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A few mages stepped forward and studied the arcane array, but they maintained a distance from it because none of them dared to touch it. After a while, an elderly man approached Emiliano and spoke.

“Mr. Fairchild, this is an ancient arcane array. If a needle is cast on the arcane array, it can’t be moved away unless we break the arcane array. And there’s Death Trap Formation in this arcane array. If we try destroying it by force, we’ll be burned to death by the spiritual fire, like what happened earlier.”

“Is it really that powerful?” Emiliano knitted his brows. “Will you be able to dismantle this arcane array?” “Yes. I’ve studied this kind of arcane array before. I can dismantle it, but I need some time, the elder replied.

“How much time do you need?” Emiliano continued asking. “A day. A day is all I need to shatter the arcane array,” the elderly man said while raising his index finger.

Upon hearing that, Emiliano nodded, considering one day to be an acceptable timeframe. “All right, let’s do it right now. I’ll reward you heavily if you can get rid of this formation.” The mages from Stormwind Sect immediately started working and tried to destroy the arcane array together.

“The arcane array established by Narcissus Palace is truly formidable. If I were to venture into unraveling its complexities, I fear it would take me more than a day. I never expected the Images from the Stormwind Sect to possess such advanced magecraft.” Luol sighed.

“Don’t listen to those losers. I doubt they can solve this even in three days!” Avery sneered with disdain, looking down upon the mages from Stormwind Sect.

Upon hearing how Avery degraded Stormwind Sect, Emiliano was triggered. He glared at Avery and said, “Avery, how much time do you need to undo the array since you’re so powerful? I don’t think you know what to do either!”

“Even if I were to personally attempt to shatter this formation, it would take me a minimum of three days. I bet these so-called mages from Stormwind Sect would struggle to solve it in ten days, let alone within twenty-four hours!” Avery uttered.

Emiliano’s face turned even colder after he heard Avery’s words. “They won’t be able to solve it even in a month. This arcane array is beyond their abilities,” Kai chimed in..

The mages from Stormwind Sect, despite claiming the title of masters, possessed a far from impressive mastery of magic. Their knowledge and skills in magic were superficial,

enough to deceive individuals like Emiliano as they only had a shallow understanding of magecraft.

“Spare me your sarcasm, Kai. If you’re so great, go ahead and destroy this arcane array in one day!” Emiliano roared. “What makes you think I need a day? I can easily solve this in a minute,” Kai responded while flashing a grin.

Upon hearing that, Luol and Avery looked at him. As masters of magecraft, they could discern the complexity of the arcane array. Breaking such a complex ancient array in less than a minute would be nothing short of a joke.

Although Emiliano had no knowledge of that, he did not believe Kai could solve the array in just a minute. “Stop bragging. I don’t believe you have that ability!”

“You’ll see if I have that capability once I give it a try. But if I successfully dismantle the arcane array, I want to be the one distributing the treasures hidden behind that stone door. Are you fine with that?” Kai asked Emiliano, giving him an icy smirk.

Emiliano could not help but hesitate after seeing the confident look on Kai’s face. He was worried that Kai might actually undo the arcane array.

“Kai, if you can break this formation, I’ll give up my share of the treasure,” Avery said. Avery, who was skillful in magecraft, did not believe Kai could shatter the arcane array in just a minute.

Nonetheless, Emiliano did not want to risk it. He turned to the mages from Stormwind Sect and said, “Hurry up! Don’t allow others to underestimate you and claim that you are unworthy of the title of mage.”

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The elderly men, who had overheard their conversation, shared the same frustration. They vowed to undo the arcane array and prove to everyone that they were capable of doing so.

Suddenly, the stone door began to flicker, emitting a burst of intense energy. One of the elderly mages failed to evade the attack and had his head severed.

Blood splattered everywhere, drenching the remaining elderly mages. Their faces were filled with shock and disbelief. “W-What just happened?” the flabbergasted Emiliano asked. “T-This...” The mage who claimed he could successfully dismantle the formation earlier was stunned and bereft of words.

"I told you. Even if you were given a month, you wouldn't be able to undo this arcane array. Your attempt to forcefully break the formation is misguided, especially since the Death Trap Formation is intricately woven within it. Shattering it with brute force will only lead to death! So now that you know how terrifying this arcane array is, do you still want to continue?" Kai said calmly.

All the mages from Stormwind Sect instantly staggered backward, keeping a distance from the stone door. Their reaction got Emiliano even more frustrated.

"Kai, you said you can solve this in a minute, right? Well then, go ahead and give it a try. If you succeed, I will grant you the authority to distribute the treasures!" Emiliano said to Kai while bobbing his head.

Due to the challenging nature of unraveling the formation, there was a possibility that Kai might die in the process. That was why Emiliano consented to Kai's attempt.

"If you had mentioned that earlier, I would have already opened the stone door," Kai responded with a smile before walking in the direction of the door.

"Be careful, Mr. Chance!" Skyler said. "Don't worry. I know what I'm doing." Kai gave her a subtle grin. He stood before the stone door and laid his hands on it.

