

Chapter 1636

Ignoring the pain, she questioned with a trembling voice, "What are you doing here? I... I have already paid you the protection money."

Hound and his men barged into the room. "We're worried that you would feel lonely at home. Therefore, we have decided to accompany you here. Go and make some coffee for us before we start having fun with you. Hahaha!"

The hearty laugh sent a chill down Lacey's spine.

"Oh no, Missy." Lacey rushed into the room to protect Missy.

At that moment, Missy was eating the food the vendors gave earlier.

When she saw Hound and his men, she couldn't help but shudder in fear.

They had left her with a traumatizing experience.

Hound glared at Missy. "What are you staring at? You're a b*stard that only deserves to eat dog food!"

Missy was defiant. "You're bad people. Please leave my home, or I will call the police."

"Hahaha!"

Hunt and his men laughed haughtily. "The police? Why don't you give it a try? The entire police station eats out of my hands."

When Missy was about to call the police with her phone, Hound stormed forward to teach her a lesson.

At the crucial moment, Lacey dashed in, hugged Missy, and apologized to Hound.

"Hound, I'm sorry. The child doesn't know the rules. Please don't hold it against her. I'll make coffee for you right away!"

With that said, Lacey carried Missy out. "Missy, go over to our lady neighbor's house to play. I have something to discuss with this man."

Hound quickly saw through Lacey's plan.

After giving his men a look, they stopped Lacey and Missy at once.

“The child is still so young. How can you let her go out alone? What if she gets herself lost? You should go ahead and make coffee. We will help you keep an eye on her.”

“Erm...” Lacey hesitated.

Hound barked, “What’s wrong? Don’t you trust us? Do you think gangsters like us will hurt kids?”

Cognizant that she didn’t have a choice, Lacey resigned herself to putting Missy down.

Missy’s just a kid. I guess Hound and his men probably aren’t cruel enough to harm children.

After that, she hurried off to make coffee.

The moment she returned, her heart skipped a beat.

Hound and his men had Missy surrounded.

In fact, one of them was pointing to Missy’s head with a dagger

Crash!

Lacey dropped the coffee cups onto the ground.

Lacey pleaded in desperation, “Hound, what are you trying to do? Please, I beg of you... Please release Missy. She’s still young. I beg you not to hurt her.”

Since her husband, Zeke, was missing in action, Missy had become her only pillar of support.

If anything were to happen to Missy, Lacey felt that she would be better off dead.

Hound remarked coldly, “Who says we are trying to harm her? We’re just playing a game with her. Let’s see what she will do after her mommy disappears.”

Lacey was stumped. What does that mean?

Hound threw Lacey a rope. “Don’t worry. Once you disappear, we will send Missy to an orphanage. We won’t let her wander on the streets.”

After hearing that, Lacey shuddered in fear.

Hound and his men are trying to use Missy to make me give in. They are nothing but scum!

Lacey's voice quavered violently. "Hound, we will leave this place, and I promise you that we will never return. Please, I beg of you. Let us go... Please."

Lacey had never been so terrified before, as Missy's life was on the line.

Chapter 1637

Hound shook his head. "I'm sorry. That's not possible. Today, if you don't disappear, the little girl will."

They were trying to force Lacey into committing suicide so that they didn't need to dirty their hands.

That way, they wouldn't leave any evidence that could be traced back to them.

Although Fourth Lord had their back, they knew one could never be too careful.

Lacey was devastated. "Hound, there's no bad blood between us. Why must you force me down this path of doom?"

Hound relented. "Fine, I'll explain why you have to die. We have no intention of killing you, but someone else who is very powerful wants you dead. If we don't do as we're told, we would be the ones to die. Therefore, when you become a ghost, please don't come back to haunt us. You should find the true perpetrator instead."

Having heard Hound's explanation, Lacey quickly grasped what was going on.

Without a doubt, this must be part of Ares' and Julian's scheme.

It had never crossed her mind that her own father would ever want her dead.

Lacey was devastated by the terrible thought.

Given that Ares had painted a target on her back, Lacey knew that she had to resign herself to her fate.

She wiped the tears off her face, yet more tears continued to gush out.

She sobbed, "Missy, turn around. I'm going to play a game with you, all right?"

Obviously, she wasn't going to let Missy watch her

Die.

"Mommy, don't! I don't want you to leave me," Missy yelled in tears.

Missy was Zeke's daughter, after all. She was more mature and intelligent than the children of her age.

In fact, she had already seen through Hound's intention of forcing her mother to commit suicide.

At that moment, she was filled with panic and despair.

Lacey reminded, "Missy, you have to listen to instructions when you're living at the orphanage. Remember to eat your meals regularly. I will be watching you from the shadows, and I'll always be by your side.

"No! No!" Missy cried her lungs out.

Steeling her resolve, Lacey tied the rope by the door frame and prepared to commit suicide.

At the crucial moment, Missy suddenly ducked and avoided the dagger over her head.

Then she launched a sweeping kick at Hound's legs, tripping him onto the ground. With that, she had created an opening in the encirclement.

She ran up to Lacey. "Mommy, run. I will protect you today."

Lacey was shocked as she realized what a formidable fighter Missy was.

Hound was infuriated.

How can I lose to a kid? This is humiliating!

He roared, "What are all of you waiting for? Attack and kill her now!"

Hound's men charged at Lacey and Missy.

Having no fear, Missy engaged them in battle.

Despite her young age and lack of strength, she was a genius in martial arts.

Having been trained by the two masters, Nameless and Tyler, she was already a proper warrior.

Her attacks utilized leverage to overcome brute force.

By doing so, it made up for her lack of raw strength.

Thus, she managed to hold her own against a group of grown-ups.

Meanwhile, Lacey was astounded by what she saw.

She found it unbelievable that her supposedly weak daughter fought with such sophisticated combat skills.

Her martial arts training wasn't in vain at all. And to think that I kicked both of them out of the house when I found out Zeke had sent her for training. That really was a mistake.

However, Lacey had no time to lose. Grabbing a broom by the side, she jumped into the fray and fought alongside her daughter.

Chapter 1638

At the end of the day, Missy was still just a child with limited strength.

During the chaos, Hound launched a surprise attack and restrained her with a bear hug.

Finally, Missy was subdued, as she could no longer move.

Drawing a dagger from his thigh, Hound bellowed, "You b*stard! How dare you hurt me? Today, I will make you pay with your life!"

He raised his dagger high into the air.

"No!"

Seized by terror, Lacey dashed forward to stop him.

As for Missy, she closed her eyes and screamed in fear.

However, at the very last moment, a bang rang out.

Hound's dagger was sent flying from his hand.

Just a while ago, a stone had hit Hound's dagger and struck it off his grip.

Who is it?

Hound and his men looked in the direction which the stone came from.

The sight that greeted them caused them to break out in a cold sweat.

Out of nowhere, an old man in a black cloak had appeared in a corner of the room.

The old man had blended into the darkness, and one would not see him if one wasn't looking carefully

Hound shouted, "Who are you! Get out of here now. If you dare to interfere, I will take your life!"

The old man gradually walked up to Hound. "You are not worthy of knowing my identity.'

His voice was hoarse and terrifying.

As the old man approached, he lifted his hood.

When they saw his appearance, everyone trembled in horror.

He only had half a face, as the other half had been scorched by fire.

His features were contorted, and his face was covered by rotting flesh. It was a disgusting sight indeed.

Some of Hound's men puked on the spot.

However, Hound managed to remain calm. "I don't care who you are, but we have Fourth Lord backing us. Y-You cannot harm us."

Fourth Lord?

The old man in a black cloak mocked, "He doesn't qualify either. Hand over the child."

He reached out to grab Missy.

Hound slapped the man's hand away by reflex, "Get lost! You are just looking for trouble."

The old man was outraged.

With a flick of his fingers, he sent a cloud of black smoke flying toward Hound, and it hit him squarely on his body.

When it came into contact with Hound, a massive force pushed him backward, causing him to crash into a wall. Consequently, he vomited blood repeatedly.

What's going on?

Hound's men were terrified by the scene.

With just a flick of fingers, the old man had sent a brawny man that weighed a hundred and eighty pounds flying without even touching him.

Does he have supernatural powers? No, given his looks, he is obviously a demon!

As the old man got a hold of Missy, none of Hound's men dared to get in his way.

Their gut told them that even if there were a hundred of them, it would not be enough to defeat the old man.

Frightened by the grip, Missy struggled desperately.

However, the old man's grip seemed unbreakable no matter how hard she tried.

Grabbing Missy, the old man headed out. "She really is a genius in martial arts. What a waste for the Sun Walkers to have sullied her! Little girl, don't worry. Come with me, and I guarantee that you'll be amazed at what I can show you.

"Let her go!"

Lacey threw herself at the old man in a last-ditch attempt to save Missy.

Unfortunately, it was a futile effort.

With a jolt of his body, the old man released a black mist, throwing Lacey back.

After leaving the room for the yard, the old man took a step and flew into the sky, disappearing without a trace.

"No! Missy! My baby!"

Enduring the pain that was reverberating through her, Lacey dashed out in another attempt to save Missy.

Unfortunately, both Missy and the old man were nowhere to be seen.

With her vision going dark, Lacey lost consciousness at once.

Chapter 1639

For Lacey, watching Missy being kidnapped was no different from taking her life.

Back in the room, Hound and his men exchanged glances while trying to regain their senses.

What did we just encounter? He looks like a demon and can emit a dangerous black mist. More importantly, he can fly while carrying someone. Are there really demons in this world?

Hound's subordinate meekly asked, "Hound, what should we do now?"

Hound snapped, "What else can we do? Of course, we have to stick to the plan. Fourth Lord has ordered us to get rid of Lacey. It has nothing to do with Missy!"

Hound's men nodded in agreement. "But now we can't threaten Lacey with Missy anymore. We'll have to do it ourselves."

After all, their mission would be completed once they killed Lacey.

Hence, it didn't matter to them if they left any tracks.

Given how influential Fourth Lord was, they were confident that he would protect them.

With a dagger in hand, Hound approached Lacey.

At that moment, Lacey was wallowing in despair after losing Missy.

When she saw Hound approach in an intimidating manner, she trained her rage at him.

If not for these men, Missy wouldn't have been kidnapped

Losing her sanity, Lacey charged at Hound.

"You... Give me back Missy!"

However, a lady like Lacey stood no chance against Hound.

He stabbed his dagger into her chest.

Gasping in shock, Lacey collapsed onto the ground

Her gorgeous face, coupled with the pool of blood, was a stunning sight to behold.

"Ah! Murder!" someone screamed at the door.

Worried about Lacey and Missy, the male vendor from earlier had come to check on them.

When he arrived at their door, he saw Lacey lying in a pool of blood.

The sight caused him to scream continuously in reflex.

The next moment, all the other neighbors began to gather.

They were outraged by the sight that greeted them.

It was one thing for Hound to bully the widow and child, but killing Lacey was just too much.

Now that Lacey is dead, how is someone as young as Missy going to survive on her own? It's no different from killing both of them!

The neighbors began to admonish Hound.

"All of you have no conscience at all!"

"She has suffered so much after losing her man. How could you bring yourself to kill her?"

"I'm calling the police! All of you must be punished by the law!"

Having killed someone, Hound and his men were filled with anxiety.

Now that the neighbors threatened to report them, their panic intensified.

"Stop! I'll kill whoever dares to call the police. Let me warn you that I have Fourth Lord's support. Whoever calls the police will be going against him. Are you not afraid of him killing your entire family?"

The mention of Fourth Lord struck fear into the hearts of the neighbors.

Nevertheless, the sight of Lacey's body continued to fan the flames of their grievance.

"No matter how powerful one is, one cannot act unreasonably and take somebody's life."

"Murderers must be brought to justice."

"I dare Fourth Lord to kill everyone living on this street!"

The neighbors began calling the police on their phones.

Hound was filled with desperation. "What a bunch of stubborn folks. All of you are just looking for trouble. Stop them!"

Hound's men dashed forward to grab the phones, sparking a massive brawl.

Unfortunately, most of the neighbors were elderly and weak

Hence, they were no match for Hound's men at all.

One by one, they were beaten to a pulp and collapsed to the ground.

In fact, two old men were stabbed in their abdomen and were on the brink of losing their lives.

The entire scene turned into a bloodbath.

Chapter 1640

Meanwhile, Zeke had arrived at the pedestrian street and was hurrying over to where the commotion was.

With him was the village chief, Alfred.

The first thing Zeke did upon his return was to find Lacey and Missy at Linton Group.

However, when he arrived, he found out that Linton Group's ownership had changed.

Also, he learned that all of Lacey's assets had been seized.

Left without a choice, she had to take Missy with her, and they rented a place in the village.

Hence, Zeke rushed over at once.

Along the journey, he also learned that his subordinates, Sole Wolf, Killer Wolf, Justice Warrior, Tyler, Nameless, and others, had been captured by Ares' men and were currently missing.

Hence, he ordered Azure Dragon to split up and track them down, leaving only Alfred by his side.

Considering that Zeke had returned to the peak of his power and was elevated to Ultimate Class, he was already invincible. Therefore, he didn't need help from his subordinates.

From afar, Zeke heard the agonizing cries coming from Lacey's rented house.

At the same time, he could feel the residual energy that could only belong to the Netherworld.

Oh, no. I'm too late. Something has happened. Are the members of the Netherworld causing trouble?

Zeke increased his pace.

The moment he arrived and looked into the house, he felt a thundering shock that caused his knees to buckle and his mind to blank out.

In the yard, there was utter chaos with two groups of people fighting. Blood was splattered all over the ground.

At the same time, he saw Lacey lying in a pool of blood on the cold floorboards.

As the blood reflected off her exquisite-looking face, she still looked as gorgeous as ever.

“Argh!”

Zeke let out an earth-shattering roar.

At that moment, there was only one thing on his mind.

That was to kill the murderer.

His roar was filled with such murderous intent that it jolted everyone in the yard.

All of them could not help but shudder in fear as chills ran down their spines.

Hound and his men were stunned.

Subconsciously, they felt the urge to flee.

Zeke ordered, “Stop them, but don’t kill them!”

He wouldn’t let Alfred kill them, as he wanted to exact revenge with his own hands.

“Understood!”

In the next instant, Alfred hurried to restrain Hound and his men.

In the meantime, Zeke hurried over to Lacey’s side and carried her up.

“Lacey, wake up. I’m sorry that I came too late.”

Lacey gradually opened her eyes.

When she realized Zeke was still alive, she tried her best to eke out a smile. “You’re still alive...”

Zeke burst into tears as he was overwhelmed by unimaginable sorrow.

Lacey gently raised her hand to help Zeke wipe off his tears.

However, before her hand could reach him, it dropped lifelessly to the ground.

Lacey's body slumped in Zeke's arms and stopped moving.

"Argh! Lacey, you can't die! I won't let you die!"

Zeke anxiously took out his Ammo Needles and inserted them into Lacey, hoping to prolong her life.

After that, he fed her a resurrection pill to lock in her residual life force.

Then he carefully carried her onto the bed.

He wasn't sure if his efforts were enough to revive her.

But one thing was certain. Their enemies would pay with their lives.

When Zeke turned and walked out, his body was drenched in blood, making him look especially menacing.

Bending down, he picked up the dagger from the pool of blood

Despite the blood still being warm, the dagger felt icy to the touch

It was covered with Lacey's blood.

Hence, he wanted to bathe the dagger with Hound's and his men's blood.

Meanwhile, Alfred had subdued all of them.

Chapter 1641

As a King Class warrior, Alfred had no trouble defeating a bunch of hooligans.

In the meantime, Hound was terrified when he saw Zeke approaching ferociously with a dagger in hand.

He shouted, "Y-You can't harm me. Fourth Lord has our back. Hurting me means going against him, and he will not let you off the hook."

Hearing that, Zeke changed his mind that instant.

Initially, he had wanted to kill Hound.

But now he no longer felt like doing so, as killing Hound was not enough to alleviate his pain of losing his wife.

To genuinely complete his vengeance, he needed to eradicate the true mastermind behind Lacey's death.

Zeke glared at Hound. "I'll give you ten minutes to get your boss here, or else I'll slaughter everyone in your family."

Hound agreed at once, "Give me ten minutes, then."

After taking out his phone with his fumbling fingers, Hound made a call.

"Fourth Lord, come quickly. Someone is trying to kill us! I brought up your name, but it only infuriated our attacker further. He insisted you are nothing to him at all. I have only been given ten minutes. Please hurry over and save us!"

