

Chapter 1534

Hubert was anxious.

“Alright, that’s enough. I’m tired. You guys can leave first.”

Yeshua turned his back around as he raised his hand to give them the order to leave.

What Burnard had said was right. Hubert was actually asking him to go and meet this young kid? That was indeed a joke!

At the same time, Yeshua also felt slightly dissatisfied with Hubert. It seemed as though Hubert was acting a little too frivolously at this point, and that was the reason why he did not want to continue talking to him anymore.

Hubert could only nod as he glanced coldly at Burnard before retreating directly.

Burnard also left the office quickly.

“Captain Jole, do you think that this guy named Gerald Crawford is actually a helper that Hubert has hired? After all, the election for the vice chief caption of the Dragon Squad will be coming up soon. Perhaps Hubert knows that he’s not your opponent at all, and that is the reason why he called him here?”

Burnard’s deputy asked in a low voice at a secluded place at this time.

“Pfft! Who cares about who Gerald Crawford is? So, what could Hubert possibly do even if he invites him here? Do you think Hubert could even be my opponent?! Let me tell you something. I’ll not pay any attention to him at all! In contrast, what worries me even more is the Soul Arch Compass! Did you hear what Hubert said just now?” Burnard frowned as he spoke softly with his hands behind his back.

“You’ll be gaining the controlling rights of the Soul Arch Compass soon, but Hubert just had to find someone to come asking for the Soul Arch Compass at this time. I feel that there must be some hidden intentions and motives behind this!” The deputy said.

“That’s right. So, we have to get rid of all our obstacles. I, Burnard Jole, will turn anyone who dares to stand in my way into a corpse directly on the spot! Hmph!”

At this moment, Burnard beckoned his deputy to his side as he whispered a few instructions into his ear.

After that, the deputy nodded before he retreated immediately to get things done, leaving behind Burnard, who had a ruthless expression on his face.

As for Gerald, after he had arrived with Master Ghost, they were immediately brought to a reception room.

Gerald had initially thought that he would be able to meet with the leader of the Dragon Squad, Team Leader Yeshua Lock, very soon.

Unexpectedly, as they waited, one hour had already passed by.

At this time, Hubert walked in with an apologetic look on his face.

“Sigh. I’m truly sorry, Mr. Crawford...” Hubert sighed as he shook his head.

“I’m guessing Team Leader Lock did not directly agree to the matter regarding the Soul Arch Compass, right?” Master Ghost said as he smiled and shook his head.

“Cough, cough. Well, there is truly nothing I can hide from you, Master Ghost. That’s right. This was originally supposed to be a very easy matter. The chief captain would never refuse this kind of request from me. Yet, I do not know what happened to the chief captain, and he seemed to be a little unhappy, choosing to listen to that Burnard Jole instead!” Hubert said as he hammered his fist on the table in anger.

“Master Ghost already told me about this end result just now. So, Mr. Younger, you do not need to blame yourself too much. I think that it’s simply because Team Leader Lock does not believe in my strength. So, why don’t you help me gather some of the students for the trial training in the afternoon? I will help you conduct a trial training first!” Gerald said as he laughed.

Master Ghost had given Gerald a lot of advice in many matters.

The other party’s intention was already very obvious. He wanted to see Gerald’s ability and strength for himself.

Since that was the case, Gerald did not mind exposing his abilities.

“Okay. It’d be best as long as you’re not angry, Mr. Crawford. Why don’t we do this, then? Since it is already noon, we can just eat at the base first. I’ll gather all the students immediately after we’re done eating. I’ll send someone to deliver the food here!” Hubert said as he smiled.

“I don’t think that it is necessary for you to go through so much trouble. I’ve only heard of the Dragon Squad before, but I’ve never seen the Dragon Squad’s base for myself. So, since I have the opportunity to look around and see what the Dragon Squad’s base in Weston is like, we could just head to the cafeteria in the base to have our lunch there, right? I wonder if it would be convenient for you, Mr. Younger?”

Master Ghost asked as he smiled mysteriously at this time.

“Ah? Yes, it would be convenient for me. After all, Mr. Crawford will be a chief instructor at our base in the future. So, I can also introduce some of the facilities at the Dragon Squad base to Mr. Crawford and Master Ghost along the way!” Hubert said as he smiled.

Gerald did not know what Master Ghost was up to this time, but since Master Ghost wanted to take a look around the Dragon Squad base, he certainly had his own reasons for doing so.

So, the three of them began walking toward the cafeteria in the Dragon Squad base...

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At this moment, in the cafeteria.

There was a member who had bruises all over his hands, trembling as he held a tray with both hands. He had just sat down at one of the seats.

“Hey! Who told you that you could sit down? Brother Yareth does not have any fruits yet. Hurry up and get some fruits for Brother Yareth now!”

Several young people who were sitting nearby spoke coldly to this young man.

All of these young people had an arrogant and domineering look on their faces, and they were obviously making fun of this young man.

Amongst these several young people, it was obvious that the person sitting in the center of the crowd was none other than Brother Yareth. At this moment, he simply narrowed his eyes, and he had a playful smile on his face as he witnessed the scene before him.

“Okay! I’ll go and get it now!”

The young man bit his lip slightly. It was clear that this was very humiliating for him, but he stood up anyway as he went to get some fruits before placing them beside Yareth.

As soon as he sat down again, the young man at the side just now shouted again, “What kind of fruits did you bring here?! Change it to a smaller one! Hurry up!”

The young man sneered.

As soon as he was done speaking, the few people around him could not help but cover their mouths to stifle their laughter.

Finally, that young man could not stand it anymore.

“Finnick Mackrill, have you guys had enough?! All of us are trial members of the Dragon Squad. So, why do I have to listen to all of your commands and demands?!”

The young man slammed his hands on the table.

“You’re yelling? You actually dare to talk back?! It seems as though the lessons we have given you are not enough!”

After he was done speaking, Finnick swept all of the apples on the table, and it hit the rice plate in the young man’s hand directly.

There was a loud crashing sound, and the rice plate smashed and scattered all over the ground.

“You!”

The blue veins were raging on the young man’s forehead.

He clenched his fists tightly, but he swallowed his rage and anger anyway.

“He’s such a bully! I heard that when this kid first joined the team, he worked very hard, and he even surpassed Yareth Jole in one of the tests. In the end, he ended up in this state after getting bullied and humiliated by Yareth Jole’s people every day. Just look at all of the scars on his body!”

“Sigh! What else can be done? How could he possibly have a good life after getting targeted by Yareth Jole? I believe this kid will not be able to continue staying in the Dragon Squad training team for long.”

“Speaking of it, Yareth Jole has a very strong background, right? He is not only very strong and powerful, but he also comes from a very strong background!”

“That is only natural. Why don’t you think about it? Yareth Jole’s last name is Jole, and the last name of the captain of the Jole team is also Jole. I think that the captain of the Jole team is his biological uncle. Besides, I’ve also heard people saying that the Dragon Squad chief captain’s granddaughter seems to have a very strong interest in Yareth Jole!”

“F\*ck! No wonder no one dares to say anything at all even though this kid is being bullied like this!”

Everyone could only keep quiet out of fear.

At this moment, they could only join in the fun as they watched the young man, who was getting bullied and humiliated at this time.

On the contrary, Yareth simply narrowed his eyes slightly as he continued eating his meal without rushing at all.

Meanwhile, Finnick walked toward the young man relentlessly.

“Hahaha! What’s the matter? You’re not convinced?”

Finnick sneered before he crushed and stepped on the rice under his feet.

After that, he grabbed a handful of the dirty rice before he brought it directly in front of the young man.

“Kid! You do not know your own place and you actually dared to overtake our boss? There will be no good rice for you today, and you can only eat this! I want you to pick it up and eat it now!” Finnick said viciously.

The young man’s face flushed red.

Boom!

Before the young man could even react, he had already received another blow from another one of Yareth's henchmen, and he fell to the ground directly.

Finnick grabbed hold of the young man's hair immediately before he began stuffing the rice into this young man's mouth.

"He's too ruthless!"

The other people at the scene stood up out of shock at this time, but no one dared to say anything.

"Ai... Aiden?!"

However, at this moment, a somewhat trembling voice sounded from the doorway.

Who else could this person be if it was not Gerald?

Earlier, when Gerald, Master Ghost, and Hubert had walked in, they had happened to witness this scene that was unfolding in front of them.

When Hubert saw that the trial members were fighting, he was about to step in and take action.

However, he could suddenly feel a very cold intent coming from Gerald, and he was so terrified that he could only swallow his words.

Emotional. It seemed as though this person was acquainted with Mr. Crawford?

As for Gerald, his eyes were flashing red at this time.

The young man who was getting beaten up was none other than his good brother, Aiden.

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If he had not gotten a clear look, Aiden, who was seriously scarred, would be almost unrecognizable.

“Hmph? So, it turns out to be Captain Younger?”

At this moment, when Finnick and the others saw Hubert coming in, they stopped whatever they were doing because they were giving him a little face.

“Mr... Mr. Crawford?”

As for Aiden, who was lying on the ground, his whole body shook violently as soon as he saw Gerald.

In an instant, his tears of grievance began pouring out like a flood that had broken through a damn.

“Mr. Crawford!”

Aiden cried as he yelled out loud.

“Aiden! Hurry up and stand up!”

Gerald hurriedly ran over to help Aiden up.

To be honest, if he was at any other location, he would have already disembodied all of these people. However, since Hubert was here, Gerald believed that Hubert would certainly give justice to his brother.

Of course, this matter would not end just like that regardless of whether justice was served or not.

This was Gerald's character now. No matter who was right or wrong, and regardless of the other party's identity, as long as anyone dared to touch his brother, the other party would have to pay a painful price as a consequence of his action, even if his brother was the one at fault.

When Hubert saw that Aiden seemed to have a close relationship with Gerald, he was also very angry.

At this time, he hurriedly reprimanded Finnick and the others.

However, Finnick and the others were not afraid of Hubert at all.

"Hahaha! Captain Younger, you have no right to lecture us. If you have the ability to do so, you should go and look for Captain Jole! We will only listen to Captain Jole! Besides, it is also none of your business even if we decide to teach a kid from our trial team a lesson!" Finnick said as he sneered.

The person backing them up was of course none other than Yareth, and there was no need to mention the identity of the person backing Yareth up.

At this moment, Hubert was so angry that he could not say anything else.

Master Ghost hurriedly supported Aiden, and he wanted to let Aiden sit down and rest.

Unexpectedly, Finnick glanced at his buddies who were behind him.

At this time, a young man quickly took the lead as he ran to the seat where Aiden was about to sit.

"Sorry! This seat is occupied!"

After he said those words, a group of people began snickering.

“You guys...”

Master Ghost’s eyes were filled with rage.

Nevertheless, Master Ghost supported Aiden as he brought him to another spot to sit down.

Just as he was about to sit down...

“Sorry! There’s someone sitting here too!”

Another young man said as he grabbed the seat.

Gerald frowned slightly.

At this moment, he looked at Yareth, who was sitting at the side without doing anything as he continued eating his meal calmly, and he instantly understood what was going on.

“I really never imagined that this is how the people from the Dragon Squad base are!”

After supporting Aiden to a few seats which were quickly occupied and taken by these people first, one after the other, Master Ghost spoke up angrily.

At that moment, he decided to support Aiden and bring him to a seat that was located near the door instead.

As for Finnick, he laughed slightly as he placed both of his hands in his pockets.

At this moment, he hurriedly ran over...

“Sorry, but...”

Slap!

As soon as Finnick opened his mouth after he grabbed the seat from Aiden, he was slapped directly on his face.

Ouch!

Finnick flew out sideways directly, smashing down a dozen tables, one after the other.

A mouthful of his teeth also scattered all over the ground, and half of his face was smashed in.

It was obvious that this slap had already deformed his face completely.

The person who had slapped him was none other than Gerald.

Gerald had one hand in his pocket as he patted the dust off his body with his other hand. After that, he looked at the audience who were all stunned as he said, “Sorry, but my hand was feeling a little itchy just now!”

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“Who are you?!”

One of the young men rushed over directly as he questioned Gerald because he was instantly angered when he saw Gerald giving Finnick such a hard blow.

As for Yareth, who had been squinting his eyes all this while, he finally opened his eyes at this moment as he looked at Gerald.

“This is my brother. How are we going to settle this score since you guys actually dared to bully my brother? So, who did it just now?!” Gerald asked in a cold voice.

“Pfft! You brat! Who do you think you are? I did! So, what are you going to do about it?” A young man said.

“D\*mn! I did it too!”

At this moment, about a dozen young men stood in front of Gerald.

All of them had their hands crossed in front of their chest, and some of them had even picked up their weapons.

It seemed as though they were trying to deter Gerald with their aura.

“Is that so? It seems as though you guys have no intention of repenting at all, huh?” Gerald said with an indifferent smile on his face.

“Hahaha! Repent? If you have the guts, you can deal with a dozen of us. Otherwise, we will have to take action against you and avenge our brother!” One of the young men stood and spoke up as he laughed.

What a joke! Why didn't this kid take a look around him and see whose territory this was?

Who would not know that the Jole family and the Lock family actually had a very big reputation and background in the Dragon Squad?

This kid actually dared to provoke someone who was obviously more superior compared to him in terms of power or strength?

“Avenge your brother? How are you planning to do that?” Gerald asked as he smiled coldly.

“It’s very simple. We will simply remove all four of your limbs and knock out all the teeth in your mouth! Of course, you can fight back too as long as you’re sure that you can handle a dozen of us!”

The young men sneered as they closed in on Gerald.

“Alright, then. Since all of you have taken action, I do not mind even if all of you end up in the same state as him!”

As soon as his voice fell, all of the young men rushed forward like a pack of wolves to attack Gerald.

As for Gerald, he did not hold back at all.

At this moment, he transformed into a shadow directly, and he transformed amidst the group of people.

Slap! Slap! Slap! Slap! Slap!

The deafening sound of slaps resounded throughout the cafeteria.

Immediately after, there was a burst of screams that sounded like pigs getting slaughtered.

Very soon, these people were all looking for their teeth all over the ground.

After all, Gerald had only had to take a few short breaths from the moment he had started hitting them until he was done dealing with them.

At this moment, everyone was dumbfounded at the scene before them.

Even Hubert swallowed his saliva with a gulp.

Too ruthless. He was truly too ruthless!

As for Yareth, he finally opened his eyes completely, as the scene before him made him feel utterly incredulous.

Who the hell was this person?

Why was he so powerful?!

Cold sweat began flowing out from his forehead, and his legs also began trembling uncontrollably at this time.