All the onlookers gasped when they saw that.. They were eager to see what Kai could do. Luol and Avery, too, paid close attention to Kai, as they wanted to see how he could break the arcane array in a minute.

Kai's hands emitted a golden beam that pierced through the stone door. Simultaneously, the intricate lines within the arcane array began to shimmer and glow. Buzz...

In an instant, a dazzling golden beam burst forth from the stone door alongside a menacing aura, but Kai absorbed it in the blink of an eye. Everyone else began to retreat after sensing the overwhelming aura.

Emiliano burst out laughing. "See? This is what happens when you're so full of yourself. You said you were going to dismantle the arcane array, but instead, you activated the Death Trap Formation. You're going to die for sure!"

Skyler could not help but cast a worried glance at Kai and clenched her fists. Meanwhile, as Luol and Avery closely observed the stone door, they felt that the menacing aura did not seem to originate from the Death Trap Formation.

Screech! Suddenly, the creaking sound produced by the movement of the stone door sent shivers down everyone's spines. Kai gradually opened the door. The emitted aura posed no harm to him at all.

As the door opened, a bone-chilling wind swept out from the depths of the ancient ruins of Narcissus Palace. Everyone could not help but shudder.

The chilly wind caused everyone to tremble. That place looked more like an underground mortuary than a place for sect members to congregate. Nevertheless, the onlookers were filled with awe at Kai's remarkable skill in swiftly opening the stone door.

"How did you do that, Mr. Chance? How did you manage to unravel the formation within such a short time?" Luol was curious to find out how Kai did that. Avery was just as curious. "Kai, what did you do just now? We didn't see you destroying the arcane array."

Emiliano, too, turned his attention toward Kai, curious to hear what he had to say. Kai's ability to break the arcane array left everyone perplexed and filled with questions..

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Kai looked at Emiliano and smiled. "Well, I have you, Mr. Fairchild of Stormwind Sect, to thank for this. Otherwise, I wouldn't have broken the arcane array so quickly." Needless to say, Emiliano was dumbfounded. "Me? Why would you thank me?"

Luol and the others, too, didn't understand what Kai meant. After all, why would the deactivation of the arcane array have anything to do with Stormwind Sect?

"Of course I have to thank you! If you hadn't instructed your subordinates to force the activation of the Death Trap Formation, thereby draining its energy, I wouldn't have broken it so swiftly!" Kai exclaimed with a slightly smug grin. "Even though there was a Death Trap Formation within the arcane array, its power had weakened steadily over the years. Then, you got your men to break it and trigger the Death Trap Formation, which exhausted whatever remaining energy it had! That made my work so much easier, and best of all, I didn't even have to worry about getting injured..."

By then, Emiliano's face had darkened and twisted into a grimace. Damn it! I got my people to open the stone door first because I wanted to gain the upper hand.... Who knew it'd give Kai an advantage instead?

Upon hearing Kai's explanation, Luol and Avery couldn't help but burst out laughing. However, they knew the man had only said that to antagonize Emiliano. He had never needed the latter's help to break the arcane array, but if he wasn't keen on sharing the real reason, Luol and Avery knew.

better than to probe further. "Let's head inside..." Kai said, a smile tugging at his lips when he saw how agitated Emiliano was. Without further ado, he led everyone into

Narcissus Palace. Having suffered heavy losses, Emiliano had no choice but to follow behind..

After stepping through the stone door, they were greeted by a massive square with eighteen stone pillars. Not only was each of those pillars ornately carved with a dragon, but the designs were also different.

Even though everyone in the group was an elite fighter, the cold waves of negative energy that constantly washed over them sent chills down their spines.

What was even stranger, though, was the stone wall at the far end of the square that signaled the end of their road. "What's going on, Mr. Chance? Is Narcissus Palace only this big?" Skyler asked in bewilderment.

Kai shook his head as he unleashed his spiritual sense to penetrate the stone wall. Unfortunately, that didn't work because there were no paths but solid rock beyond. Now, it was Kai's turn to be baffled. "Huh? That can't be right... Is this all that is to Narcissus Palace?"

Meanwhile, Emiliano and Avery had ordered their subordinates to comb the place for magical items. To their dismay, the square was empty save for the eighteen stone pillars. Naturally, everyone was disappointed.

They had put in so much effort to find the ancient ruins of Narcissus Palace, yet the place turned out to be pathetically small and devoid of magical items.

"What the f*ck is this lousy Narcissus Palace? I can't believe I lost my men for nothing!" Emiliano fumed. Avery, too, furrowed her brows. "This doesn't make sense. How can Narcissus Palace only be this big? More importantly, why is it empty?"

Just then, Luol leaned forward and whispered into Kai's ear, "Mr. Chance, don't you think the placements of the eighteen pillars are a little odd? They somewhat resemble an arcane array..."

After scrutinizing the stone pillars, Kai approached one and gently caressed it. As soon as he made contact, the draconic essence within him stirred, causing the stone pillar to emanate a faint aura from within. Before long, the eyes of the dragon carving on the pillar began to glow.