Just as Hound finished, Zeke raised his sword and unleashed a sequence of swings.

The next moment, he chopped off Hound's and his subordinates' limbs.

Blood spewed everywhere while chopped-up limbs littered the floor.

"Argh!"

Cries of agony echoed through the entire street.

Gasping in shock, the neighbors were taken aback by the gruesome sight.

This young man is ruthless indeed.

One of them asked carefully, "Mister, are you Lacey's husband?"

Zeke nodded. "I am."

At the same time, he scrutinized the neighbors curiously, as he wasn't sure what they were up to.

They kindly advised him, "Mister, you should take Lacey and flee. Fourth Lord isn't someone to be trifled with."

Zeke recognized from their tone that they had good intentions.

Hence, he inquired, "Did you come here to help Lacey?"

The neighbors nodded.

"Thank you," he uttered sincerely. After that, he brought out his Ammo Needles and treated their wounds for them.

While doing so, he remarked, "Please tell me more about Fourth Lord."

The neighbors began chattering non-stop.

"He is someone really powerful."

"He is the head of Atheville Martial Arts Association. Therefore, all the martial artists in Atheville fall under his jurisdiction."

"In other words, a single stomp of his foot would send ripples through Atheville."

Zeke was intrigued. "Oh?"

He had learned that Ares had possessed the Tigon Badges that belonged to the Three Inspectors, Six Superintendents, and Thirty-Four Templars.

Therefore, all the warriors in Eurasia, including Fourth Lord, were under his authority.

Could it be that Fourth Lord was carrying out Ares' orders when he sent Hound to take Lacey's life? That is the likeliest explanation. In that case, I'll destroy Fourth Lord before slaughtering Ares.

There's no way I'm going to show them mercy for harming my wife and daughter!

In less than ten minutes, the door to the yard was kicked open.

A large group of men barged in and quickly surrounded the place.

However, that wasn't all of them. Outside the yard, more than a hundred martial artists had also gathered around

At the head of the group was a decent-looking man in a suit.

Without a doubt, he was Fourth Lord.

He couldn't help but gasp in horror when he saw the gruesome condition Hound and his men were in.

What kind of ruthless person is capable of dismembering humans so cruelly?

He swept his gaze around to survey the crowd.

At that moment, everyone trembled in fear of Fourth Lord targeting them.

Finally, his attention fell upon Zeke, as he could feel the murderous aura coming from him.

It looks like only he has the gall and skill to commit such a cruel act.

Chapter 1642

Fourth Lord sneered, "Are you the one responsible?"

Zeke squinted his eyes. "Are you Hound's boss? Did you order him to harm my wife and daughter?"

Fourth Lord didn't know that Lacey was the Great Marshal's wife, let alone realize that the man standing before him was the Great Marshal himself.

He nodded arrogantly. "I did. So what are you going to do about it?"

Zeke asked, "So, do you have a superior? Please get all of them here so that I can save my time and eradicate all of you in one go."

Fourth Lord thundered, "You ignorant fool. How dare you speak such brazen words? Setting aside the two hundred martial artists that came with me, I alone am enough to crush you. Perhaps you're not aware, but I am an Archduke Class warrior. Only a few exceptional warriors in Eurasia can defeat me, but certainly not someone like you."

Zeke sighed in disappointment when he realized he had overestimated Fourth Lord.

Evidently, Fourth Lord was nothing but an imbecile.

In fact, Zeke would sully his hands if he were to personally finish the man off.

How dare he proclaim that only a few men in Eurasia can defeat him? That's simply ridiculous.

Putting aside the King Class warriors of the Four Hidden Sects and the official King Class warriors led by Ares, any one of the six hundred warriors of Azure Dragon was capable of crushing him.

Given what a low-level warrior Fourth Lord was, Zeke decided to let Alfred finish him off.

However, the neighbors weren't on the same page as he was.

Although they didn't know how powerful an Archduke Class warrior was, they were aware that Eurasia's Great Marshal was an Archduke Class warrior too.

By that logic, they thought that Fourth Lord must be exceptionally powerful, considering he was on par with the Great Marshal.

Consequently, they weren't optimistic about Zeke's chances of survival.

When they tried to persuade Zeke to back down and submit, he replied, "Don't worry. He doesn't deserve my personal attention yet."

Then he turned to Alfred and said, "Alfred, be my guest."

Alfred nodded. "Leave it to me."

Getting up to his feet, he approached Fourth Lord step by step.

Fourth Lord was outraged.

How dare this kid look down on me? What a humiliation!

He instructed his subordinates, "Take him down!"

With a vicious look in their eyes, the warriors tightened their encirclement.

Alfred smirked. "Fourth Lord, you're so full of yourself. Let me see how strong your men really are, then!"

Pulling out a cigarette holder, he lit it up and smoked leisurely.

All the enemies in the yard were infuriated.

How can he still have the mood to smoke under such circumstances? He must be looking down on us!

"Kill him!" the warriors in the yard roared as they charged at Alfred.

The neighbors' pupils constricted as they felt a chill down their spines.

The old man is a goner. All these men are martial artists, unlike Hound and his subordinates who are just street hoodlums. He might be able to take down Hound, but the same cannot be said of this group of warriors who are many times stronger than Hound.

Some of the neighbors gradually closed their eyes, as they couldn't bear to watch.

As both sides clashed, the younger enemies launched their fists decisively against Alfred.

However, Alfred remained unfazed as he avoided the attacks effortlessly.

Instead of looking like someone in his seventies, he fought as if he was in the prime of his youth.

Whenever he had the opportunity, he would stab his cigarette holder on the enemies' heads.

Every time he struck, he would find his target and immobilize the attacker.

Chapter 1643

Just like a killing machine, he would take down his enemies wherever he went.

In less than ten minutes, thirty of the enemy fighters had been crippled, while the smoke from Alfred's cigarette was still ascending into the air.

Taking a puff smugly, Alfred sneered, "What a bunch of losers. And yet, you dare challenge me. You are nothing but a joke!"

The neighbors gaped at what just happened.

Wow, this old man can really kick ass.

They were of similar age to Alfred, but they even had trouble walking, whereas Alfred's movements and kicks were more impressive than that of a young man.

There was no way they could've known that Alfred had yet to showcase his true strength.

With just raw power alone, he easily defeated those martial artists.

If he had unleashed his full power, those martial artists would have been obliterated at once.

Fourth Lord was shaken for a while but quickly recovered his composure.

So what if the old man can fight? He is probably on par with me at Archduke Class. Besides, the warriors outside the yard would definitely be able to beat him.

Alfred continued to mock, "Is that all you got? Since you can't even beat an old man, how dare you come here?"

Fourth Lord clenched his fists. "No wonder you have nothing to fear. It looks to me that you have the strength of an Archduke Class warrior. Old man, I recognize your talents. If you are willing to submit to me, I will spare your life. But if you're getting in my way, today will be your last day on earth."

Alfred was outraged. "F*ck you, you b*stard! Today, I'm going to whoop your ass if that's the last thing I do!"

When he realized that Alfred wasn't going to surrender, Fourth Lord called out to his men outside, "Come in and send this old thing to hell."

The martial artists standing guard outside swarmed into the yard.

Considering there were almost a hundred of them, the yard couldn't fit them all.

Worried that the neighbors would end up being collateral damage, Zeke pulled them to a corner.

They remarked in a quavering voice, "Kid, you heard it yourself. Fourth Lord is an Archduke Class warrior. If he steps in, we're afraid..."

Zeke reassured them, "There's nothing to fear. An Archduke Class warrior is no different from an ant to me. It's not even worth mentioning."

The neighbors didn't know whether to laugh or to cry.

This young man sure knows how to boast.

Based on their understanding, the Great Marshal was invincible as an Archduke Class warrior, and yet Zeke didn't seem to be bothered.

Consequently, they were baffled at how ridiculously confident Zeke was.

"Kill him!"

After letting out a battle cry, Fourth Lord led the group and charged at Alfred.

Following close behind him were a hundred martial artists.

Alfred flung his cigarette holder at Zeke. "Mr. Williams, this is made from tobacco that my father had planted himself. Please enjoy."

"Sure!"

Zeke received the cigarette holder with a faint smile.

He knew that Alfred was going to unleash his true power.

Standing in position, Alfred had a steady stance and didn't look like he was going to defend himself.

As the enemies closed in on him, Alfred remained motionless.

It wasn't until Fourth Lord came within range and launched a punch that Alfred made his move.

With a jolt of his body, a powerful blast of energy emanated throughout

The energy unleashed was like an explosive shockwave, and it destroyed everything in its vicinity.

When Fourth Lord was hit by the shockwave, he was sent flying away.

Crashing into the wall, he caused the wall to collapse upon impact.

Despite being an Archduke Class warrior, Fourth Lord was grievously injured.

In fact, his subordinates, who were ordinary martial artists, had it worse.

Even though they weren't within close distance of Alfred, they were blown away by the explosion.”

Chapter 1644

The surrounding walls had also been flattened by the energy Alfred unleashed.

Groups of men were strewn all over the floor. Many of them were crying out in agonizing pain or had lost consciousness. It was an extremely gruesome sight to behold.

Witnessing the scene before them, the neighbors were all stupefied.

What just happened? The men, including Fourth Lord, were all blown away before even getting close. Does the old man have a bomb strapped on him? If that's the case, why isn't he hurt at all?

The neighbors were just ordinary folks and had no idea what “energy” was.

In fact, many of them speculated that Alfred knew magic.

Trapped within the rubble of the collapsed wall, Fourth Lord had to expend a significant amount of effort to struggle free.

Even though he was cut all over by the rubble, it was nothing compared to the injuries he suffered from the energy shockwave.

The blast had dealt a devastating blow to all his internal organs.

Looking at Alfred in horror, he exclaimed, “Y-You have just unleashed your energy! A King Class warrior... Y-You’re a king Class warrior! What is a King Class warrior doing here? Who the hell are you?”

It was now evident to Fourth Lord that Alfred was Zeke’s subordinate.

Considering he has a King Class warrior as a follower, this young man must be someone of high status.

Zeke walked up to Fourth Lord.

“I’m sure there is someone backing you up. Get him out here right now, or you alone will have to suffer for all their sins. Even if your entire family is wiped out, it still wouldn’t be enough.”

Fourth Lord replied immediately, “All right, all right. I’ll call them right away. Just don’t hurt me.”

The neighbors were utterly shocked to see the high and mighty Fourth Lord end up in such a pathetic state.

Fourth Lord took out his phone with his trembling hands and made a call.

“Boss, please send reinforcements... There’s a King Class warrior wreaking havoc here. The entire situation has gone out of control... All right. I’ll wait here for you.”

After he ended the call, his pounding heart finally calmed down

After all, his boss was a king Class warrior who had many Archduke Class warriors under his command.

The combined strength of a King Class warrior and a group of Archduke Class warriors is more than enough to crush this old man!

When the call ended, Zeke asked, “Do you have any other trump cards?”

Fourth Lord shook his head.

I have one that will take your life!

Zeke replied, "In that case, you won't be needing your hands anymore."

Fourth Lord's heart skipped a beat. What does that mean?

Before Fourth Lord could react, Zeke raised the sword in his hand and unleashed a sequence of slashes.

The next moment, Fourth Lord's limbs were all cut off.

"Argh!" Fourth Lord shrieked in agony.

Ignoring Fourth Lord, Zeke returned to the house to check on Lacey.

After treating her with his Ammo Needles and feeding her the spiritual drug, Zeke had managed to stabilize her condition.

Therefore, her life was no longer in danger.

Unfortunately, there was still no sign of her regaining her consciousness.

Sensing that something was amiss, Zeke took her pulse.

From there, he could faintly detect the negative energy residing within her body.

Negative energy was a form of energy wielded by those from the Netherworld.

How did Lacey come into contact with it? She must have met someone from Netherworld. Furthermore, they must have interacted for a period of time.

After regaining his composure, Zeke asked, "Where's my daughter, Missy?"

Confused, the neighbors shook their heads.

Ever since they arrived, they hadn't seen Missy at all.

Zeke's gaze then fell upon Hound.

Hound quickly confessed, "J-Just now, a scarylooking old man emerged from a corner and kidnapped Missy. We have nothing to do with him. In fact, we have never seen him before."

Chapter 1645
Fogey Bogey?

It was obvious that he was from Netherworld.

“Fogey Bogey said that Missy’s a natural, and he thought it a travesty for her martial talents to be squandered by staying here,” Hound said between stutters. “H-He must have taken her away to apprentice under him, so she s-shouldn’t be in any mortal danger.”

D*mn it!

With a jerk of his hand, Zeke smashed the wooden backboard of the bed to smithereens!

At this moment, Zeke became resolved to invade the Netherworld’s headquarters and put them to the fire and the sword.

Zeke looked toward Alfred. “Do you know where the Netherworld’s headquarters are?”

Alfred shook his head and responded in the negative, “I do not. I could, however, lure the denizens of the Netherworld out when night falls and squeeze its location out of them.”

“Good. We shall work toward securing that information tonight, and then I shall bathe their headquarters in blood.” Zeke seethed.

“Understood!” affirmed Alfred.

Shortly after, an untidy pattering of footsteps approached from the distance, to the delight of the Fourth Lord.

If Boss were to rescue and have me admitted to the hospital right away, my limbs may still be reattached

“Boss! Help me!” he arched his neck and shouted.

Boom!

A towering figure descended from the sky and shook the earth when he landed, sending out clouds of dust in every direction.

The imposing aura he emanated was simply suffocating to the masses.

The discerning Zeke immediately knew that this must be Fourth Lord’s “Boss.”

Isn’t this one of the inspectors from the Three Inspectors and Six Superintendents?

All the leaders of the Thirty-four Templars, Three Inspectors, and Six Superintendents, including this one inspector in front of them, were taken away by Zeke at the last Martial Artist National Examination.

It would seem to him that all of them had since been released by Connor.

The man surveyed the entire scene in front of him before his gaze fell upon Fourth Lord.

“Hmph! What use have I for a piece of crap like you?”

Fourth Lord lowered his head in embarrassment. “I’ve failed in my duties and will accept any punishment that you deem fit, Boss.”

“Whoever is responsible for this better own up to it,” the man said frostily.

Alfred took a draw of his cigarette. “I am!”

“Sheer arrogance!” the man roared. “I am the martial inspector, Camul, to whom all warriors of Eurasia must bow in my presence! On top of not humbling yourself before me, you dared run your mouth as well. Are you not aware of your crimes?”

“Aware my ass,” Alfred replied. “If you’re looking for a fight, cut the crap, and let’s get to it!”

The audacity of him!

Camul was in a right fit. “I’m giving you one last chance, old man. The punishment for the transgression of the code of the martial way is death, but in consideration of your talent, I’ll spare your life if you get on your knees and submit yourself to me! Otherwise, I’ll exterminate your entire family!”

Alfred smiled a bitter smile. “Just admit it if you’re getting cold feet. Quit yapping and make up your mind. I don’t have all day.”

Good. Very good!

Camul’s patience was depleted. “In that case, shall grant you your wish. Four Guardians!”

“At your order, sir!”

Four Archdukes stepped forward and bowed toward Camul.

“Assist me while I claim this wretch’s life!”

“Understood!”

The Archdukes straightened their backs and looked murderously toward Alfred.

“Step aside, Alfred,” Zeke said. “Leave them to Me.”

Though Alfred’s ability exceeded that of Camul and the Four Guardians, it would still take some time for him to dispatch them, so Zeke decided to take them on personally as he was tired of waiting.

“Ten minutes, Mr. Williams. That’s all I need,” replied a reluctant Alfred.

Despite having cultivated his talents for years, Alfred had been cooped up in this little fishing village his entire life and never had the opportunity to put them to the test.

Thus, how could he be willing to pass up this chance to show what he could do?

Chapter 1646

“This is an order,” Zeke stated.

Fine then!

Alfred let out a sigh and backed away, unable to mask his disappointment.

It was only when Zeke spoke up that Camul noticed him. The sight of him made the latter yelp and shiver in fear. “Great Marshal Zeke Williams? H-How could you still be alive?”

Those words stunned all who were present and caused an uproar.

How could it be possible for this young man to be the Great Marshal, the protector of the realm?

That meant that their neighbor, Lacey, was none other than the wife of the Great Marshal himself!

How unthinkable! Unbelievable!