He was too strong and powerful!

What was even more terrifying was that at this time, Gerald actually slowly walked over to Yareth.

“You’re their leader?” Gerald asked indifferently.

“No... no!”

Yareth subconsciously shook his head.

Slap!

Gerald raised his hand as he slapped Yareth across his face.

“Aren’t you the Young Master Jole they were talking about?” Gerald asked coldly.

“Yes, yes, yes!”

Yareth nodded immediately.

“How about my brother, then?” Gerald asked as he looked at Yareth.

“All of us will get along and live peacefully together in the future!”

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Yareth felt truly disgraced, and he was utterly humiliated today.

This was because the eyes of the crowd were all looking at him, hoping that he would make a move and fight back against this strong man.

Unexpectedly, he had actually conceded all at once.

This was indeed way too painful for Yareth.

However, there was no other way. After all, he did not want his teeth to be scattered all over the ground.

“I’m not talking about that. It seems as though you have bullied my brother a lot. So, how are you going to make it up to my brother now? If you don’t, I’ll abolish you on the spot, regardless of who you are or what your background is!” Gerald said as he stared coldly at him.

This made Yareth break out in cold sweat all over his body.

“Brother, why don’t we just forget it?”

As for Aiden, he knew about Yareth's background very well. So, he could not help but speak up as he walked toward Gerald's side.

Gerald simply patted Aiden's shoulder before he laughed slightly.

"Aiden, have you forgotten? Do you remember that you were the one who told me that you would make sure that people would have to pay back a thousand times more as long as anyone offended you? You told me not to be afraid of those people because you guys would always have my back! Do you still remember saying those words?" Gerald asked.

"Of course I remember that!"

Aiden bit his lip slightly.

"Yoel is my brother, and you're also my brother. The both of you lost your family and everything that you had because of me back then. I'll always remember your loyalty and love for me. I also swore that I would never allow the people around me to get hurt again. So, Aiden, you don't have to worry about anything because I've got your back!" Gerald told him.

Aiden nodded heavily when he heard this.

"So, he has to pay the price and consequences for his actions today!"

"I'll give you two options now. Your first option is that I'll abolish you and turn you into a cripple today. Your second option is to crawl under my brother's crotch in front of me. In the future, you'll also have to refer to my brother as your master when you see him! If you do not do that, I'll kill you the next time I see you!" Gerald spoke up as he stared directly at Yareth.

"What? You want me to suffer the humiliation of crawling under his crotch?!"

Yareth's eyes turned red in an instant.

He really, really wished that his uncle was by his side right now.

Yareth was simply extremely ashamed and utterly humiliated when he saw that everyone was staring at him at this time.

"I... I'm the three-hundred-and-fifty-seventh-generation heir of the Promissory Sect. I... I cannot crawl...!" Yareth pleaded.

Boom!

As soon as he was done speaking, Gerald grabbed his head and pressed him directly to the ground.

He was utterly defenseless, and his face hit the ground heavily.

His whole face was covered in blood in an instant.

Gerald continued stepping on his head as he said, "Now, I not only want you to crawl under my brother's crotch, but I also want you to call him your master as you crawl under his crotch! If you cannot do it, I'll destroy you right now!"

Gerald increased his strength slightly.

"Ahhh!" Yareth screamed out in terror.

"I... I'll do it! I'll do it! Don't do anything to me!"

Yareth clenched his fists tightly, and his sharp nails sank deep into his palms because of the strong force. He felt a strong burst of pain because of that.

This moment was just too painful for him.

In the past, he had always been the one who was treating others like this. However, he never would have expected that he would actually be the one getting humiliated here today.

Moreover, the person in front of him did not seem to care at all even though he had already mentioned the Promissory Sect.

“I’ll crawl!”

Yareth crawled up from the ground with much difficulty.

As for Aiden, he felt as though justice had finally been restored for him. Yareth had been bullying him so much all this while, and now that things had already come to this state, Aiden could finally trample all over Yareth’s head at this time.

At this moment, Yareth slowly crawled toward Aiden’s crotch.

He was moving very slowly, and he was even crying out loud in his heart.

‘Uncle! Hurry up and come! I’ve already sent a report to you! Hurry up and come here!’

‘If you don’t come now, your nephew will suffer and get humiliated now! In that case, you’ll not be able to face others in the future!’

‘Besides, if word about this matter were to reach Fia Lock’s ears, I’ll not be able to become the grandson-in-law of the Lock family, then.’

‘At that time, your plan will be a complete loss!’

‘Uncle, hurry up and come!’

Yareth cried out loud in his heart.

And just as he was lowering his head to start crawling under...

“Captain Younger, the helper that you’ve hired this time seems to be really domineering, right? I’d honestly like to see how incredible and powerful your so-called Mr. Crawford is!”

At this moment, a voice that carried a hint of ridicule sounded from the door.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

There was a rush of footsteps.

After that, a large number of masters poured into the cafeteria as they surrounded Gerald and the others completely.

Their leader, Burnard, walked in coldly with his hands behind his back...

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“I think this friend of yours here is the Mr. Gerald Crawford that Captain Younger has invited here to become the chief instructor, right?”

Burnard said with his hands behind his back as he sneered while looking at Gerald.

“That’s right!”

Gerald nodded.

“Hahaha! It seems as though we really should not judge a book by its cover! I never would have imagined that you’d actually possess this kind of strength at such a young age. That is indeed admirable!”

“But I’ve often heard people saying that a person would often overestimate themselves when they have greater strength and abilities. I did not take good care of your brother when he was training with us. However, you cannot push all the blame entirely onto my nephew, Yareth. If you want to blame someone, you should also blame your brother for not knowing his own place! Hahaha!”

Burnard continued laughing as he waved his hand.

When Yareth saw that, he immediately got up from the ground and ran behind Burnard.

“Uncle, if you did not come in time, I’d have been...” Yareth hurriedly said fearfully.

“Alright, that’s enough. You don’t need to say anything else. I’m already here!” Burnard said as he patted Yareth on his shoulder.

At the same time, he glanced at Yareth, signaling for him to prepare to watch a good show!

As for Yareth, he obviously knew the nature of his uncle’s heart and character very well.

Since he had already been so badly insulted and humiliated, how could his uncle possibly let it go just like that?

At this time, his uncle was simply using his words to make sure that the other party named Gerald Crawford would be completely speechless and dumbfounded. When the other party was completely at a loss for words, his uncle would then take advantage of the opportunity to launch an attack to eradicate this group of people with the help of the Dragon Squad.

Hahaha! This was not the first time his uncle had used this tactic.

At this moment, Yareth simply nodded gently as he looked at Gerald and his group from the side as he sneered.

Burnard acted as if nothing was wrong before he continued speaking as he looked at Gerald.

“Mr. Crawford, look. In the final analysis, it was a dozen of them who had bullied your brother alone. But look what you’ve done now? You single-handedly abolished a dozen of the Dragon Squad’s talented new blood. They were supposed to be the future pillar of the Dragon Squad, but because of your selfishness, you have abolished the entire hope and future of the Dragon Squad. Don’t you think that you’ve gone overboard this time?”

Burnard was not speaking from his own point of view, but he was using the Dragon Squad as an excuse and defense.

As for Hubert, he had already long-expected Burnard’s set up.

He wanted to refute his words at this time, but he truly could not find any reasons to refute his words at all. Indeed, if he were to think about it that way, Mr. Crawford had been a little too ruthless.

What Hubert was afraid of was that Burnard would continue using the Dragon Squad as an excuse to sow discord and drive a wedge between these people.

Hubert was very anxious at this time.

“Moreover, Mr. Crawford, we naturally have our own requirements and rules at the Dragon Squad base. If your brother was humiliated, there is naturally a special place for us to deal with it. You dealt with these people so ruthlessly at the Dragon Squad base. So, does that mean that you do not have any form of respect for the Dragon Squad base at all?” Burnard continued sniping.

“That’s right! Uncle is right! What did you think of the Dragon Squad base? What did you think this place is? Did you really think that you could do whatever you want to do here? You’re simply lawless!” Yareth said coldly as he sneered.

As soon as he was done speaking, he looked at his uncle and smiled with a smug look on his face.

The both of them were smiling, and there was a hint of ridicule at the corners of their mouth.

It was obvious that they wanted to force Gerald into a desperate situation so that they could use the Dragon Squad to eradicate him.

“You’ve done him harm!”

As Gerald was faced with Burnard, who was intentionally trying to make things difficult for him, Gerald simply raised his hand and spoke to Burnard as he pointed at Yareth.

“What? What do you mean by that?” Burnard asked as he frowned slightly.

“I gave him two options just now, and one of them was a way for him to live. The way for him to live was that he simply needed to crawl under my brother’s crotch! Otherwise, I would have to kill him and let him suffer a miserable death!” Gerald said indifferently.

“But just now, he ignored my words completely. Just when he could have crawled under my brother’s crotch and be safe and sound, he chose to give up on this chance to live!”

Gerald shook his head helplessly.

These words made Yareth swallow a mouthful of saliva wildly.

As for Burnard, his eyelids twitched fiercely at this time.

“Mr. Crawford, you did not seem to have heard my words clearly just now, did you? I did not mean this at all...”

A hint of ruthlessness flashed through Burnard's eyes in an instant.

"Regardless of whether I heard you clearly or not, it's already too late now. Did you really think that you would be able to trick me and make me feel morally inclined to give in just because you said a few words? Or did you honestly think that you're that wise or intelligent?"

"Hahaha! Unfortunately, I've already seen countless people just like you! And I, Gerald Crawford, have always had a habit of keeping my words! So, if I said that I'm going to kill someone, that person will have to die!"

Gerald sneered.

At that moment, Gerald pinched his sword finger.

In an instant, a golden glow instantly enveloped him.

Whoosh!

The space in front of him seemed to be surging.

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As soon as the golden light shot out, it pierced right through Yareth's neck in an instant, like the blade of a knife.

Yareth's eyes were wide open, but not long after that, he fell to the ground instantly.

"Yareth!!!"

Burnard's eyes widened in shock.

His eye sockets instantly turned red.

This was because he had no way to block or stop that powerful blow just now at all.

"You killed my nephew!!!" Burnard roared angrily.

"You killed him when he only committed a slight transgression!"

Burnard never would have imagined that this person standing in front of him would actually be so ruthless.

"I had already said it very clearly. He obviously did not need to die just now. All that he had to do was crawl, but you were the one who asked him to stand up. So, he had to pay the price for his actions and decision!" Gerald said indifferently.

"You b\*stard! Don't you have any respect for the Promissory Sect at all?!"

Burnard was completely heartbroken and distressed.

Everyone else also swallowed their saliva in horror.

"The Promissory Sect? I've never heard of it before!" Gerald shook his head as he laughed bitterly.

"You b\*stard! I'm going to fight it out with you!"

At that moment, Burnard was filled with a murderous aura as he rushed directly toward Gerald...

At the same time, at the headquarters office at the base.

“Team Leader Lock! It’s not good! Something terrible has happened!”

An instructor rushed in directly.

“Hm? What is it? Why are you so flustered?”

Team Leader Lock frowned immediately, as he was practicing his writing at this time.

“There is a fight going on in the cafeteria!”

“What’s the big deal? Send someone there to deal with it immediately, then!” Team Leader Lock said helplessly.

“No! No! It’s Yareth Jole who got into a fight with the new chief instructor, Mr. Crawford. As a result, Yareth provoked Mr. Crawford, and he ended up getting beheaded directly by Mr. Crawford!”

“And now, Captain Jole has already started making his move on Mr. Crawford!”

“What?!”

The pen in his hand fell to the ground in an instant.

Team Leader Lock then asked, “By the way, who is this Mr. Crawford you’re talking about?”

“It’s the young instructor that Captain Younger invited to come over!”

“Hurry up! We’ll go over there to take a look!”

As he spoke, Team Leader Lock had already led his men over there.

They only saw many people surrounding the scene outside.

However, what was surprising was the fact that everyone had already stopped talking at this time, and the scene was so quiet and silent that it was absolutely terrifying.

As for the Third Team Leader, he was also standing aside, and they did not know what he had seen, but he was completely dumbfounded at this time.

It felt as though he had turned silly from the shock.

“Third Team Leader, how is the situation here?” Team Leader Lock asked coldly.

“Chakra King!”

Third Team Leader said with a blank expression on his face.

“What did you say?” Team Leader Lock asked again in a low voice.

“The Rune Realm which is above the cultivation realm! Oh, my God! I actually saw a Chakra King for myself today!” Third Team Leader was about to cry out of excitement.

“What did you say? Chakra King?!”

When Team Leader Lock heard his words clearly, his eyes widened for a moment, and his whole body began trembling and shaking violently!!!

Chapter 1541

“...What? Are you saying that Gerald’s already arrived at the Rune Realm?” asked the bewildered Yeshua as he began trembling all over.

“That’s right! His strength knows no boundaries! You know, it barely took Gerald a single hit to smash Burnard into pieces! What a terrible way to die... Regardless, Gerald’s currently so strong that he’s probably no longer afraid of any of the challenges he has to face!” replied the third team leader while quivering in fear.

“...To think that such a powerful person was in Weston... Since it’s come to this, I’m feeling rather motivated now! After all, it’d be an honor if he ends up agreeing to be our chief coach!” declared Yeshua in a now composed tone.

Yeshua was no longer taking Burnard’s death to heart. After all, nothing in the world was more important than the fact that someone had actually managed to enter the Rune Realm!

Just as he was thinking that, the corner of Yeshua’s eyes caught a glimpse of Gerald—who had both hands in his pockets—slowly exiting the crowd.

With that, Yesha quickly walked over to him, bowing slightly before he said, “I’ve treated you way too discourteously earlier, Mr. Crawford! Please, forgive me!”

“No worries, Mr. Lock! I don’t take it personally at all!” replied Gerald with a subtle smile.

Quite honestly, Gerald felt little remorse for killing Burnard and his nephew. After all, both of them had acted pretty insensibly.

“Thank you, Mr. Crawford! Speaking of which, I heard Hubert say that you wished to borrow our Soul Arch Compass! Truth be told, we don’t normally even reveal it to others unless we first receive orders to do so from higher authorities. After all, the compass is the Dragon Squad’s most invaluable treasure. However, since you’re an extraordinary person, we’ll certainly allow you to use it!” said Yeshua extremely courteously.

If Mr. Crawford truly was a person who managed to enter the Rune Realm, then he was undoubtedly a rare specimen on this planet. Should Mr. Lock manage to get acquainted with him, it'd surely end up greatly boosting both the Dragon Squad's strength as well as its international name! With that in mind, the experienced and astute Yeshua definitely didn't have a problem with any of this.

