- "Are you saying that Jacknife was your master?!
- "And he was the one who wanted my grandson dead?!" asked Grandma York after being dead silent for a while.
- "Do you even have proof?!"
- "I do!"

Akio Yashiro clapped his hands before a Dragon Palace elite handed over an old voice recorder.

"Here's a recording of him from back then. I'm sure you'll be able to hear his voice judging from how well you know him.

"Since this wasn't a direct order from the Island Nations, I kept this with me just in case!

"I didn't want to be blamed for what happened. That's why."

Grandma York showed a horrible look as she made a gesture. Then, the recorder was brought to her side.

After playing the recording for a long while, her eyes were wide-open before she instantly crushed the recorder.

Obviously, she wanted to destroy the evidence.

Marcel York's expression slightly changed, but he did not utter a single word.

Harvey York looked at Grandma York with a playful look.

Grandma York stumbled off her seat and slowly walked toward Harvey before bowing in front of him.

"Harvey.

"I was a horrible judge of character. I caused what happened ten years ago.

"I hurt my own son and got my grandson killed in the process.

"You have made an outstanding achievement for killing Jacknife!

"From now on, you'll be treated as an important guest of the family!

"Your status will be the same as the lord of the family!

"And you'll be treated as such!"

"The Yorks of Hong Kong will obey this command!

"Disobeyers will be treated like this cane here!"

The next moment, Grandma York crushed the cane in her hand to dust.

Nobody expected that she would even proclaim something like that!

Since she declared this in front of all those people, Harvey's status within the family would be solidified!

Vince York's face lost all color almost immediately. He had never thought that everything Harvey said was true.

Marcel frowned. He did not know what Grandma York was planning to do at that moment.

Instead, Harvey just stared at her with a profound look on his face. He was utterly impressed.

This woman was quite the brilliant mind. Her compromise for the sake of the bigger picture was truly skillful.

Even before anyone could react to the situation, Grandma York said, "Since everything's all figured out by now, we should bury the hatchet immediately!

"Since the main culprit from ten years ago had been put to death, the situation has come to an end!

"Next, we'll be talking about Vince's rise to power!

"None of you have any objections, yes?"

Grandma York immediately changed the subject.

A few simple words were enough to take everyone back to the subject at hand without anyone raising any suspicions.

"Hold it!"

Harvey took a step forward with a smile on his face.

- "I'm grateful for the treatment that you're giving me...
- "But, I've done nothing much for the family in the first place!
- "I only killed Jacknife to save my own skin!
- "That's why I'm not interested in your precious 'reward'!
- "Please, take back the order.
- "Why don't we hear from Akio about how the Islanders have been making a name for Vince instead?"

Everyone was shocked after hearing those words!

'The Islanders assisted with Vince York's rise?!'

Along with Jacknife's incident, the entire incident was filled with conspiracies. It was terrifying to even think about.

Grandma York's expression turned dark instantly. She must have figured it out by then, but she still would not dare to face the music.

She only gave Harvey a so-called statement for him to stop pursuing the matter.

But she did not expect that he would reveal everything at once without any mercy!

Marcel York frowned before he squinted at Akio Yashiro.

"Tell us everything, Sword Saint!

"If you do, I'll guarantee your safety!"

Akio lightly chuckled.

"It's not really a big deal."

"For example, when Young Lord York had some business in the Island Nations, we were pulling the strings to make sure that he made good bargains and take full credit for it! "We were the ones who orchestrated his assassinations before letting him go scot-free. That way, his importance would be shown to the public!"

"The most important thing is his strength as a God of War. He only got this far because he consumed a royal treasure from the Island Nations, a pill to enhance his strength!

"But this pill has a significant disadvantage!

"After becoming a full-fledged God of War, the person who consumed it will no longer be able to increase their strength further. They will be stuck as an ordinary God of War for all eternity!

"The person would also need to consume another pill created by the royal family after ten years!

"If not, the person's strength will deteriorate rapidly!

"Simply put, we made Vince immensely strong while creating opportunities for him!

"In such a short amount of time, he was able to accomplish so much and take hold the position as the young lord! He would become the lord of the family soon after!

