very high on his to-do list. With it, he could finally start the search for a way home.

Chapter 297

A smaller version of the Lightning Emperor was standing upright at the helm of a middle-sized flying ship.

‘The technology is quite similar to our own but the engine looks to be more refined. If I could implement it in the Argonauts design when I return...’

Some time had passed since the Archdemon’s attack. Thanks to the healing spells and potions in this world the casualties were lessened. People like the Vice-Principal that lost a limb could also recover without that much of a problem.

It was clear that when it came to healing this world’s magic was stronger than Zhang Dong’s. Missing limbs would require special pills that required even rarer materials. Only people at a very high level with the holy element like him would be able to emulate the priest spells from this magical world.

“Lady Isabella you must reconsider what will the people think about this...”

“I have already decided, please don’t associate yourself with me anymore, Prince Ludwig.”

Zhang Dong’s attention was brought down to a little scene. There was a group of young noblemen and women bickering about. On one side stood Isabella and Beatrice also along with a few maids. On the other side was the Prince with a couple of knights. It was clear that after eavesdropping on Moss head’s conversation both the blond girls were furious with him.

He couldn't fault them for that and was quite glad that they all listened in on the conversation. Since Isabella was a proud lady she found offense in the way the prince was thinking about her. She was nothing more than a tool, someone to just link him to her strong family.

'Not much different here than where I came from huh...'

This wasn't anything new, something like this was how people in the clans formed bonds. The problem was that Isabella apparently didn't see it like that. She was a young maiden that was still apparently looking for love. From his perspective, it would be immensely hard to find a loving partner in that way. His wife had grown on him through time and the love came later.

'Well, at least this helped me to get this ship...'

Isabella was part of the main family that Beatrice belonged to. Since the two were required to work together to help him fight the demon lords he was given this ship. Together with it a crew of knights and wizards from both the academy and the Duke Hohenberg of Dragonridge household.

Beatrice's father also lent some soldiers in the form of the old man that he previously faced off against. He was tasked with being Beatrice's bodyguard and would have his work cut for him. The young Beatrice didn't have much pull here to make any decisions. Only thanks to him were they willing to listen after he defeated the Demon Lord.

"Lady Isabella, I'm sure this is some kind of mistake I would never..."

Before Ludwig could continue with his words Beatrice stepped next to Isabella and started glaring at him as well.

"Lady Beatrice... you too..."

The prince looked quite baffled. From Zhang Dong's perspective, he was just the young master type that never had any hindrance in his life. He was also not the crown prince which lowered his responsibilities while still giving him a large amount of status. This was probably the first time one of his schemes had gone down the drain.

"My lord, think we are done here. The great Holy Dragon Ancestor has requested our aid to rid the whole of humanity of the demonic scourge. We mustn't keep him waiting!"

After the little battle with the Lord of Pain Zhang Dong had gained another glorious title. Thanks to his draconic soul beast everyone thought that he was some kind of heroic spirit of an ancient dragon god. Due to his unknown name, they thought that he just had to be some long-forgotten ancestors, maybe even the father of dragons.

'Daddy of all dragons doesn't sound so bad... I hope none of them will try talking to me though...'

Dragon's were an elusive species around here and revered by all. The high tier ones could change their form to look human thus his disguise was perfect.

He glanced at the conversation below and could see the prince moving to block Isabella's path. After the cat was out of the bag Isabella asked her father to annul the engagement. The duke was quite fond of his daughter and almost instantly obliged.

From what he knew, the one who actually wanted the marriage was Isabella. The prince was a sweet talker so he did manage to weasel himself into her good graces. Now on the other hand he was going to lose quite a bit. Not being able to marry someone at the level of a Duke's daughter was a hit to his face and prestige. It looked like he wouldn't just give up like that.

"Please prince Ludwig, we are done with our conversation. We must depart towards Isthvar to gather more people for our quest."

"Worry not Lady Isabella, how about I join you on your trip and have my men accompany you. They are the very best! We then could talk about everything in private..."

'I got to give it to him, he doesn't easily give up. Having some royal knights along the trip isn't something that could be easily refused...'

Refusing this aid would normally be seen as foolish. The royal family possessed quite the military might that could bolster them. There was also the problem of a Duke's daughter not being able to decline the help of a prince if he really imposed it on her. Their ranks were quite close but still in favor in old moss head's. So then, before the conversation could go in the wrong direction a thunderclap was heard and a bolt of golden light descended towards the bickering children.