"I'm well aware. However, the Soul Arch Compass is equally as important to us, which is why I resorted to coming over in the first place!" replied Gerald.

Following that, Gerald allowed Master Ghost to follow Yeshua's men into their base to use the Soul Arch Compass.

It didn't take long before Master Ghost was able to learn about some mysteries as well as the location of Yearning Island.

Around that time, Yeshua suddenly began coughing rather badly, eventually even vomiting some blood!

Even so, Yeshua looked like he was used to this, and simply shook his head with a bitter smile before explaining, "Apologies, Mr. Crawford! It's rather embarrassing that you had to see that... It's just the result of an old illness of mine!"

"From what I can see, you've been training your martial arts skills in a way that doesn't conform to how regular martial arts are honed. Aside from that, I can also sense that you've been training your inner skills for over fifty years. With that in mind, it's no wonder why you're suffering from internal injuries," replied Gerald with a faint smile.

Upon hearing Gerald's deduction, the shocked Yeshua couldn't help but widen his eyes as he said, "I have to say, you truly are an extraordinary person, sir! As you've said, I've trained this set of inner skills ever since I was twelve, making it well over fifty years since I've started my training! Alas, even after training for so long, I find myself unable to even attain entry to the Silver Realm! Regardless, my ancestors were the ones who had created this set of martial arts skills, and it's been passed down to all subsequent generations of the Lock family. Even so, I do wonder why you said that these martial arts skills don't conform to how regular martial arts are honed..."

Yesha was honestly surprised by Gerald's claim since he had been quite confident of his family's martial arts skills from the very beginning.

"Well, it really doesn't. With that said, I'd like to momentarily stay within the Dragon Squad in order to teach you a formation, though know that it'll take some time. In return, if it isn't too inconvenient, I'd like you to show me more of your family's inner skills and mental training techniques for observation purposes. If you do so, I'll also help cure your injuries!" proposed Gerald.

"...Oh? I'd appreciate that, Mr. Crawford!"

Following Yeshua's agreement, Gerald easily cured all his past wounds, and this surprised Yeshua yet again.

After all, not only did Mr. Crawford exhibit exceptional medical skills, but his great mastery over internal skills was also incomparable to what ordinary people could ever hope to achieve.

What more, Gerald even pointed out fifteen faults to his family's training techniques. Naturally, after performing them the way Gerald suggested, the results were nothing short of miraculous.

Due to that, Yeshua now revered Gerald greatly...

Chapter 1542

"Mr. Crawford, the fact that you've even managed to enter the Rune Realm realm at your age is immensely admirable! With that said, I do hope you could tell me what rank you currently are within that realm...?" asked Yeshua.

"Truth be told, I'm not too sure about that either. However, I do remember one of my subordinates telling me that I needed the Sceolium of the Ringmaster of Obliteration to check for my rank," replied Gerald.

"Ah, the Dragon Squad always has Sceolium with us. If you're wondering how it's used to determine one's rank, it essentially detects the contents of a person's essential qi. With that information, one will be able to ascertain what rank they truly are. With that said, why don't you give it a try, Mr. Crawford?" asked Yeshua who

almost seemed overly keen on pleasing Gerald despite having fulfilled all of Gerald's previous requests.

Following Gerald's approval, Yeshua then walked over to a bookshelf—in his office—before flipping on a hidden switch behind it. A second later, a mechanism could be heard 'clinking' as the bookshelf slowly swung open... revealing an ancient—and rather simple-looking—Sceolium.

"Please place both your hands on it, Mr. Crawford. Following that, I'd like you to direct your essential qi into the stone. With that done, we'll be able to find out what specific rank you're currently at!" explained Yeshua who was honestly eager to find out as well.

"Very well," replied Gerald who was just as eager to finally know how strong he truly was.

After doing as he was instructed, noticeable changes could be seen on the Sceolium. Before long, the results were revealed...

"...You... You've already entered the Third-rank Rune Realm...!" exclaimed Yeshua whose mouth was now agape with shock.

'By god! He's only in his twenties, no?! What a miracle!' Yeshua thought to himself.

Quite honestly, Yeshua had been skeptical when the Third team leader told him that Gerald had managed to ascend into the Rune Realm. Now, however, he had zero doubts about it.

No wonder Gerald barely had any trouble killing those masters!

From what Yeshua knew, many Ninth-rank masters found it hard to ever proceed beyond that rank, even after training their entire lives. In other words, being able to enter the Rune Realm was already leagues beyond what a Ninth-rank master could ever hope to achieve!

"I keep hearing people talk about this 'Rune Realm'... How much do you know about it, Team Leader Lock?" asked Gerald.

"...Well... From what I've heard, the only ones who have managed to enter that realm are people who've lived for over a thousand years! What more, only very few have managed to enter the Rune Realm, and you're now among those people, Mr. Crawford!" replied Yeshua, filled with even more admiration than before.

Upon hearing that, Gerald frowned as he fell deep into thought. If what Yeshua was saying was true, then did that mean that Finnley—his master—and his grandfather had already entered the Rune Realm? If that truly was the case, then it would explain a lot.

After all, while Gerald already knew that Finnley had terrifying strength—that Gerald wasn't even able to measure at the time—, he now realized that he hadn't doubted his grandfather's true strength when they were still together. Being able to conceal his true strength so perfectly was proof that his grandfather was probably in the same league as Finnley was.

What more, his grandfather had managed to take down that giant anaconda with great ease. With that in mind, Gerald was now pretty certain that his grandfather had to have entered the Rune Realm to be able to perform that feat.

Gerald had been aware of how great his power truly was for quite some time now, though his only way of measuring that was through the fact that the masters he had come across were all nothing more than ants to him.

While he now knew that he had entered the Third-rank of the Rune Realm, he was careful to remind himself that he was probably nowhere close to being the strongest in the world.

After all, he still didn't know how strong Finnley, Daryl, and the King of Judgment Portal were.

With that in mind, he was sure that the Rune Realm wasn't the highest point of training...

Fast forward to seven days later, Master Ghost finally exited the secret room, seemingly having found a major discovery.

#### Chapter 1543

In the past few days, Master Ghost had been busy using his Nine Dragons Calculation Technique—together with the Soul Arch Compass—in order to obtain the most accurate information possible.

Throughout his time using the compass, Master Ghost truthfully felt like he was the main character in some martial arts novel. After all, he was able to gain access to information about strange incidents—that had been recorded in detail within the Soul Arch Compass—that had taken place over the years.

For example, Master Ghost was able to find out that the Dragon Squad had existed for well over ten thousand years, though it naturally didn't bear the name it currently did back then. Even so, the important thing was that it still derived from the same bloodline. He found out that the Dragon Squad back then mostly did underground dealings as well.

Either way, with that in mind, he was able to accurately confirm the readings he made—through the Nine Dragons Calculation Technique—by fact-checking the detail's historical accuracy with the recorded information within the compass.

After that long week, not only was Master Ghost able to learn of Yearning Island's location, but he also managed to gain information about the master of that island, the person who started the whole issue regarding the Crawford family's origins.

Upon hearing that, Gerald then said, "...You know, I heard Lady Gunter mention back then that the Crawfords were once a very powerful family when it came to training... However, due to a certain incident, the family ended up getting ruined in a single night! However, grandpa..."

Momentarily hesitant to continue, Gerald shook his head before adding, "...From what Lady Gunter said, grandpa was the only one who managed to make it out alive back then... Following that, he attempted to have his revenge on the Gunters by stealing a magic artifact from them. Unfortunately, his plan ultimately failed. In order to avoid getting hunted down, he then began living in seclusion on Yearning island. He apparently had a major secret with him by then too. Regardless, it was then when he established the other Crawford family. Sometime later, he would then proceed to create the Crawfords I lived with! Is that the whole story...?"

In response, Master Ghost simply shook his head before saying, “Let’s just say that what you just told me is a simplified version of the whole story. There’s a lot of other important information that you’ve skimmed past! From what I’ve learned from the Soul Arch Compass, your grandfather... He seems far from ordinary, to say the least... After all, he seems to have a great connection with an old legend that’s been present on Yearning Island for the longest time!”

“A... legend?” asked Gerald, feeling slightly stunned.

“Indeed. You see, Yearning island is located in a mysterious area within Yanam’s ocean. From what I’ve gathered, a legend emerged there around ten thousand years ago... and it was the legend of a Devil Incarnate!” replied Master Ghost as he alternated his gaze between the now curious Gerald and Yeshua.

Following that, he then continued, “While lots of fishermen supposedly fished around that area before that, strange incidents began taking place around ten thousand years ago. Apparently, large groups of fishermen simply started mysteriously going missing! At the time, some speculated that the missing fishermen had simply lost their ways while out at sea. However, they were men of the sea. There was no way that that was the case!”

“With that in mind, more theories began popping up among the remaining fishermen. Some said that their disappearances were the work of sea monsters. Others hypothesized that the fishermen could have encountered typhoons that ended up directing them to foreign islands. Whatever the case was, many of the fishermen began constantly praying for the missing fishermen’s safe return...”

“Not long after, a group of fishermen who were out at sea met with a typhoon! Eventually, they ended up being led to a desert island... The shocking thing was, not only did the fishermen find several dried corpses there, but they also managed to identify them to be the bodies of the previously missing fishermen! Understanding that their friends had to have been sucked dry by something to end up that way—after going missing for just a few days—the fishermen were rightfully terrified!”

“Thankfully, the typhoon didn’t take too long to die down, and the uneasy fishermen quickly brought the corpses back with them to their fishing village. Alas, upon their return, the fishermen realized that all the others in their village had been sucked

dry as well! None of the corpses they came across even had a drop of blood left in them! Deeply grieved, the fishermen refused to believe that there were truly no survivors. After searching for a long time, they did manage to find a single person who was still alive. Unfortunately, the person was a known fool within that village...”

“Upon asking him what exactly took place, the fool—who was also known to be a rather good artist—began drawing out what he had witnessed... Fully aware of his preference for communicating through pictures, the fishermen simply waited until he was done. Once the fool was done, however, the fishermen found themselves shocked by what they saw.”

“Apparently, the one who had sucked all the villagers dry was a peculiar-looking person with three eyes! What more, the person had feet that were as long as half an adult male! With hair that hung down till its waist, the abnormally long-tongued monster was apparently also capable of human speech!”

“Following that, the fool explained that when he had first seen the monster, a villager had asked it what it was doing here. In response, the monster simply questioned, ‘Is this Yearning Village?’”

“The second a child told the monster that it was, the monster instantly began killing everyone in the village extremely cruelly!”

After explaining all that, Master Ghost summarized what had taken place after. Essentially, the fishermen who had escaped death were extremely angry, so angry in fact, that they instantly began looking for people who possessed supernatural powers in order to deal with that Devil Incarnate. Revenge was the only thing on their minds...

Nobody could have guessed that the Devil Incarnate wasn't a mere mindless killing machine. As the fishermen would eventually come to learn, it possessed immense supernatural powers as well!

Chapter 1544

Due to that, many great masters—that the fishermen had hired—ended up getting slaughtered by the Devil Incarnate. Even the fishermen who had survived promptly met their ends at the hands of that monster...

By the end of it all, the only one left standing was the fool...

However, after witnessing all those deaths, the fool was somehow able to regain his wits and think normally again. Now capable of registering all that had happened, he found himself equally as angered as the previous fishermen, and he soon became revenge-driven as well.

With his mental capabilities restored, the man was able to recall an incident that had happened to him when he was much younger. Essentially, he had once met up with an exceptional man who had warned him that a foreign and malicious devil-like person would come to his village one day.

With three eyes, large feet, and rather long hair, the exceptional man had also stated that upon the monster's arrival, a mass slaughtering would take place, and none of the people living on the island would be spared! According to the exceptional man, the monster's goal was to claim the island for himself for training purposes. After all, the way Yearning Island was positioned made it an extremely strategic location between heaven and earth.

Regardless, the important thing to note was that the exceptional man had told the ex-fool to light a special incense when the monster eventually arrived. Following that, the exceptional man would surely arrive to kill the demon.

Since there was pretty much nothing else he could do, the ex-fool immediately did as he had been instructed...

Before long, night arrived, and along with it came torrential rains... Amidst the thunder and lightning, the Devil Incarnate—who had noticed that someone was still alive on the island—returned to the village, ready to eat up the last person there.

However, the monster's plan was thwarted when out of the blue, a holy-looking man suddenly bolted toward it!

While a great battle ensued between the holy man and the Devil Incarnate, in the end, he was unable to fully defeat the monster. As his last resort, he sacrificed his primordial spirit to greatly hurt the Devil Incarnate, simultaneously making it weak enough to be sealed!

Even so, the Devil Incarnate was extremely cunning. Upon nearing death, it released its primordial spirit from its body before forming a demonic light that would inherit its soul. It was using a technique called the demonic incarnation, and with it, the monster was able to retain its consciousness until it found a suitable host to get reborn in.

Once the monster found a suitable host, the demonic incarnation would begin altering said person's heart, gradually causing them to start creating chaos. By that point, it wouldn't be long before a great disaster would take place.

Pausing for a brief moment when he got to this part, Master Ghost then shook his head before adding, "...Following that incident, ten thousand years would pass before anyone returned to Yearning Island. By then, the ocean surrounding the island was aptly named the Forbidden Sea. Regardless, nobody—if anyone even knew about his existence in the first place—had any idea where the ex-fool had been throughout this entire time, at least until ten years ago. It was around then when people finally realized that a cultivating family had moved there... And it was the Crawford family established by Daryl, the master of the other Crawfords!"

Turning to look at Gerald, Master Ghost watched as the youth began trembling all over, clearly unwilling to believe what he had just heard.

Who could blame him? After all, the Daryl he knew was a kind and gentle person. How could what Master Ghost had said be true? But... if it really was true...

Just thinking about it sent shivers down Gerald's spine.

"...I'd be lying if I said I didn't find all this to be unbelievable... Either way, with how strong and secretive he is, what exactly is his purpose...?" asked the bewildered Gerald.

Shaking his head, Master Ghost simply replied, "All I can say is that the incident is rather complicated. While I can't say for sure what Daryl's exact motivation is, I did manage to recover some records about him in his earlier years that I'm sure you'll be interested in finding out about. I also believe that after hearing it, you'll start getting a much better understanding of your grandfather!"

"Go on..." muttered Gerald as he stared at Master Ghost.

“Well, you already know that the Crawfords that Daryl initially founded was completely ravaged in a single night, correct? Then do you know who it was who did the deed?” asked Master Ghost as he slowly lowered his voice.