"And after that, symptoms of consuming the pill would start to show...

"Vince would become a puppet for the Island Nations

then!

"Unless he's giving up all of his authority, he would have to do whatever we tell him to!

"He would have no way to disobey!

"This was our plan!

"And Jacknife was the man in charge of the operation.

"But now..."

Akio let out a long sigh.

After making arrangements for years, Harvey managed to see through an intricate plan in just a single day.

This was an unimaginable loss.

After hearing Akio's words, Cory York's expression frantically changed. He did realize that his son was climbing the ranks a little too fast...

But he never expected that the Islanders were also behind this.

Lexie York almost fell to the ground while her face had completely lost all color.

She had not expected Vince to become a God of War only because of some drug...

The higher-ups of the family were all showing horrible looks on their faces. Everyone was calmly sipping their tea while they pondered over something...

Akio then squinted at Vince with a faint smile.

"Would you like me to show you more proof on how we've been investing in you?"

Vince York was looking extremely glum at this moment.

Cory York was also showing a horrible expression. He was glaring at Akio Yashiro with a deathly look in his eyes, as if he wanted to kill Akio himself.

Lexie York was horrified. She had not expected that Vince would have such a deep connection with the Islanders.

Did Vince himself know that he was being supported by them during his rise then?!

Even Grandma York looked weird as she intently stared at Vince. Her persistence and support for Vince were steadily dwindling.

Along with Akio's word, a Dragon Palace elite later walked out with a few trays.

Pictures, contracts, ledgers, and various documents were brought out. Everyone understood that this was solid proof without even perusing it.

If not, Harvey York would never allow all this to show up here, judging from his attitude.

Harvey then squinted at Vince.

"Is there anything you'd like to explain, Young Lord York?"

"There's nothing to explain!"

Vince was not enraged, nor did he lose control. He just stayed calm like never before.

He looked at Marcel York and Grandma York with a collected gaze and said, "I'll admit. I had a close relationship with the Islanders before.

"We had collaborated on a few big projects.

"I also received some of their gifts.

"But, what's the problem with that?

"The Yorks of Hong Kong is the face of Country H! Of course, we need to make friends with people across the globe!"

"Besides, Country H and the Island Nations are practically neighbors!

"If we have a good relationship with the Island Nations' royal family, our position in Country H will be solidified!

"I accomplished all this!

"Since I'm pretty discreet, I didn't bring up any of this to the public.

"But instead, you're using something like this to criticize me?!

"I'll have to thank you for that then!"

Everyone looked at each other after hearing Vince's words.

Even though Akio's words were quite harsh, revealing that Vince's rise was all because of the Islanders' manipulation tactic...

Vince managed to turn those words around, proving that he was just a business partner with the Island Nations.

Judging from this perspective, Vince did nothing wrong. Harvey chuckled.

"What are you saying, Vince?

"Are you telling us that you're only collaborating with them?

"How are you not ashamed?

"As the young lord of the family, you're still here running your mouth after being treated as some puppet.

"Don't you think that it's embarrassing?"

"Embarrassing?"

A hint of playfulness was showing in Vince's eyes.

"Why would I be embarrassed?

"Country H and the Island Nations are neighboring countries!

"We're all strong countries from the far east! Isn't it

normal to borrow their strength to climb the ranks?

"Don't forget! We have a good relationship with them!

"Even the higher-ups of the country have been in contact with the Island Nations for years!

"I'm not even selling out my own country! What's wrong with that?!"

- "Are you sure about that?
- "Everyday people don't understand the true relationship between Country H and the Island Nations, but how can you not?
- "All those heinous things they did to us during the second world war will never be forgotten! History never forgets!"

Vince York scoffed while showing a playful look on his face.

"How naive can you get, Harvey York?!

"You're still bringing that up till today?!

"That's old news!

"Let's not even talk about its credibility!

"Even if it's real, have you not heard of a saying?

"Better to reconcile than to contend!

"It's been so long already! As civilized people of Country H, why can't you just forgive their past mistakes?!

