

The Invisible Rich Man – Chapter 2221

Moving back to Takuya who was starting to get a headache from all the shouting, he couldn't help but raise his hand as he yelled, "Pipe down! This isn't the time to argue!"

Upon hearing that, everyone fell silent. While they would've surely retorted before continuing to discuss among themselves in previous meetings, now that this much was on the line, they knew better than to diss Takuya off. Hell, even Masaru who kept wanting to dethrone Takuya in the past kept his mouth zipped, not daring to say a word.

"Seriously... Either way, that wasn't the only announcement I had to make! You see, I've been thinking long and hard about some things... and now I finally have my conclusion. Ladies and gentlemen, I've decided that it's high time I removed all the pests of the family! Never will they bring our family down again!" declared Takuya.

"W-what...?!" yelled several of the Futabas in unison. Naturally, they could tell what Takuya was hinting at! But if they were driven out, they wouldn't be able to take advantage of this situation anymore...!

By this point, even Masaru's initial grin had disappeared. Slamming the tip of his cane against the floor, Masaru then roared, "You can't just make a decision like this on your own! If you truly wish to kick family members out, then it has to be done through polls!"

"It's exactly because we kept doing that that our family ended up in such a sorry state. After receiving Gerald's help, we finally have a chance to restore our family to its former glory! With that said, changes need to be made. From today onward, I'll be the only one

deciding for the family! Anyone who wishes to oppose that can leave!” declared Takuya with a snort. Though he knew that Masaru meant well, his ‘peace making’ was the true reason why their family had continued to decline year after year...!

“You...! Do you still see me as your uncle...?!” growled Masaru, choking in rage.

“Depends on whether you see me as your patriarch,” retorted Takuya as he frowned in response.

“You...!” yelled Masaru, clearly not expecting Takuya to talk back to him!

Watching as Masaru pointed at him with a trembling hand unable to speak due to how angry he was, Takuya simply looked away before pointing at a few other Futabas and saying, “You few can stay. For anyone I didn’t point at, please leave. I’ll give you a week to cut all ties with the family, and if you don’t, I’ll just force you out.”

The ones he had pointed at were the family members who had remained in the manor, even when their family was at its lowest. Takuya knew that these were the ones who sincerely cared about the family instead of just wanting to profit off it.

“Y-you want this many people to leave?!” yelled several of the Futabas, clearly not expecting Takuya to sever ties with so many of them at a time! This... This was unacceptable!

Regardless of how they responded, Takuya simply nodded before saying, “Indeed. You can leave now.”

“P-patriarch! Aren’t you going over the line, here?! While we may not have any merits, we’ve still worked hard for the family in the past! With that said, you can’t just chase us out without giving us proper reasons!” declared a few of the Futabas, clearly unwilling to just leave now that Gerald had brought them such good fortune!

If they left, not only would they fail to benefit from the family ever again, but they would also be unable to get involved with the Fareast Consortium...!

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“T-Takuya...! You can’t just make unilateral decisions like this...! And driving so many people out of the family at once...?! Even if you managed to get those contracts, you should realize that you’re just leading the family to ruin!” scowled Masaru after calming down slightly.

“Second uncle, if you insist on letting them stay, I’ll start wondering about your true purpose. Regardless, I’ve made up my mind! This family doesn’t want any black sheep within it!” growled Takuya in a determined tone, making it clear that he was dead serious.

After all, if he didn’t do this now, these bloodsuckers would simply leech off the Fareast Consortium business till the family reverted to its current sorry state! Takuya had learned this the hard way, and there was no way he was going to let history repeat itself!

Regardless, Masaru who clearly hadn't expected Takuya to defy him this openly found himself growing paler and paler as he muttered, "Takuya...! You ...!"

All of a sudden, Masaru held onto his chest before toppling to the ground...! Naturally, this shocked everyone.

Knowing that Masaru was still his uncle, Takuya was first to react by running over to the collapsed man while yelling, "Second uncle!"

Watching as Takuya kneeled by his side before helping him up, Masaru who had an agonizing expression on his face now desperately gasped for air while saying, "P-pills... My pills...!"

Nodding in response, Takuya searched around his uncle's coat and soon found a tiny white bottle. Slipping a black pill out, Takuya then yelled, "Water! Hurry!"

Upon hearing that, his secretary bolted off to get a glass of water. The second she returned, he slipped the pill into Masaru's mouth before giving him some water while patting his back.