Chapter 1545

“Who?” asked Gerald.

“...It was Daryl himself. In a single night, he completely exterminated the Crawfords—who had both birthed and raised him—with some tactic that’s currently unknown... Since then, he’s laid low on Yearning Island while establishing the other Crawford family. It’s worth mentioning that it only took the other Crawfords a few decades to prosper. In fact, it isn’t even a stretch to say that the other Crawford family’s strength is several times higher than what the previous Crawfords could ever achieve!”

“Regardless, Daryl began executing another plan sometime later, and the plan was called the Plan of Insights. He’s apparently been making preparations for that plan for the longest time, and it appears that you’re closely involved with the plan’s success. He also seems to be holding onto some secret that I’ve yet to uncover...” explained Master Ghost.

“...I see. Just to clarify, you said that many of these incidents are closely related to my grandpa, no?” asked Gerald, still slightly in disbelief.

“Indeed. Also, Daryl apparently has rather close connections with Jaellatra as well! I’m assuming that this is part of his Plan of Insights!” replied Master Ghost.

“Jaellatra? The legendary place located in the center of the earth?” asked Yeshua, already feeling enlightened just from listening to the conversation.

As Master Ghost nodded at Yeshua, Gerald—who now had a glint of determination in his eyes—said, “...I don’t care what this Plan of Insights is, nor do I care who I’m facing. The only important thing to me now is that I won’t allow that person to do any more harm! With that said, since you now know where Yearning Island is, I propose we set off for that island today. Honestly, after recently hearing so much about the other Crawfords, I find myself wanting to see what’s so different about them compared to my own family!”

“Sounds like a fine idea, Mr. Crawford. You know, the Dragon Squad owns a special fleet of ships... What I’m suggesting is that if you’d like, I’d be happy to contribute my share of power as thanks for your counseling throughout these few days!” suggested Yeshua quickly.

After witnessing Gerald’s strength and training, Yeshua simply had a gut feeling that if he could get on good terms with this powerful person, both the Dragon Squad and the Lock family’s future would surely be bright. With that in mind, Yeshua wasn’t about to miss an opportunity to help Gerald.

Upon hearing Yeshua’s kind gesture, Gerald agreed with the idea. After all, he would now have a way to head to the island together with his exceptional men from the Sacrasolis Palace. With that, more people would be able to look out for each other.

Fast forward to the next morning, the fleet of ten large passenger ships—that Yeshua had arranged for Gerald—began departing for the southwest ocean area in Yanam.

Standing on the deck of one of the ships, Gerald found himself staring into the vast ocean. The longer he stared, the more melancholic Gerald felt until eventually, he found himself muttering, “It’s been four years since we’ve last met, Mila... Four whole years... Though many things remained pretty much the same, the people around me have undergone vast changes... I, too, am no longer who I used to be... Mila... How are you doing...? Are you even still alive anymore...?”

While finding Mila had been a constant worry for him, he currently had greater concerns for his family who had been captured by the other Crawfords. He truly wished that they hadn’t suffered too much while awaiting his rescue mission...

Truth be told, given the choice, Gerald would very much prefer to endure through all this pain on his own...

Then there was the fact that he would very likely have to face his grandfather—whom he greatly respected—in the near future.

All this simply made Gerald’s mood extremely complicated.

As he continued to be vexed out of his mind, a feminine voice as sweet as an oriole's suddenly said, "Good day, sir. Are you part of this passenger ship's team?"

Turning around, Gerald was greeted by the sight of two women standing behind him.

The one who had spoken was wearing sports attire, and her hair was in a ponytail. As for her appearance, it was just as sweet and lovely as her voice was. Looking to be around the age of twenty-three, Gerald also sensed the temperament of a rich young lady within her...

Chapter 1546

The second he turned to have a look at the other girl, however, Gerald found his eyelids instantly twitching. After all, while he had come across many, many beauties before throughout his lifetime, he still found himself amazed by how dazzling this woman looked.

Wearing a long, graceful-looking dress, the other woman had exquisite facial features and a buxom body to boot. Though she was definitely eye-catching, she was relatively more aloof when compared to the ponytailed woman.

The stunning woman herself simply straightened her hair—that had been flying all over the place due to the sea breeze—as she scanned Gerald from head to toe. After a brief moment, she averted her gaze, clearly having lost interest in him.

That, however, didn't seem to bother Gerald too much since he still hadn't recovered from his earlier grieving session anyway. Regardless, he then casually asked, "...Yes? Is there something I can help you with?"

"Well, I've been looking at you for a while now, and you seem to have quite a bit weighing your mind. You're honestly quite handsome, so I was wondering why you'd have so many woes. Regardless, did you know that the ship will be passing by one of Yanam's islands soon? Once we get to the island, my friend and I will be making a stop there since our other friends told us that a party was being held there. Putting it straightforwardly, I'm planning on inviting any new friends I've made on board to attend the party with us. That way, everyone will have companions!" replied the ponytailed woman with a smile.

“Actually, hold on, where are my manners? Haha! You can call me Sia, Sia Ticer. As for this beauty, her name is Fia Lock. I’d introduce you to our other friends, but they’re all boarding another passenger ship! We’ll be meeting up at the island though, so don’t worry! Now then, about the party... Not to be rude, but if you’re unhappy, you really should focus more on relaxing yourself! If you’re constantly ill at ease, you’ll never be able to do anything well!” added Tia.

Upon hearing that, Fia nudged Sia with her elbow, as though she was trying to imply something along the lines of, ‘Is there really a need to talk with him that much? Let him decide on his own whether he wants to go or not!’

Looking at Fia’s actions, Gerald was reminded that she was Yeshua’s granddaughter.

Since he was using the power of the Dragon Squad to go about his business this time, Gerald was well aware that it would be inappropriate of him to head to Yearning Island with great fanfare. With that in mind, aside from the exceptional people from the Sacrasolis Palace and the Dragon Squad, Gerald had boarded the ship together with several regular rich young heirs and wealthy merchants to cover up his true motives.

Regardless, despite how strong he already was, Gerald honestly didn’t mind joining the girls after hearing Sia’s persuasion. After all, he really did need to relax a bit and he was getting rather bored anyway. While he was at it, he could probably also use the chance to inquire the rich merchants of Yanam about some things.

With that in mind, Gerald then nodded to Sia’s delight.

A smile on her face, Sia then said, “I’m glad you agreed! It’s always best to have a positive attitude no matter which point we’re at in life!”

Not too long after, the ship ported by an island.

Though Gerald followed Sia down the ship, Master Ghost, Carlos, and a few others remained on board to make some preparations. They were right to be worried, since dangerous incidents could happen at any time once they got close enough to Yearning Island.

“Sia! Fia! Over here!” shouted a waving young man—who was part of a larger group of young people who were already waiting at the port—the second he saw the trio walk out from the ship.

From what Gerald could see, there were many other rich young people getting off the other passenger ships. His attention was brought back to the current scene when a bespectacled young man excitedly added, “The party’s been scheduled for tonight, you know? In other words, it starts in ten minutes! With that said, hurry up and get in here already!”

The second that youth’s sentence ended, a tall and lean young man could be seen walking toward Fia’s group. Among the others within the group, both he and Fia were the most immaculately dressed.

Either way, it appeared that he wasn’t really all that focused on the party. In truth, he was here because of Fia, and he had been staring at her ever since he saw her get off the ship.

After momentarily—but also rather nervously—scanning Gerald from head to toe, he eventually couldn’t hold himself back as he asked, “Fia... Who is this? And why did you get off the ship together with him?”

#### Chapter 1547

The young man went by the name of Beau Mabart, and he was a rich young heir with a gentlemanly temperament.

The Mabarts themselves were one of the Jenna Province’s prestigious families, and they owned assets worth at least a billion and five hundred million dollars. With that in mind, it was no wonder that Beau had his education overseas, specifically in the United Kingdom and France.

Even so, the Mabarts were naturally inferior compared to the Lock family who owned the Dragon Squad. Due to that, Beau had only been able to get aboard a minor passenger ship on his way here. After all, only those with the highest of reputations were allowed to board the main ship of the fleet.

Regardless, pretty much everyone there was aware of Beau's infatuation toward Fia. With that in mind, they began sizing Gerald up as well when they heard Beau's question, hoping to be able to enjoy his misfortune.

"I don't know him... Sia's the one who invited him to join the party on Shrine Island together!" replied Fia with a slight frown.

Being as proud as a peacock, Fia hated the feeling of being controlled by others the most. However, between Gerald and Beau, she found Gerald to be much more unbearable. After all, despite her presence, Gerald had remained quiet throughout their journey here.

His silence had led her into thinking, 'Is he trying to catch my attention by remaining silent? Does he really think that playing cat and mouse will work on me? You clearly don't understand your target!'

The more she thought about it, the more annoyed she got.

Due to Gerald, however, she now found Beau considerably less annoying compared to how she had previously perceived him to be. Upon taking a closer look, he even seemed much more mature and solemn...

Either way, when Beau saw how Fia was treating Gerald, his heart eased up considerably as he said, "...I see! Regardless, I'm assuming he's a descendant of some prestigious family, right?"

While he was pleased to know that Fia wasn't acquainted with Gerald, it didn't change the fact that Beau had only been able to get aboard the regular ship. Gerald, on the other hand, had been able to take the main ship despite him wearing such shabby clothes. Due to that, it was no mystery why Beau was feeling so jealous. With that in mind, he felt the need to gain as much information about Gerald as soon as possible.

Realizing that Beau was trying to target Gerald, Sia quickly changed the topic by saying, "That's quite enough questions for now, Beau! I just dragged him along to have fun with us since he appeared all moody and alone earlier! Let's just try to get to know each other! Who knows, we could end up becoming friends in the future!"

Hearing that, they began talking about other topics though Gerald simply opted to stand at the side.

Observing the island's scenery, Gerald had to admit that he was now in a much better mood after following them here.

His head now much clearer, he thought about how his aloof demeanor could have given off the wrong impression that he was trying to give Sia the cold shoulder despite her being so kind to him. With that in mind, he decided to join in on their conversations with a slightly brighter mood, just to show Sia his appreciation.

Before he was able to do so, however, at least a dozen loud and simultaneous 'bangs' could suddenly be heard! Following that, confetti and streamers began fluttering down atop everyone's heads, making the port look particularly magnificent at that moment.

Shortly after, a youth wearing a suit made his way through the crowd before laughing as he shouted, "Ah, my long-lost friend! We finally get to meet again today!"

"Yosef!"

"Beau! It's truly been ages since we've last met face to face! I've been waiting for you for a while now, you know? Now then, let's get this party started!" declared Yosef Jenks—the extraordinarily dressed man who was evidently Beau's friend—as he gave Beau a bear hug.

The fact that both of them had been responsible for organizing this event's amusement had brought them closer than ever.

Following a hearty laugh, Beau then looked at Fia before saying, "Allow me to introduce Young Master Yosef Jenks to you, Fia! Actually, I think I already mentioned him to you earlier... He's the one I befriended while studying abroad in France! Regardless, his family's been living in Yanam for a few generations now, and it's even closely involved with the International Martial Arts Association! As additional information, his family owns assets worth nearly fifteen billion dollars as well!"

Upon hearing that, everyone found themselves looking at Yosef with their mouths wide open.

Everyone already knew about the Jenks family's influence in Yanam. Even so, to think that Young Master Jenks was actually close friends with Beau!

Chapter 1548

Fia—being someone with an extremely good family background—always had a sense of superiority over regular people. After hearing about Yosef's family background, however, her eyes instantly lit up as she snuck a peek at Young Master Jenks.

After exchanging some simple pleasantries, Yosef found himself asking, "Speaking of which, Beau, what took you so long? Didn't you promise to arrive a few days ago?"

"Ah, don't even get me started on that... You see, throughout my absence, massive and rather drastic changes have taken place within Jenna City as well as Weston's underground structure. With that in mind, I've been helping my father deal with the situation this entire time!" replied Beau.

"I think I heard some news about that as well... Sacrasolis Palace, right? Where did that large force even come from? According to what my father told me, several prestigious families and even a few underground forces in Yanam have already submitted to them! While I've been told that the palace master of the Sacrasolis Palace is a particularly vicious individual, rumor has it that by submitting to him, one's family will definitely be protected and will cease to deteriorate for as long as a million years!" said Yosef.

Due to their overwhelming wealth, it wasn't uncommon for large families to be in contact with extraordinary people. While ordinary people may find it slightly preposterous for rich families to submit to more powerful families that belonged to certain sects, it was honestly just business as usual for the wealthy.

"Speaking of which, your father's still in the Jenna Province, right, Beau? Has he managed to contact anyone from the Sacrasolis Palace?" asked Yosef.

Shaking his head, Beau then replied, "We never got the chance. After all, there were simply too many powerful families heading there to submit themselves to them at the time. Even so, it appears that the Palace Master of Sacrasolis Palace was already pretty rich in the first place. With that in mind, many of the families there apparently didn't suit his tastes. From what I've heard, to get acquainted with them, one must first pass through a number of assessments!"

Hearing that, Fia simply shook her head slightly contemptuously before saying, "But of course mere merchant families like yours aren't worthy of getting acquainted with the Sacrasolis Palace! Do you even know how powerful the palace master truly is? How could anyone just submit themselves to Mr. Crawford like that?"

"...Oh? While we're on the topic, I've heard that your family has a relationship with the Sacrasolis Palace... Does that mean that the palace master's surname is Crawford? Also, have you met him in person?" asked Beau in a surprised tone.

"How in the world could I have met him before? Regardless, I'm extremely sure that he's an immensely powerful and awe-worthy person. After all, even his subordinates are all smart and tough. I should know since some of them are well-acquainted with my grandpa!" replied Fia, slight regret reflected in her eyes.

Thinking back, her grandfather's eyes had been filled with admiration and respect whenever he talked about Mr. Crawford to her...

Speaking of her grandfather, she remembered him advising her, 'Remember to grab the chance when you see it!' before the ships had even departed.

When she asked what 'chance' he was referring to, however, her grandfather was oddly unwilling to reveal anything beyond that no matter how much she asked.

'Was grandpa trying to indicate this party or something...?' Fia thought to herself as she allowed her gaze to fall on Yosef for a few more seconds.

In between laughs and chattering, they eventually arrived at the party's venue...

Not long after everyone left the port, an odd-looking and ghostlike ship slowly began materializing out of the blue... Skimming across the sea's surface, the mysterious passenger ship then swiftly approached the port... It was so quiet that nobody was even aware of its presence...