"We all belong in the same waters, after all! There's no running away from each other!

"I'm sure they've been investing in our country for a

while now!

- "We've also been collaborating quite a bit!
- "So what if I work with the Islanders if I can afford to do that?
- "I represent the unity between Country H and the Island Nations!
- "I don't think I've done anything wrong no matter what you say!
- "Even if they have their own ulterior motives, don't you forget...
- "Who doesn't?
- "As long as those motives don't affect the country at large, clearly it's a good thing to work together, right?!
- "After all, we're not just neighboring countries!
- "Don't think that you can come and lecture me just because you read some history books!
- "When I studied the international political climate, you were still playing with mud!"
- After hearing Vince's explanation, Cory York took a deep breath and stepped forward with his hands clasped together.
- "Grandma York, Lord York, and everyone here...
- "As Vince mentioned, he had connections with the

Islanders!

"But, everyone understands that Hong Kong and Las Vegas are special. This is a prime spot for Country H to trade with the outside world!

"If we want our families to rise, we can't close off our borders, right?!

"Even if Vince had been collaborating with the Islanders, as long as he knows his limits, there shouldn't be anything wrong!

"As for the Islanders providing Vince with benefits...

"So what if this is the truth? Other than proving Vince's capabilities...

"What else does this serve?

"Do you have anything to prove that Vince sold out Hong Kong and Las Vegas for these benefits? Did he even do anything to harm the Yorks of Hong Kong and the country at large?

"If not, then I think it's pretty ridiculous to attack Vince with something like this!"

Lexie York took a deep breath.

"Right! I have been taking care of Vince since he was a small boy!

"As the lady of Dragon Palace, I understand that there are lines that should never be crossed while interacting with foreign countries.

"I've been watching most of his businesses! I swear by the Dragon Palace that Vince had never once sold out the Yorks of Hong Kong or the country for his own interests!

"The head house, second house, and I guarantee it!"

All those people stood up for Vince and used all their might to defend his actions.

After all, everyone knew that Vince York would have no chance of becoming the young lord if he was charged with treason.

He would also have no chance to rise in the future.

Ultimately, the higher-ups of Country H would not allow someone like this to rise.

That was why they tried to rationalize Vince's actions.

After pondering over the situation for a while, Grandma York kept silent.

She thought that Cory York and the others might have been right. After all, it was normal for Vince to work together with the Islanders for the sake of business.

On the other hand, Vince's capabilities were shown to the public because of this.

"I have something else to say, Grandma York!"

Before anyone else could even speak, Vince stepped forward with his hands clasped together.

"If you think it was a mistake for me to work with the Islanders...

"I will apologize!

"I'll even swear to stop interacting with them from today onward!

"This should be enough to prove my innocence, right?

"But, I'll tell you this first! I will not bear any responsibility for the losses if I stop working with them!"

'He won't bear any responsibility?!'

'There are repercussions for calling off his collaboration with the Islanders?!'

Everyone looked at each other at that very moment.

Grandma York's calm gaze froze before she squinted.

"What do you mean by that, Vince?

"Are you trying to force my hand here?"

"You're mistaken, Grandma York!"

Vince was showing a terrified and honest look on his face.

"At this point, surely I must make this fair for everyone!"

Vince seemed extremely vulnerable right now, but it was quite the opposite.

After all, he knew that there was no turning back.

Either he would sit on the throne, or his position would be forever robbed.

That was why he had no intention to back down.

- "If everyone thinks I'm ruining the family's reputation for working with the Islanders...
- "I can call off every single project I have with them!
- "But, every single one of you will have to bear the consequences! After all, I'm not the one who wants to call off the collaboration!
- "If you're all willing to trust me, then I'll definitely continue the projects.
- "The Yorks of Hong Kong will only benefit from this! Our profits will only grow exponentially!
- "The whole world revolves around profit!
- "After profit, the whole world goes!
- "I'm only fighting for the sake of the Yorks of Hong Kong!
- "All I want is to get closer to the Islanders!
- "There's nothing wrong with that, right?!
- "Are we just going to stop working with them...
- "Because of some history book?!
- "What about our livelihoods?!
- "Even if all those things were true...
- "We live in peace now! I've already forgiven the Island Nations!