Shortly after, color began returning to Masaru's cheeks, prompting everyone to breathe a sigh of relief. With his uncle now fine, Takuya simply returned to the main seat.

Seeing that, Masaru sighed heavily before pointing at Takuya with a trembling hand while saying, “You... You’re really trying to piss me off, aren’t you...!”

“Say what you want, but I’ve already made up my mind. Either way, bring him to one of our guest rooms to rest. Unless I allow it, nobody can disturb him!” ordered Takuya as he looked at his cronies. Though Takuya had said that, it was clear as day that he was actually just placing Masaru under house arrest.

Whatever the case was, the two cronies simply nodded before holding Masaru up and quickly leaving the parlor. Though everyone saw that, nobody dared to say a word.

Either way, with Masaru now out of the picture, Takuya turned to look at his family again before asking in an indifferent tone, “Was my order not clear enough?”

Again, nobody said a word. After all, since Takuya was dead set on driving them out, they figured that if they said anything else, they were only going to leave a worse impression on Takuya.

“Get out of my sight within five minutes. And make sure to cut all ties with the family. I’m only giving you this warning since we’re fellow clansmen. I won’t be so kind in the future,” growled Takuya who no longer lacked confidence due to the partnership with the Fareast Consortium.

Regardless, after looking at each other, the ex-Futaba family members slowly left the parlor.

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Though they honestly hadn't completely dismissed the idea of continuing to leech off the family, nobody dared to further provoke Takuya at the moment. After all, they were all well aware of what kind of person he was, and they had a feeling that he would retract his statement sooner or later and allow them to return to the family.

If that truly was the case, then it was only a matter of time before they would be able to get their hands on those benefits...!

Regardless, after they left, Takuya simply slumped against his chair before waving his slightly trembling hand while saying, "Close the door..."

Watching as Aiden nodded before doing as Takuya ordered, the patriarch then looked at the few Futabas whom he had allowed to stay whom he knew sincerely cared about the family before asking, "... Do you think I did the right thing...?"

"Absolutely, patriarch! Had you allowed them to stay, they would've surely leeched off the business like no tomorrow! Regardless, they're not what you should be focusing on, patriarch! Now that we've struck a deal with the Fareast Consortium, we'll finally be able to bring our family back to its former glory!"

"That's right! They should've been kicked out ages ago! Remember, had it not been for them, our family wouldn't have gotten to this sorry state in the first place!"

As the remaining Futabas yelled on, it was clear that they had been dissatisfied with those bloodsuckers for the longest time. Though receiving those contracts was a joyous thing to hear, they were honestly even happier about the fact that those leeches had finally been kicked out.

Shaking his head with a subtle smile, Takuya then reverted to his serious facade before pointing at two Futabas standing near him while declaring, "Alright, settle down. I'll be placing you two in charge of the Fareast Consortium business. Remember to pay keen attention to everything you do with them! We were only able to partake in this collaboration due to

Gerald's help, so if you screw it up, don't even think about returning to the family!"

"Worry not, patriarch! We won't let you or Mr. Crawford down!" declared the two in respectful tones while alternating gazes between Gerald and Takuya.

"Well said. Either way, you may leave now. If anything comes up, I'll be sure to contact you. Oh, and I'll also be sending you the number of one of the Fareast Consortium's secretaries later. Contact him when you need to later on," replied Takuya as he clapped his hands together. Honestly, he couldn't deny that kicking so many people out at once was making him feel uneasy

By the time they left, only five people remained in the parlor.

Turning to face Gerald and his daughter, Takuya who had now let his guard down a little was prompted to say, “Well that happened. Regardless, I wonder why Suke didn’t come... After all, he was always the first to rush in whenever family meetings were held. With that in mind, it’s a bit strange that he wasn’t here earlier...”

Recalling his previous encounter with Suke, Gerald paused for a moment before saying, “I wonder if it’s because of his connection with the Hanyus...”

“... You say that, but do you have proof that he’s really with them...?” muttered Takuya, suddenly sounding slightly vigilant again.

“Not for the time being. Still, it doesn’t change the fact that everything that he’s done and said to me has been immensely suspicious...” replied Gerald as he shook his head.

“Well, I get where you’re coming from. Honestly, I’ve had a feeling that something was off with the family in recent years as well. After all, far too many changes had occurred without warning! In no time at all, the family simply ended up collapsing without almost zero chance of recovery! What more, how had the Hanyus even found out that Fujiko was participating in that competition back when they attempted to assassinate her? Someone from the family must have been a snitch!” muttered Takuya as he analyzed the situation with a frown.