"That is enough, you may leave young prince of the humans, your services won't be required."

It was clear that this young casanova would try to somewhat sweet talk both of the girls along the flight. Maybe a few lucky events could somehow bring them all back together. Zhang Dong on the other hand wasn't really interested in having this guy on his ship. He would clearly not be willing to listen to him, it was best not to bring him or any of his men along as they couldn't be trusted.

"Lady Beatrice... your spirit..."

"My spirit?"

Beatrice narrowed her eyes while looking at the green-haired prince. From what Zhang Dong could tell she was mad that he referred to him without any honorifics. It was clearly rude to refer to a Dragon Ancestor as 'Your Spirit' but the young prince didn't see spirits as beings above him.

He probably only saw them as useful tools, nothing more than a machine to do their bidding. This was quite normal for the young master types, even more, when his father was the strongest man on the continent. From what he could deduce this King should be at least on par with an Archdemon. In the eyes of this youth, he probably thought that his daddy would have no problem in slaying that beast alone.

While he was shaking his head Isabella took it upon herself to jump in.

"How dare you speak in such a way to the Dragon Ancestor, apologize immediately!"

"That's right, apologize to Mr. Leigong!"

After the two had reconciled due to the prince being a sleaze bag, they were quick to work together against him. He wasn't sure if Beatrice was still angry at the main house about her grandfather but at least she didn't seem antagonistic towards Isabella anymore.

“Apologize, me?”

The prince was of course taken aback, he probably never had to apologize to anyone besides maybe his parents. While Zhang Dong wanted nothing more than to look at this comedic routine to play itself out he had things to do.

“ENOUGH!”

Zhang Dong’s form expanded into his regular size and lightning energy covered his whole body. When the girls were close by he could exert more of his power without Beatrice passing out.

“We don’t have time for your mortal squabbles, we must depart before the demon scourge causes even more chaos.”

He exerted some of his strength which pushed the people from the prince’s side to their knees. It was a very similar aura attack that cultivators loved to perform to assert their dominance over others. No one here was above the foundation establishment realm in power, even the knights only reached up to about the early stage at most.

“Beatrice, control your spirit, this is going too far!”

This time it wasn’t the moss head but the carrot top instead. From his perspective, this was an obvious attack against someone from the royal family.

“Oh, am I going too far? Why don’t I eat you along with that little prince of yours.”

To scare the duo Zhang Dong’s pupils turned draconic in nature and resembled reptilian eyes while he stared at the two young men. He wouldn’t eat them of course but the people here didn’t know that. To them, he was a scary spirit that could change into a huge dragon if he wanted to.

The two flinched at the notion of being eaten and started inching back while still underneath the pressure of Zhang Dong’s aura.

“Don’t worry, I wouldn’t eat you, human meat is disgusting.”

It was fun to play around with these kids but he didn’t want to be labeled as some kind of flesh eating monster. He waved his hand and the two girls started floating up into the air. Soon all of them were flying towards the ship where most of the people were already waiting for their departure.

“Mr. Leigong... how do you know how human meat tastes?”

While flying he looked to Beatrice that had a silly smirk on her face. It was clear that she saw through his bluff. Isabella on the other hand was more gullible as she saw him as some kind of god like being that had descended to this very earth.

She also for some reason liked him in his small form, to the point of asking him to allow getting petted. He had noticed that the girl had been looking at him funny from day one and it was apparently due to the love of cute things.

“Why you little...”

He wanted to give her cheeks a good pull but they had already arrived on the flying ship. People were already done loading all the necessary items and they were close to being able to depart. The principal couldn't leave with them due to her position but the old friendly Vice-Principal was going with them. With him as a guide, they would be able to pass through most of the pesky barriers between the large cities and nations.

"So, do we have any information about any demon sightings?"

"Yes, there has been movement by the demons, they are fleeing as we speak, we must catch up to them!"

The one replying was the Vice-Principal who had his leg healed by now. He looked quite invigorated that he was chosen for this mission. It was clear that he wasn't a fan of the demons and saw this as a good chance for retaliation.

"Well then, let us depart."