Had Lacey revealed her own identity before, all her neighbors would have offered up their entire family fortune, and she would not have had to live in such abject poverty.

She was simply too low key.

Fourth Lord, Hound and the others all held their breaths.

With the insurmountable gulf between the Great Marshal and themselves, it was to be expected that things ended up the way they did when they clashed.

Amidst their trepidation, they also bemoaned their misfortune.

Why didn't you just say that you're the godd*mn Great Marshal? That way, we would have known better than to pit ourselves against you.

"Long time no see, Camul," Zeke said coolly.

Camul recovered his composure quickly.

So what if he's the Great Marshal? Now, he's just the most wanted man in Eurasia hunted by Ares. He also publicly imploded his own life force and has become a shell of his former self, so I should have nothing to fear from him.

"Do you confess to your crimes, Zeke Williams?"

Huh?

"What crimes do I need to confess to?" the quizzical Zeke asked.

He was genuinely baffled at this reproach from someone he had bested before.

"As the protector of the nation, you deserted your post when you realized yourself outmatched by the Four Hidden Sects who had come to lay siege to the president's residence. For allowing it to nearly fall to the enemy, you are guilty of an offense severe enough to warrant the extermination of your bloodline. So get down on your knees and repent."

"I applaud the effort you put into framing me, but what evidence have you got to back your assertions? If none of you can back what you claim, then I shall have to kill you where you stand to establish my innocence."

Camul became hesitant as he had no proof whatsoever.

However, he could not show weakness right now. "Hmph, the evidence is with Ares. As a Martial Inspector, my job is to execute the orders, not to fuss over the details. Thus, I recommend that you yield and save yourself a world of pain."

Zeke scoffed, "Which is to say that you're unable to produce any proof, can you? Then I can only kill you to vindicate myself."

"Just you?" Camul's face was full of derision. "Do you think that I'm not aware that you've imploded your life force? How does a cripple like you expect to take me out?"

Zeke's expression became grim. "How did you know that?"

“Surely you didn’t expect to keep this from the rest of the world indefinitely? You imploded your life force in a suicidal attack to defeat the four members of the Ultimate Class...”

It was only then that Camul realized that he misspoke and tried to back up, but it was too late.

Zeke regarded Camul with an amused smile. “You obviously knew that I had chosen to take my enemies down with me in the line of duty, yet you continue to accuse me of desertion. This is an obvious setup. According to the laws that govern Eurasia, the penalty of bearing false witness against the Great Marshal, is death!”

Curses!

Camul was left red to the ears. “You dare play me for a fool! Today, I’ll have your head! Kill him!”

Chapter 1647

“Today, I shall have your head! Kill him!”

Camul then led the Four Guardians in a charge against Zeke.

Zeke continued to wear a smirk on his face as he thought the quintet grossly overestimated themselves.

When they neared, Zeke extended both hands with palms presented.

Planetary Pull!

The massive gravitational pull unleashed from his palms integrated with the energies of Camul and the Four Guardians before being sucked back into his body.

“Ah!”

The ensuing surge of pain caused the five to cry out in agony.

What’s going on here? Why are our inner forces being drained by Zeke? Not just our inner force and energy, but our very life itself!

They could distinctively feel their own energies being sapped.

What manner of cursed witchery is this?

Even if it was only for a fleeting instant, all of the demoralized men felt the impulse to flee.

However, at such close proximity, the power of the pull was not something they were able to resist.

“Someone, save me...” Camul howled.

The three hundred martial artists that he brought along were shellshocked as they could not see the inner force and energy that was being drained from him.

All they could see of the five men was them stopping short of two meters from Zeke before starting to quiver as though they were subjected to an electric shock.

It was only after they heard Camul’s cries for help that they came back to their senses and ventured forth in an attempt to aid him.

Zeke’s Planetary Pull was effective against all martial artists, not just King Class warriors.

Hence, the would-be helpers were sucked in without exception when they neared, and their inner force, too, was also absorbed by Zeke.

The blood-curdling screams coming out of the lips of three hundred martial artists were spectacularly deafening.

After having their life drained by the Planetary Pull, Hound, Fourth Lord, and the others who were already heavily wounded from before soon perished.

It was fortunate that Alfred and the other residents were standing behind Zeke, as they remained impervious to its effects.

As the minutes passed, more and more of the average martial artists fell to the ground dead after they had their inner and life forces bled dry.

In less than ten minutes, all three hundred of them laid lifeless on the ground.

Only Camul and his four Archdukes continued to hang on, but it was apparent from their expressions that they were on their last legs as well.

When one of the Four Guardians finally crumbled into a husk, Zeke upped the intensity of the Planetary Pull to bring this battle to a swift conclusion

Just then, ten silhouettes raced toward him.

“We implore you to stay your hand, Mr. Williams.”

Those who approached were all members from Azure Dragon and of the King Class.

“What’s this about?” Zeke did not hold back as he asked this of them.

“We’ve made some discoveries about Sole Wolf and Killer Wolf, Mr. Williams,” they said.

“All the clues led us to Camul. It was he who had taken Sole Wolf and those with him.”

Huh?

Zeke immediately relinquished his hold, sending Camul and the remaining three foes crashing to the floor with resounding thumps.

Alive but barely, the way they regarded Zeke now was with a look of fear.

“C-Could what you’ve unleashed just now be Planetary Pull, the forbidden technique of legend?”

Zeke nodded slightly in affirmation, leaving Camul and the others with him to close their eyes in despair.

Chapter 1648

Though they were not sure what happened in the aftermath of Zeke’s brush with mortality, they supposed that he must have lucked out and ended up learning Planetary Pull.

“Tell me where you’ve imprisoned the Alpha Suicide Squad,” Zeke demanded.

“I don’t know!”

Camul remained as uncompromising as ever as he knew that he was a dead man either way.

“Fine,” Zeke said. “Alfred!”

Alfred then got onto one knee. “I await your orders.”

“Identify five generations of Camul’s family, regardless of age and gender, and kill them all!” Zeke declared.

“Understood!” Alfred replied.

“Stop! Stop this!” the cowed Camul cried.

It was only human to succumb to emotional attachment, so he could not possibly bear to see his own family subjected to slaughter.

On top of that, he had only started serving Ares recently and had not developed enough loyalty toward the latter to justify sacrificing his own family for his sake.

"I'll tell you, but you have to leave my family out of this. I beg of you," Camul said.

"Speak then," Zeke replied.

His silence counted as consent.

"I had them escorted to the Devonville Restricted Zone under Ares' orders," Camul replied.

Devonville Restricted Zone!

Zeke's heart skipped a beat.

Curses! Connor has his sights set on the Spirit Stone mine. Does he intend to use the physical bodies of the Alpha Suicide Squad to nurture the mines?

Zeke knew that he had no time to waste.

Thus, he finished Camul off with a singular smite from his palm before he issued his command, "Send word to the Azure Dragon and have them gather at the Devonville Restricted Zone."

"Understood!" the ten King Class warriors from Azure Dragon who had just arrived responded promptly, and off they went to round up the rest of the Azure Dragon.

Zeke gently lifted Lacey into his arms before he turned to Alfred. "Could I trouble you to accompany me to Devonville Restricted Zone?"

Alfred nodded.

There were two objects to Zeke's trip here. Firstly, to rescue the Alpha Suicide Squad and protect the Spirit Stone mine, and secondly, to harness the spiritual energy of the mine to purge the negative energies from Lacey's body.

Her vitals were stable for now, but she showed no signs of recovering consciousness to date.

He thus suspected that the malice had taken root inside her and saw it imperative to have it purged as soon as possible. Otherwise, she ran the risk of never being able to rouse again.

Zeke stopped in his tracks when they reached the door as he suddenly remembered something. He then turned to regard the villagers. "All of you will be handsomely rewarded for your efforts in protecting my wife after I've suppressed the revolt."

"Your woe are ours, Great Marshal," they replied.

"It is our honor to be able to do our part for the spouse of the Great Marshal."

“We dare not ask for any reward...”

By the time they noticed, Zeke was long gone, leaving behind only a river of carnage.

Zeke arrived in Devonville Restricted Zone in the company of Alfred.

From a distance, they were able to see a pillar of energy burst out from the edges of Devonville and straight through the clouds.

“Another has attained the rank of King Class,” muttered Zeke. “Eurasia has formally passed from the age of Archdukes into the age of Kings. Come, let’s go see who it is who became a new King Class warrior,

The duo then picked up their pace.

At last, at the fringes of Devonville, the duo finally found the newly minted King Class warrior encircled within a protective circle by a watchful dozen.

Zeke was able to recognize the dozen right away.

Aren’t they from the Elites of Sole?

He had stationed Sole Wolf alongside a hundred thousand of them to safeguard the Devonville Restricted Zone.

Why are there only a handful of them left, and what brought them to the edge of Devonville?

A sense of foreboding rose within Zeke’s heart.

Chapter 1649

The score of warriors was delighted to see Zeke and got down on one knee in response to his presence.

“Congratulations to the Great Marshal for your deft escape.

All the while, they were under the impression that their Great Marshal was gone for sure.

Now, they were gleeful to see him return, and their faith remained intact.

Zeke nodded his head slightly in acknowledgment.

It was only when the warriors knelt that he discovered that it was Ares who was encircled within.

Ever since being rescued from the Carter sect by Zeke, Ares had been in a comatose state. On several occasions, he had also been critically ill.

Hence, Zeke had arranged for him to step in the spiritual energy at the Devonville Restricted Zone to aid his recovery.

Not only had the latter survived, but he had also even attained the rank of King Class.

This is truly a cause for celebration.

The strength of Ares' energy clearly surpassed that of other King Class warriors, and Zeke felt that the former had truly become elite at the moment of his transcendence.

Having regained consciousness after being out for so long, Ares seemed overwhelmed as he brought himself to his knees before Zeke. "I thank you, Great Marshal, for saving my life."

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Despite being unconscious before, he remained keenly aware of what went on around him and knew that it was Zeke who saved him.

In terms of seniority, Zeke still had to address this man as his father-in-law, but Ares saw no need for such distinctions as far as a debt of gratitude was concerned.

Zeke quickly helped Ares to his feet. "You're welcome."

"I heard that someone has been going around impersonating me and spreading mischief in the land," Ares said. "I seek permission to right this wrong and rid us of this menace."

"There's no hurry. First, tell me what happened here? Where are my hundred-thousand strong Elites of Sole?" Zeke asked.

The place fell silent as the warriors from the Elites of Sole bowed their heads in shame.

"Please punish us, Great Marshal, for we have failed to protect our hundred-thousand brothers-in-arms."

Zeke felt a sharp pang in his heart as his worst fears came to fruition.

He composed himself and said, "Recount the events to me, in detail."

"Connor rounded up the hundred-thousand remnants of the Four Hidden Sects' elite army to attack the Devonville Restricted Zone in a bid to lay claim to the Spirit Stone mine."

“Our brothers-in-arms who swore to defend it with their lives put up a fierce struggle.

“The Elites of Sole were no match for them and perished in Devonville. We are all that’s left.”

“The Devonville Restricted Zone was lost, and the Spirit Stone mine, taken.”

“We sought to escort Ares to safety and aid him in attaining the King Class. Now, we wish to return to vanquish our enemies.”

The surviving warriors were on their knees.

“We have failed to defend the Spirit Stone mine. Please punish us, Great Marshal.”

“Get up, all of you. It was not your fault,” Zeke replied staidly.

The hundred-thousand-strong army trained by the Four Hidden Sects was the best of the best. Forged over the course of a century, they also had numerous Archdukes within their ranks.

An ordinary regiment like the Elites of Sole was never going to be a match against them.

“Heed me, Ares, and warriors of the Elites of Sole,” Zeke said.

“We await your command!”

“Follow my lead. We shall strike forth into the restricted zone and reclaim the Spirit Stone mine.’

“Understood!”

The men were in high spirits.

“Great Marshal, I heard that you’ve imploded your life force and lost all the fruits of your training... Why don’t you let us charge at the enemy and direct us from the rear?” suggested a concerned Ares.

Zeke smiled wryly. He then tensed his body and unleashed a magnificent burst of Invincible Wave Energy.

Oh my gosh!

Ares held a hand over his mouth. “What a powerful Invincible Wave Energy! Y-You’ve attained the Ultimate Class. How?”

Chapter 1650

This came as a massive blow to Ares, who thought his attainment of King Class would bring him within reach of Zeke.

It did not occur to him that Zeke would have reached Ultimate Class while this was happening.

The difference in the strength of each class spanned a world apart, and that meant that he had been cast far behind.

“Do not be disheartened,” Zeke said. “It was your incapacity that delayed your progression. With my help, it would only be a matter of time before you attain Ultimate Class.”

“Thank you, Great Marshal!”

Ares cupped his hands respectfully.

“I-Is this... Lacey?”

Only now did Ares notice the unconscious Lacey.

He went up to her immediately and held her hand in his. “What happened to her?”

Zeke responded with a look of guilt, “Forgive me. I failed to protect Lacey and allowed her to come to harm. Now, she’s in a coma. But don’t worry. I’ll make her well again, no matter the cost.”

“Wait.” Ares closed his eyes as he clasped her hand tightly. “T-This feels oddly familiar. It’s dark energy. D*mn it! How did Lacey become afflicted by this?”

Zeke was taken slightly aback.

He assumed that the dark energy Ares spoke of must be related to the negative energy that hailed exclusively from Netherworld.

Could Ares familiarity with this dark energy suggest that he had prior contact with people from there?

Zeke promptly followed up on his hunch. “Were you in contact with anyone from Netherworld, Ares?”

“Netherworld?” Ares asked. “Could that be where that person hailed from?”

“Who’s this person you’re referring to?” Zeke pressed

“When I was gravely ill, a mysterious person with a ghostly visage came to me,” Ares explained. “He told me that if I would be willing to join his side, they could not only reconstitute my body and bring me back to life but also forcefully boost my prowess many-fold.”

He continued, “Us Thisletons have been servants of Eurasia for generations, so how could I, as an Archduke and a representative of our country, possibly join up with some unorthodox organization? I rejected them on the spot but never could I have expected that they might try to take me by force. Fortunately, someone’s entry then caused that mysterious person to quietly slink away.”

That drew a frown from Zeke. “You’ve been in a coma all this time, so how were the both of you able to communicate?”

“You wouldn’t believe it even if I told you,” Ares replied, “He was able to tap into my subconsciousness, allowing me to speak with him without needing to move my lips.”

“The denizens of Netherworld are experts in the occult. He must have been using sorcery to communicate with you,” Zeke concluded.

Ares nodded. “The energy I felt from him was similarly peculiar, just like that on Lacey. Was she harmed by someone from Netherworld?”

CC

“That’s right.” Zeke nodded. “Even my daughter Missy was kidnapped by them. I swore to all of Eurasia that I’ll exterminate anyone who harms my family, and so I shall show no quarter to anyone from Netherworld!”

Ares, too, clenched his fists. “Hmph. I will muster all the powers held by the Thisleton family against those who transgress against us and stamp out Netherworld!”

“We can start by reclaiming the Spirit Stone mine first,” Zeke said. “I want to use it to treat Lacey’s wounds. Let’s go!”

The group had just arrived at the perimeters of the restricted zone when they heard a disturbance to their rear, followed by a series of uniformed footsteps which rocked the ground upon which they tread.

When they turned, they saw a six-hundred-strong procession of warriors swarm toward them like a tidal wave.

Chapter 1651

The newcomers were none other than the Azure Dragon

However, unaware of their existence, the nervous Ares and the others reflexively regarded them as hostiles as they prepared themselves for battle.

“Their energy is immense,” Ares said as he took a deep breath. “I can sense that there must be at least a few dozen King Class warriors amongst them, with the majority of the rest mostly Archdukes. We may be in trouble going up against this level of adversity.”

“Fear not, for they are my Azure Dragon,” Zeke said with a smile.

What?

Ares’ eyes widened in skepticism. “They’re with us?”

The Azure Dragon army jogged all the way up before they knelt down in front of Zeke.

“Azure Dragon are at your service, Mr. Williams.”

That left Ares with no room for doubt.

“There are some king Class warriors and a number of Archdukes amongst them, aren’t there, Great Marshal?”

“The King Class warriors number around fifty, and the rest are Archdukes,” replied Alfred.

F*ck me...

Ares’ mind was in disarray.

Fifty-plus King Class warriors and nearly sixhundred Archdukes. That’s enough power to rule the world as Archdukes were still the dominant force back before I was out. To think that I thought myself quite remarkable for having attained the King Class after being in a coma for only so long.

