Noah shot an icy glare at the person who had just barged in.

"How many times have I told you?!"

"We need patience to achieve great things!"

"B-But..."

The man was in utter distress.

"You useless filth!" Noah yelled.

"What is it? Speak up!"

The man hurriedly turned on his phone and showed them the news headline.

"The important guest of the Yorks of Hong Kong and the city's man of the hour, Harvey York, has raided the Island Nations and took down the culprit from the terrible incident ten years ago!"

The title was only in a plain black text, but it was enough to shine the light on many problems from Hong Kong and Las Vegas's current situation.

Julian's face instantly darkened at this.

"That b*stard!"

"That was supposed to be my achievement!"

"Now everything's ruined!"

"Someone's planning to keep me down my entire life!"

"Talk! Who did this?!"

Julian was boiling with anger, fury seeping out of his every pore. His calm demeanor earlier was completely gone.

He was planning to use his achievement at the Island Nations to solidify his position as the man in charge of the Sentries of York. Perhaps, he could even use that as a stepping stone to rise as the lord of the family...

Now, everything went up in flames as soon as the word spread.

Julian desperately wanted to kill the one who did this, whoever it was!

The man with the laptop swallowed in fear before replying quietly, "Y-Young Master Julian..."

"According to the information we received..."

"Vince York was the one who publicized the entire thing!"

"He even contacted Hong Kong Daily News and explained the entire thing!"

"The statement was so acute, as if he had witnessed it himself!"

"Simply put, there's no hiding that Harvey was the one who did everything."

Bang!

Julian flung the laptop to the ground, smashing it to bits and pieces. He gritted his teeth, furious.

"Vince!"

"You damn b*stard!"

Before Noah could even stop him, Julian immediately got on his Land Cruiser in a fit of rage.

"Vince!"

An hour later, Julian kicked down the door of Vince's office.

Aside from Vince, most of his trusted subordinates were there.

Quinton, Matthew, Ellis, and Louis of the Four Masters of Hong Kong were present.

Kaitlyn and Carol could be seen inside the office as well.

They were all the prominent figures of Hong Kong and Las Vegas's younger generation.

Julian was a part of the circle, too.

Though as soon as he kicked the door in, he suddenly realized that he might have split off from the group.

At this moment, everyone there seemed like they came from a different world than him.

"Goodness! Where are your manners, Julian?"

Vince smiled when he saw the seething Julian. He casually threw a golden poker card on the table, revealing a king.

"How dare you act this arrogant, Julian?" Kaitlyn said, just as calm as Vince.

"You're in the face of Young Lord York! At least show some respect."

"People who don't know any better might just mistake you as the young lord instead!"

Kaitlyn's tone was calm, but her words pierced through Julian's heart like sharp daggers.

At this very moment, Julian was forced into a corner.

He wouldn't dare admit that he wanted to take Vince's place in front of the latter's face.

Even so, he couldn't blurt out that he was scared of Vince in front of so many people. In the end, he kept mum and said nothing.

The air between them was tense, the tension so thick it could be cut with a knife.

Matthew and Quinton exchanged glances, smiling at one another as they watched the scene before them unfold.

They knew their little tricks had no use to Vince, but...

They were still hoping for a slim chance it might happen.

If Julian could disrupt Vince's circle and sow discord among everyone, they would probably get the opportunity to take Vunce's position.

Julian took a deep breath and forced himself to calm down.

He narrowed his eyes at Vince before saying quietly, "It's my fault for barging in here so suddenly, Young Lord York."

[&]quot;However, I couldn't help myself."

He flung a laptop to Vince's face.

"You were the one who sent this to Daily Hong Kong, weren't you?"

Everyone threw a quick glance at the laptop, then exchanged grins of amusement with one another.

They all knew just how much this achievement meant to Julian.

Yet, it was easily written off.

This was why Julian was throwing a fit of rage.

Vince shot a few careless glances at the laptop, but he didn't give a straight answer.

"Why would you doubt me rather than Harvey?"

"Logically speaking, this news would benefit him the most."

"It's true he's a b*stard," Julian spat coldly, "but at least he keeps his promises!"

"There's no need for him to play small tricks and stab me in the back for no reason!"

"There's no chance that he's the one behind this."

There was something else that Julian didn't say.

Based on Harvey's position, there was no point for him to do something this petty.

And since the third house was already standing with Marcel, Harvey would have to be insane to do something like this in the first place. Quinton chuckled playfully.

"I know Harvey, Julian. I know him more than you ever could."

"Even I wouldn't be so sure that he was the one who did such a thing."

"And why would you be, anyway?"

"Looks like you got to know him pretty well after joining him in battle, huh?"

"Are we supposed to see this as an act of betrayal?"

"Nobody cares about your motives, Julian," Matthew added.

"After all, everyone here has their own goals."

"But you... You trust a man who's going against the Yorks of Hong Kong! Not to mention, it's the same person Young Lord York is trying to finish off!"

"Are you betraying us?"

"If that's the case, then I'm afraid that you have to get out of here!"

"Anyone can set foot here, but we won't allow a damn traitor!"

Julian ignored their blatant insults and narrowed his eyes at Vince.

"You haven't answered my question yet, Young Lord York."