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“... Come to think of it, I’m pretty sure that the Japanese military kept my identity highly confidential as well. With that in mind, aside from those from our family, nobody else should’ve been able to find out that I was participating in the competition!” muttered Fujiko, getting equally as curious.

“I see... so the chances of all information coming from within our family is rather high... While we can’t be sure that it’s Suke, it’s undeniable that his absence today is slightly odd...” replied Takuya as he stroked his beard.

After thinking about it for a while, Gerald was prompted to ask, “...Do you think he’s at the Hanyu manor? After all, if he truly wishes to have his revenge on me for making him crawl under my crotch, I assume his go to would be the Hanyus. However, since I did just threaten them a bit earlier, I’m sure they won’t dare to make a move on us yet. With that in mind, he’s probably staying with them for the moment.”

Honestly, thinking back, Suke was the most likely person to have done all this.

“... When you put it that way, it does start to make sense. If there’s a snitch in our family, Suke truly is the most likely person to have notified the Hanyus!” replied Takuya who had honestly been suspicious of Suke from the moment their family started falling.

It certainly didn’t help that over the years, Takuya’s suspicion toward Suke had only grown more and more profound. Sadly enough, though his gut pointed at Suke being the snitch, Takuya had never been able to gather any solid evidence.

Whatever the case was, Fujiko who was keen on finding the person who had brought so much harm to her family then impatiently asked, "Well, how do you propose we get more evidence then...?"

"Unfortunately, even I don't know for now," replied Gerald as he shook his head.

"Well, either way, let's not bother about him first. We should be focusing on our collaboration with the Fareast Consortium! Though we'll naturally fight back if the Hanyus start looking for trouble again, until then, we shouldn't allow them to impede our progress with the collaboration! After all, the fate of our family depends on it!" muttered Takuya after taking in a deep

breath. Takuya, for one, wasn't keen to accept that his family's glory that had lasted for a few centuries would end up getting ruined in his hands.

Upon hearing that, Gerald simply replied, "Just leave the Hanyus and Kanagawas to me."

"That... I really don't know what to say anymore, brother Gerald... Not only have you brought these business contracts to our family, but you're also helping us deal with our enemies!" muttered Takuya with a long sigh.

"Well... Since we've already known each other for quite a while, I think it's high time I asked for your help in return..." replied Gerald as he narrowed his eyes slightly. It had been about a month since he had last come to Japan, and he really didn't want to delay

this any further. While he was still going to help solve all the Futaba's problems before he left, the sooner he

learned about the secrets of Yearning Island, the sooner he'd be able to start planning how to save his sister and parents.

"...Hmm? Just say the word and I'll help you with it!" declared Takuya as he quickly sat up straight.

Fujiko herself couldn't help but hold her breath. It was finally time for her to find out why Gerald had been helping them so much...!

After turning to look at both Aiden and Master Ghost who both nodded in response, Gerald then pointed at Fujiko's pendant before saying, "This is what I need help with!"

"So... You... need help with getting engaged to Fujiko...? If that's the case, I can set the wedding up in just a few days!" replied Takuya, a broad smile now on his face.

Hearing that, Fujiko who honestly still liked Gerald a lot couldn't help but go red as she exclaimed, "F-father! What are you even saying!"

Coughing awkwardly in response, Gerald who didn't want this misunderstanding to get worse quickly clarified, "What I meant was her pendant..."

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"The... pendant?" asked Takuya and Fujiko in unison, clearly confused.

"Indeed. The truth is, I came to Japan looking for descendants of the Seadom tribe. After careful consideration, I've come to the conclusion that the Futabas appear to be just that. After all, why else would Miss Fujiko possess that special pendant?" explained Gerald.

Upon hearing that, Fujiko held onto her pendant before asking, "Isn't this just a regular pendant...?"

While she did find it odd that it was always cool to touch, she had never given much thought into it.

"So, you actually know about the tribe..." muttered Takuya who appeared much calmer than his daughter.

Watching as Takuya then placed his hands together, Gerald simply nodded as he said, "Indeed. It's the reason why I came here in the first place."

“I see... Either way, let’s talk about this someplace else” said Takuya as he took a cigarette out before leading the group to what appeared to be an ordinary cupboard.