Reality had dealt him yet another cruel slap to the face.

Zeke Williams’ army has fifty freaking King Class warriors in his ranks! Has the King Class become so commonplace that it’s now worth a dime a dozen?

That left Ares in a state of despondence.

Zeke led his men into the Devonville Restricted Zone, and their nostrils were assailed by the noxious stench of blood the moment they neared.

When they cast their eyes over, everywhere under the sun glistened with a sheen of crimson.

That was the river of blood that poured forth from the corpses of the Elites of Sole, whose bodies covered nearly every inch of ground within the restricted zone.

With their heads held high and their fingers never relinquishing the weapons inside their hands, they had not stopped resisting their enemies, even in death.

It was a sight both tragic but moving, so much so that it brought a tear to Zeke's eye.

For Ares and the others, their eyes reddened as it brought their desire for vengeance to the brink.

Zeke bent over and closed the restless eyes of a fallen brethren. "Good sons and daughters of Eurasia, you are heroes to us all. Rest assured that you'll be avenged! Blood must be repaid in blood! Kill them all!"

"Kill them all!"

The six hundred voices in Azure Dragon roared to the skies.

With Zeke at their lead, the group made their way speedily toward the ancient imperial mausoleum.

En route, Zeke instructed Ares, "Cover up your face, Ares, and don't let the enemy recognize you."

"Why?" Ares asked, bewildered. "Oh, that's right. Isn't the leader of the enemy camp the imposter? I can just impersonate him and command them to surrender."

"No." Zeke shook his head. "For those who have taken the lives of a hundred thousand of our boys, only death would suffice. Don't let them recognize you as I wish to use them to lure out the fake Ares. It's only by slaying him that our martyrs can be properly avenged!"

"Understood!" Ares nodded as he ripped a piece.

Chapter 1652

Admittedly, he had underestimated this army's strength, as concealed amongst them were at least a few dozen King Class warriors, against which the average warrior from Elites of Sole would be easily outmatched.

That was on top of the fact that they were a force made up of the Four Hidden Sects' finest.

However, with the demise of their respective heads and the disappearance of the four Ultimate Class elders, the disintegration of the Four Hidden Sects left them without a figurehead.

In the end, they were unified by the fake Ares.

An individual stepped forth when the enemy camp spotted the Azure Dragon army.

“Who goes there? Depart from these forbidden grounds and return swiftly from whence you came, or expect no mercy!”

Zeke immediately recognized him as Janus, a King Class warrior from the outer branch of the Carter sect with whom Zeke himself had crossed paths previously

Zeke stood forward and replied coldly, “Why, have you forgotten me already?”

Janus seemed surprised to see Zeke. “Y-You survived! Looks like I’ve underestimated you. But do stick around since you’re here today so that! May finish the job.”

“That’ll depend on whether you have what it takes,” replied a scoffing Zeke.

That elicited a boisterous laugh from Janus, as though he had been told the best punchline he had ever heard. “It’s common knowledge that you’ve imploded your life force and are now nothing more than a cripple, so I suppose the ace in your hand must be those six hundred men behind you.”

He then continued, “Whereas I have scores of King Class warriors, countless Archdukes, and the others who are the bravest and strongest around. Taking on my hundred-thousand strong force with a crew of six-hundred? You must be delusional!”

“You’re welcome to test your mettle against us!” Zeke flippantly replied.

“Charge!”

Ares spearheaded the Azure Dragon in an assault on the enemy camp with a shout and engaged their counterpart in a ferocious skirmish.

The disparity in the numbers on either side was so great that the six-hundred strong Azure Dragon found themselves surrounded by their enemies from all sides the moment they moved in.

Ares gunned right for the enemy commander, Janus. “Come and meet your end!”

Alfred, too, led five King Class warriors against ten of the opposing King Class warriors.

The intensity of this battle to end all battles seemingly turned day to night and distorted time and space itself. Any ordinary person who bore witness to it would be forgiven for thinking this to be Ragnarok on earth.

It did not take long before Alfred and the five with him defeated all the King Class warriors from the enemy camp.

Before these King Class warriors, the Archdukes and the lesser enemies who remained were as vulnerable as mere insects.

The fifty-odd King Class warriors from Azure Dragon formed an extended line and cleaved through the enemy ranks like a lawnmower. They claimed one life after another while the Azure Dragon's Archdukes worked to clean up any remnant stragglers behind them.

In less than half an hour, the enemy had suffered heavy casualties.

With their ten King Class warriors all fallen in battle and the numbers of their hundred thousand strong elite troops decimated by half, the corpses piled up like a mountain.

Janus' pupils constricted as he gasped.

What kind of godly army is this?

He had thought it over the top to have ten King Class warriors in his ranks but never expected that his foes would boast fifty of them, with the remainder all Archdukes.

This must be the army of the gods.

Seeing how the tide had turned, Janus was filled with despair.

I can't let this continue, or I'll risk losing the fifty thousand men I have left!

He forcefully repulsed Ares with a fist before he howled, "Retreat, all of you! Retreat!"

The warriors who were hanging on by the skin of their teeth immediately turned tail and scattered upon Janus' command.

No longer enamored with battle, Janus, too, scrambled to preserve his own life.

"Come back here and face your death!" Dissatisfied with the yet-to-be-determined outcome, Ares gave chase!

Chapter 1653

However, Ares only persisted in a brief and largely symbolic attempt at a pursuit before he pretended to tire out.

This was because he wanted Janus to lure out his own imposter, the real object of his ire.

Letting the former escape was simply part of the plan.

The Azure Dragon claimed total victory in this campaign. They slew close to sixty percent of their enemies and sent the rest scurrying for the hills, all without having sustained a single casualty of their own!

This could be attributed firstly to the Azure Dragon's superior strength, and secondly, Zeke's covert manipulation of energy to neutralize the threats against them.

Thus, the Devonville Restricted Zone had been reclaimed

"Azure Dragon, secure the restricted zone and kill any and all who trespass!" Zeke commanded.

"Understood!"

The Azure Dragon then spread themselves out to defend the perimeters while Zeke stepped inside the imperial mausoleum with the unconscious Lacey in his arms.

When he passed through the mausoleum and came before the Spirit Stone mine, the sight that greeted him gutted him like a knife into his heart.

The Alpha Suicide Squad, Tyler, and Nameless, amongst others, laid quietly upon the mine.

Zeke could keenly sense their vitality rapidly being absorbed by the Spirit Stone mine.

Curses!

Zeke's eyes bulged in fury.

Connor was really using them to nurture the Spirit Stone mine!

He then approached quickly to examine them.

It's fortunate that they still have a sliver of life force left in them. Had I shown up a minute later, they might have given out.

Zeke immediately got down to administering the life-preserving methods from the Ammo Needle to stabilize them before feeding them one resurrection pill each.

His brow was soaked with perspiration and his breath ragged after all this was done. "Bring them to a quiet corner so that they may recover."

"Understood!"

Ares and Alfred then rolled up their sleeves and got down to work.

Zeke had done everything he possibly could, and the rest was up to fate.

He was not able to determine whether their life force had been damaged or not. If they had, that may result in a deterioration of their abilities, provided they woke up in the first place.

For a warrior, the loss of their prowess was a fate worse than death.

Zeke laid Lacey onto the Spirit Stone mine and used his own energy to channel spiritual energy into her physical body to nourish it.

With the injection of spiritual energy, there was a visible improvement in Lacey's constitution as evidenced by the ruddiness on her cheeks.

However, she showed no signs of regaining consciousness.

That strain of negative energy was still caroming around inside her body, yet to be dissolved or expunged by the spiritual energy.

Damn it!

Zeke's frustration was apparent on his face.

It would seem that Lacey did not receive this negative energy through accidental contact with a denizen of the Netherworld.

For it to be so stubbornly embedded, it had to be purposefully introduced into her body by immortals.

"Only the one who did this can undo it. Hence, only by locating the Netherworld could we get them to expel this negative energy from her."

Ares approached cautiously. "I have an idea, Great Marshal, that might be able to save Lacey's life."

"Speak," replied an anxious Zeke.

“When I was imprisoned by the Carter family, I heard their servant mention a place called Summerbank. According to legend, it was a place where the elders of the Four Hidden Sects recuperated at. Many varieties of herbs grow there, and it was said that the energy there is capable of curing a multitude of diseases, all on its own. If we could find Summerbank, wouldn't it be easy for us to purge the negative energy from Lacey's body?”

Oh?

Ares' words reminded Zeke that when he first discovered Missy's sensing capability, the girl told him that she felt countless strains of fettered spiritual energy originate from the east.

Zeke was sure that there must be spiritual land in that direction, and hence brought Missy along in search of it.

Chapter 1654

Halfway through, they discovered the Carters' devious plot and had no choice but to abandon their search for the spiritual land to sort things out on that front.

If his conjecture was correct, the spiritual land that Missy sensed must be the Summerbank that Ares spoke of.

“We must find Summerbank and save Lacey, no matter the cost. Janus will surely return, and when he does, we will capture him alive and force the location of Summerbank from him.”

“Understood!”

Meanwhile, at the Prince's Residence, Julian was getting a little worried.

He wanted to contact Camul to ask if Lacey was dead but was unable to reach either him or his assistant.

Bereft of options, Julian could only humble himself and reach out to Fourth Lord, who he was told by Camul had now taken charge of this mission.

Julian was able to find out how to contact Fourth Lord with relative ease, but it ended up similarly with no one to pick up at the other end of the line.

Unable to reach Camul before and now Fourth Lord, the strangeness of this whole situation left him quite perturbed.

Julian was prepared to make a personal trip over to Camul's when a disheveled figure half ran, half stumbled into the Prince's Residence.

When he managed to get a good look at him, his heart skipped a beat as he recognized it to be Janus, the steward of the Devonville Restricted Zone.

Why has he left the Spirit Stone mine behind and come all the way here covered in blood and muck? There must be trouble afoot!

Before Julian could ask anything, Janus staggered and fell onto his knees before him.

“Help me... Mr. Thisleton...”

Julian tried to retain his composure. “Speak. Tell me what happened.”

“I was useless and unable to perform my duties. Devonville Restricted Zone is lost,” Janus said.

“What!”

This exclamation came from within the inner chambers.

Connor stormed out and glared furiously at Janus. “Useless imbecile! A hundred-thousand strong army with ten King Class warriors and numerous Archdukes in its ranks is an unstoppable force in any account. Yet you somehow still managed to lose the Spirit Stone mine with that at your disposal? You deserve nothing less than death!”

Connor wished nothing more than to throttle Janus with his own bare hands.

“It was Zeke Williams!” cried Janus. “He was the one who snatched it back!”

The mere mention of that name shook Julian and Connor to the very core.

“Has Zeke reappeared?” Connor pressed. “He imploded his life force in front of everyone and should’ve been reduced to a common man, so how could he have defeated your golden army?”

“His subordinates, the Azure Dragon, proved too strong for us,” Janus said.

“Azure Dragon?” Connor thought aloud. “Why haven’t I heard of them before? Exactly how strong were they?”

“By my preliminary estimates, they numbered no fewer than fifty King Class warriors amongst them. The rest were Archdukes. Their total strength was six hundred in all,” Janus replied.

What!

Connor and Julian were stunned.

Fifty King Class warriors, and close to six hundred Archdukes? What sort of invincible army is this that stood head and shoulders above that of the Four Hidden Sects?

Curse that Zeke Williams! When did he forge this Azure Dragon army and why haven't I heard of them before?

"I lost every one of our ten King Class warriors and half of our total forces. Please lend me reinforcements so that I may go back and right this humiliation," Janus pleaded.

Chapter 1655

Julian and Connor exchanged silent looks.

Connor could not possibly put together anything to match the army Zeke had even if he could pull a rabbit out of a hat.

Finally, Connor asked cautiously, "Tell me then. What is Zeke's own capability at present? After he imploded his life force, he ought to be useless by now."

"He hasn't participated in the battle directly, so I assume that that must be the case," Janus replied.

That seemed to help ease some of Connor's tension. "So long as he is not of the Ultimate Class, I'll have my ways to deal with him. Julian, go and pick out ten of the best amongst your King Class warriors."

"They have fifty of them, Ares," Janus said cautiously. "Surely it can't be enough for us to send out just ten."

Julian nodded in agreement. "He has a point, Father. The disparity between the two sides is immense."

Connor exhaled. "Now that it's come down to it, we can only play our trump card."

That unnerved Julian. "Please reconsider this, Father! It hasn't been tested extensively. The risks are simply too great for it to be deployed now..."

"No risk is greater than the threat that Zeke poses to us," Connor replied. "I can have no peace so long as he lives, so just do as I say."

"All right!"

Julian could only assent to it.

Half an hour later, ten King Class warriors and the remnant fifty thousand warriors mobilized in force toward the Devonville Restricted Zone with Connor at their fore.

At the Devonville Restricted Zone, Zeke was already there waiting by the perimeters, having already anticipated that Janus would call upon the aid of the fake Ares.

The sighting of Connor and Janus brought massive relief to Zeke.

Today, I shall slay this insurrectionist and avenge the Alpha Suicide Squad!

At the same time, he sought to seize Janus alive and have the latter lead them to Summerbank so that Lacey may be treated.

The real Ares was infuriated when he saw his imposter.

This bastard dared pass himself off as me, command my men, and even turn my son Julian into his lackey. Killing him alone would not be enough to soothe my rage!

Connor met Zeke's eyes coldly. "Never could I have expected you to be as hard to kill as a cockroach, but with your life force imploded, it makes little difference now whether you're alive or dead."

"A cripple like me could kill you all the same," Zeke sneered.

Insolence!

Connor stared right into his eyes. "Any last words, Zeke?"

Zeke shook his head. "Apologies, but I won't be giving you any chance to say yours!"

Julian could not stand it anymore. "You were lucky to have escaped with your life the last time, Williams, but today, I shall be finishing you off myself!"

Cold sweat crept down the real Ares' back.

How could you cuss at the Great Marshal, you witless git? Do you not know that he has already attained the Ultimate Class? You must be hallucinating if you think you're able to kill him!

Ares stepped forward and bellowed, "Shut your mouth, boy. Get over here and beg the Great Marshal for forgiveness."

Everyone was slacked-jawed and gawking when the real Ares spoke up.

What's happening here? How is there another Ares, and in the enemy camp, at that?

The one who was most stunned was, of course, Julian himself.

Although he had long suspected that the one he spent time with day in day out could be an imposter, the emergence of the real Ares, which proved this for a fact, still had him in some measure of disbelief.

Being placed in such a difficult position, he was apprehensive as to how to react.

Chapter 1656

Logically speaking, Julian had no reason not to reconcile with the real Ares.

After all, Ares was his birth father, and he could not turn his back on blood relations.

That said, he also knew he owed all his achievements to Connor, the fake Ares.

From taking over as the head of the Thisleton family to becoming a King Class warrior, Julian could not have done them all without Connor.

Besides, what good would it be to pledge his loyalty to the real Ares?

After all, there was a chance that Connor might wipe out the real Ares and Zeke's forces.

Even if Zeke's side were to emerge victorious in the fight, Julian would still be severely dealt with by them.

No matter how he saw it, there was just no light at the end of the tunnel.

Just then, Connor spoke up. "Julian, don't fall for their nonsense. He's impersonating me. I'm your real father!"

With that, Julian shouted at Ares, "You b*stard! How dare you impersonate my father! You've committed a heinous crime, and I shall make you pay dearly for it!"

Naturally, that threw Ares into utter shock.

He believed Julian had to have suspected something was amiss after spending so much time with Connor.

Moreover, when he revealed his identity earlier, Julian had seemed so thoroughly convinced.

He's got a nerve, remaining loyal to the fake and admonishing me in public when he knows I'm his real father. Fine then, I don't care for such a disloyal and unfilial son!

Despite feeling a tinge of disappointment, Ares knew he had to place righteousness above family.

“Twenty years ago, an elder once told us that you were born a renegade,” he said glumly. “Of course, I didn’t believe him then, but I’m now beginning to see just how horribly wrong I was.”

After letting out a deep sigh, he continued, “Not only are you unfilial, but you’re also disloyal. Do you know how much shame you’ve brought to the Thisleton family? For the sake of our family, I have no choice but to get rid of you today.”

Upon hearing that, Connor decided to bring things to a swift end to avoid further complications.