"Did you do it or not?!"

Even though Julian had already made sure that Vince was the culprit behind the news headline through his sources...

In his heart, he still clung to a faint hope.

He still thought of Vince as a prominent figure with an open mind. Surely Vince wouldn't resort to something this petty!

Although Vince was most likely the person who did this, Julian still hoped that Vince would deny the claim.

But Vince, who was being glared at so fiercely by Julian, shrugged and casually threw the laptop on the table.

"That's right. I did this."

"I was the one who told Hong Kong Daily News everything, details and all."

"Even the manuscript and title were reviewed by me."

"Oh, and let me tell you another thing. I bought out all the papers for today. All of Hong Kong knows about this by now."

"But it's only natural. There's no need to hide the truth now, is there?"

Seeing Vince's righteous smile, a hint of disdain flashed in Julian's eyes.

"Why are you doing this, Vince?" Julian asked coldly.

"What can you gain out of this?"

"This doesn't even benefit you!"

Vince chuckled.

"Does it not?"

"I'm trying to make trouble for Harvey."

"After all, that guy thinks he's invincible. He's running around provoking every single person he comes across. He even killed Miyata on his own!"

"Since he's that skillful, everyone should know that he raided the Shindan Way's headquarters and captured Akio alive."

"As soon as the Islanders find out about this, it'll be easy for Harvey to deal with them even if they keep hiding in their country."

"Only then will the fearful Islanders raise their swords again to fight Harvey to the death..."

"Didn't Grandma York already get Jacknife to do the job?!" Julian spat harshly.

"Why do something so unnecessary?!"

"We should plan ahead against someone like Harvey. Am I wrong?" Vince replied calmly.

"Besides, I've been working together with the Islanders for so many years. We're all brothers and sisters here."

"If my good friends know that my little cousin raided the Shindan Way..."

"Surely they'd have a terrible impression of me, right?"

"I'm trying to protect you."

"After all, these people are quite terrifying..."

Julian's face kept twitching as he listened to Vince's words.

Before he could even say anything, Vince stood up.

He then strode toward Julian and patted the latter on the shoulder.

"One more thing. You're trying to get this mission under your belt, aren't you?"

"You're trying to climb the ranks, yes?"

"For your own sake, I'll have to keep you down."

"But don't you worry. If you and Third Uncle can redeem yourselves in time, you'll still have your position as the man in charge of the Sentries of York when I become the new lord of the family. You have my word."

"That's why, Julian. It seems pretty worth it for me to spill the beans now, doesn't it?"

A prideful smile hung on Vince's lips. He looked as if he was doing the right thing.

Julian wanted nothing more than to slap Vince in the face, but he managed to hold himself back.

Ellis chuckled at them from behind.

"Let me give you another piece of information, Julian."

"Just now, the Five Royal Gates and the remaining Five Schools of Martial Arts have already gathered in Kyoto to hold an oathtaking rally in the royal palace."

"They're going to seek out those who are involved in the Shindan Way's incident. This time, they're not going to hold back!"

"This time, Young Lord York's plans saved your life!"

"You better thank him properly! You would've been dead if it weren't for him."

"Even worse, the Yorks of Hong Kong would be chased down by the Islanders!"

"Young Lord York had to clean up after your damn mess! He did so much for you..."

"Yet here you are, questioning him."

"We're disappointed in you, Julian!"

Upon seeing everyone's smug self-righteousness, Julian took a

deep breath.

"When did we get scared of a bunch of mere Islanders?" Julian snarled coldly.

"Are you serving them now?"

"Don't forget! We're all from Country H!"

"We beat those Islanders to a pulp during the Euro-American Battlefield!"

"They wouldn't dare cause trouble here!"

"They can't bring in their troops, but it'd be easy enough for them to send in a few killers now, won't it?"

Vince patted Julian's shoulder again.

"We're all adults here. At least try to be mature."

"They have all the swordsmen, ninjas, onmyojis, and conjurers they need..."

"They won't even need guns if they want you dead."

"I know you've been treated unfairly, but for the sake of the family's safety..."

Vince smiled warmly before waving his hand. A glass of juice was sent over to him soon after.

He handed the juice to Julian and said cheerfully, "To compensate for your loss, I'll give you something else when I become the new lord."

"For example, I'll let you be in charge of the Lord's Guardians."

"You should understand how much I trust you now, right?"

"As long as you don't betray me, you'd still have a promising future ahead of you."

Vince's goal was simple: he wanted to bring Julian down before luring the latter in with petty benefits.

Julian was caught off guard when he heard about the news regarding Shindan Way. At the same time, he understood his own strength.

He was promised a lot of benefits as well, giving him the urge to serve under Vince once again.

Vince's speech was crafted to perfection.

Even though Vince wasn't the lord of the family yet, his promises were already extremely enticing to Julian.

Julian's eyes twitched for a moment.

"And what if I decline?" he asked.

"Decline?"

Kaitlyn was the one who spoke.

She sized up Julian with her pretty eyes narrowed.

"What right do you have to even do that, Julian?"

"So what if you lose a bit of credit for Young Lord York's interests?"

"Are you saying that your well-being is far more important than Young Lord York himself?"