Upon opening the topmost drawer, everyone stared wide eyed as Takuya pressed a secret button inside...!

Following that, one of the walls that had been decorated with paintings and calligraphy suddenly began shifting...!

Staring at the now revealed secret room, the surprised Fujiko couldn’t help but exclaim, “S-since when was this here?!”

She was, of course, rightfully shocked. After all, she had been living here all her life! How had she not known about this place!

Contrary to Fujiko’s reaction, when Gerald, Aiden, and Master Ghost saw the room, they couldn’t help but grin. After all, this meant that they had guessed correctly! The Futabas truly were the descendants of the Seadom tribe!

Either way, upon entering the room, Takuya flipped another switch, prompting a sole lightbulb to turn on. The light quickly revealed an antique table with four benches around it right in the middle of the room. From how dusty everything was, it was apparent that nobody had come in here for ages.

After blowing the dust off the table, Takuya took a seat before asking, “Now, before anything else... How did you learn about the Seadom tribe in the first place?”

Sighing in response, Gerald then said, “Well, my grandfather’s on Yearning Island right now, and he’s abducted my parents and sister... Unable to locate the island itself, I eventually learned that the Seadom tribe had access to it, which prompted me to come to Japan in the first place...”

“I see. And how did you make the connection between Yearning Island and the Seadom tribe?” inquired Takuya.

“From this sea map here,” replied Gerald as he retrieved the sea map from his jacket before laying it flat in front of Takuya.

Seeing that, Master Ghost then added, “Some time ago, an island suddenly appeared on the map, and we saw an ancient tribe doing some kind of ritual on it. After a bit of digging, we realized that the tribe was known as the Seadom tribe, and that they were located in Japan. While we had assumed that we would be looking for a needle in a haystack, none of us could’ve guessed that we would accidentally bump into Miss Fujiko...”

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“While I do know that this map belongs to the Seadom tribe, it’s only because of passed down knowledge from my ancestors... Truth be told, this is in y first time seeing this map as well,” muttered Takuya with a sigh after briefly looking at the map.

“Then... Do you have any idea how we can get to Yearning Island? Or at the very least, how we can locate it? From what we know, the island seems to float about on sea and is only locatable through a special method of sorts. As Master Ghost said, the island appeared on the map once, but never again ever since...” replied Gerald with a slight frown as he looked at the map.

“Well... As you may have already guessed, the Seadom tribe used to inhabit that island, though that was ages ago. While I can’t say that I know how to get there, worry not, brother! Since you’ve helped my family this much, I’ll definitely find a way to get you there!” declared Takuya as he began racking his memories, hoping to remember details about the island and the Seadom tribe.

Shortly after, Takuya walked over to a bookshelf and began flipping through the books there.

Seeing that, Fujiko who was still finding it difficult to process all this couldn’t help but mutter, “I’ve never even heard of the Seadom tribe or Yearning Island up till this point...”

Quite honestly, now that she knew Gerald’s true goals, she couldn’t help but feel slightly disappointed. After all, she had initially thought that he was doing all this for her! In truth,

he had only helped her family so much to obtain information! Though she felt that all this was a little too much, this was simply the reality of the situation.

Whatever the case was, Gerald simply shook his head with a bitter smile as he replied, "Had I not encountered the map, I wouldn't have known about any of this either..."

It was a while later when Takuya returned with a dusty book in hand. Handing it to Gerald, he then said, "Here. This book contains a thorough history of our family, though I'm not sure if what you need is in here."

"Please let me have a look," replied Gerald, his eyes glinting with excitement as he quickly began flipping through the pages.

However, the more he flipped, the more his enthusiasm dropped. As it turned out, this truly was just a family history book. Not even the words 'Yearning Island' was mentioned in it! What more, from what Gerald had gathered, the book's first records began around five hundred years ago, which was probably when the Seadom tribe had first left the island.

With that in mind, Gerald was prompted to ask, "...Is this the only book?"

"Unfortunately, it's the only relevant one I managed to find. Is there nothing relevant to you in there?" replied Takuya as he shook his head.

Every book in this room had been labeled according to its contents, and though there was a lot to go through, Takuya knew that his ancestors only kept the 'more important' books here. In other words, records of the Seadom tribe and Yearning Island probably wouldn't have been stored here.

"Sadly, no. The book is simply a record of everything that's happened to your family," said Gerald as he shook his head, feeling slightly frustrated.