“Where are my ten Archdukes?” he commanded.

The ten King Class warriors he had brought along quickly replied, “Here!”

“Do it now!”

With Connor in the lead, the King Class warriors took out a syringe each and injected a milky white liquid into their hearts.

What happened next was simply terrifying.

As the aura around Connor and his warriors grew visibly stronger with each passing second, so did their powers.

Connor, especially, enhanced his abilities to that of the Ultimate Class in the blink of an eye.

Julian and the ten King Class warriors also had their powers boosted, to the point where they were almost on par with Ultimate Class warriors.

Ares and his team could hardly believe their eyes as they stood with mouths agape.

What magic potion did they inject into themselves? How can such a seemingly unremarkable liquid rapidly increase one’s power and even allow one to reach the Ultimate Class?

Unsurprisingly, everyone was worried.

When up against the wonders of future technology, would mere mortals, regardless of their abilities, be able to defend themselves?

Despite the commotion around them, Zeke remained calm and collected.

His eyes glinted with disdain as he mocked, "How could you, as martial artists, adopt such despicable means? What a disgrace to us all."

"Hmph! All is fair in war, so what's wrong with doing what it takes to win?" Connor retorted. "You can lecture me again if you manage to win against me. Until then, shut your trap!"

"Oh, defeating you is easy. I can do it with just one finger."

Zeke's arrogance was the last straw for Connor, who instantly flew into a rage.

"Fine! Show me what you got!" he thundered before leaping into the air toward Zeke.

By the time Zeke sprang into action, Connor had made his first attack by unleashing Invincible Wave Energy

It was so strong that even Ares and Alfred could feel an incredible crushing force coming down on them.

Chapter 1657

Slowly but surely, they were brought to their knees, no longer able to withstand the overwhelming force.

At the same time, the pressure built up had resulted in internal bleeding, causing everyone to cough out blood uncontrollably.

To the enemies' surprise, not only was Zeke unfazed, but he also did not seem affected by the Invincible Wave Energy.

Even Connor was starting to panic, wondering why his attack had not hurt Zeke in the slightest.

The next moment, he accelerated his attack, determined to crush Zeke's skull and finish him off once and for all.

However, before he could get any nearer, Zeke's body suddenly shook.

With that, a vast amount of white fog was released from his body and spread out until it enveloped Connor's Invincible Wave Energy

That sent Connor reeling.

As it turned out, Zeke's Invincible Wave Energy was so much stronger than his that it was visible even to the naked eye.

Like Connor, everyone else on his side was left speechless by that mind-blowing revelation.

When they were at the president's residence, Zeke's destruction of his life force was so powerful it blew up a meters wide cavity into the ground.

He was lucky enough to have survived it, let alone retain his power.

Alas, it became clear that not only had Zeke retained all his powers, but he had also gotten even stronger than before.

From the looks of it, his Invincible Wave Energy was one of the best in the Ultimate Class, outshining even the four elders from the Four Hidden Sects.

What could Zeke have experienced to have such astonishing growth?

Connor had no doubts that his own boosted power would be a far cry from Zeke's pure Ultimate Class power.

After all, whether it was the volume or the density, Zeke's Invincible Wave Energy was at least twice as powerful as Connor's.

With Connor's attack suppressed by Zeke's, Alfred and the others gradually felt the pressure lifting off of them.

Immediately after, Zeke shrugged his shoulders and shot his Invincible Wave Energy into the sky.

Bang!

A dull explosion rang out, dispelling Connor's Invincible Wave Energy and knocking him back.

After getting flung out a distance, Connor fell to the ground, badly injured and spitting blood.

Then, a dead silence filled the air.

The men on Connor's side blanched with horror at the sudden turn of events, completely stumped about what to do next.

In the face of Zeke's sheer power, whatever fighting spirit they had before was long gone.

Zeke walked toward Connor, lips curled into a smirk. "Is this all you got? Trash!"

Connor braced himself as he struggled to get back on his feet.

“Zeke, h-how dare you! As protector of the nation, I’m in control of the Tigon Badges belonging to the Three Inspectors, Six Superintendents, and Thirty-Four Templars. Everyone has to listen to my orders! In other words, I represent Eurasia’s martial arts world!”

When Zeke did not say anything, Connor continued, “Physical assaulting me in public is a crime against Eurasia, so I suggest you wise up and surrender. If you do, I may consider sparing your life! Otherwise, you’ll become Eurasia’s public enemy number one!”

“What a load of bull! Is this you grasping at straws because you know you can’t beat me?” Zeke replied with a condescending sneer. “Sorry, but I don’t have time for your nonsense. No matter what, you’re going down today!”

“Do you think I’m powerless just because you’re an Ultimate Class warrior?” Connor snapped, eyes blazing with anger. “We have all surpassed King Class and are only a step away from attaining the Ultimate Class. By attacking together, we’d still be able to take your life!”

With that said, Connor turned to his ten King Class warriors and ordered, “Everyone, attack!”

Based on his understanding of Zeke, Connor knew it would be impossible to make peace with him.

Furthermore, Zeke would do everything in his power to kill them, which meant that not even the combined forces of Connor and his warriors would be sufficient to take him down.

Chapter 1658

The only plan Connor had was to send his King Class warriors to distract Zeke so that he could sneak away undetected.

Not daring to go against Connor’s orders, the ten King Class warriors did as instructed and charged forward valiantly.

Alfred and Azure Dragon immediately tensed up and turned toward Zeke. “Mr. Williams, please let us join the fight!”

“No need,” Zeke replied with a dismissive wave of his hand. “We don’t have time to waste. I’m going to end this quickly.”

As soon as he heard that, Alfred knew what Zeke had in mind.

He’s going to use Planetary Pull!

True enough, before the ten King Class warriors could even get close to him, Zeke had unleashed Planetary Pull on them.

With both his palms thrust out, he released a strong suction force that was only effective on one's energy.

In the blink of an eye, the energies from the ten King Class warriors were gradually sucked away by Zeke's Planetary Pull.

They barely had time to register what was happening when they felt their energies getting extracted forcefully.

The pain was so excruciating that it was akin to having their flesh ripped out.

Alas, no one knew what was going on until Zeke had almost sucked them dry.

By then, it was already too late.

The warriors stared ashen-faced at Zeke, realizing they had lost their energies and life forces to him and the legendary Planetary Pull.

That realization completely broke all of them down.

Planetary Pull had long been considered a forbidden technique due to the exceptional, almost unfair, advantage the user had over the others.

Consequently, no good ever came to those who fell prey to such a powerful technique.

Even though the King Class warriors tried to resist, their efforts were futile.

After all, an Ultimate Class warrior unleashing Planetary Pull was just too strong of a combination for those in King Class.

Connor, who had been watching silently from the sidelines, was so stunned that he forgot all about his escape plan

Planetary Pull was the one technique that he had always wanted to acquire.

Because of that, he searched high and low in the Four Hidden Sects' treasury, hoping that he would find the secrets to mastering it.

Now that Zeke had beaten him to it, Connor felt a mix of envy and resentment.

To make matters worse, Connor's fifty thousand elite soldiers had long given up on fighting, knowing that they would never stand a chance against Zeke.

Previously, there was still a glimmer of hope that Connor and the ten King Class warriors could lead them to victory

However, things had since taken a drastic turn.

Connor was down for the count, and the ten King Class warriors had their inner forces sucked dry, thereby rendering them useless.

With all the odds stacked against them, the soldiers had no choice but to abandon their posts and flee for their lives.

Unfortunately, Zeke was not about to let them off that easily.

“Rebels! You will get the punishment you deserve! Azure Dragon, heed my orders!”

“Yes, Great Marshal!”

“Kill them all!”

Without hesitation, six hundred Archduke Class warriors charged toward the fifty thousand elite soldiers and brutally attacked them.

Julian knew it was all over for him as he stood frozen in place, his face drained of color.

By the time he decided to make a run for it, Ares, who had been keeping an eye on him, promptly sprang into action.

With just one leap, Ares landed beside Julian and struck him down.

Feeling even more desperate than ever, Julian turned toward Connor and shouted, “Father, save me!”

Alas, with him barely able to save himself, Connor could not care less about Julian’s plight.

The next second, he turned and hightailed it out of there, never once looking back at Julian.

Wave after wave of regret washed over Julian as he stared blankly ahead.

He would have pledged his loyalty to Ares from the start if he had known this was how things would end.

For someone who would not even go easy on the elite soldiers, there was no way Zeke would let Connor escape either.

He shot a burst of energy out from his palm and blew a hole in Connor's stomach, resulting in a terrifying, bloodied mess.

Connor instantly crumpled into a heap on the ground, twitching uncontrollably and no longer having the will to fight.

Ares glared at Julian and thundered, "You unfilial son! You've turned your back on your father and wreaked havoc on Eurasia! I'll have to do what's right and punish you accordingly!"

Julian went cold with dread and held onto Ares' legs. "Please spare me, Father! Spare me!"

Chapter 1659

"I know I was wrong. Please give me another chance if the impostor hadn't deceived me, wouldn't have mistaken him for you. Please, I'm not to blame! Julian pleaded amidst sobs.

This time, Area hesitated

If what Julian said was true, then he, too, was a victim of Connor and did not deserve death,

More importantly, how could he kill his own flesh and blood?

"Father, I know I was wrong. I deserve to die," Julian whimpered, "All I ask for is your permission to end the impostor's life with my own hands! Please let me atone for my sins!"

After giving it some thought, Ares finally nodded.

Julian's eyes lit up as he marched toward Connor with a sword,

Since Father has given me the permission to kill the impostor, that must mean he has forgiven me! I'll be safe as long as I do what's necessary!

To Julian's surprise, Connor suddenly burst out laughing

Julian, my son. Have you completed the mission that I gave you? Is Lacey Hinton dead yet? You swore that you'd end her life in two days. You haven't forgotten, have you?"

Zeke and Ares tensed up upon hearing Lacey's name as everything started to fall into place.

Julian was the one who had sent Fourth Lord and Camul. Clearly, he could not care less if his sister died.

The more Ares thought about it, the more furious he got

It's all Julian's fault that Lacey is still in a coma, and Missy got kidnapped by the people from Netherworld! After committing so many heinous crimes, he definitely can't be spared!

"You're unfilial and worse than a monster!" Ares shouted as rage churned inside of him. "I can't believe you'd go so far as to kill your sister. Death won't even be enough to atone for your sins!"

Scared out of his wits, Julian hastily pleaded, "Father, please listen to me. That's all Connor's fault. If he hadn't deceived me..."

To his dismay, his pleas fell on deaf ears.

With one swift stroke of his sword, Ares made sure that Julian had breathed his last.

Soon, Zeke had sucked the King Class warriors dry of their energies and life forces.

He did, however, keep Janus alive.

After all, Janus played an integral role in the Carter sect and might very well know Summerbank's location, the only place that could save Lacey.

Azure Dragon carried on with their massacre, leaving the enemy troops in utter chaos.

Zeke decided to join the fight, so it did not take long before the entire army was annihilated.

All it had taken Zeke and his men were thirty minutes to wipe out an army of more than fifty thousand people.

That, undoubtedly, was a rare sight by any standards.

Just as Zeke was about to interrogate Janus on Summerbank's location, the ground underneath Janus suddenly gave way and swallowed him up.

Damn it! Someone's tunneling below to rescue him!

However, before Zeke could take any action, he was distracted by a muffled thud that rang out behind him.

To his horror, the same thing was also happening to Connor as the ground swallowed the latter up.

It became clear as day that someone was tunneling underground in an attempt to rescue Connor and Janus.

Without further ado, Zeke jumped into the sunken pit and dug away using his energy, determined to give chase to the culprit.

Before long, he had found the tunnel and began his pursuit.

In just a short while, Zeke had caught up with Janus

However, due to the narrow tunnel, he only managed to grab Janus' legs instead of going after the culprit.

At the same time, the culprit held onto Janus' arms, and both parties began a tug of war.

Alas, Janus was a mere mortal who did not have the means to withstand the strength of two great warriors.

Eventually, a sickening sound rang out in the tunnel as Janus got torn in half.

"Damn it," the culprit muttered under his breath before throwing Janus aside and making his escape.

Chapter 1660

Zeke, too, jumped over Janus and continued the pursuit

Five minutes later, he found himself at a fork in the road.

The tunnel had split into three, but no matter how hard Zeke tried to sense it, he could not pinpoint the direction the culprit had gone.

Damn it! I can't sense his presence at all!

Feeling somewhat desperate, Zeke picked one of the tunnels at random and continued his search.

Unfortunately, that turned out to be the wrong choice as it only led him to a dead end.

Zeke could not hide the disappointment on his face as he trudged back to Janus' body.

There was no denying that Janus was dead as a doornail, which only made Zeke even more frustrated

Arggh! How am I supposed to locate Summerbank without Janus' help? And if I can't find Summerbank, how can I save Lacey?

As soon as Zeke brought Janus back aboveground, Alfred and Ares quickly gathered around him.

“Great Marshal, what happened earlier?”

“We ran into a Tunneling expert. Even I was no match for him, and he managed to escape with Connor. But Janus, as you can see, is done for,” Zeke grumbled

“Damn it!” Ares said through gritted teeth. “I wonder who he could be. How dare he wreck your plan!”

“I did sense a trace of negative energy on him, though, so I’m pretty sure he’s from Netherworld.”

Alfred pondered over Zeke’s words and nodded solemnly. “Indeed. Netherworld is full of oddities, so I wouldn’t be surprised if they had warriors skilled in Tunneling.’

“And now that Janus is dead, we can only rely on ourselves to locate Summerbank,” Zeke mumbled.

“Alfred, heed my orders.”

Alfred promptly got on one knee and replied, “Yes, Great Marshal.”

“I want you to lead Azure Dragon to search for Summerbank around Mount Final.”

“Understood!”

With that, Alfred began his march toward Mount Final with Azure Dragon in tow.

As for the Spirit Stone mine, everyone knew it would be safe with an Ultimate Class like Zeke guarding it, so no one was the least bit worried.

Ares tossed a tentative look at Zeke and asked, “Great Marshal, now that you’ve absorbed the energies of ten King Class warriors, have you also attained a new rank? Is it possible to go beyond the Ultimate Class?”

“No. The Ultimate Class is unfathomable,” Zeke replied while shaking his head. “Even for myself, I think I’m only at the middle. There’s still a long way to go before I can surpass it.”

A flicker of disappointment instantly crossed Ares face. “Wow, even after absorbing that much energy from the warriors, you’re still only at the middle level. When will ordinary martial artists like us ever get to your level? By the way, Great Marshal, can you teach me Planetary Pull?”

“You want to learn? Sure,” Zeke answered with a chuckle. “The first step is to destroy your life force without killing yourself.”

Ares' face fell at his reply.

If destroying one's life force was the prerequisite to learning Planetary Pull, then he knew it would be almost impossible to achieve it.

After all, most people would not be able to survive past such a destructive process.

And among the lucky handful who succeeded, Zeke had to be the only one to have survived it not just once but twice.

Now, all they could do was wait and hope for Alfred and Azure Dragon to find Summerbank.

Once they did, they would be able to heal Lacey and the Alpha Suicide Squad.

Even as they waited for Alfred's return, Zeke never once stopped gathering information on Netherworld.

However, Netherworld had always been shrouded in a cloud of mystery as they worked in the shadows.

Because of that, clues about them remained frustratingly scant.

Soon, five days had gone by in a blur.

Sadly, Lacey was still unconscious.

On the other hand, the Alpha Suicide Squad, Tyler, and Nameless were starting to regain consciousness under Zeke's care.

Chapter 1661

However, their injuries were far too severe, and after having most of their life forces absorbed by the Spirit Stone mine, all their powers had dropped drastically.

Despite their feeble state, the Alpha Suicide Squad, Tyler, and Nameless could not hide their excitement when they saw Zeke still well and alive.

Just as they were about to thank him with a salute, Zeke stopped them.

“No, no need for that. You're all still very weak, and your priority now should be to rest and recuperate. Once you've regained your powers, look forward to fighting alongside all of you again.”

Regain our powers?

Upon hearing that, a realization suddenly dawned on Sole Wolf. He quickly picked up a rock beside him and clamped down hard on it.

Regrettably, nothing happened, which only confirmed his suspicions.

“Why can’t I use any force with my arm?” Sole Wolf choked out dejectedly. “My powers... They’re less than one-fifth of what I had before!”