Zhang Dong looked at the magic academy that he spent a few weeks in. He was glad that he was finally able to move on. With the help of these people, he hoped to reach his goal sooner than before. Hopes of meeting up with his family again grew even higher than before and he was ready to do everything in his power to return.

Chapter 298

Darkness filled Dorian's vision as he awoke. It was clear to him that he had something in the form of a sack tied to his head. It made things hard to breathe and very uncomfortable.

He was just a regular farmer's son that had been out on the field all day. The last thing that he remembered was going back home after working. The sun was setting as they had to hurry up with this month's harvest. Then things became blurry, something happened between the time of him walking home and arriving here.

"Ughhh..."

When he tried to speak something compelled him to not. There was nothing inside of his mouth but when he tried to open it, he couldn't. It was as if his lips were glued together and the only thing he could do was to mumble. Soon he heard rustling from the sides and similar mumbling and groaning were heard by him. It looked like he wasn't alone in this place.

"The sacrifices are waking up high priest."

"It matters not, the ritual is ready to begin, the Lord of Terror will be pleased with us!"

In the silence there were voices, the young farmer had no idea what was happening but this had something to do with the demon worshipers. His parents had warned him about them when he was younger.

There were certain people that worshiped the devils that were banished from these lands. They would perform strange rituals to open the rifts in the barrier in hopes of getting power in return. This could come in many forms but mostly they would turn into demonic beings themselves then serve the demon that they worshiped till the end of their life.

“Remove the sacks, let the sacrifices bask in the Lord’s glory!”

Footsteps followed the man’s words and the bag on his head was removed. What he saw was many people like him. Hands bound and curled up on a strange red circle. He wanted to scream but couldn’t after realizing that this magic writing was painted in human blood. There were multiple headless corpses to the side that were used for this purpose.

The other people looked to be mostly commoners from the villages just like him. They were of various genders and ages, even of mixed races as apparently no one was spared. The women were crying while the men were looking with anger in their eyes at the massacred people and the demon worshipers that were responsible for this.

“Be glad sinners, you will be graced by the Lord’s love! He will devour your very souls and use it as nourishment to cleanse these lands from the rot that covers it!”

A man in dark robes and various strange accessories stood out on a dim-lit platform above them. There were others like him gathered in this place around them. It was clear that they wanted to sacrifice them to some kind of demonic being. Running was the only option for survival.

Dorian’s struggles didn’t bore fruit, his body felt sluggish and he just couldn’t untie the ropes that bound him. The same thing happened to the others as even the more robust-looking men couldn’t break free. Something was sapping their strength already and soon some kind of strange portal appeared. It was right in the middle of this dastardly demonic circle and looked like it was made from blood.

“Yes! YES! The Lord is coming through!”

“Behold the lord’s glory infidels, bask in his light!”

The cultist started mumbling some strange incoherent chants while the people on the ground tried to flee. Soon the portal started expanding in size and with time something started to push through.

A large hooved leg appeared, it was covered in some tight red leathery skin. With a thump, this leg slammed to the ground below and caused it to tremble. Soon the demon’s form was revealed. It was many times larger than a human, close to ten meters tall. Its lower half looked like it belonged to a goat while the top half was more human-looking.

This being had similar characteristics to the first Demon Lord of Pain. The torso was muscular and covered in red leather. Its head didn’t possess eyes instead its brain was sticking out, below it a large toothy mouth with black teeth that were covered with blood. Various horns and spikes were coming out of its spine as well as from its fists.

“We greet the Lord of Terror! We present you these sacrifices, please feast on their immortal souls!”

The giant demon lord was able to get through the demonic gate of blood fully revealing itself. Even without any eyes, it seemed to be looking deep into everyone’s soul that was here.

“Inadequate...”

The monster’s shrill voice filled the area without it even talking. It pointed out towards the cultists with its large digit. The person that was getting pointed at evaporated into dark gas that was then absorbed into the creature’s mouth.

“T-the sacrifices weren’t enough, we have angered the lord!”

The person that looked like the boss of the bunch started backing away but it was too late. It looked that the monster was unhappy with the number of sacrifices. The moment it stepped through the portal it started to devour its own worshipers. Some of them tried to escape while some just kneeled down with opened arms as if happy that they could be of use to this demonic being.