Once the ship docked, two women—bearing extraordinary temperaments and wearing white clothes—slowly descended the ship... Due to the light veils covering their faces, anyone trying to see what they looked like would only be able to see blurry outlines.

“Was it really a good idea for us to have gone behind Sister Mila and come here, sister...? After all, the main reason we came to earth this time around is to execute that special mission, no...?” muttered one of the women in a worried tone as she curiously looked at all the different kinds of people in the distance.

“What are you even afraid of? Don't worry, things are going to be fine! Look, lots of people are already there! Now let's hurry over!”

#### Chapter 1549

Upon getting closer to the rest of the group, the duo could hear Yosef saying, “As you all probably already know, the Turnbolls are an extremely large and strong family that's existed for at least a few hundred years in Yanam. What you may not know, however, is the fact that the party was first proposed by Young Master Baelfire Turnbull himself! With that in mind, any party that he organizes will surely attract all sorts of celebrities and prestigious people from all over the country!”

Throughout his confident introduction—that stirred quite a commotion among the audience—Yosef made sure to take good, long looks at the beautiful women present, evidently finding satisfaction from the shock in their faces.

Since Fia was the most beautiful among them all, Yosef made sure to take an extra long glance at her, a glance of which was noticed by Beau who was standing at the side.

Upon realizing that, Beau couldn't help but feel slightly jealous. After all, his status was so much lower compared to Yosef, and he honestly knew that Yosef was someone who belonged in the same world as Fia.

With that in mind, Beau quickly tried to change the topic by saying, “Young Master Jenks, Baelfire is the most important and influential person here, no? Despite that, I have to say that he looks much more like one of the auction items the way he’s currently standing on stage! Hahaha! I’m sure a rich young heir like him isn’t in any desperate need for money, right?”

It was obvious from his unnecessary statement that Beau was struggling to even find something relevant to talk about.

“Well, he certainly is the most important person here, that’s without a doubt! Regardless, since you’re not too well-informed about some incidents here in Yanam, I advise you against saying random things for the sake of it. As for that auction bit, Young Master Turnbull is simply hosting it as a hobby of his! Hahaha! As if he’d ever be short of money!”

“Speaking of which, do you still remember the valuable treasures that I asked your father to help my family locate a few years back? The truth is, we already knew about Young Master Turnbull’s hobby back then, so my dad wanted to use the treasures to fawn on him! Hahaha! Regardless, I’m sure the public relations activity back then went remarkably! It certainly explains why I have so many admission tickets now!” replied Yosef with a chuckle.

“Hahaha! I see! To think that the Mabarts would end up making such a great contribution to the Jenks! Regardless, I wonder what items Young Master Turnbull is going to auction this time around!” said Beau with a subtle smile.

Deep inside, however, Beau was slightly ill at ease as he thought, ‘If I had known about this before, I would’ve surely gotten acquainted with the Turnbells myself! I could’ve been the one getting all the respect!’

“Pardon my rudeness, but don’t you feel ashamed at all for handing Weston’s valuable treasures over to those foreigners, Young Master Mabart? In fact, you’re feeling rather regretful for not doing so yourself now, correct?” asked Gerald—who had been standing at the side this entire time—rather casually though he had a slight frown on his face.

Upon hearing that, both Beau and Yosef found themselves frowning as well.

Beau, in particular, felt extremely humiliated since Gerald's statement hit a sore spot. With that, he then shouted, "You're just some f\*cking loser! What I do is none of your business!"

It was clear as day that he was directing all his anger—from seeing Yosef try to flirt with Fia—on Gerald.

When Sia heard Beau's retort, however, she instantly took Gerald's side by saying, "Well, is what he said even wrong? Also, you're a gentleman who studied abroad, no? To think you'd be so rude, Beau!"

Just as a quarrel appeared to be imminent, Fir—who had her gaze fixed on Young Master Turnbull this entire time—said, "That's quite enough. We joined this party to relax ourselves, remember? So, stop quarreling already! Now let's get a bit closer to the stage already, the auction's about to start!"

As she continued looking at the young master standing atop the colorfully lit stage, Fir found herself thinking, 'Grandpa told me to grab the chance when it presented itself... Could he have meant that I should try to woo Young Master Turnbull...?'

In a way, it made sense. After all, compared to Yosef, Young Master Turnbull definitely had a much more imposing aura. As for Beau, he was nowhere even near comparable to the two.

While thinking about it, she recalled her grandfather talking about the Turnbells. With how powerful, rich, and influential he described them to be, Fia grew to have a great admiration toward Baelfire. With that in mind, she wanted to get nearer to the stage as soon as possible to get a closer look for herself.

As for Beau, he made sure to give Gerald a vicious glare before the group of people began making their way to the seats closer to the stage.

While Gerald had initially wanted to ask Yosef about the condition of the Crawfords in Yanam, he refrained since the atmosphere had turned this way. Besides, now that they were nearing the stage, it was far too noisy for a proper conversation to be held anyway.

At that moment, he suddenly heard Sia's pleasant voice whispering into his ear, "Don't worry, Gerald. If anyone even dares to bully you today, I'll be the first to stand up for you! After all, what you said earlier was true! With that in mind, I fully support you!"

Turning to look at the girl, Sia even flashed a brief 'victory pose' at Gerald.

Chapter 1550

Regardless, Gerald couldn't help but nod with a smile. She wasn't a bad woman at all, and though her words were casual, they gave Gerald a warm feeling inside.

'How rare to meet such a kind woman nowadays... I wonder if fate had planned for us to get acquainted...'

With that in mind, Gerald felt that he may as well use this chance to grant her a wish or two. After all, money was no real issue to him and he didn't mind really spending a large sum as long as it got her what she wanted or gave her access to a skill she wanted to learn. In a way, this was his way of repaying her kindness to him this entire time.

His train of thought was cut short when Young Master Turnbull—who was still on the stage—held onto the microphone before saying, "Ladies, and gentlemen! Please, be quiet!"

Hearing that, everyone instantly went quiet. Honestly, it was so silent, that it almost felt like this was some rehearsed scene in a play.

Regardless, now that everyone was paying attention, Baelfire narrowed his eyes before saying, "Now then, I'm sure everyone already knows that I host large-scale parties like this once or twice a year, and every time I do, an auction is sure to be held! In the previous years, the items I mostly auctioned were either antiques or rare items. This time, however, the auction item is a little more special!"

"Oh? Even Young Master Turnbull thinks it's special? How special could it even be?"

"Who knows? You think he's going to auction some kind of elixir or something?"

As the crowd instantly began discussing what they had just heard, a middle-aged man—who was all smiles—walked over to Baelfire’s side before whispering, “As was expected, your statement made these people impatient again, Young Master Turnbull!”

“Hahaha! It’s more interesting this way, isn’t it? The more excited they are, the more these dogs will gnaw at each other to get what they want! I’m here for that excitement!” replied Baelfire with a tiny sneer.

Though their conversation was barely audible, Gerald was able to catch every word they said. Even so, none of all this really concerned him, so he really couldn’t be bothered to step in.

“Now, now, I’m sure everyone is extremely anxious to know what the item is! Fear not, I’ll be revealing it soon!” shouted Baelfire, prompting everyone below stage to shout and scream in anticipation.

Even Fia—who had seen much of the world—was feeling impatient due to the way Baelfire had teased about the auction item.

What exactly was it? Since Young Master Turnbull was taking his time revealing it, the item must be extremely extraordinary!

Just as everyone was thinking the same thing, Baelfire smiled before declaring, “Listen closely now, the item I’m auctioning today is a woman! With that said, I’m sure you gentlemen offstage are going to have a good time! After all, not only is this woman as pretty as a fairy, but she’s also remained pure and innocent up till this point!”

Upon hearing that, shouts of excitement from the men—which were particularly loud from a select few rich young heirs—instantly filled the air.

Pleased with their reaction, Baelfire then waved his hand slightly before ordering, “Alright, bring her over and show her to them!”

Following that, four people carrying a crate—that had been draped with a white veil—slowly made their way up the stage...

#### Chapter 1551

The wooden carton itself appeared very tightly wrapped. Even so, the others could still see the faint outlines of a long-haired woman inside who was curled up into a ball.

“How perplexing! To think that Young Master Turnbull would actually be audacious enough to auction an actual woman!” growled the slightly angered Sia.

She wasn't the only one either. While some of them may have preferred money and others power, many of the women there still had their limits, and they were simply unwilling to just accept the fact that one of their own was being auctioned off just like that!

Their anger and dissatisfaction were completely reasonable. After all, what else were they supposed to feel seeing a person of their gender being put on display to be sold like that?

Despite the majority of women being rightfully angered, some of them appeared to have different opinions. Namely, Fia, who found herself muttering, “What would you know? For rich young heirs, human rights being snatched away is nothing! Try looking at the situation from the perspective of Young Master Turnbull. After you give it some thought, I'm sure you'll be able to see things from his point of view!”

Upon hearing that, Sia's immediate response was to feel frightened by Fia's outlook on life. Turning to look at her, Sia then said, “What? How could you say that, Fia? Can't you see that he's abusing and discriminating against women? Why are you still speaking up for him?”

While the others were having all sorts of thoughts about the situation, Gerald found himself silently staring at the messy-haired woman within the carton.

Baelfire, on the other hand, simply sneered, “I can see all your passionate gazes, men! Hahaha! Alright then, let's not beat around the bush any longer! Unveil that woman for everyone to have a better look!”

Watching as Baelfire waved his hand, the four subordinates from before then began pulling the white veil off the carton... As the cage's door was slowly opened, everyone found themselves staring at the woman inside it.

Sitting right in the middle of the cage, the woman had a snow-white long dress on, and she was hugging onto her knees with her fair and tender arms. Though she had buried her face between her knees, it was quite evident that she was weeping. Nobody knew if it was because she had lost all her energy, but her weeping was so light that only her beautiful shoulders occasionally quivered.

"Come now, raise your head and let the camera crew see you! Your face needs to be shown on the large screen!" shouted Baelfire.

Seeing that the woman wasn't complying, one of Baelfire's subordinates growled, "Hey, b\*tch! Didn't you hear Young Master Turnbull's orders?!"

The woman could only wail in humiliation as her teary face was revealed to all when the same subordinate yanked her hair, forcing her to face the cameramen.

With how beautiful she was, the pitiful-looking woman instantly bewitched nearly every man who saw her. Even the women found themselves growing jealous of how beautiful she was.

As for the two women from before—who had earlier disembarked from the ghostly ship—both of them had been watching the entire scene play out from afar, and one of them was now glaring at Baelfire.

In a wrathful voice, the fierce-gazed woman growled, "That b\*stard...! How dare he treat a woman like that?! I'm going to personally kill him!"

"I advise you to refrain from causing any trouble. Besides, it doesn't appear that he'll be living past tonight!"

"...Huh? What makes you say that, sister?" asked the angry woman rather curiously.

“Just have a look over there yourself!” replied the other woman as she nudged her chin over to a certain direction.

Seeing that, the angry woman turned to look in that direction... And there, she was immediately greeted by the sight of an extremely furious Gerald.

His entire body trembling almost uncontrollably, Gerald had been beyond enraged ever since he saw the caged woman’s face.

‘Giya...!’

He remembered bringing her to his family’s mansion back then to allow her injuries to heal... Regardless, Gerald had assumed that she had been captured by the other Crawfords as well since he couldn’t find her in the mansion back when he first found out that his family members had been kidnapped. Even so, it hadn’t occurred to Gerald that Giya, of all people,—whom he knew to be a fine, young woman with an astounding temperament—would end up suffering such abuse!

Now seething in rage, Gerald couldn’t help but stride forward before shouting, “Giya!”

‘What had she even done wrong? Nothing she could’ve done could have deserved this outcome! Why the hell had they abused her like this?!’

Whatever the case was, the second Giya heard that voice, her weakened body instantly began trembling wildly...

Chapter 1552

‘...Could... I have heard wrong...? There’s just no way, right...?’ Giya thought to herself as she slowly looked around in disbelief, trying to find the source of that shout.

However, the second she saw him, she was so shocked that she felt that she was possibly still dreaming!

She wanted to say something, anything. But it felt like a lump in her throat was preventing her from saying a word...

As for Sia, she turned to look at Gerald—who was already walking toward the stage—before shouting in surprise, “Huh? You... Know that woman, Gerald?”

“Hah! I guess that loser was so entranced by her that he couldn’t help but walk over! From the looks of it, he doesn’t seem like the kind of person who has the money to buy her over through auctioning either!” scoffed Beau.

“Who exactly is he? How rude! If he ends up offending Young Master Turnbull, he’ll definitely end up dead soon! With that said, let’s keep our distance from him!” muttered Yosef with a frown.

Though Sia wanted to at least try to stop the agitated Gerald, he had already made it to the stage by that point.

While everyone was holding their breaths—unsure of what to even expect to happen—Giya was already in tears as she muttered, “...G-Gerald... Is... Is that really you...?”

“It is me! I’m so sorry that I’m late! I’m so sorry...!” shouted Gerald as he hugged her tight, his grief insurmountable.

“What’s the meaning of this, Young Master Turnbull?”

“Yeah! If you want that woman so much then purchase her first, you shabbily-dressed son of a b\*tch! Actually, do you think he’s trying to snatch that beauty away?!”

Below stage, several of the rich young heirs were feeling extremely dissatisfied by Gerald’s actions.

“I must say, he truly is courting death! Now that I think about it, how did he even manage to board the main ship? Regardless, please remember not to admit to

knowing him should Young Master Turnbull decide to interrogate us later!” grumbled Fia as she glared contemptuously at Gerald.

Amidst the chaos, Baelfire turned to look at Gerald before sneering, “Being a bit too impatient, aren’t we, sir? Just so you know, this chick’s starting price is seven million dollars! Please pay that amount first before you place your hands on her! Hahaha!”

Gerald, however, simply ignored him, opting instead to help Giya to her feet as he asked, “Are you the only one here? Where are the others?”

“They... your sisters and aunts... they were captured by those people... Following that, the Turnbulls contacted the group of villains and in the end, Baelfire purchased me! However, know that despite being repeatedly humiliated by him, I always tried to fight back the best that I could!” cried out Giya.

“I see... Not to worry, Giya. Everything’s fine now... Now let’s go!” replied Gerald as he patted her gently on her shoulders.

Getting her onto his back, he was just about to leave when Baelfire—who had already been annoyed by the fact that Gerald had ignored his earlier statement—furiously shouted, “Hey, now! Where the hell did you even come from, you b\*stard? Are you treating me like I don’t exist? Are you even aware of whose territory you’re currently in?!”