"I see... Unfortunately, this room already contains everything passed down from my ancestors. While I've been told that I'm a descendant of the Seadom tribe and I do remember my father and grandfather mentioning Yearning Island, I was never really told how to get there..." muttered Takuya, feeling bad for not being able to help Gerald.

"I do wonder whether Miss Fujiko's pendant is the key to all this..." said Master Ghost out of the blue as he looked at her pendant; From the very first time he had seen it, he could already tell that the item was a special one, and Master Ghost knew for a fact that such items were usually the more useful things.

"This...?" muttered Fujiko as she removed her pendant.

"It's just a guess, of course, but it's something," replied Master Ghost as he shook his head.

"Well, whatever the case is, I believe that we'll eventually crack the code," said Takuya as he lit a cigarette.

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“Indeed... Either way, now that you know about my situation, please don't tell this to anyone. Since this concerns the safety of my parents and sister, if any accidents happen, I'm afraid I won't forgive that easily,” said Gerald as he clenched his fists.

“Got it!” replied both Takuya and his daughter as they nodded.

With that said, after sitting in the secret room for a while longer, the group eventually left together before parting ways.

Upon arriving at his room, Gerald waited for Master Ghost and Aiden to enter as well before closing the door behind him. Once that was done, he couldn't help but sit on his bed, feeling dejected. After all, all this time, he had simply assumed that once he found the Seadom tribe, the mysteries of Yearning Island would be in the bag. Now that things had taken this turn, he realized just how naive he was to think that.

After all, now that he thought about it, the Seadom tribe was an ancient one. With that in mind, even if he had managed to find descendants of that tribe, everything from the past should've predictably been whisked away by time! Just knowing who their ancestors were was clearly not enough!

Sensing Gerald's discontent, Master Ghost was quick to ask, “Well... Now that we know that the Futabas can't help us get there, should we still remain? It'll pretty much be a waste of time by the looks of things...”

“Let’s just wait a bit…” muttered Gerald with a sigh.

Honestly, he wasn’t sure what was best for their current situation either. Still, to think that their only lead had been a dud this entire time…

“And what if we still can’t find anything after ‘a bit’?” asked Master Ghost.

“We’ll talk about it then. Besides, we still have to help the Futabas with their issues before leaving. Remember, when helping others, we need to see through it,” replied Gerald before lighting a cigarette and taking two deep puffs of it.

Already predicting what Gerald would say, Master Ghost then nodded before saying, “So be it. We’ll do whatever you ask us to!”

Hearing that, Aiden who was feeling bad for Gerald then added, “Why don’t we just take the Kanagawas and Hanyus out straight off the bat? That way, we’ll be able to quickly begin investigating how to get to Yearning Island again!”

“I’ll… consider it,” replied Gerald with a bitter smile.

Currently, many thoughts were plaguing his mind. For one, he had no idea how his parents or sister were doing on the island. What more, it wasn't easy living undercover all the time while his enemies remained out in the open.

In all honesty, Gerald couldn't deny that he had considered letting Will's men capture him so that he could finally head to Yearning Island. However, if he did so, then the risk of him failing was still pretty high.

After all, who knew how they would lock him up once he got there. If he ended up losing his life, then all would truly be lost.

Either way, Gerald then sent the two away before laying on his bed to think things through.

When morning came, Gerald was awakened by a knock on the door, followed by someone saying, "Mr. Crawford...? The chairman of the Fareast Consortium has come over, and he says that he wishes to meet you."

"Derrick's here...?" muttered Gerald as he rubbed his eyes before rolling off the bed. After slipping his jacket on and exiting his room, Gerald realized that the person at the door was the individual whom Takuya had selected last night to deal with the Fareast Consortium.

Upon seeing Gerald, the Futaba family member who went by Takushu then quickly replied, "Indeed... After meeting him earlier, he insisted that he follow us back! Not

daring to refuse, we simply led him back to the manor... With that said, please meet up with him, Mr. Crawford... We really can't afford to offend him..."

"I will. Lead the way," said Gerald as he recalled just how much Derrick had helped.

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Derrick himself could be seen nervously pacing at the door. After all, he was well aware of how abrupt his visit was, and he was honestly worried that this might upset Gerald. Even so, he knew he had to come over. After all, he hadn't been able to meet with Gerald in years! With how much Gerald moved around, Derrick was seriously worried that he wouldn't be able to see Gerald again till another few years had passed if he didn't make his move now.