It went after the cultist first, even devouring the main priest. Soon it turned to the people in the magic circle that were still alive. It didn’t point with its finger but instead started moving towards them. For one reason or another, it grabbed Dorian with its massive hand and raised him up towards its toothy mouth.

The man screamed out, after the cultist had been devoured whatever was stopping him from speaking was now gone. The monster’s grip was far too strong to break out from the only thing that he could do now was watch that ghastly orifice opening up to devour him whole.

His death was before him, everything that he couldn’t do flashed before his eyes. Regrets of not asking that one girl to the festival a few months ago, not helping his parents more, not being able to become a man. He wasn’t ready to die but there was nothing he could do, the demon was far too strong and he would consume him like the rest of the people here.

But the beast stopped before devouring Dorian whole. It was as if it noticed something, it moved its head up and Dorian looked up as well. There it was, glowing in bright light and coming straight for them. Before the monster could react something collided with the ground right next to it.

Dorian felt weightless for some reason and soon he realized why. The monster’s hand that was grasping him just a moment ago was evaporating into nothingness. He was afraid that he was getting erased as well but instead, a gentle golden light covered his body and guided him away from the demonic creature.

He wasn’t the only one that was being saved. Every person that was bound at that bloody circle was quickly floating away why shielded by bright energy. Soon they all were further away with their bindings gone.

“W-what is that...”

A woman pointed at the demonic being that previously swallowed up all those cultists with just a pointing of its finger. It was being held in place by some kind of golden figure. This figure looked to be of similar height but more majestic in outlook. It was some kind of being of energy that was bathed in bolts of lightning. At the moment the two beings were clashing in a contest of strength but the demon was losing.

“Is that an angel?”

“A holy spirit?”

The people looked on in shock and awe while the two huge beings continued to fight. They were duking it out in close quarters combat, throwing punches filled with either divine or demonic energy. The previously scary monster with the brain sticking out looked a lot less intimidating the moment it started getting smacked around by this golden giant.

“Please don’t stand around and evacuate.”

Suddenly a voice from above called out to them and the people could see a large flying ship descending their way. A group of people in shiny armor jumped out and started evacuating everyone to this flying vessel.

The people that were previously sacrificed had no problem going with these knights in shining armor. It looked like they had come to save them in their time of need. Everyone was slowly carried off while the two powerful beings were fighting in the distance.

When everyone arrived on the flying ship they saw another strange sight. There were two beautiful girls kneeling in the center of this ship’s deck. They were surrounded by armored men from all sides and their bodies were glowing. The glow was akin to the one that the being of light had which made Dorian connect the dots together.

This was of course Beatrice and Isabella carrying out their soul resonance. The duo had been traveling the lands and searching for demon lords to defeat. This wasn’t their first rodeo either as this Demon lord of Terror was their third target.

Soon a giant monstrous roar that could only belong to a massive beast was heard. Everyone gathered at the ship looked to it to discover a giant golden dragon discharging rays of energy into the ground below. Its aim was clearly the Archdemon that it was fighting, now not much remained from his body as he was melting away at this very moment.

“Could it be... the Twin Saint Priestesses?”

Dorian looked at the person that called out from the side. It was a woman from his village and she was pointing at the two cute girls that were holding hands together.

“The Saint Priestesses...”

He knew that name, it was something that took the land by storm not even a month ago. First, there were some rumors that one of the Demon Lords was slain by an unknown entity. Then with time, another one fell not long after, the rumors suggested two virgins bathed in light were always present when such a thing occurred.

They commanded some kind of giant dragon emperor that could spit out lightning and control the holy elements. This had to be true as the beast that was slowly burning away the demon was an actual dragon that fit the description. The golden figure had somehow transformed into this majestic beast during the battle.

Soon the energies from the surroundings faded and people were greeted to a giant crater that had been dug up by the dragon’s breath. The monster vanished soon into many tiny particles while the whole scene was illuminated by a clear sky and moonlight.

The third Demon Lord was gone and the legend of the Twin Saint Priestesses continued. The two ‘saints’ in question were not that happy about their new title. Their divine dragon wasn’t either as he was seen as nothing more than their contracted beast without a mind of its own.

“Three down... two to go!”

A strange man dressed in a white robe appeared out from nowhere. Dorian and the rest glanced at him in bewilderment as he had some kind of strange otherworldly aura to himself. Soon he vanished into particles of light while the blond girls returned to normal. The fight was over and everyone rejoiced.