Turning to look at him, Gerald then casually replied, “Look, Young Master Turnbull, I’d like to send my friend home first for her to properly recuperate. Worry not, once I’ve done that, I’ll be looking for you and your family next!”

The second Gerald’s sentence ended, a roar of laughter could be heard from almost everyone within the audience.

“Is that person a nutjob? Who does he even think he is?!”

Never imagining that a person would be dumb enough to look for trouble with the Turnbolls, everyone was already mocking Gerald with tears in their eyes as they laughed their lungs out.

Beau himself was flabbergasted as he declared, "He's truly lost it! You're absolutely right, Fia! We can't ever claim to know him!"

Moving back to Baelfire, he laughed aloud before shouting, "I admit that you're brave. However, do you really think that I'll just stand here doing nothing while you escape with Giya?!"

As if on cue, seven men dressed in black garments then rushed onto the stage before swiftly surrounding Gerald!

"Since you refused to back down, you'll just have to be beaten up before your corpse gets hacked into pieces!" growled Baelfire.

"With all due respect, Young Master Turnbull, my friend here is already weak enough as she is! I really need to rush back first to have her treated! Also, I've heard that your rich and powerful family has existed for dozens of generations in Yanam. With that said, I'll give you half an hour to prepare yourself and let you have your final sense of ceremony. Again, worry not, for I'll be back to deal with you in exactly thirty minutes!" replied Gerald with a frown.

"You...! You b\*stard...! Who the hell do you think you are, spitting such nonsense here?! Also, what are all of you still standing there in a daze for? Beat him into a pulp already!" roared the infuriated Baelfire.

Chapter 1553

With contemptuous glares on their faces, the seven men then began crouching, looking very much like vicious wolves that were planning to pounce onto Gerald!

Their stance was so terrifying that everyone else instantly held their breaths!

"Oh god, it looks like they're positioning themselves to hack this insensible guy to pieces!"

“Humph! It’s his own fault for courting death! Still, I do wonder if he’s unaware of the power the Turnbolls have in Yanam. After all, he dared to offend Young Master Turnbull of all people! Whatever the case is, once he’s dealt with, his family members will surely be next!”

Though most of the people offstage were sneering at Gerald, Sia herself was feeling deeply anxious.

Turning to look to her side, she then pleaded, “Young Master Jenks! Fia! Hurry and figure out a way to save him! Use your families’ powers or something! He couldn’t help it he just wanted to save that woman...!”

However, both of them simply returned cold expressions to her.

“Sia, that’s quite enough! So what if that loser dies? Big deal! If you need a quick refresher, he’s simply a stranger whom we met by chance! With that said, what are you even being so anxious for?” grumbled Fia in resignation.

“But-”

Before Sia could even finish what she was trying to say, the seven men made their moves!

Looking both frightening and fierce, the men watched as Gerald—who was still tightly hugging Giya—slowly lifted his arm...

And with a simple wave of his hand, an explosive sound could be heard as multiple swords that glowed white suddenly appeared out of thin air!

Swiftly slashing at all seven of the assailants with great precision and ease, it barely took a few seconds for all of them to begin falling to the ground, completely sliced in pieces! But Gerald wasn’t done yet.

No, he made sure to dice them up so finely that in the end, only a bloody mist remained of them!

With how bloody the scene was, several of the present women instantly began screaming!

As everyone instinctively took a few steps back in their bewilderment, Sia—who was equally as shocked—found herself momentarily only capable of covering her mouth. She had witnessed every second of Gerald’s retaliation... The demeanor he had at the time... It was undoubtedly the demeanor of a great master!

Regardless, Fia, Beau, and the others couldn’t help but feel their eyelids twitch rapidly as they continued staring at Gerald. He... was the one who should’ve been hacked to pieces, right? How had everything gone the complete opposite direction?

With how swiftly those seven men had been killed, it was now clear as day that Gerald wasn’t only an immensely powerful person, but he also had remarkable abilities!

As Fia gulped in realization of this, the now anxious Baelfire found himself slowly taking several steps back as he muttered, “...T-this...”

The ones Gerald had just killed so easily were all exceptional men from his family!

“In the end, it turns out that you truly are insensible!” said Gerald as he glared frigidly at Baelfire.

Sweating profusely, it was only at that moment when Baelfire realized how frightening Gerald’s gaze really was.

Hoping to diffuse the situation, the middle-aged man from before tried his best to put on a calm façade before warning, “Sir, before you do anything, let’s talk this out nicely. If you don’t already know, this rich young heir is Baelfire Turnbull! The son of the richest man in Yanam! Not only is he the master’s only son, but he’s well known across the entire country as well! While I admit that you possess exceptional strength, know that Yanam has many forces too! With that in mind, I hope you realize that there will be dire consequences if you dare lay even a single finger on the young master!”

When Gerald made no immediate reply, Baelfire assumed that Gerald was finally feeling a little afraid.

With that in mind, Baelfire then quickly added, "...That's right! I'm the top rich young heir in Yanam, and I have an entire country on my side! With that said, I also have several men as powerful as you are! Regardless, correct me if I'm wrong, but I remember there being a certain saying in Weston that I'm sure you're aware of... It has something to do with the ripple effect, and it goes along the lines of, 'Even the slightest change can affect everything else.' With that said, you won't ever be able to leave Yanam alive if you dare hurt me!"

Laughing mockingly in response, Gerald then sneered, "You know, I don't believe you understood what I said earlier! The thirty-minute timer I gave you earlier... It isn't only for you. It's for your entire family! In other words, I'm making sure I kill every single Turnbull as revenge for treating my friend like this!"

"...W-what did you say...?! You're exterminating the entire Turnbull family?!" stuttered the middle-aged man, utterly shocked by Gerald's statement.

As deep fear swept through Baelfire, Gerald then scoffed, "Indeed, I am! Also, keeping what I just said in mind, I'm sure you now realize that everything you've earlier said was simply nonsense to me! In fact, because you said all that, I've made up my mind to just kill Baelfire now!"

"N-no...! Lenox! Save me from this maniac! Please...!" pleaded Baelfire as he rapidly began shaking his head.

Having no other choice, Lenox then glared at Gerald before roaring, "While you may not respect the Turnbuls, I wonder if you'll bow to the power of the Crawfords from Yanam! Listen here, I'm part of that family, and my name is Lenox Crawford! With that in mind, I wonder if you're still daring enough to proceed!"

"Oh? Just so you know, once I'm done eliminating the Turnbuls, I'll be looking for your family members next!"

Chapter 1554

Following a cold smile, Gerald slashed the air with two of his fingers, prompting a blade of light to form!

As it instantly flew in Baelfire's direction, Lenox attempted to stop it from proceeding any further. However, he ended up freezing in place the second he realized how strong the blade really was. That power... Nobody would've been able to stop it!

"Y-young master...!" shouted the horrified Lenox as he watched Baelfire get sliced into eight pieces in no time flat!

With how terribly he had died, the atmosphere quickly grew exceedingly suffocating...

Lenox himself was momentarily stunned in his utter disbelief...

Who could blame him? He had just witnessed the horrifying death of the only son of the richest man in Yanam! That youth had control over half the economy there!

Now that all this had happened, Lenox was now having so much trouble imagining what was to come that his ears started ringing.

Eventually, the pale-faced middle-aged man then turned to look at Gerald before saying, "...You truly are a vicious person, sir... Regardless, I wonder if you're daring enough to give me your name after all that you've done...?"

"Sure. My name is Gerald Crawford, and I'm from the Crawford family in Northbay!" declared Gerald as he stared intently at Lenox.

"...W-what? Gerald Crawford?! You're the most important and final element we need for the success of the Plan of Insights! The Crawfords of Yanam have been looking all over for you for the longest time, you know? To think you'd show yourself here of all places!"

“A nice summary, but tell me something I don’t know!” replied Gerald with a faint smile.

Now realizing that Gerald had come here specifically to hunt them down, the bewildered Lenox then exclaimed, “...So that’s why Hoyt and the others have gone missing...! You killed them, didn’t you?!”

“Bingo! I made sure to leave no one alive!” replied Gerald.

As Lenox stared at Gerald, completely speechless, everyone else below stage—who had heard Gerald’s words—found themselves utterly flabbergasted as well. While they didn’t really understand most of their conversation, they understood enough to know that Gerald wasn’t a person to be trifled with.

“What kind of person even is Gerald? How could he be so cruel!” muttered Yosef who still hadn’t recovered from all the shock.

That person... To think that he was barely even worried about the Turnbulls and the Crawfords of Yanam...! What kind of level did one even need to have to be able to do that?!

“B-beats me! All I know is that he got off the same ship as Fia! F\*cking hell! I knew that anyone riding the main ship couldn’t be ordinary...!” whimpered Beau fearfully.

Fia herself only knew as much about the situation as the others. In other words, it was evident that she had no idea who Gerald truly was either.

“So you were here, sir!” shouted a booming voice at that moment.

Before anyone could even register who that mysterious voice belonged to, several shadowy figures could suddenly be seen dashing above the heads of the audience!

A split second later, fifty exceptional-looking men could be seen standing atop the stage, much to Lenox’s shock and fear!

Fia herself noticed that her grandfather was standing among those people. A sense of pride now welling within her, Fia couldn't help but shout, "Grandpa!"

However, Yeshua completely ignored his granddaughter, opting instead to bow before Gerald, something that all fifty of the exceptional men quickly did as well.

Following that, Carlos then said, "We've been looking for you for quite a while, Mr. Crawford!"

The second Beau heard that name, his eyes almost popped out of their sockets as he muttered, "...W-what...? M-Mr. Crawford...?!"

Even Fia was already covering her mouth in disbelief by this point...

Chapter 1555

Everyone else had their eyes widened in incredulity as well, now finally realizing that the person on stage was none other than the one and only Mr. Crawford of Sacrasolis Palace!

As everyone remained momentarily shocked, Carlos broke the silence by saying, "So, Mr. Crawford, what should we do with this person?"

From the way he said it, it was clear that Carlos cared little about the consequences, and the same went for Gerald's other men on stage.

The only one who had initially been slightly hesitant was Yeshua, who had planned on advising Gerald not to mess with the Turnbills. After all, they were a top major family who owned over half of Yanam's wealth! What more, those in the Turnbull family were also relatives of the King of Yanam! In short, that family had a deeply-rooted position there...

With that in mind, the fact that Mr. Crawford had just killed Hooper Turnbull's only son spelled nothing but complete disaster!

Even so, after realizing how much Carlos and the others revered Gerald, Yeshua held his tongue. Since things had already gotten this far anyway, he may as well take Gerald as his only guide.

'I guess we're enemies with that family now... So be it!' Yeshua thought to himself.

Either way, Lenox was already well aware that the murderous people before him were all very capable and powerful. With that said, the second he heard Carlos's question, he instantly got to his knees in fright before pleading, "P-Please...! Please, don't kill me...!"

Upon hearing that, Gerald simply turned to look at him before sneering, "You're just a dog, aren't you? Are you even worthy enough to be killed by me?"

Feeling as Gerald gently began stepping on his head, Lenox then heard the youth say, "Now then, listen closely... I want you to send what remains of Baelfire's corpse back to the Turnbull family... Following that, tell them that if they continue allying themselves with the Crawfords of Yaman, this will only be the beginning for them!"

Gerald's cold words instantly sent shivers down Lenox's spine, prompting the terrified man to quickly nod in response.

"Now get lost!" roared Gerald in such a commanding way that Lenox felt as though his soul had just been pierced.

Quickly crawling over to Baelfire's corpse pieces, the man then carried them up before awkwardly scuttling away.

By that point, Giya had already passed out from all the sudden turn of events.

Realizing that, Gerald then ordered, "Carlos! Take Miss Quarrington for her to get some proper rest!"

The second his order ended, however, the corner of his eyes caught a glimpse of a familiar person's back... Though she was standing near the edges of the crowd, Gerald recognized that back anywhere, and he instantly began trembling all over...

She appeared to be with a friend of hers, and both of them were draped in white clothing. Despite being quite a distance away, Gerald could already sense how pure their fairy-like temperaments were...

Regardless, her temperament wasn't what caught his attention. Looking at the taller and leaner woman between the two, Gerald was now more certain than ever that it was her!

That back... it belonged to Mila!

"...T-this..." muttered Gerald to himself, his eyelids twitching as he watched the two stunning figures slowly turn around to leave.

He was well aware that he had mistaken other people for Mila several times by now, which was why he wasn't acting impulsively this time.

In the end, however, he simply couldn't hold himself back as he leaped from the stage and landed right behind the leaving duo!

Still slightly anxious, Gerald placed his hands against his back—in an effort to regain his composure—before saying, "Please wait a moment, ladies!"

Stopping in their tracks, the slightly shorter woman then coldly replied, "Is something the matter, sir? We haven't offended you in any way, right?"

"Of course you haven't. However, I... help but realize that this lady beside you resembles my lover a lot... She's been missing for many years now, you see, and I've been looking all over for her so..."

As Gerald couldn't help but speak his mind out, the taller woman then replied, "There are many people who resemble others in this world, sir. I'm sorry to hear that you miss her dearly, but we honestly aren't acquainted, sir!"

Despite her casual reply, Gerald now found himself unable to hold his tears back, deep emotions welling within him.

His eyes fully reddened, it took him insurmountable strength and courage to finally be able to find his voice again...

"...M-Mila...! It... It really is you...!"

'That back... That voice...! There's no doubt about it, she really is Mila...!'

To think that he would actually bump into Mila here of all places... How completely unexpected! It was so coincidental that he honestly wondered if he was still dreaming!

Now completely certain that it was her, Gerald then moved even closer to the tall woman before saying, "Mila, it's me! Gerald!"

Chapter 1556

The second she felt him grabbing onto her arm, the initially shocked woman quickly became infuriated as she shouted, "You...! How dare you...?!"

Following that, a layer of draconic scales that glowed scarlet could faintly be seen on her arm!

As the glow grew brighter, Gerald could feel a rapidly increasing heat on his palm, prompting him to release his grip before taking two steps back.

It was at that moment when the woman finally turned to face her wrathful gaze at Gerald, her charming face now reddened in anger as she snapped, "How dare you behave so imprudently toward me!"

Upon getting a good look at her face, Gerald instantly began breathing much rapidly, now appearing even more emotionally moved than before!

'Not only do you sound like her, but you look exactly like her too! I can now say with full certainty that I've finally found you, Mila...!'

"Please take a good, long look at me, Mila! Have you truly forgotten who I am? I'm Gerald! I've been tirelessly looking for you throughout these four years ever since you went missing during that excursion!" explained Gerald, tears already forming at the corners of his eyes.