His fears, however, were quick to vanish when he saw Gerald walking toward him. Smiling broadly, Derrick then jogged into the manor while waving his hand as he shouted, "Brother Gerald!"

Watching as Derrick fished a pack of cigarettes out before offering one to him, Gerald accepted one before replying with a smile, "So... What brings you here on this fine day?"

"I... just wanted to see you, honestly. After all, if I missed this chance, who knows how long it'll be before we can meet again!" said Derrick as he lit Gerald's cigarette while grinning sheepishly.

“And here I thought you needed my help with something...” joked Gerald with a chuckle.

“Oh, please, brother Gerald! As if I’d ever ask for your help all willy-nilly! However, feel free to request for more help from me if you ever need it!” replied Derrick with a laugh.

Shaking his head, Gerald then tugged his jacket closer to him since the early autumn morning was slightly chilly before saying, “Regardless, let’s talk inside...”

Nodding in response, Derrick then followed Gerald all the way to the Futaba manor’s parlor. Though a few maids had been cleaning the parlor before they arrived, the second they saw Gerald leading a guest in, they hurriedly left.

Either way, once Derrick was seated, he cleared his throat before saying, “So... if you’re wondering how I got here, it’s because I asked the Futabas in charge of the collaboration to lead me here... I hope my arrival isn’t disturbing you in any way...”

Understanding that Derrick was simply worried that he had left a bad impression on him, Gerald then shook his head as he replied, “Not at all.”

“Oh, thank god! I was so worried that you’d be annoyed! Still, to be able to meet you again after so many years... What luck!” said Derrick with a grin.

“Alright, now you just sound weird,” replied Gerald with a slightly raised brow.

Chuckling in response, Derrick then flicked his cigarette before leaning slightly forward as he said, “Well... to be completely honest, I also came here today to tell you something...”

“I’m assuming you really need my help?” asked Gerald as he crossed his legs.

“Far from it. I’m planning on handing thirty percent of the Fareast Consortium’s shares to you,” replied Derrick while shaking his head.

“... Thirty percent?” said Gerald as he raised an eyebrow.

With how high the Fareast Consortium ranked not only in Japan, but also in the whole of Asia, Gerald knew for a fact that getting even three percent of that company’s shares would be enough for a family to be luxuriously set for life for a few generations.

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Based on a rough estimate, Gerald figured that thirty percent of the shares would probably amount to ten billion dollars.

“Bingo. I’ve already been planning to tell you this for years, though I was never able to find you... With that said, now that we’ve finally met again, please accept my offering. I’ve already bought some of the company’s shares, and I’ll be transferring them to you later,” replied Derrick with a nod, his eyes blazing with passion. From the looks of it, he really wanted Gerald to have the money.

After a slight pause, Gerald simply chuckled before saying, “Aren’t you worried that I’ll take over your company after you hand me the shares?”

“So what if you do? You saved my life! Had you not given me a chance to live, I wouldn’t have been able to start the Fareast Consortium in the first place! Besides, you simply aren’t the kind of person to do such a thing!” replied Derrick.

Though his encounter with those bandits had taken place years ago, he still had nightmares about it.

Nightmares where Gerald never came to his rescue, resulting in his head getting chopped off by an ax. With that in mind, every time he woke up drenched in cold sweat, his gratitude toward Gerald only grew stronger and stronger.

Either way, upon hearing that, Gerald poured himself a cup of tea while saying, “Saving you was only a small matter for me, so I really can’t accept your shares. However, if you still insist, I’m willing to accept the offer, though in return, we can’t meet up ever again. Which is it going to be?”

“That...” muttered Derrick, clearly not expecting Gerald to say that.

“Putting that aside, tell me honestly. Is the current Futaba family capable of meeting your company’s requirements for the collaboration?” asked Gerald as he attempted to change the topic.

Upon hearing that, Derrick’s expression turned slightly serious as he replied, “Unfortunately, they can’t...”

“How large is the gap?” asked Gerald who had expected that answer. After all, while the old Futaba family may have been able to pull it off, those leeches pretty much ruined everything by replacing teamwork with greed for money.

Gerald, for one, knew that Derrick had only offered the Futabas large contracts since Derrick had been keen to please him. While this would allow the Futaba family to revive, Gerald was honestly worried that Derrick’s decision would eventually come back to burden him. In fact, it could possibly affect the Fareast Consortium as a whole, and Gerald really didn’t want Derrick to suffer a loss just because he wanted to help him.