Chapter 299

Zhang Dong returned to the ship after crushing the demonic stone into dust. This was the third one that he had received. It was looking good on the outside but the search was slowly coming to an end. These monsters weren't that hard to kill, finding them was the hard part.

The massive protective barrier that separated the continent of the races from the demonic lands was an issue. These demonic lords had a hard time coming through to this side. He was already lucky that he managed to get to three of them in such a short amount of time.

Even this Demon Lord of Terror was more of a fluke. The only reason that they found him was that his senses had expanded and he was able to sense a big spike of demonic energies. The cultists were also quite bad at hiding their tracks as they picked off people from close by villages without bothering to hide their tracks. Anyone that was lucky to be leftover was quick to report their movements to the authorities.

"Bob, with this one what are the chances of returning back to my sector?"

"The chances are 17,78%"

Each nucleus had a different amount of energy which then increased the percentage by a random amount. It seemed that the stronger the Archdemon was the more percentages he would get.

He had already asked Bob about the way back home. It wasn't as hard for him to actually do it at this very moment. He would only need to design the proper teleportation formation and then focus all of the energies he had gained onto it.

When he activated it he would be blasted to the same path between worlds. That would be where the absorbed nuclei would come into place. The energy from them would be required to tether himself back to his own world. As someone that was an owner of a body that belonged there, he would be able to materialize there without being a spirit like here.

He required these cubes to be sure that he would make the journey back home. Depending on where he initially started out in, it would require more energy to find the connection. Then even more to make it.

Bob even told him that if he was able to reach a realm above the nascent soul level then the cubes wouldn't be required as much. He would be able to travel between worlds of his own accord. This was something that he couldn't wait for, even getting to the great circle of the nascent soul level would take many years. Even more in a world without spiritual energy but mana that wasn't that suited for his cultivation.

This is why he needed to get as many of the nuclei from this world as he could. Otherwise, he could be lost between worlds forever. He was lucky enough to come in contact with this world during Beatrice's summoning. The next time he tried there could be no Beatrice to pull himself to, then he would be left out in the void and die alone.

“Twin Saint Priestesses! We are saved!”

His attention turned to the two girls that were sweating. Their teamwork had gotten better and he was able to keep his form for longer while also adding more power. Ever since the first demon lord was killed rumors had been spreading about their adventures.

He was doing most of the heavy lifting in sensing the Archdemons and actually battling them one on one. On the other hand, he as a summoned spirit was pushed into the background while the two Summoners that used him were at the forefront. Everyone praised them as the Twin Saint Priestesses or the Golden Saints. There were various other nicknames but the two were now very popular with the common people.

Due to him requiring the Archdemon gems they traveled through the continent to demon-infested regions. They cleared them out one by one while watching out for the demon lords. Though he was doing most of the ‘clearing out’ by disintegrating the demons with his lightning.

‘The ungrateful life of the summoned spirit... I wonder why you do it...’

Zhang Dong looked at a water nymph that belonged to Isabella. Since the soul resonance, he could also access the other girl’s soul. Through it he could actually interact with the spirit she made a contract with.

This spirit in particular had the appearance of a beautiful woman but regretfully he couldn’t converse with her well. He wanted to know more about the spirit realm as he wasn’t really part of it. This spirit wasn’t that chatty though and also could only perform basic commands. Due to his massive strength, she also saw him as someone to be listened to. He could actually overwrite Isabella’s commands that she placed on this spirit.

After pulling the spirit into his own soul realm he had it interact with his soul beast. The dragon was actually happy to have someone else to play with. Though this water nymph wasn’t that fond of him and mostly turned to water whenever the big guy tried bothering her.

‘Hey, you two. Get some rest and let us return to the city. The mana engine needs to be refilled.’

He vanished after taking care of the Archdemon and left the two girls to tend to the crowd. With them around, he wouldn’t need to interact with the crowd at least.

The academy life was over for now and they returned to a large city of Elfheim. This was this country’s capital and was the largest city in this world. Even though it was the biggest, the population was only at about two million. His own Spirit Spring City that he hailed from was way bigger. This world’s size and population was a lot smaller than the sun-sized world he came from.

With time the ship arrived at the dock. Thanks to something akin to a magic floating stone it was able to remain up in the air. The mana engine was only needed for the propulsion speed while this strange rock kept it afloat.