"So what if I befriend and do business with them?!"

Then, Vince squinted at Marcel York.

"You've been profiting off my hard work after all these years, Lord York!

"Are you turning your back on me after you're done using me?! How shameless can you get?!"

Harvey York could not help but squint after hearing Vince York's rambling.

This was not his first time going against Vince, but he never expected that he would actually be this shameless.

How dare he even spout something like this?

It was bad enough that Vince was using those stupid reasons to prove his innocence.

But judging from Vince's demeanor, after being in contact with the Island Nations and relying on them to climb the ranks, he was already treating them as if they were his masters.

He would even forget about the bloodshed during the second world war without any qualms.

Harvey could not even begin to imagine the things that he would say and do after this!

"Vince!"

Marcel York finally spoke out at that instant. A hint of regret flashed in his eyes as he looked at the man he thought about being raised under his wing.

"We never had any rules forbidding us from working with foreigners!

- "Nor did we have anything that prevents us from coming in contact with the Islanders!
- "But since the family was built, there had already been a bottom line!
- "As the people of this country, we have a duty to protect our own borders!
- "Working with outsiders expands our territory, but there's another purpose for this. It was to prevent outsiders from going rampant inside our borders!
- "Our main goal is to limit them while guaranteeing the country's interests!
- "Our own benefits should be the least of our worries!
- "Do you still remember all this?
- "Or have you abandoned your teachings already by now?
- "If we betray our country for the sake of your own interests...
- "Then there was no need for us to remain as the worst of the five hidden families from day one!
- "I've taken care of the family for so many years. The family would've been rapidly rising if I had given the outsiders some of our benefits!
- "Why do you think that so many outside forces have failed to try getting a piece of Hong Kong and Las Vegas?

- "Because I didn't allow them to!
- "If you want to be the young lord, fine!
- "But can you do it?!"

Vince let out a cold chuckle.

- "Times have changed, Fourth Uncle!" exclaimed Vince, full of confidence.
- "You're still stuck in the second world war!
- "All you think about is closing off your borders! You're too narrow-minded!
- "Now, we're in the age of globalization!
- "For any country to expand their horizons, they'll have to open up to the world!
- "We have to work with outside forces!
- "I was wondering why the Yorks of Hong Kong are still so behind after I worked so hard!
- "So, you were behind all this?!
- "Just tell it to me straight, Fourth Uncle! You're scared of me being too outstanding! That's why you're using these righteous words to suppress me!
- "You think we're all stupid here?!
- "We see right through you!

- "I shed blood, sweat, and tears for the family for so many years!
- "But where's my damn recognition?!
- "If I don't become the young lord...
- "Who in Hong Kong or Las Vegas will even agree to that?!
- "You think you can just hide the truth from everyone with some stupid charges?"

"Shut up!"

Selena Judd could not hold her feelings back any longer. She furiously slammed and broke a table with unbridled rage showing on her face.

"Your damn recognition?!

"Hide the truth from everyone?!

"How could you say something like this?! I used to think you were just a sweet and gentle boy!

"You think there's nothing wrong with collaborating with the Islanders, right?

"You think they're the ones supporting you behind the scenes too, don't you?"

Vince York coldly chuckled.

"What's wrong with that?

"They have a great economy! Their swordsmanship is unparalleled! They even take good care of me!

"They mean well!

"I've been working together with them, and they support my rise to power!

"All this happened because of my own capabilities!

- "Are you jealous?
- "Then, get the Islanders to your side!
- "What's wrong with being capable?!
- "Stop trying to give me a bad name already!

Vince snorted another cold chuckle.

"I'll tell you again! If you're going to deny my accomplishments and stop me from being the young lord because of this...

"I'll make sure to get back at you for this!"

"They mean well, you say?

Selena let out a chuckle.