The others hastily tested their strength, only to realize they were all in the same predicament as Sole Wolf.

“Don’t worry,” Zeke reassured. “Once I locate Summerbank, you will all regain your full powers.”

At that, Nameless let out a deep sigh. “Summerbank isn’t that easy to find, though. The only ones who know its location are the heads of the Four Hidden Sects. But Missy does have a sensing capability. Perhaps we could get her to help.”

As soon as Missy was mentioned, Zeke’s gaze darkened.

It constantly pained him to think about how scared she must be in a place like Netherworld.

The one saving grace, however, was that her life would not be in danger.

After all, the biggest reason Netherworld had kidnapped Missy was that they were impressed by her martial arts talent.

As such, they were likelier to groom her than to harm her.

“What’s wrong?” Tyler frantically asked when he saw the change in Zeke’s expression. “Did something happen to Missy?”

Zeke took a deep breath before answering, “Missy has been kidnaped by Netherworld.”

Everyone immediately exploded in anger. “What? How dare they! They ought to be punished!”

“Great Marshal, please tell us where they are. We’ll crush them once and for all!”

To their surprise, Zeke waved them off. “I got this You guys stay out of it. Remember, your biggest task on hand is to recuperate and regain your strength!”

Right at that moment, Ares walked in.

“Great Marshal, Mr. Henderson has requested an audience with you.”

The sight of Ares riled Sole Wolf and the others up so much that they started to shake with fury.

If it were not for him, they would not have ended up in the Spirit Stone mine in the first place.

Soon, a commotion broke out as they scolded and threatened to attack Ares.

Not wanting things to get out of hand, Zeke quickly stepped in to explain, “Everyone, calm down. This man is the real Ares. The one who brought you here is the impostor, who has since escaped after being defeated.”

Thankfully, they all accepted the explanation and forgave Ares.

“All right, back to business. What does Mr. Henderson want from me?” Zeke asked.

“I think he has a gift for you,” Ares replied. “I don’t know the specifics either as he said it was classified information.”

“Okay then, let him in.” Zeke nodded.

George Henderson was the personal bodyguard of the president of Eurasia and was also one of the strongest fighters around.

Not only was he similar in age to Zeke, but he had also competed with Zeke over the position of Great Marshal.

Eventually, George lost out to Zeke by a narrow margin and was subsequently appointed to be the president’s bodyguard.

Because of that loss, the relationship between Zeke and George had never been good.

Not long after, a strapping young man squeezed his way into the imperial mausoleum.

Due to his impressive height of two meters, he had to hunch over as he made his way around.

Not wanting to speak to Zeke in his bowed position, George quickly found a place to sit.

“Great Marshal, I’m here to deliver the president’s orders. Kneel and receive the imperial decree.”

Zeke made no attempt to move. There was no way he would get on his knees, especially when he had the privilege of not having to kneel for imperial decrees.

Chapter 1662

The fact that George suggested for Zeke to kneel was nothing but a pathetic attempt at humiliating him.

Zeke straightened his back and said, "Go on."

George decided to let the matter slide and tossed a small bottle to Zeke.

"The president heard how badly injured the Alpha Suicide Squad is and sent me here with the life force potion. Let them drink it. It'll help in regaining their life force."

Zeke accepted the bottle and promptly handed it to Sole Wolf. "Thanks."

With that, George tossed an arrogant glance at the Alpha Suicide Squad before getting up to leave.

Just as Sole Wolf and the others were about to drink the life force potion, Zeke shot his hand out abruptly to stop them.

As everyone looked up in utter confusion, all they saw was Zeke shaking his head discreetly at them.

It was then that they knew-there was something wrong with the potion.

Zeke suddenly shouted, "Mr. Henderson, please wait."

"What is it?" George snapped impatiently.

"Could you help me pass a message to the president? Please let him know that I need to use the herb plantation in the North to treat my subordinates' injuries. I sincerely hope he'll permit it."

After thinking about it, George gave a curt nod. "Very well, I'll inform the president about this."

As he continued to walk out, Zeke unexpectedly unleashed Seven Stars of the Tiger.

A ferocious energy tiger materialized above Zeke's head, and with just one punch, Zeke shot the tiger out toward George.

George paled instantaneously and cursed under his breath.

He tried his best to duck the attack, but it was too late.

Before he could react, the tiger had barreled into his side with such an incredible force that it sent him flying.

The sudden turn of events had left everyone dumbfounded as they stood rooted to the ground.

Everyone knew George and Zeke were not on good terms, but that still was not enough reason to injure someone who had come to deliver medicine.

In fact, it now seemed like Zeke was being incredibly unreasonable.

Zeke, unfortunately, had no time to explain as he hurriedly gave chase.

Naturally, Sole Wolf and the others followed closely behind.

George looked very grubby and miserable as he fell and rolled on the muddy ground several times.

When he finally got his bearings, he glared at Zeke with bloodshot eyes.

“B*stard! I’ve come to visit on the president’s orders, and you dare assault me? What are your intentions? Are you challenging the president’s authority?”

“I should be asking you that instead,” Zeke answered with a steely gaze. “You’ve disguised yourself as the president’s bodyguard and even tried to deceive me! I have every right to punish you!”

George was stunned for a moment before collecting himself. “Hmph! What a load of rubbish! I’ll report this to the president and let him pass judgment.”

He then tried to make a hasty retreat, only to have Zeke once again stop him in his tracks.

“Thinking of escaping? You can forget about it! If you reveal your true identity now, I might still spare your life.”

All of a sudden, Sole Wolf yelled, “Guys, this a*shole is an impostor! He’s trying to poison us all!”

When everyone looked toward Sole Wolf, they saw him pouring the life force potion onto a flower

In just a matter of seconds, the flower wilted and crumbled into ashes.

Everyone gasped as chills ran down their spines.

There was no doubt that if they had drunk the potion, they would all suffer the same painful outcome as the flower.

The impostor was truly vile beyond measure!

“F*ck! This guy is an impostor!”

“I knew this potion was too good to be true.”

“How dare he! He disguised himself as the Praetorian of Eurasia, deceived our Great Marshal, and even wanted to kill the Alpha Suicide Squad! He deserves nothing less than death!”

Zeke stared coldly at George, having already made up his mind about killing him.

The Alpha Suicide Squad was like Zeke’s family, and he would never forgive anyone who intentionally harmed them.

Chapter 1663

George remained calm as he explained, “This is the president’s intention. The Alpha Suicide Squad failed to do its job, resulting in Connor taking over the president’s residence and controlling the president. Wouldn’t you agree that such a crime is punishable by death?”

After making sure he still had everyone’s attention, George continued, “The president bestowed this poison on you, yet you let it go to waste! That’s equally unforgivable!”

Zeke sneered. “Hah, do you take us for fools? Do you think we’ll believe your lies? Reveal your identity at once! Otherwise, prepare to die!”

George sighed, knowing he could no longer pull the wool over Zeke’s eyes.

Suddenly, his body shuddered, and a black mist shrouded his face.

When the mist gradually dissipated, his true face was finally revealed.

From the black mist and negative energy, Zeke could already tell that the person in front of him was from Netherworld.

What he used was not a physical disguise but an illusionary technique.

Everyone had fallen prey to his technique, which was why they saw and heard him as George.

However, the bigger shock came after the face reveal.

No one had expected to be staring at the face of a pretty girl.

More importantly, she was Eurasia's top female Archduke, Willow Hanks!

Back in the days, Willow's fame was on par with Zeke and was even hailed as the country's heroine by the president.

During a war against enemies seven years ago, she died tragically on the battlefield.

Zeke had even personally collected Willow's body and attended her burial.

I witnessed her death seven years ago, so what is she doing here? And why would she join Netherworld to plot against me?

Just then, a terrifying thought came to Zeke's mind.

It's true that in folk legends, the netherworld is a place for the dead. Doesn't it mean the members of Netherworld are neither humans nor ghosts?

Meanwhile, Ares found himself growing increasingly emotional with each passing second.

Having fought countless battles alongside Willow, he shared a deep bond with her.

Their comradeship was far greater than anything else, one which others could not fathom.

Ares' voice trembled as he began to speak. "Willow, I can't believe you're still alive. Have you joined Netherworld? Why would you do that and go against Eurasia?"

"Not only am I alive, but I'm also guaranteed to live a very long life," Willow replied coldly. "This is all thanks to Netherworld, so why shouldn't I pledge my loyalty to them?"

Ares' disappointment showed on his face as he let out a sigh. "The Willow Hanks I know would do anything for Eurasia and stare death in the eye. She'd never cower in fear like you. You're no longer the Willow I know."

Then, Ares shook his head sadly and added, "Forget it. After what you've done, I'll have to end you today."

"Sorry, you're not worthy of that," Willow retorted, her tone full of disdain. "I'm no longer someone you can so easily threaten. Great Marshal is the only one who's worthy enough to take me on."

Those words sent a jolt of anger through Ares as he snarled, "How dare you! I'll shred you to pieces!"

“Ares, stop!” Zeke interrupted. “She’s made an enemy out of me, and I’m going to end her myself.”

Zeke could tell that Willow had long surpassed the King Class and was only a step away from attaining the Ultimate Class.

No matter how hard Ares tried, he would never be her match

Therefore, Zeke had no choice but to stop Ares from going on a suicide mission.

As for saying he would end Willow’s life, that was only his attempt at pacifying Ares.

Hearing his words, Ares frowned, unable to mask his disappointment.

Zeke turned toward Willow and cocked his brow. “Willow, I’m sure there’s more to your mission than poisoning the Alpha Suicide Squad. If it were that trivial, you wouldn’t have taken it on personally.”

Chapter 1664

Willow nodded with a smirk. “That’s the Great Marshal for you! Always so observant and sharpwitted! You’re right. The real reason I’m here is that Netherworld has tasked me to bestow a title upon you.”

Zeke’s ears perked up immediately. “Oh? What title would that be?”

“The Ninth Commander of the Ten Commandments!”

“Ten Commandments?” he asked curiously. “What benefits do I get for becoming the Ninth Commander?”

“The benefits are beyond your wildest imagination! The Ten Commandments are a powerful entity, second only to the inspector of Netherworld, but easily stronger than your position as Great Marshal!”

There was a glint in Willow’s eyes as she added, “If you join the Ten Commandments, all the resources in Netherworld will be at your disposal.”

Zeke pretended to look puzzled as he queried, “But Netherworld operates in the darkest corners of Eurasia. What resources can it possibly have?”

“Such naivety!” Willow exclaimed.

“The greatest treasures of Eurasia are tucked away in the darkest, most obscure corners. What Eurasia has uncovered thus far is hardly a tenth of it. And as for the rest, it belongs to Netherworld! Can you imagine just how much wealth and resources we have?”

Zeke could not deny that the temptation was hard to resist.

He also finally understood why Netherworld had grown so much in power over the years.

With them in possession of ninety percent of Eurasia’s resources, how could they not?

After mulling over it, Zeke asked, “If I agree to become the Ninth Commander, will you be able to treat my wife, Lacey Hinton?”

Willow smiled. “No problem. That’d be a piece of cake.”

“Good. I agree to it then.”

Unsurprisingly, Zeke’s announcement stunned everyone present.

Why would Great Marshal surrender without a fight and join the enemy? Is he even still the Great Marshal that we all know and respect?

After their initial shock settled, however, it finally hit them.

Great Marshal must have done so to pinpoint the location of Netherworld’s headquarters so that he could wipe them all out. There’s no way he would ever betray Eurasia.

Even Willow was a little suspicious at how readily Zeke agreed to it. “Do you really want to be the Ninth Commander of Netherworld?”

“As long as I can get my wife cured and my daughter back, I’m willing to do anything.”

“Very well then,” she replied.

“I’ll report back to the Tenth Commander as soon as possible. He’ll personally escort you to Netherworld to confirm your title. I’m only an envoy working for the Tenth Commander and don’t have the right to know the location of our headquarters. Thus, I won’t be able to take you there myself.”

After some deliberation, Zeke nodded his approval, and Willow went on her way.

The moment she was gone, Zeke turned his attention toward Ares and the others. “I need all of you to stay and guard the Spirit Stone mine. I’ll be right back.”

Everyone quickly figured that Zeke planned on tailing Willow to Netherworld and thus nodded without hesitation.

“Zeke, be careful,” Sole Wolf urged. “Do you need us to help you in secret?”

“Don’t worry. Even if I don’t manage to destroy Netherworld, I’d still be able to make it out alive.”

With that, Zeke rushed off and followed Willow from a distance, not the least worried that she would notice his presence when even an Ultimate Class warrior could not do so.

To his surprise, when they came to a valley, Willow suddenly stopped in her tracks and turned around.

“Show yourself, Zeke Williams. I know you’ve been following me this whole time.’

Zeke’s heart skipped a beat as racing thoughts filled his mind.

No, I’m sure Willow isn’t skilled enough to sense my presence. She’s most probably lying and testing the water.

Zeke remained in the shadows, determined not to show himself.

After a while, Willow continued, “I know what’s on your mind-you’re so sure I won’t be able to sense your presence because you’re an Ultimate Class warrior. However, you forgot how well I understand you. I know you’ll never submit to Netherworld.”

A smile crept across her face. “Agreeing to be the Ninth Commander is only a temporary expedient strategy of yours. Your main motive is to find out the location of Netherworld through me.”

Chapter 1665

As Willow used to be Eurasia’s top female Archduke, she was undeniably a calculating person.

Knowing that his game was up, Zeke had no choice but to show himself.

“Ha! Great Marshal, you didn’t think I’d fall for your little trick, did you?” Willow scoffed. “You’ve sorely underestimated the members of Netherworld.”

Zeke took a deep breath and replied, “Willow, I know you’d never sell out your country for fame and fortune. Were you forced to join Netherworld because of some difficulties? Tell me, and I may be able to help you.”

Zeke paused before continuing, “If you willingly hand over the information about Netherworld, I can even guarantee your safety and give you back your position as the Archduke.

Unfortunately, Willow could not care less about Zeke's offer.

"Netherworld has given me my life and everything else that I have. Thus, I pledge my loyalty to them and only them. What's so hard to understand?"

"Willow, you're forcing my hand!" Zeke let out a disappointed sigh.

"Bring it on then. Show me what an Ultimate Class warrior like you is capable of!"

At that, Zeke hesitated.

Willow is my only clue to Netherworld. How can I destroy that?

"I'm giving you one last chance, Willow," Zeke said firmly. "Even if you don't want to tell me where Netherworld is, I can still spare your life if you can give me Summerbank's location."

Willow smirked. "That's okay. I'm prepared to die anyway. You don't have to persuade me any further."

Zeke was now boiling with anger as he thundered, "Death, you say? I shall give you what you asked for!"

The next moment, he released a blast of Invincible Wave Energy toward Willow.

Willow was unfazed as she countered with negative energy.

Negative energy was one wielded only by those from Netherworld, but no matter how strong it was, it still paled in comparison to Zeke's.

Under the relentless attack of Zeke's Invincible Wave Energy, Willow only managed to hold out for three seconds before his attack pierced through her shield.

With Willow's negative energy destroyed, the backlash, too, damaged her life force.

Ultimately, Zeke's Invincible Wave Energy overwhelmed her and left her holding onto her last breath.

Zeke walked toward Willow and stared down at her.

"On account of the contributions you've made for Eurasia in the past, you can tell me if you have any last wishes. I'll help you fulfill them."

In her final moments, Willow struggled to grab Zeke's arm and whispered, "Way down south of Mount Final lives a God!"

Once the last word left her mouth, Willow's body went limp and stopped moving.

Zeke frowned.

Way down south of Mount Final lives a God? Is that Willow's hint at the location of Summerbank?

The more Zeke thought about it, the more convinced he was.

Yes, that has to be it! Summerbank is in the southernmost part of Mount Final! But why would Willow suddenly reveal the location of Summerbank when she had vehemently refused to do so earlier?

Then, it dawned on Zeke.

It was likely that Willow was not in control of her conscious mind previously because Netherworld had manipulated her spiritual energy.

However, after Zeke destroyed her life force and negative energy, she regained her sanity long enough to tell him the location of Summerbank.

That realization, unfortunately, only pained Zeke even more. Willow had only been under Netherworld's manipulation. She was no traitor at all.

Without hesitation, Zeke removed his Ammo Needle and administered it to Willow in an attempt to extend her life.

Alas, Willow had already lost all signs of life, and not even the Ammo Needle could help.

Zeke sighed softly, saddened that Eurasia had once again lost its heroine.