This place had been their base of operations. The Principal was an influential magic user, she gifted them her villa as a place to stay along with the Vice-Principal as help. The old man was necessary to get things going. Without someone with some status it would be impossible to just fly around the whole continent unchecked.

Isabella's father had also supplied them with many guards for protection. With them around, he could safely battle the demons while the girls concentrated on lending him mana.

"Glad that you have returned."

Elobarin greeted the two girls along with Zhang Dong that was saving his energy in his smaller form.

"You should go rest, I bet the battle was hard-fought."

"Not really, I think he was weaker than the last one. The ritual that those cultists were performing was incomplete."

Zhang Dong replied while the Vice Principal chuckled. The old man wasn't as afraid of him as he was previously. Leigong was now seen as a force for good and a powerful being that aided the people of the races. He knew that people talked behind his back, telling everyone that he was quite eccentric.

"Is that so..."

Elobarin rubbed his beard while chuckling but then looked to Zhang Dong as if he was worried about something.

"Is there something more?"

"Ah yes, there is such a thing but we shouldn't talk about it here, let us return."

Zhang Dong raised his eyebrow but nodded. The soul resonance wasn't such an easy technique to perform. The girls were always tired afterward and needed at least a day to sleep it off before returning to normal.

While moving down from these flying ship docks he looked at the city once more. There were various smaller devices flying around, not all in the form of a ship. There were also people like witches, magical beasts, various types of golems moving back and forth between everywhere. It looked quite busy, flight seemed to be a lot easier here than back home, probably thanks to items like the floating stone used in the ship.

They all returned to the villa that the Principal provided for them. It was nothing compared to his own house back home but in this world, it would be considered quite large. Inside there were many maids with dog and cat ears alike. This time around they weren't demons but just regular women.

There was a barracks for the knights to stay in as well as a field for their training. They would normally head out for a week to scan the areas for potential demons. Though the one doing the scanning was him. The range he was able to monitor had increased but he wasn't able to find any spots with more cubes. The only clue that he had were the Archdemons but after taking out three the trail started getting cold.

"Are there any news about more Demons? We should rest up and head out tomorrow if it's possible."

Zhang Dong declared while the two sleepy girls yawned. They were inside the main room of this mansion with a few other people that joined them on this journey.

"The young miss has to rest, there is no news of the demonic presence, we have done enough for now."

Elobarin replied while scratching his beard. Zhang Dong on the other hand was a bit anxious about no news of any demonic lords around. It has been a month since they left the academy and he wasn't even close to getting all of the nuclei.

"Now now, there is no rush. Let us talk about other news, a letter from the royal castle arrived. They wish to invite young Beatrice and Isabella to the yearly royal ball."

"The royal ball?"

Beatrice, who was almost asleep, opened up her eyes wide after hearing this news. Isabella on the other hand narrowed them as if she wasn't that keen on going there.

"The ball..."

"Mr. Leigong we must go, all the members of the royal family will be there... what should I wear..."

Beatrice started bouncing around as if the previous drowsiness didn't exist. Soon both she and Isabella left to discuss some lady business. Zhang Dong on the other hand was left with Elobarin.

"Will the king be there?"

"Yes, he will but please you must not be rude to the king! That man's temperament is something no one can control!"

The old man started panicking while looking at Zhang Dong who just raised an eyebrow.

"Have I ever been rude to anyone before?"

"Well, there was that one time when..."

"It was a rhetorical question! More importantly, the king is the person that could help me battle the Archdemons, maybe even organize a preemptive strike..."

"P-preemptive strike?"

Elobarin started panicking even more. Attacking the side of the demons was something that he didn't think was possible but for Zhang Dong the time was ticking. He couldn't wait months or years for the monsters to decide to attack.

"Yes, we bring the fight to them... Don't worry, I'll speak to him myself."

"T-that's why I'm worried..."

The old man called out while Zhang Dong shrugged and vanished into his own soul realm. While waiting for this royal ball he would continue his cultivation.

Chapter 300

"Have you heard, another demon lord has fallen."

"My gosh, doesn't that make it three already?"

"Yes, isn't it grand? Do you believe that it is all thanks to the Hohenberg house? Who would have known that they were hiding such strength..."