Hearing that, both of the women couldn't help but look at each other. The taller woman—in particular—now had a wide frown as her eyelids twitched slightly.

Either way, though the bewildered short woman appeared like she wanted to say something, her friend quickly stopped her. Shaking her head, it was a clear indication that the tall woman didn't want her friend to say anything unnecessary.

"...I think this man's just mistaking me for the wrong person, sister. Look, we really don't know who you are and it's already getting late so we'll be off first!" said the tall woman.

Following that, everyone's eyes widened as both of them speedily flew toward the ocean! Gerald himself could only stare in utter disbelief as the two figures slowly disappeared from sight.

'That... was clearly Mila, right? Why did she avoid me? It's as if she doesn't remember a thing about me! That... That's simply impossible...!' Gerald thought to himself.

Whatever the case was, Gerald wasn't about to let Mila leave him again. With that in mind, he instantly began giving chase!

However, he soon found out that the two women were experts at the lightness skill. After all, with not a trace in sight, he no longer had any idea which direction they could've possibly headed to.

Dejected, Gerald could only hover above the gentle waves, momentarily unable to reconcile with the fact that he had lost her yet again...

It wasn't long after before the two women arrived at an island quite far from where the party had been held...

Their feet finally touching the ground once they got to shore, they were instantly greeted by the sight of a shimmering giant ship that had been docked there.

Resplendently lit, the queer ship almost seemed to be magical in nature, evident by how it kept disappearing and reappearing on the same spot.

With how ethereal it looked, a person who wasn't paying attention could easily mistake the ship as nothing but a trick of the light.

Regardless, now that they had managed to shake Gerald off their trail, the short woman found herself saying, "That was really dangerous earlier, Xoie! That man... He seemed to know who Mila was! What bad luck that you just so happened to be dressing up her today!"

"You're telling me! Either way, while it's clear that he knows her, I wonder why Mila would even be acquainted with anyone here..." mumbled Xoie Quartermain who found the entire situation quite perplexing.

Both she and her younger sister—Xylina Quatermain—had been planning on having some fun for a while now, so they ended up sneaking off to the most crowded place they could find to momentarily enjoy themselves. Neither of them could have ever expected to bump into someone who actually knew Mila!

"Thinking back, I remember him saying that Mila was his lover! What spicy news! Let's go tell Mila about it right now!" proposed Xylina.

"Hold on, sister!" replied Xoie.

“Hmm? What’s wrong?”

“...Let’s not tell her about this first. After all, if you do, it’ll be equivalent to you telling her that we left for earth without any good reason! With that said, if dad ever finds out about that, he’ll surely ground us! Besides, if Mila truly did know him, she would’ve definitely attempted to find him ages ago! Regardless, let’s not tell her about this first! Best not to stir up something that can be completely avoided!” explained Xoie.

“Well... Alright, sister... Still, I think you should head out with your own appearance in the future. You really don’t have to try so hard to compete with Mila’s beauty, you know? Don’t even dare to deny that you haven’t been trying to see which between the two of you is prettier ever since you came here. You’ve done it far too many times by this point. Aren’t you tired...?” replied Xylina rather casually.

“I get it!” retorted Xoie, a hint of humiliation on her face.

Raising her fair arm, she stared at the part where Gerald had earlier grabbed her...

From her childhood days, Xoie had remained extremely pure... With that said, this was the first time a man had ever grabbed her by her wrist.

Adding that to the fact that Gerald had the aura of a powerful person, the more Xoie thought about it, the more restless she became as strong emotions welled within her...

Chapter 1557

However, her train of thought was cut short when a pleasant voice called out, “Xoie? Xylina! Where have both of you been this entire time?”

Hearing that, Xylina then replied, “Ah! Mila! Well, we were earlier-”

Much to Xoie’s relief, Xylina managed to recall their earlier promise in time which prevented her from blurting out everything.

Either way, after a slight nudge from Xoie, Xylina quickly recovered her wits as she continued, "...We... were earlier just having a look around out here! After all, the sea is rather beautiful at night, wouldn't you say?"

In response, Mila simply smiled subtly as she nodded before replying, "While I know it isn't exactly easy to negotiate with the King in the North, you have to remember that our adoptive father specifically chose us to complete the task. With that in mind, while things are currently a little boring, we should really try to obey adoptive father's orders and refrain from wandering around outside!"

"We get it Mila... Regardless, I've brought back some medicine that I ordered some subordinates of mine to get for you. You always seemed to suffer from serious headaches every night, so I thought I'd get you something to help calm your nerves. I got the idea when I heard that strange and valuable herbs existed on earth, you see. Following that, I got my subordinates to pick a few relevant ones for you!" explained Xoie as she took out the strange and invaluable medicine that her subordinates had prepared.

After handing it to Mila, Xoie then cleared her throat before asking, "...Speaking of which, how familiar are you with this world...?"

Mila had a rather mysterious history. After all, while she hadn't mastered any forms of training, she was an incredibly smart person. Due to that, the old lady always had Mila by her side. After some time, the old lady found herself appreciating Mila's efforts so much that Xoie's father felt that it was only right to adopt her into the family!

With that in mind, despite Mila only being his adoptive daughter, Xoie's father had chosen her to be the main spokesperson for the negotiation instead of her! Due to that, Xoie would be lying if she said she wasn't at least a little jealous.

After all, Xoie clearly more outstanding than Mila in terms of experience, appearance, and strength. Hell, Mila had begun her life here as nothing more but the old lady's maid! Why was she being given so much power and respect now? As if that wasn't already enough, Xoie had just found out that there was an extremely strong person who seemed to like her!

Speaking of that person, it was now clear that the rumors were true. Mila truly had come from earth!

“...Hmm? This world? How do I put this...? I find this place to be... both familiar and strange... Every time I come here, a mysterious feeling sweeps through me... What more, for some inexorable reason, my heart begins palpitating a lot more when I’m in this world! I really have no idea why that is myself!” replied Mila as she stared into the horizon, slight worry reflected in her eyes.

She truly had no idea what was wrong with her. For one, ever since she woke up again, she couldn’t remember a thing about her past...

Even so, the blurry figure of that man would always appear in her mind every single night... He wasn’t a strong-looking person by a long shot, but even so, Mila could still sense how strongly he loved her...

‘Who are you...? And why does my heart beat so much harder every time I’m here...?’

As the three sisters remained silent for a while, a figure suddenly dropped from the sky, landing close to where the trio was standing!

He appeared to be a male servant, and after bowing toward them, he then said, “Miss Smith and Miss Quartermain, my master has organized a national party in Yanam, and he’s invited all three of you to attend!”

“I see. Do thank Lord Yao on my behalf. Once we prepare ourselves, we’ll head over immediately!” replied Mila with a nod.

Meanwhile, a pained scream echoed across the walls of the Turnbull family’s mansion.

Staring at his son’s chopped-up corpse, Hooper—the master of the Turnbull family—felt extremely faint, hoping that this was all just a nightmare.

Chapter 1558

The Turnbolls were a family that had existed for hundreds of years, and there were many exceptional and powerful people within that family who had influential

backgrounds. Due to that, they had always behaved rather recklessly since nobody could really stand up against them.

With all that in mind, Hooper had never imagined that his son would die so horribly. Hugging onto the many pieces of his son's corpse, Hooper felt as a cocktail of grief, hatred, and wrath began brewing in his heart...

Upon seeing his reaction, everyone sensible enough immediately took a few steps back.

Still trembling, Hooper then turned to look at Lenox as he growled, "...Who... Who's responsible for killing my son...?!"

Quivering in fear, Lenox then replied, "T-the person who did it... is the one my family's been looking everywhere for! The deed was done by Gerald!"

"...What?! Gerald?!" roared Hooper, his eyes now a bloody-red as murderous intent exuded from every orifice on his body.

Watching all this play out, a luxuriously dressed middle-aged man—who had been sitting at the side—then declared, "I offer my sincerest condolences to you and your family, Hooper... Regardless, to avenge my nephew, I'll be ordering those from the army to capture that Gerald! Once we have him, I'll be sure to make him suffer terribly!"

Turning to look at the middle-aged man—who was from the royal family—the crazed-looking Hooper then replied, "There's no need for that! Once we have him, the Turnbolls will be devouring every inch of his flesh and drinking all his blood!"

As he began weeping tears of blood, a voice suddenly shouted, "Do you honestly think that you two can capture Gerald? You're both just idiots! It's really no wonder why your son ended up dying so terribly! Regardless, knowing that boy's temper, you don't have to waste any effort trying to capture him. He'll probably be taking the initiative to come look for you! Hahaha! That silly, silly boy! I bet he thinks that massacring all of you will eventually force me out! Either way, your Turnbolls have zero chance to escape his wrath by this point. Your threats won't work against him either since to him, you're all quite literally as easy to kill as mere ants!"

Upon hearing that, everyone turned to look at the source of the voice... And there, slowly walking toward them from the middle of the national banquet hall, was an old man donning black robes...

The second Lenox saw him, he instantly began sweating profusely as he said, "M-master...!"

Following that, he fearfully zipped his mouth tight before kowtowing in the direction of the old man.

Even Hooper and Greyson Leacock—the person who had come from the royal family in the Gloyv State—grew frightened when they realized that the old man was present.

After both of them greeted him, Hooper then asked, "About what you said earlier... How could you be so sure, master...?"

"How couldn't I be? I'm the one who knows him best in this entire world!" retorted the old man as he slowly took off his black hood...

If Gerald was here to witness this, he'd surely have been extremely surprised to find out the true identity of that old man!

From how well the old man knew the boy, he assumed that Gerald would probably think something along the lines of, 'It... It was grandpa Daryl this entire time...?! The person who I respected so much in the past?! I... I don't think he's my grandpa anymore... From what I can see, he's now nothing but a schemer who's been acting behind the scenes this entire time!'

Regardless, Gerald would probably feel shocked by his appearance as well. After all, Daryl's eyes had now gone fully scarlet, and his lips were a frightening shade of purple and black. There were even hints of divine lines on his forehead that glowed red... Together, this combination made him look like a human who had made it halfway down the route of becoming a true devil...

Smiling subtly, Daryl then laughed before sneering, "I've spent way too much time and effort to get my major plan to this point! After all, I had to pretend to be his grandfather for quite a while in order to manipulate him without getting suspected! Even so, it was all worth it since I was able to make and watch him slowly mature... In a way, what I did isn't unlike watching a seed I planted slowly grow and eventually blossom... However, a slight change in plans happened right before I was able to pick the fruits of my efforts! Though that's beside the point. Regardless, I'm sure you now know why I said I know him so well!"

"...Wait. Don't tell me that... Gerald is the product of the Herculean Golden Base...? I remember peculiar things happening in the sky over twenty years ago... Following that, the Herculean Golden Base had sent several forces to explore its product..." said Hooper, greatly bewildered.

As for Greyson, he took in a deep breath before adding, "...You've said before that this Herculean Golden Base is also known as the Herculean Primordial Spirit, right, master...? I also recall you saying that it's the strongest power between heaven and earth... So strong, in fact, that whoever gains it will be able to achieve immortality! Thinking back, it was around fifty years ago when you saved a fisherman couple... Following that, you even gave them a lot of money in order to obtain the Herculean Golden Base that was about to befall their descendants... Since Gerald is so powerful, could it be that he's that heir...?"

"Bingo. Either way, the demonic power granted me not only strength, but also the ability to foresee the future! With this much power, I'm only able to enjoy myself if my plan goes flawlessly! Sadly enough, I didn't consider the fact that people would secretly try to help Gerald along the way! Thanks to them, he's grown a bit too powerful for my taste and my plans were almost ruined!" grumbled Daryl as he clenched his fists tightly...

Chapter 1559

"Come again, master? You weren't expecting him to get this powerful?" asked Greyson.

"Indeed, I haven't. Humph. I've truly looked down upon the Herculean Primordial Spirit's power to bring drastic change to people... After all, Gerald's been able to enter the Rune Realm in just a few years! It isn't even a stretch anymore to say that his training level is on par with mine! No matter how you look at it, achieving something like this should be impossible, no matter how talented the person is!"

“Whatever the case is, the most annoying thing about all this is the fact that the person who’s secretly been helping Gerald keeps encouraging him to grow stronger! If it wasn’t for him, Gerald wouldn’t have developed so rapidly to the point where I can’t even control him anymore! It’s exactly because of that that I have to act behind the scenes!” explained Daryl.

Upon hearing that, both Hooper and Greyson drew in cold breaths.

“The seven most powerful people from the Ringmasters of Obliteration rule above all... If Gerald truly is as strong as you say he is, does that mean that he’s on par with the seven Chakra Kings who own ungodly strength...? Is Gerald a Chakra King as well...?”

Left deeply stupefied by that realization, both men now knew that seeking impulsive revenge against Gerald was just going to be a suicide mission.

“Right again! And that’s how great the Herculean Golden Base’s power is! Regardless, it’s naturally a unique charm as well!” replied Daryl with a subtle smile.

“Then... do we really have no way to deal with Gerald, master...? I won’t be able to die in peace if I don’t avenge my son after he’s faced such a horrible death! I’m begging you, master, please! Think of some way to kill him!” pleaded Hooper.

“Not to worry, I wasn’t planning on allowing Gerald to continue developing like this anyway! It’s the reason why I captured his family members in the first place! Once I capture one other person, I’ll be able to control at least two-thirds of his life! He won’t be able to escape my grasp then! Hahaha!”

“Following that, I’ll activate Yanam’s national fortification formation—that’s been passed down since ancient times—, the great dragon extermination spell! With it, it won’t be too difficult to kill the current Gerald! After all, that child’s most fatal flaws are his soft-heartedness and his worry-filled heart! Too bad for him, I’m a nemesis that doesn’t care the least about ethics as long as I’m able to achieve my goals!” declared Daryl, clenching his fists once more.

When the duo heard that, their eyes widened so much that their eyeballs looked like they were ready to pop out...

“...M-master... Are we really going to be using the great dragon extermination spell? To even operate it, we'll be needing...” muttered Greyson in a clearly troubled voice.

“As I've said, ethics bear little to no meaning to me as long as I'm able to achieve my goals. There's nothing more important to me than snatching the Herculean Golden Base for myself. With that in mind, all the sacrifices and effort I've put into this mission are completely worthwhile to me!” sneered Daryl.

The great dragon extermination spell was something that the remarkable people from ancient times left behind. The spell was so formidable that even the powerful Chakra Kings would end up being swiftly taken out if they were hit by it!

Of course, such great power came at a hefty price, and Hooper and Greyson were well aware of that. Even so, neither of them dared to disobey Daryl's orders.