He carried Willow in his arms and made his way back to Devonville Restricted Zone with a heavy heart.

Meanwhile, Ares and the rest had been worrying themselves sick about Zeke.

Seeing that he was well and alive, they heaved a collective sigh of relief.

Chapter 1666

However, something weird stood out to them.

Didn't he stalk Willow to Netherworld? Why is he now back with her in his arms? More importantly, why does she look lifeless?

Ares hastily ran up and asked, "Great Marshal, what happened? How did Willow die?"

Zeke sighed before recounting the incident and his speculations to everyone.

Silence immediately hung in the air.

After a long while, Ares spoke up. "Willow must have been manipulated by negative energy. I knew she couldn't have betrayed our country when she was Eurasia's first female Archduke."

Nameless chimed in, "Most of the other fighters in Netherworld must also be under their manipulation. That means if we can find a technique to dispel the negative energy, we can bring them back to their senses! It wouldn't be long before we destroyed Netherworld!"

Zeke nodded in agreement.

A technique to dispel negative energy was just the thing he had been researching on.

Regrettably, he had not gotten any success as he did not know enough about Netherworld.

"Sole Wolf, pass my message to the president," Zeke commanded. "I strongly suggest that Eurasia start a research team to look into negative energy and come up with techniques to dispel it. If we learn even just one technique, it'd be beneficial to Eurasia."

Sole Wolf nodded. "Understood. I'll let the president know right now."

"Let's take a rest today," Zeke said. "We'll continue our search for Summerbank tomorrow."

Just then, Alfred piped up, "I managed to contact Azure Dragon earlier. Even with six hundred warriors, they have yet to find any clues about Summerbank. Therefore, I don't think we should continue with the search blindly. If we do, all our efforts will only be for naught. Why don't we wait for Azure Dragon to gather some clues before moving forward? At least we will have something to lead us."

"Willow has already given me a clue to its location. I know where it is," Zeke answered calmly. "This time, we must succeed."

Upon hearing that, everyone cheered, happy that their search would be a lot easier now that they had a clue.

While the others retired for the day, Zeke made his way to Lacey

After being nourished by spiritual energy, Lacey looked a lot rosier and healthier.

Her vital signs were stabler, but the negative energy inside her seemed to have also gotten stronger.

No mortal could withstand the effects of negative energy, and if Zeke did not dispel it soon, Lacey might never wake up again.

Zeke ran his fingers through Lacey's hair and mumbled, "Lacey, don't worry. I'll cure you no matter what it takes. Even if it means I have to sacrifice myself along with Netherworld, I'll make sure to rescue our dear Missy. When this is all over, I promise we'll be together forever."

The night was long, yet Zeke did not sleep a wink

Now that he had attained the Ultimate Class, the limits of his physical body had long surpassed those of ordinary folks.

Even if he stayed awake for up to half a month, it would not affect him much.

Everyone was up bright and early the next day, ready to set off on their search for Summerbank.

Being the Ultimate and King Class warriors they were, Zeke, Alfred, and Ares could move at almost the speed of sound.

However, the rest of the team struggled to keep up as their life forces were still greatly damaged.

Thankfully, Zeke constantly released his energy along the way to help them, thus ensuring they would not be left too far behind.

By noon, the team arrived at Mount Final.

Looking down at the Carter sect, everyone felt a wave of emotions wash over them.

It was not that long ago when the Four Hidden Sects were still in power and respected by all in Eurasia.

Chapter 1667

Yet, in just a matter of days, all that was left of the Carter sect was an empty shell.

At that moment, only a few people guarded the place, which made it appear desolated.

Tyler asked, "Great Marshal, may I know where the treasures of the Four Hidden Sects are now?"

Zeke looked at him. "Why? Are you interested in them?"

Till then, the memories of Tyler taking away a large sack of expensive tea from the Carter family were still fresh in his mind.

Embarrassed, Tyler explained, "No, no. I-I'm just worried that these incompetent people can't safeguard the Carter family's treasury. If you don't mind, I can stay behind for free and help Eurasia guard these national treasures.'

Zeke, who had seen right through him, was amused.

"You don't have to worry about it. Connor long looted the treasures of the Four Hidden Sects. After I've defeated him, the treasures have since been stored in the national treasury."

A look of annoyance appeared on Tyler's face. Giving Nameless a death stare, he grumbled, "See! I told you to take a sack of the treasures, but you didn't listen. You regret it now, don't you?"

Everyone burst into laughter, amused by the two old men's antics.

Instead of lingering, the group continued to travel to the south.

When they reached a valley, Zeke suddenly stopped in his tracks and whispered, "Hold on. Something is off."

The rest immediately halted in their tracks and asked cautiously, "What's wrong, Great Marshal?"

"I sense a trace of negative energy," said Zeke.

They tensed up at once.

Suddenly, the ground under their feet began to shake.

Countless head-sized stones rolled down from the top of the cliff as if it was raining stones.

There really is an ambush!

Hearing the thunderous sounds, they blanched with terror and hurriedly defended themselves.

However, there were simply too many stones.

Soon, Sole Wolf and the others were showing signs of struggle, for their current abilities were less than that of an Archduke.

Meanwhile, Zeke remained calm and released the Invincible Wave Energy that formed an energy barrier above them.

When the stones hit the energy barrier, they instantly turned into powder.

In no time, the attack stopped.

Zeke uttered coldly, "Who are you? Show yourself."

A deep voice that seemed to come from far away boomed out. "Do you know the consequences of trespassing into the land of Netherworld?"

Unexpectedly, the group had stumbled into the land of Netherworld by chance.

At that realization, a wave of joy washed over Zeke. Maybe I can seize this opportunity to destroy the branch of Netherworld here!

At the same time, he was also worried that the people from Netherworld would find Summerbank before him as both the branch of Netherworld and Summerbank were located on the south of Mount Final.

If the treasures in Summerbank fell into the hands of Netherworld, it would be a waste.

"Every inch of this land belongs to Eurasia. Who are you to claim that this is the land of Netherworld?" said Zeke.

"I'm the Tenth Commander of the Ten Commandments, Jackson Wright. We have already occupied this place, so it has nothing to do with Eurasia anymore. You shall be killed for trespassing!"

"Oh, you're the Tenth Commander. I've long heard about you."

Jackson was a little surprised. "Never thought you'd heard about me. Well, I suppose you're not ignorant."

"Everyone in Eurasia has heard about you. As we all know, you're a coward who only dares to do bad things behind others' backs and never has the guts to show yourself. Now that I've met you in person, I realize that you really live up to your reputation. You're a real coward."

Chapter 1668

Ares, Alfred, and the others also began to laugh at Jackson

What a cheek! How dare they laugh at me! Such insolence and arrogance!

Infuriated by their behavior, Jackson retorted, "It's not that I've never shown myself, but those who have seen me all died in my hands!"

"So f*cking boastful! Did you kill your wife and kids after they've seen you?" Ares mocked.

Jackson choked with fury. "I-"

"Show yourself. No matter what, one of us has to die today!" Zeke declared.

"Fine! Since you insist on digging your own grave, I'll give you what you want," Jackson replied indifferently

With that, a large silhouette about twenty-four meters tall slowly loomed above the valley, blocking the sky and sun.

There was no doubt that it was just an apparition, not Jackson's true form.

"Hah. As expected of a coward, you don't even dare to show your true self at this time!" Sole Wolf taunted.

"Shut up! I'm thousands of miles away, so of course, I can't show up to see you!" Jackson retorted.

What?

Everyone was astounded yet impressed by his ability to control his apparition thousands of miles away from where he was.

Needless to say, the illusion techniques of Netherworld were profound.

Zeke was not very interested in a mere apparition, shattering it with the energy shot out of his sword.

"Trying to stop us with an apparition is wishful thinking!"

The apparition reformed soon after being shattered.

"Tch, I don't need to be physically present to kill all of you. Answer me. Did the messenger I sent, Willow Hanks, relay my orders to you?"

"She's left the dark side and returned to Eurasia!" Zeke replied.

Jackson snapped, "What a load of nonsense! My people are all loyal to Netherworld and thus would never be traitors. It seems that you've killed my messenger because you turned down our offer to join us. Well, then, I don't need to hold back anymore. It's time for you lots to meet your end! Gentlemen, reveal yourselves now!"

Four elderly men slowly appeared above the valley around them.

Everyone was shocked to see the four old men, who turned out to be the four Ultimate Class elders from the Four Hidden Sects.

After all, they expected the elders to meet their end after falling into the abyss with Zeke that day.

Yet, to their horror, the four elders survived and even joined Netherworld.

Moreover, the energy they exuded was far stronger than before.

It seemed that Netherworld had used a special method to enhance their abilities.

After glancing at Zeke, the four elders slowly closed their eyes and ignored him.

The way they moved was akin to robots.

Jackson then spoke coldly. "Zeke Williams, I know you're an invincible Ultimate Class warrior and that individually, the four Ultimate Class elders' combat prowess is no match for you. But what if they join forces? Do you still think you have a chance of survival? I'm giving you one last chance, surrender and join Netherworld. If you do, I'll still permit you to be the Ninth Commander."

However, Jackson's taunt fell on deaf ears as Zeke ignored him and shot the four Ultimate Class elders a mocking look.

"As the Ultimate Class elders of the Four Hidden Sects, the four of you were revered by everyone else and held a high status, yet, you have now stooped so low as to be subservient to others. You're a disgrace to the Four Hidden Sects!"

The four Ultimate Class elders neither responded to Zeke nor opened their eyes, but there was a slight twitching at the corners of their mouths.

What Zeke said had hit a nerve in them.

Chapter 1669

Jackson commanded, "I now order you to kill Zeke Williams. You'll die today if he doesn't!"

At his order, the four Ultimate Class elders moved forward, jumped off the cliff, and landed around Zeke. "Bring it on."

"You've got the nerve challenging me. I'll kill all of you today!" Zeke announced.

Then, he released a burst of energy, sending Ares and the others out of the range of their battle.

The battle among Ultimate Class warriors was not something that the King Class warriors could take part in, as the shockwaves from any of their attacks would be fatal.

When one lunged forward, the battle between Zeke and the four Ultimate Class elders began.

During the fight, Zeke found that his opponents were holding back.

It seemed that there was still a shred of sanity left in them, and hence they were reluctant to work for Netherworld

Therefore, Zeke kept provoking them by calling them names, such as traitors, renegades, and defectors.

And each time, his words would touch a nerve in them, causing them to regain an ounce of sanity and stop attacking him.

Upon seeing their hesitation, Jackson berated, "Hey, why are you holding back? Are you trying to challenge Netherworld's authority? I will report this matter to the leader, and you'll be punished. Now, stop holding back and kill Zeke!"

Jackson's apparition released a burst of negative energy, which was then injected into the bodies of the four Ultimate Class elders.

The shred of sanity they had just regained was lost again, so they began to attack Zeke in full force.

Being attacked by four Ultimate Class elders at once, Zeke found it hard to hold out and was losing the upper hand.

At that critical juncture, Nameless suddenly knelt on the ground and cried, "As the servant of the Carter outer sect, I, Nameless, am honored to meet you, sir. The head of the Carter sect, Jaime Carter, often teaches us that the foundation of our sect is integrity, which is inherited from you, the elder of the Carter family! To us, you are our totem of integrity, and your refusal to surrender to the enemy is our motto. But now, you've kneeled, submitted yourself to our enemy, and be enslaved by them! You do not deserve to be the elder of the Carter family, nor are you worthy of our respect!"

Nameless' speech worked like magic as the initially glassy eyes of the Carter family's elder cleared up, and a look of anger gradually appeared on his expressionless face.

Suddenly, he threw a punch at Nameless.

The massive energy that the punch carried toppled the latter over.

The older man rebuked, "How dare you insult me!"

Instead of being angered, Nameless was delighted as it showed that the elder had regained some of his senses.

Seeing that it did the trick, he continued to provoke him.

Zeke could also tell that the attack from the elder of the Carter family was getting weaker.

He even gave up several chances to take his life.

Seeing that, Jackson was livid.

"You insolent, how dare you go easy on him! This is blatant disobedience to my order and an act of betrayal to Netherworld! If you continue to hold back, I'll impose heavy punishment on you on behalf of Netherworld!"

With that, Jackson injected a burst of negative energy into the body of the Carter family's elder.

Again, the elder lost the minuscule trace of sanity and went all out to attack Zeke, putting a lot of pressure on him.

Chapter 1670

Enduring the pain, Nameless was about to continue taunting the elder when Jackson suddenly released a burst of negative energy toward him, sending him flying.

When Nameless fell onto the ground, he did not move anymore.

Noticing that, Zeke cursed inwardly, Sh*t! Nameless might have been beaten to death! Just how strong is Jackson? He managed to kill a King Class warrior with just his apparition!

Suddenly, the elder of the Carter family roared.

"Nameless is a servant of my family. Everyone in the Carter family, including the servants, holds a distinguished standing and can't be bullied or humiliated by outsiders! By the orders of the Carter family, anyone who hurts a member of my family will face death!"

Everyone was thrilled to see that the older man regained his sanity again after being triggered by Nameless' death.

After all, he was fiercely protective of his family members.

Facing Zeke, the elder of the Carter family yelled, "Get lost! Let me end this."

"Thank you, sir!" With that, Zeke left the battleground.

The elder of the Carter family immediately took his place and stood in the center of the battleground.

"I'm sorry I have to do this, my friends, but we can't bow down to a cult! You need to wake up now!"

All of a sudden, he destroyed his own life force.

Sh*t!

Zeke's eyes widened in shock.

Knowing how powerful the impact would be, he hurriedly fled the scene with Nameless and the rest.

Moreover, with the explosion happening in a treacherous region like a valley, even a strong warrior like Zeke did not have the confidence to escape unscathed if he were to remain in the center.

Jackson was infuriated. "You b*stard! How dare you betray Netherworld! Have you ever thought about the consequences? You'll lose your ancestral grave

An explosion soon drowned out the rest of his words, and its shockwave also shattered his apparition at once.

By destroying his own life force, the elder of the Carter family had also damaged the life force of the other three elders.

The energy from the simultaneous explosion of four experienced Ultimate Class warriors was enough to wipe out everything.

It tore through the fabric of space and time, and the turbulence sucked in everything, including sunlight

The place was suddenly plunged into darkness, and the deafening howling of the wind was all that could be heard

Rumble!

The walls of the mountains on both sides of the canyon collapsed, instantly filling the valley up with debris.

Fortunately, Zeke and the others had escaped in time. Otherwise, they would have been killed from the explosion or falling rocks.

The aftermath of the explosion lasted for more than half an hour before it finally subsided.

The place was in a mess, looking like a scene from doomsday.

Due to their timely escape, Zeke and the others only suffered minor injuries.

After being shattered numerous times in the explosion, the apparition of Jackson was far blurrier and weaker when it appeared again.

It proved that Jackson's physical form had also suffered repercussions, and he was severely injured.

At the same time, the four Ultimate Class elders were lying on top of the ruins, barely alive.

After having their life force damaged and the negative energy removed from their bodies, they had regained their senses and sanity.

Once they caught their breaths, they started lashing out at Jackson one after another.
"Netherworld sure is contemptible for having the audacity to manipulate us!"

"Eurasia is the home to hundreds of millions of my people. There's no way we'll allow a despicable thief to steal our Fortuna!"

"We'll send you to your doom today!"

Shaking his head, Jackson let out a sigh. "Alas, you guys are so foolish! If you work for Netherworld, we can help you advance into the God rank and higher! But now that you've betrayed us, we won't let you off the hook easily! I'm officially informing you that your ancestors will all become forlorn

None of your descendants will be able to bear children!"

Chapter 1671

Screw you!

Enraged, the elder of the Carter family hurled a burst of energy at Jackson's apparition, causing it to disappear gradually.

Even though the elders' life forces had been damaged, warriors in the Ultimate Class had energy stored in every cell and muscle in their bodies.

Hence, they were still as strong as an Archduke and could release blasts of energy

At that moment, Nameless kneeled before the elder of the Carter family. "Congratulations on your return, sir!"

Zeke and the others breathed a sigh of relief as they were initially worried that Nameless had been beaten to death.

It now dawned on them that Nameless was actually faking his death to trigger the Carter family's elder.

That older man nodded calmly then looked at Zeke. "Come over, young man. We have something to tell you."

Zeke went up to him.