“It only took them this much while the royal family hasn’t been able to do anything...”

“Shhh... be quiet... do you want to get your head cut off?”

A group of noble ladies and noblemen were talking while surrounded by lavish decor. This was the place where the nobles gathered each year to promote their own houses. This large party was the perfect place to talk with powerful figures.

High nobles like Dukes along with members of the royal family were required to participate. Thus the lower seated ones were always eager to speak with them. Everyone wanted their sons and daughters to be married off to well-off houses. This year around the Hohenberg house was quite prominent.

The title of the Twin Saint Priestesses held power over the people. It gave them hope in this world filled with demonic beings. This wasn’t entirely good for the powerful ducal house that was behind them. With more fame came more troubles, other factions would see them as a foe that was trying to gain more power. This time they were stepping on the toes of the royal family.

No monarch liked being questioned about their motives. Leigong the Lightning Emperor was making the actual Human Emperor look bad. During his rule, the demonic menace only spread and it didn’t seem that he was doing anything. He was a powerful individual that ascended to the throne early after battling his brothers for supremacy.

Being powerful didn’t mean that he could freely move throughout the lands. He was required to stay in the capital as fear from a demon attack to their stronghold was a possibility. This didn’t keep the regular folk to spin rumors around of a powerful king not acting when his people needed him most.

“What are you chattering about?”

“Ahh... nothing your highness, long live the king!”

The group of nobles flinched at the appearance of someone from the royal family. It was one of the princes, they were all characterized by their colorful heads. This prince in particular had fallen out of favor after his arranged marriage to a powerful duke household had fallen through. His name was Ludwig and he was Zhang Dong’s favorite moss head.

“Calm down prince, you shouldn’t mind such gossip.”

Carrot top was there to cheer up his lord that he was sworn to. Ever since Beatrice and Isabella started giving them the cold shoulder nothing was going their way. They lost a lot of funding from the royal family, Ludwig was now required to find another potential wife or beg Isabella to reconsider. This was also one of the reasons that he was hereafter knowing well that the two girls would be here.

The ball was taking place in the grand castle of the Palodis Kingdom. It was the strongest Kingdom on the whole continent due to its military might. Due to the demon menace, the other countries were allied with each other but it was clear that if conflict would ever arise then this kingdom would be victorious.

Elves were the most magically gifted and dwarves could build the strongest weapons but they couldn’t compete with humans when it came to battle. This race multiplied fast and was very adaptive while the others found it hard to change their ways.

The second in power were the elves thanks to their aptitude for mysticism. The only problem was that their birth rates were small compared to the humans. They were outnumbered ten to one but somehow made up the difference in sheer magic might.

The third were the dwarves, they had more people than the elves and used the underground as their kingdom. They were divided into many dwarven city-states and had a hard time in working together with each other since their last king died to one of the demon lords.

These were the three main races with the others being too minor to matter in the big picture. Thus the human kingdom reigned supreme with their king taking the title of strongest man alive.

“Now arriving Ladyship Beatrice Hohenberg of Dawn Lake and her grace Isabella Hohenberg of Dragonridge....”

The people were slowly gathering and all eyes were on these two noble ladies. Some were more interested in the new upstart lady Beatrice. She was still an untapped resource that people weren't sure how to treat. Isabella on the other hand had the Duke backing her, she couldn't be approached as easily as someone that was a daughter of a baron.

“Also...uh...”

The man that looked like a high-class butler straightened out his tuxedo but continued to announce the peculiar arrival.

“His Excellency, Lightning Emperor Leigong...”

This was quite the peculiar sight, behind the two ladies that were all dolled up in costly dresses there was a man. He had an otherworldly feel to him and looked slightly different than these nobles. His hair was long and white as the whitest snow. His jawline was strong and made him look quite handsome. The ladies were quick to hide their gaping mouths behind their fans.

People knew who he was but were surprised that a spirit would make an appearance at the royal ball. He was wearing a strange white robe with quite the assembly of costly-looking accessories. There were various gems and gold-like metals embedded into this more ceremonial-looking robe which made some nobles gulp.

‘I guess we need to get through this one way or another, hope this king guy can lend me some help against the demons...’

Zhang Dong had decided to show up in his regular human form. With Beatrice progressing at a steady pace he could hang out in the material world normally. This was also made possible with some artifacts that he fashioned for both his summoners. With limited resources and time, they were only able to slightly increase the mana that he was receiving.