Knowing that they weren't going to be able to change his mind, Greyson then asked, “You earlier mentioned something about a fatal flaw of Gerald's, master... Could you elaborate on that...?”

“Hahaha! Well, remember how I said that the boy's too soft-hearted? Sure, we have his family with us and he cares deeply about them... However, once I manage to capture the woman he's in love with as well, everything will pretty much be in the bag! By that point, we just need to make sure that the great dragon extermination spell is successfully operated!”

“...I see! But where should we even begin looking for that woman...?” asked Hooper.

“Well, first off, her name is Mila Smith, and she's the woman of Gerald's life. Secondly, she's currently rushing toward this place all the way from Jaellatra! To ensure her capture, I had made sure to pull enough strings so that she would end up coming here herself!” replied Daryl with a smile.

“...What? Miss Smith? The one from Jaellatra? But master, we're in a cooperative relationship with that place! We can't just capture her!” said the bewildered Harper.

“Ah, about that... I’m saying it now that all that was just bullsh\*t! If you weren’t aware, the forces from Jaellatra have been using all sorts of training resources—in recent years—to captivate the seven major Chakra Kings. In other words, while I’m the King of South Asia by name, to them, I’m simply their puppet, or at least that’s what they think. I’ve had to suffer and endure pretending to be subservient to them all this time, just for the sake of getting the Herculean Golden Base... Once I’ve obtained it, Jaellatra won’t even be worth caring about anymore! Regardless, once they arrive later, just act according to plan!” ordered Daryl in a commanding tone.

Trembling as they watched a great darkness exude from his body, everyone quickly nodded in agreement.

Seeing that, Daryl simply smiled smugly before muttering, “It’s finally time for us to meet again, Gerald... Rest assured, it’ll also be our last encounter!”

Moving back to Gerald, he was still in a slight daze...

After all, he had just gotten confirmation that Mila was alive! Though seeing her with his very own eyes filled him with endless joy, it appeared quite evident that she had lost her memories...

Even so, the most important thing was that she was still among the living. The fact that he was able to meet her again in this lifetime... It was a blessing, if anything. With that in mind, there was nothing to regret about in that brief encounter of theirs...

## Chapter 1560

Though Gerald was pretty much at the level of a Chakra King now—meaning that he was at the top of the world—there were still many things that surprised him. For one, it hadn’t occurred to him that Mila would get so strong throughout her absence.

Lifting his hand, he stared at his burnt palm... To think that the searing aura from Mila’s body was actually able to breach his thunder essential qi with such ease...

As Gerald released a long sigh, over ten ghostly and strange-looking ships swiftly appeared before him, completely blocking his path in seconds...

Following that, it didn't take long for Master Ghost, Carlos, and the others to notice their presence as well.

Walking over to stand behind Gerald—who was already staring at the ships with his arms against his back—everyone then watched rather curiously as a white-haired old man—alongside ten other middle-aged people—leaped off one of the ships before slowly descending toward the ship that Gerald and the others were all on.

Now that they had a good look at the old man, both Carlos and Julian's eyes widened as they muttered in unison, "That... That's the leading priests from the Ringmasters of Obliteration!"

"The Ringmasters of Obliteration?" asked Gerald who clearly wasn't familiar with that name.

As the leading priest gently stepped onto Gerald's boat, he laughed before saying, "Indeed! As they said, I'm the leading priest! Regardless, it's a pleasure to meet you, Mr. Crawford! If I recall correctly, you tested your power with the aid of the Sceolium a few days back, correct? Well, when the Ringmasters of Obliteration learned that there was yet another Chakra King in the world, they instantly grew excited!"

Watching as the leading priest laughed aloud again, Gerald then placed his palms together before replying, "You flatter me, sir. However, I do believe that your arrival here today isn't just for the sake of congratulating me, correct?"

"Hahaha! You're rather straightforward, Mr. Crawford! However, you are correct! I'm here in person with an important mission from the Ringmasters of Obliteration!" replied the leading priest, choosing not to beat around the bush either.

Looking into the polite elder's clear eyes, Gerald couldn't help but have a good impression of him.

Due to that, he had no problem with inviting the elder into the cabin.

Once inside, the leading priest wasted no time and instantly said, "Since you've probably only heard snippets about the Ringmasters of Obliteration before, I wonder if you'd be willing to allow me to give a more detailed introduction about ourselves? Just to make things as clear as possible between us!"

Watching as the leading priest then took a sip of tea before smiling, Gerald casually replied, "I'm all ears."

"Excellent! See, the Ringmasters of Obliteration is an organization that's existed for thousands of years, and it's responsible for coordinating all the unbalanced forces around the world, just to ensure that an objective balance is always maintained. As the name implies, the organization consists of representatives who are sent out by the most powerful people across the globe. A united nation, if you will! Hahaha!"

"Regardless, there are currently seven extremely powerful people leading the Ringmasters of Obliteration, and they were chosen for good reason. All seven of them have managed to enter the Rune Realm, you see, making them the cream of the crop. With that in mind, their common discussions together oftentimes influences the direction of how things happen within the cultivation realm. Also, while they each have their own regions, it should be noted that none of them ever interfere with what happens within the world's secular society. It's simply a limitation under the principles of the Ringmasters of Obliteration!"

"Moving on to its members, the seven powerful people include Murray Click, the King of Northern Europe, Petros Ambers, the King of the Northern Dessert, Yellowleaf Laelia, the King of Southern Island, Sergius Leuke, the King of East Asia, Odin Duras, the King of Northern America, Feit Foreswift, the King of the Ocean, and as for the last one... I'm sure you know him well, Mr. Crawford! Hahaha! He's Daryl Crawford, the King of South Asia!"

Upon hearing that last name, Gerlad found his eyelids twitching slightly.

As it turned out, Daryl had not only hidden himself well, but he had also been busy to the point where he eventually managed to become the ruler of South Asia... That explained why he could do whatever he pleased.

Noticing a hint of resentment in Gerald's eyes at the mention of Daryl, the Priest Jenkins then added, "Each of the Chakra Kings owns magical powers and are pretty much omnipotent. Due to that, they each possess near-endless honor as well. With

all that out of the way, I'm here to tell you that you're now one of the eight most powerful people in the world! In relation to that, the Ringmasters of Obliteration naturally wish for you to send us a representative, just as the others have done. Do you agree to that?"

"Well, since all this is for the sake of keeping the cultivation realm stable, there's no real reason for me to object. With that said, I agree!" replied Gerald.

"Thank you for your cooperation, Mr. Crawford! Speaking of which, we learned that the Sacrasolis Palace—that you're currently leading—is located North in Weston. With that in mind, the Ringmasters of Obliteration have given you the title of King of the North, a title of which they will be using to address you from now on!" said Priest Jenkin as he took out a wooden token and placed it before Gerald...

On it, were the characters, 'King of the North'!

Chapter 1561

"What wonderful news! From this moment forth, he'll be recognized by the cultivating realms all across the globe as the King of the North!" whispered Carlos and the others excitedly among themselves.

Gerald, however, didn't seem to care too much about this. After all, by this point, honor and recognition weren't really important to him anymore.

Regardless, Priest Jenkin then cleared his throat before saying, "Actually, there's one more thing that one of the Ringmasters of Obliteration entrusted me to tell you... Quite frankly, however, I'm not really sure if you'd like to hear it..."

Nodding in response, Gerald then replied, "Please share it with me, leading priest!"

"Well... I heard from the King of South Asia that Daryl's had some beef with you... As I've earlier said, the Ringmasters of Obliteration have a rule of not getting involved with the real world... I'm sure you can guess where I'm going with this, but the love-hate relationship between you and Daryl has gotten to the point where you actually killed the Turnbull family's young master! While the past is in the past, I've been told to advise the two of you to have a nice talk about all this... After all, in the end, this is all for the peace of the cultivating realm..." explained Priest Jenkin.

“First off, there’s something wrong with that statement... You see, I’m not the one unwilling to let go of all this. In fact, you can trust me when I say that it’s the other person who isn’t letting me off! Regardless, now that you’ve all spoken up, I can agree to meet and have a talk with Daryl once the chance presents itself. However, I’ll only be willing to do so if he first releases my family members!” replied Gerald in a straightforward but casual way so that even an idiot would be able to fully understand his message.

Daryl had been playing this game for the longest time, making precise calculations and even manipulating Gerald’s ancestors, all for the sake of eventually being able to deal with Gerald.

With that in mind, it was evident that Gerald had been hurt far too much by that old man. Despite the good advice from the Ringmasters of Obliteration, Gerald wasn’t about to just let that old man off that easily. Daryl needed to pay something back for all the damage he had done to him.

Putting his grudges against that old man aside, Gerald fully understood that the Ringmasters of Obliteration simply didn’t want him to hurt innocent people or intervene with secular matters. Both of those were naturally no issue for Gerald.

“That’s great to hear! Now I can return and give the ringmasters a good explanation! Well, without further ado, I’ll be taking my leave then, Master Gerald!”

After the priest left, everyone instantly began excitedly chatting with each other.

“What a great and honorable title the King of the North is!”

As the others chatted on, Gerald knew for a fact that he wouldn’t be able to find peace yet. After all, there were simply far too many things he still needed to do in the future... All he could do in the meantime, was hope that his family members were all still safe and sound...

The second his thought ended, a loud ‘bang’ could be heard before the ship began shaking all of a sudden! Sensing that the waves beneath them were now churning violently out of the blue, Gerald found himself furrowing his brows, wondering what was going on.

By exerting some force, the waves instantly went calm again, though almost immediately after, a massive force attracted Gerald's attention.

Activating his divine eye, Gerald scanned the area up ahead... before closing it again after only a brief moment.

"There's no need to panic, everyone! I'll be heading off for a while, but don't worry, I'll be back soon!" said Gerald rather casually before he slowly faded away...

Within the country of Yanam, tall mountains were everywhere. However, there was one mountain, in particular, that was so tall that it went above the clouds... Almost as though it connected the heavens with the earth, the mountain was aptly named Alpvie.

At that moment—above the many clouds beneath Alpvie's peak—a man donning plain clothes could be seen standing on a tall porch, his arms against his back as he stared at the near-endless horizon of mountains and rivers before him...

With how tall Alpvie was, it was no wonder why nobody else was there.

All of a sudden, Gerald could suddenly be seen slowly walking over...

Staring at the old man's back with a bitter smile on his face, Gerald then said, "You know, I was devastated when I first realized the possibility of you being dead... After all, you were still my respectable grandpa whom I prided greatly before all this... I won't lie that at the time, I truly felt the warmth and love of family from you!"

"Oh? Is that so? Regardless, I have to say that I'm rather impressed that you've been able to grow so much in both ability and maturity from when we last met... Honestly, I was expecting a bit more surprise from you upon reuniting with me. Well, I guess this reaction of yours is pretty interesting too. Whatever the case is, quite a lot truly has happened throughout these few months!" replied Daryl as he slowly turned around...

Their eyes now meeting, both men seemed unexpectedly calm and composed...

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“As you’ve said, I’m no longer the old me! Regardless, I’m sure you know why both of us are meeting today. Cutting straight to the chase, release my family right this instant! They have nothing to do with what’s happening between us!” said Gerald in a casual tone.

“Release them you say? Oh, I will! I’ll definitely be releasing Dylan and the rest! Of course, that includes Mila!” sneered Daryl.

“...What? You... You’ve even captured Mila?” replied Gerald, stunned.

“That’s right! While she did get captured by those from the Sun League, she didn’t die! Quite a bit happened after that, but essentially, I managed to get my hands on her while she was representing Jaellatra on a trip to earth! Either way, I know how much you want your family to be together, Gerald, which is why I’m honestly doing you a favor by reuniting her with Dylan and the rest!” said Daryl with a scoff.

“You... You despicable rat...!” growled the infuriated Gerald as he instantly made a sword finger gesture!

A split second later, a strong bolt of lightning shot toward Daryl’s direction!

While it was true that Daryl’s initial goal had been to trigger Gerald, now that he saw how strong Gerald’s attack was, his eyelids couldn’t help but twitch. This power... He truly was a Chakra King!

“Demon protection!” yelled Daryl as darkness rapidly encased the old man within a protective orb!

Had Daryl activated the skill a second later, the golden bolt would’ve surely struck him! Even so, the near-blindingly bright bolt wasn’t done yet. Still pushing against Daryl’s dark barrier, the force of it began creating gales that were so strong that it uprooted a lot of the vicinity’s greenery, causing them to instantly wilt!

Shortly after, an explosive sound could be heard as even the porch that Daryl was still standing on—that wasn't protected under the dark orb—blasted into pieces! Following that, debris and dust began flying everywhere...

It honestly shouldn't have been that hard for Daryl to block Gerald's lightning attack. After all, he was a Third-rank Chara King as well.

What he hadn't anticipated, however, was the fact that Gerald's sword attack would behave this strangely! It was constantly changing!

From what Daryl could see, it looked like multiple pulses of power were being pushed into the golden bolt of lightning, making it larger and larger as more power flowed into it!

Eventually, a crack could be heard, and before Daryl knew it, the shadowy barrier had shattered not unlike broken glass!

This wasn't good! Immediately retracting his power, Daryl then made a mad dash away from the incoming attack!

Following that, the ground almost seemed to explode as the lightning bolt shot right for the cliff opposite of them, leaving a deep gash that was at least four meters deep!

Upon seeing that, Daryl quickly found himself stumbling backward till the back of his soles touched the cliff's edge...

Even after managing to stabilize himself, Daryl's breath was heavy and his eyes wide open as the utterly flabbergasted old man muttered, "...What... What kind of attack even was that? Where did you learn that from?!"

"Just so you know, aside from Thunder Eruption, there exists another skill called the Ninth-sky Blade. As a trivia, this skill was specifically designed to counter evil powers like yours!" explained Gerald in a frigid tone.

“...How incredible... It truly appears that you’ve inherited all of Liemis’s powers... However, allow me to remind you that both of us are Third-rank Chara Kings, Gerald. I hope you don’t assume that I’ll lose to you, just because you have an extra skill or two! Regardless, I’ve been feeling a bit worn out in the past few days. With that said, what do you say to a duel at Yanam’s dragon tower at noon tomorrow? Since we’re having a decisive battle on who lives or dies, I’ll be sure to bring your family members along as well!” growled Daryl in an icy tone as he placed his hands against his back.

While Daryl had a poker face on, a steady stream of blood was already dripping from his torn palms and purlicues. Even the veins on his trembling arms were now extremely visible as they pulsated wildly due to all the stress they had just faced.