Clearing his throat, Derrick then said, “Well... I’ll be saying things frankly then...”

“Go ahead. There’s only the two of us here now. Say whatever’s on your mind,” replied Gerald with a nod.

“Well, as you’ve said, the gap is a bit wide... Since we worked together once a few years back, I vaguely remembered the family being quite capable. However, after discussing with them in the past few days, I’ve unfortunately found that the family’s capabilities have greatly declined...” muttered Derrick with a sigh.

Honestly, had Gerald not asked him to help them, he wouldn’t have given the Futabas a chance at all, at least from the moment he learned that their family was in such poor condition.

“To be honest, you could just hand them simpler contracts, you know? Anything good enough that’ll help them recover. Following that, you can give them the more standard contracts,” replied Gerald as he stroked his untrimmed goatee.

“I had thought about that too, though in the end, I just told my secretary to loosen the requirements. As a precaution, I’ve also selected a group of technical staff and company management personnel who’ll be heading to the Futaba family’s company to lend them a hand in a few days. With that said, this shouldn’t be too much of a problem in the end,” said Derrick.

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“That’s good to hear,” replied Gerald with a nod.

“Indeed. Still, you really don’t have to worry about this. I know what I’m doing, so there shouldn’t be any unexpected problems,” said Derrick as he nodded in response. In the end, he was still the one who had established a massive business empire. With that said, dealing with a small issue like this was no problem to him.

“That’s reassuring to hear,” replied Gerald with a smile before sipping on some tea.

Smiling back, Derrick was then prompted to ask, “So... How long are you planning to stay here, brother Gerald...?”

“Not too sure myself, honestly. I guess I’ll just stay till my problems are solved,” replied Gerald as he shook his head. Though he said that, he knew that if he really needed to leave quickly, then all he needed was a day to completely vanquish the Kanagawas and Hanyus off the face of the planet.

That was, of course, only if he absolutely needed to leave. After all, now that Takuya was aware of his goal, there was a chance that the patriarch could suddenly find or recall things about Yearning Island. Besides, even if Gerald left Japan, he didn’t have any further leads.

However, if Takuya couldn’t find anything in the end, just staying here would be a major waste of time as well. These were pretty much the thoughts in his head after leaving the secret room the night before.

“Problems? Brother Gerald, tell me what they are and I just may be able to help you!” declared Derrick as he came closer to Gerald.

“I know you’re keen to help, but this isn’t exactly something you’re capable of helping with...” replied Gerald with a slightly bitter smile.

“We won’t know till you tell me, right?” said Derrick, refusing to give in.

Not wanting to talk about the Seadom tribe and Yearning Island, Gerald simply decided to ask, “Then tell me... How much do you know about the Yamashitas?”

Gerald, for one, was pretty sure that Derrick had heard of the Yamashitas before after living here for so long as well as the rumors that there were ninjas in that family. Based on what he now knew about the ninjas, Gerald wondered how much Derrick actually knew about them.

“I... don’t know much about them, sadly... All I know is that the Yamashitas lack any connections with the other families or consortia. What more, there are ever rumors that there are ninjas in that family, though call bullsh*t on that...” muttered Derrick after thinking for a while as he shook his head.

“I know, right?” replied Gerald with a subtle smile.

“Why? Do you have any conflicts with that family?” asked Derrick.

“Not at all. I was just curious about them,” replied Gerald as he shook his head.

“I see... Well, they are a strange family... One of the strangest in Japan, actually,” muttered Derrick as he thought about them.

“Pretty much. Also, since we’re already talking about the families here, what do you know about the Hanyus and Kanagawas?” asked Gerald.

“Well... the Kanagawas are one of the largest families in the country, and they’ve constantly made business dealings with the Fareast Consortium. As for the Hanyus, all I know is that they’re an assassin family... I don’t know much else about them,” replied Derrick with a slight frown.

“How much is ‘not much’...?” asked Gerald who honestly felt that the Hanyus were a bigger problem.

After all, with that many assassins in that family, if he didn’t handle them all at once, then he would eventually cause unnecessary trouble to himself.

“I mean... what aspects are you referring to...?” replied Derrick.

“Everything you know about them. How’s this? Once you get back, write everything you know about the two families before sending me the results,” said Gerald in a serious tone.