- "Let's just talk about what happened ten years ago!
- "For you to have a chance at becoming the young lord...
- "They didn't even spare a damn baby!
- "I'm sure you can see the whole picture just from this alone! Don't you understand that they want the country to dwindle?!
- "The Islanders have been causing trouble within our country's borders for many years!
- "From Wolsing, Mordu, then Hong Kong and Las Vegas! They've been involved with every single one of these incidents!

"Because of those people, many families' lives have been ruined!

"Do you really not understand this, or are you choosing to ignore all of it?!

"It's fine for the two countries to have a good relationship!

"But, we have only fought since the very beginning!

"After all, the Island Nations used America to suppress us, preventing our country from flourishing!

"You call yourself a God of War, yet you don't understand any of this?!

"Or are you saying that you do, but you don't care for the sake of rising up the ranks?!

"If that were the case, then I would not let you under my wing no matter what!

"You have no right to become the young lord!"

Vince burst out in laughter.

"You have no say in that matter!

"Neither does Marcel York!

"Even Grandma York has no say in this!

"Only I do!"

Soon after, Vince raised his hand before snapping his

fingers.

Hundreds of men rushed out from the second floor simultaneously after hearing the snap!

All of them raised their firearms before taking their safeties off and pointing them right at the crowd.

The smell of faint gunpowder wafted in the air. The situation was extremely tense.

Everyone was showing horrified looks on their faces.

Vince had no regard for anything at that moment. He had already prepared for a coup.

Under everyone's shocked gaze, Vince showed a faint smile as he walked toward Harvey York. He then lightly patted his face and said, "See that? You can't stop me, Harvey.

"What are you going to do?

"Lecture me about justice?

"Patriotism?

"Or are you going to stop me with your ludicrous sense of righteousness instead?"

Harvey York calmly stepped forward before slapping Vince York in the face.

Slap!

Vince, who was still being extremely arrogant then, was not able to come back to his senses.

"You have no chance."

Harvey looked indifferent.

"The foundation of the Yorks of Hong Kong is to protect the country's borders!

"You don't even understand such simple logic, yet you still try to climb the ranks?

"I'll tell you exactly why I can stop you today!

Harvey took another step forward and swung the back of his palm.

Slap!

"This one's for you disrespecting your elders and the damn law!

"You think you can be the young lord without your elders approval?! Keep dreaming!

Slap!

"This one's for you having such rancid core values!

"The Islanders want us dead, yet you're here treating them like your masters?! What are you thinking?!

Slap!

"This one's for you disrespecting the dead and the history at large!

"Do you know how hard it was for the country to rise?!

"The Islanders tried killing off all of us, but the brave men from our country fought back without hesitation!

"Do you know what it means to ensure the safety of your homeland, even if it means bloodshed?

"Do you know what it means to be the warrior of your country?

"Do you know what it means to be the vanguard during your country's time of need?

"You know nothing, yet you're still here rambling on about working together!"

Slap!

Harvey swung slap after slap, sending Vince staggering left and right.

"What right do you have to forgive the Islanders for the brave men who died?!

"What right do you have to climb the ranks?

"Are you even worthy?

"No!"

Harvey showed an emotionless gaze before he swung a kick.

Vince was sent flying off while he was completely dazed. A horrible expression was showing on his face when he slammed to the ground.

Everyone was shocked when Harvey still sent Vince flying when hundreds of barrels were pointed right toward him.

Everyone understood what it meant to have integrity.

This was justice!

With hundreds of men protecting him, Vince seemed strong, but they could not even come to their senses in front of Harvey.

Harvey was about to take another step forward when he saw Vince still lying on the ground.

Suddenly, an old man hidden in the crowd appeared right in front of Vince before throwing a punch at Harvey.

Bang!

Harvey countered the blow midair with a punch of his own.

A dull and intense echo could be heard when the two fists clashed.

The old man managed to block the attack, but he had to take a few steps back to regain his footing.

Harvey, on the other hand, remained motionless with a calm look on his face.

Everyone was stunned when they saw what had happened.

They recognized the old man. He was an expert hidden within the family who was also in charge of Vince's safety.

But this so-called expert could not even land a single hit on Harvey.

"I'm going to kill Vince. There's nothing you can do about it."

Harvey calmly took another step forward.