He was also able to remain at something around the early stage of core formation without the girls needing the soul resonance. If he actually fought anyone then Beatrice would be drained as always but with the bonus from her new items, she would last a lot longer.

“Is that really the famed spirit that defeated the Demon Lords?”

“It looks more human than I anticipated...”

The people started whispering from the side while Zhang Dong remained close to the two girls. Whenever someone tried making a pass on Beatrice he would be there to glare and send some oppressing aura their way. There weren't many nobles that could block something like this out so he proved as the best chaperone for the two young ladies.

"Mr. Leigong... you are scaring the Aristocats..."

"Do you really want another Ludwig to pop up?"

"N-no..."

Beatrice shrunk down while looking around. She was a fish out of water and knew no one here. Isabella on the other hand was mingling with the crowd and smiling. This wasn't the first time that she was at a party like this and she had her own circle of young ladies as well.

The ones that left her up to dry at the academy were already banned from it but she was quick to replace them with new ones. There was a wide range of noble ladies willing to go to various lengths to get into Isabella's circle of friends.

"But you are right, I can't protect you forever. Maybe you should join Isabella, I bet she will guide you through it."

Zhang Dong urged Beatrice to go to Isabella's circle, at least there she would be with someone that she knew. The moment she left he himself was ganged by nosy nobles. Mostly women for some reason that were enamored with his looks. Some of them even tried touching his hair or arms, though they found themselves quickly electrocuted.

"This Lightning Emperor is spoken for, disperse you, harlots!"

He could only cause a little scene which caused some of the nobles to laugh while the women that were trying to get his attention were quick to leave. The people here were quite more promiscuous than the ones back home.

'What's wrong with them, are they possessed by some sex demons?'

Cultivators were more reserved and lust was something akin to a demon that everyone tried to purge to progress with their cultivation. Here on the other hand the nobles were bored and willing to delve into more debauchery. As someone with children and a wife, he was unwilling to give in.

'Old gramps or Qiang would have a field day here...'

He wanted to chuckle after remembering his own family and friends. Though his smile turned to a frown quite fast after being reminded that he was still stuck here with no certain way of getting home.

For now, he became a wallflower with arms crossed over one another. He kept his gaze around the large ballroom that paled in comparison to the one he used during his wedding. Soon everyone had arrived and it was time for the big shot to make his appearance.

"His Majesty, Alexander Angelo Palodis"

The people looked up as a man dressed in a royal uniform and a big golden crown hovered down. Zhang Dong could feel some pressure coming off from this person, he was clearly utilizing his aura to keep people in check. Everyone hit by this aura was forced down to kneel.

‘He really is stronger than a Demon Lord.’

Zhang Dong remained leaning up against the wall while this attack happened. Like most of the magic here it was aimed at the soul which was ineffective to someone like him that had already advanced his soul past the nascent soul level. The fact that he was the only person not kneeling wasn't unnoticed by this king.

King Alexander looked like a man in his late forties. He was large in stature and his might was very real. His hair was dark blue just as the well-kept beard that made him look more regal.

He floated down onto his throne and moved his hand up. Soon the oppressive force subsided and everyone was able to stand up. Some of the nobles noticed the glances exchanged between the fabled spirit and the strongest man alive. It was a worrisome sight as people knew that the king had a short fuse.

Luckily the king just leaned on his hand while closing his fist. The man that was previously doing the

Announcement

s then clapped his hands.

“His Majesty is happy to be the host for the annual...”

The man performed a practiced speech for the king while he continued to stare in Zhang Dong's direction. It was clear that the show of resistance was something uncommon.

‘Don't think he likes me but without the girls supporting me I wouldn't stand a chance.’

Zhang Dong decided to keep up his poker face but he didn't use any oppressive aura or soul attacks to get back at the man. He was a guest and acting out would be bad for Beatrice and Isabella. He was also here to get some help with the demon situation.

“Get on with it.”

The King called out in a low tone to the man doing the speech.

“My apologies, your Majesty. This Royal Ball will be a special one, I am glad to announce that the Hero Summoning ritual will be possible this very day.”

“Huh?”

Zhang Dong gave out a perplexed sound while the people cheered out loud.

‘They can summon heroes here?’