"Be my apprentice, and I'll make you the head of Eurasia. What do you think?" the elderly man suggested.

"Is there a need to tell you my answer?" Zeke replied

The elder of the Carter family sighed. "All right. Since you're willing to be Eurasia's servant, I won't force you. Here, this is the map of Summerbank. You'd better go there as soon as possible because Jackson is about to occupy it and make it the branch of Netherworld."

Damn it!

Zeke immediately rose to his feet. "Summerbank is the treasure of Eurasia. I can't let some thieves defile it! Don't worry, gentlemen. I'll protect it and get rid of the traitors."

With that, he turned to leave.

"Hold on!" the four Ultimate Class elders shouted.

Zeke stopped in his tracks. "Yes?"

The elder of the Carter family replied, "The four of us think of you as a talent, so we'll give you a gift that can save your life."

Oh?

Zeke's interest was piqued.

A gift from four Ultimate Class warriors must be very valuable.

At that thought, he asked eagerly, "May I know what it is?"

"You've mastered Planetary Pull, haven't you?" asked the elder of the Carter family instead.

Zeke nodded.

All of a sudden, the four Ultimate Class elders released the last traces of energy in their bodies.

"We'll give you these energy."

That statement rendered Zeke nonplussed.

Such a little energy had no effect on him at all, so it could not really be considered a gift.

Besides, the energy was what kept the four of them alive.

By preserving the energy, they could still live for decades or more.

If Zeke absorbed it, they would perish on the spot.

As the knowledge that they possessed was priceless, he could not bear to see them leave the world.

Hence, he waved his hand in rejection. "It's okay. I don't want the gift. You should keep them to stay alive."

"We only live in the prime of life, so we will not allow ourselves to live on when our rank has fallen! Even if you don't want our energy, we'll still be ending our lives later."

Zeke was a little dejected. "Your energy is too weak to do me any good..."

Hearing his mutter, the four Ultimate Class elders burst into laughter.

“Young man, you’re too ignorant. The significance of this energy is not in the energy itself! It will save your life sooner or later! If you don’t want it, that’s fine. We’ll end ourselves here and let the energy roam the world.”

The significance of their remaining energy isn’t in the energy itself?

When Zeke had an epiphany, he hurriedly said, “Thanks for the gift. I’ll gladly accept it then.”

With that, he unleashed Planetary Pull and absorbed the energy from the four Ultimate Class elders.

Chapter 1672

After the last trace of their energy was sucked dry, the four Ultimate Class elders were extremely frail.

They sat cross-legged with some difficulty and severed their own arteries, ending their lives on the spot

Even after their death, their bodies still maintained an upright sitting posture with their eyes halfclosed and a peaceful expression on their faces.

Lamenting the loss of four Ultimate Class warriors, Zeke lit four cigarettes and stuck them in the ground before the four men.

“Zeke, there’s no need to pay them respect! They deserved to die after besieging the president’s residence and attempting a coup. It’s all because of them that our life forces are damaged, and you nearly died in the abyss. In my opinion, we should hang their bodies above the gates of the president’s residence as a warning to others.”

Zeke waved his hand dismissively. “No! They just had different beliefs from the president and still cared about Eurasia. After all, they even damaged their own life forces to prevent Eurasia from falling into the hands of thieves. Moreover, I think the energy they gave me would save my life.”

Though it did not seem like he understood Zeke’s words, Sole Wolf still nodded. “All right.”

With the map of Summerbank given by the four Ultimate Class elders, their journey became much more easier.

However, the area had challenging terrains made up of mountains and forests.

Hence, it was exhausting for them to cross.

When they arrived at a forest, Tyler suddenly stopped in his tracks and cursed, “Damn!”

“What’s wrong?” Everyone else stopped walking, alerted by his yelp.

Tyler pointed at a spot in front of them. “Look at that!”

Following the direction of his finger, they looked forward and saw a corpse hanging from a big tree.

The corpse had been hanging there for some time as it had rotten and emitted a pungent odor. Even maggots crawled all over it, and a large pool of body fluids was seen on the ground beneath it.

The face of the corpse was distorted with blood on every orifice it had.

Its eyes were wide open, and its tongue was sticking out.

All in all, it was a horrifying scene.

However, Zeke and the rest were completely unfazed. After all, martial artists at their rank were used to killing and thus would not be fearful of a mere corpse.

Sole Wolf mocked, “Tyler, your fear grows with age, doesn’t it? It’s just a pile of rotten flesh. What’s so scary about it?”

“What do you know!” Tyler retorted. “I saw the corpse’s eyes move.”

“You’re bluffing. This person has been dead for at least three months. Its eyes are rotten, so how could they still move? Unless it’s going to rise from the dead?” Sole Wolf pointed out.

“So what if it rises from the dead? I can easily kill it,” Ares chimed in, laughing.

“Something’s wrong. The negative energy on this corpse is strong,” Zeke said with a frown.

Hearing his words, the others became wary.

Zeke then took out Ammo Needle and hurled one toward the hanging corpse.

The silver needle pierced the rope, causing it to break and the body to fall to the ground.

Zeke yelled at the corpse, “You’re in the presence of Great Marshal-kneel before me!”

The others found it amusing that Zeke had asked a corpse to kneel to him.

“Those who don’t kneel before me will be killed. Ares, burn him,” Zeke ordered.

“Got it!”

Ares approached the corpse and took out a lighter, ready to burn it.

To his surprise, when he was ten meters away from the corpse, it suddenly leaped to its feet and ran off.

As it moved, the rotten flesh on its body dropped to the ground, which was a gut-churning sight.

Chapter 1673

Oh my God!

The others gaped at it.

The fact that the rotten corpse was actually alive and could even run sent chills down their spines.

Zeke immediately commanded, “Ares, stop him.”

“On it!” Ares unsheathed his sword and swung it at the corpse.

The corpse was frightened by his action and immediately stopped running.

It then turned to kneel before Ares, yelling, “Please spare me, Godfather!”

Godfather!

The word caused Ares to stiffen, and he hastened to put away his sword and glared at the corpse.

“Who are you? Why are you calling me Godfather?”

The corpse slowly looked up at him. “It’s me, Godfather. C-Can’t you recognize me?”

Ares studied its face carefully.

After a long while, he exclaimed, “Shawn Quillen! You’re Shawn!”

The corpse nodded. “Yes, it’s me, Godfather!”

Devastated, Ares could not help but stagger backward. “How could it be possible? You... You’ve been dead for five years. How could you still be alive?”

The others rushed forward and surrounded Shawn.

Unable to suppress his curiosity, Zeke asked, "Ares, do you know him?"

"He's my godson. Great Marshal, he once poured us drinks."

Huh?

Zeke scrutinized Shawn skeptically. "Why don't I remember him?"

"Great Marshal, he was the runner-up in the Martial Artist National Examination five years ago. After passing the exam, he was assigned to work under me. As he was talented and intelligent, I took him in as my godson. I also introduced him to you back then. However, he was later killed by the enemy in a battle. I was the one who collected his body and buried him, so I never thought that I'd see him again now," Ares replied.

Ares' words rang a bell for Zeke.

If I'm not mistaken, Shawn must have joined Netherworld.

"Shawn Quillen, tell me honestly how on earth did you rise from the dead. I won't show you mercy if you dare to lie!" Zeke demanded.

"I won't lie. If I do, my soul will perish!" Shawn began to explain everything. "All I can remember is that I lost consciousness on the spot after being stabbed in the heart by the enemy in a battle. I don't know if I died or was merely in a state of shock..."

"Well, you were indeed dead. I got the best doctor to examine you but was told that you already showed no signs of life," Ares said.

Shawn nodded. "When I woke up later, I found myself in a pool on top of a mountain. That pool of water was magical as it healed my wounds and nourished my body. In less than twelve hours, my body returned to normal.

"But then I found out that the pool of water seemed to be controlling my mind. Realizing how creepy it was, I sneaked away when people weren't paying attention. Of course, I failed to escape because that place was full of powerful people. Through others, I learned that I was in a branch of a powerful yet mysterious organization called Netherworld

"Those who were in the pool with me became stronger and stronger, but I did not. My body even began to show symptoms of a corpse, such as rotting and emitting fluid. I suspect it must be because I didn't spend enough time in the pool.

“Of course, I didn’t want to keep soaking in the water either, because those who stayed in the water for a day became like machines that had no control of their conscious minds, programmed to obey all orders from Netherworld!”

Chapter 1674

Upon listening to his account, Zeke and his men looked at each other in shock.

Netherworld is so mysterious and fascinating. A pool of water can bring people back to life and even control their minds. What kind of magic water is that?

Ares commented cautiously, “If Netherworld really has the means to bring people back from the dead, it’ll be terrible news. I mean, so many warriors have died in Eurasia. It’d be horrible if Netherworld took control of them!”

Everyone gasped at his remark.

Zeke shook his head. “Bringing people back from the dead isn’t possible. There should at least be some strict conditions that need to be followed. It’s impossible for them to resurrect anyone at their fancy. Otherwise, they would’ve risen if they really had so many warriors under their control and wouldn’t be holding back until now.”

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Perhaps Netherworld could only resurrect those who had just died or those who were assumed to be dead.

Ares asked, “So you stayed in the branch of Netherworld for five years?”

Shawn nodded. “Yes.”

“Why didn’t you try to escape?”

“There were many powerful warriors, and I was kept under strict surveillance. I was being watched even when I went out to take a walk, so running away was impossible.”

“Then how did you escape this time?”

“This time, our branch leader, the Tenth Commander, has summoned all members to go out and carry out an urgent task. I came here with the team and found an opportunity to sneak off, but I got caught, so they hung me from the tree. Alas, I don’t even know if I’m dead or alive right now. I didn’t feel anything when I was hung.”

Zeke’s face changed suddenly. “Sh*t, it seems that Jackson has already dispatched his entire army to head to Summerbank before us. We must hurry up and get going.”

“Let’s go!” the others echoed.

“Hold on!” Shawn called out. “I have a favor to ask of you, Godfather.”

“Go on,” Ares replied.

“I don’t want to live on like this, but I don’t even have the ability to end my life now... Please help me, Godfather.”

Ares felt sorry for him.

After all, he was his godson who fought side-by-side with him for five whole years.

Yet, he felt even more miserable seeing Shawn in such a state.

Therefore, he glanced at Zeke. “Great Marshal, Shawn is my godson. I can’t do that to him, so I hope that you can do us a favor.”

Patting Shawn on the shoulders, Zeke said earnestly, “Shawn, you’ll forever be a citizen of Eurasia. Your contribution to Eurasia will never be forgotten! Go and find a grave for yourself. When we return, we’ll hold a funeral for you.”

Shawn nodded. “Thank you, Great Marshal!”

With that, he turned to leave.

Feeling puzzled, Ares asked, “Great Marshal, why don’t you end his misery?”

“I’ve injected energy into his body. If everything goes smoothly, the energy will enter his life force in an hour and destroy it. A man of Eurasia should die with dignity.”

“That’s so thoughtful of you, Great Marshal!” Ares praised.

“Let’s go! We’re running out of time,” Zeke said.

They then moved forward at full speed.

According to the mark on the map, the group walked for an entire day before finally approaching the destination.

Chapter 1675

Despite not being able to see Summerbank with their eyes, they were astonished to sense the spiritual energy in the air.

Summerbank must be rich with spiritual drugs and rare materials since even themselves, who did not have sensing capability, could feel the spiritual energy from such a distance away.

“Damn! What’s that!” Tyler suddenly screamed with excitement.

“What’s wrong?”

Everyone looked at him and saw him squatting under a big tree, carefully observing the ground.

Curious to know what he had seen, they gathered around him and were surprised at the sight that met their eyes.

A clump of green, lotus root-like thing grew under the big tree.

It was Emerald Root, which worked wonders for the reconstruction of a martial artist’s bones.

One who suffered a comminuted fracture that even the best doctor could not cure would have their bones reconstructed after taking Emerald Root for one or two days. After that, their bones would have a hardness greater than their original bones.

Due to its impressive effects, Emerald Root ranked fifth among the top ten spiritual drugs in Eurasia and was priceless.

“Damn. There’s one more here!” Nameless shouted.

Everyone hurried over and saw another clump of Emerald Root.

“There’s one here too!”

“And here!”

In the blink of an eye, they found a total of eight clumps of Emerald Root.

“Guys, look what I found!” Sole Wolf yelled in surprise.

When they found the Emerald Root earlier, Sole Wolf barely showed any response, so the fact that he was excited at what he saw made the others believe that it must be something extraordinary.

With great eagerness, they ran toward him, but what they saw next had them laughing.

“What’s with the look, guys? This thing looks prettier than Emerald Root, so I think it should be more valuable than it,” Sole Wolf went on.

Ignoring Sole Wolf, Zeke urged, "Let's keep going!"

"Hold on. Can someone tell me what this is? And where does it rank among the top ten spiritual drugs in Eurasia?" Sole Wolf asked.

Nameless patted him on the shoulder and replied, "Listen, man. This is called *Coprinellus micaceus*. It has a common name in the countryside. You must have heard of it before.'

Sole Wolf prompted with great interest, "Oh, what is it?"

"Mica cap," Nameless replied.

With that, Sole Wolf was rendered speechless.

I was happy for nothing.

The group continued on their journey and did not bother about Emerald Root anymore as it was nothing compared to what could be found in Summerbank.

"The land here is barren, so it should be impossible for spiritual plants to grow here. It must be the spiritual energy from Summerbank that breeds the Emerald Root here," Tyler commented.

"Obviously! This place is so barren that there are no weeds, and only large wild plants can grow here. Other than the fact that the spiritual energy from Summerbank has nourished the herbs here, there's no other explanation for it," Nameless replied.

"I can't wait to see Summerbank now," Tyler said.

Everyone picked up their pace.

In less than thirty minutes, they finally saw their destination, Summerbank-a towering mountain with a peak that seemed to pierce into the sky.

It was so tall that it made the other mountains seem far shorter in comparison.

Most importantly, spiritual herbs and plants grew on Summerbank abundantly, which were constantly emitting spiritual energy.

The spiritual energy that they had sensed earlier came from the mountain.

However, a lot of silhouettes could be seen climbing the mountain.

There was no doubt that they were from Netherworld.

Chapter 1676

On top of the mountain stood an eye-catching man. Although his height was around one twenty, he had an imposing presence that had the two teams next to him paled into insignificance.

He was none other than Jackson.

Ares curled his lip and remarked, "No wonder Jackson appeared as an apparition and didn't dare to show his face. It seems that he's ashamed of his short stature."

Tyler also laughed. "It's often said that the things that people boast about are the very things that they lack. That is very true. This guy is too short, so he makes his apparition huge!"

While they exchanged remarks and laughed, Jackson met Zeke's eyes.

Tension began to build up in the peaceful atmosphere.

An invisible aura spread out to the surrounding area, rustling the leaves in the trees and startling the animals nearby.

Jackson said, "I've been waiting for a long time. Guys, are you prepared to meet your maker?"

Ares mocked, "You sure are a funny one. You're kneeling on the ground like a coward, yet you say the most arrogant words. It's in your blood, huh?"

He was insinuating that Jackson was short as there was no difference in the latter's height, whether he stood or kneeled.

"B*stard!"

Jackson was enraged as he could not stand others making fun of his height.

"Hah. A group of idiots who only know how to mock others can never achieve great things. I won't bother to engage in a meaningless squabble with you! So tell me, are you satisfied with the arrangement I've made for you? Doesn't it hurt to watch your loved ones die, yet you're too powerless to do anything about it? Haha!"

"What?" Ares' eyes blazed with rage. "You're behind Shawn's death? Great Marshal, this might sound presumptuous, but I'd like you to grant my wish."

"What is it?" Zeke asked.

"Please let me deal with Jackson's corpse! I'm going to chop him up and feed him to the dog to vent my hatred!"

“No problem!”

At that moment, Jackson howled with laughter as if he had just heard a hilarious joke.

“Do you think you can lay a finger on me? I’m sorry to tell you this, but there’s no way you can even come near to me! Let me introduce two of my friends to you!”

Waving his hand, he hollered, “Guys, come on out!”

At his command, two people, dressed in black robes with masks on their faces, walked out from behind him.

Though they were covered entirely in black, which rendered them unrecognizable, Zeke and the rest found their forms familiar.

“Take off your masks and meet your old friends,” Jackson ordered.

The two slowly took off their masks and said indifferently, “It’s been a long time, Great Marshal!”

After seeing their faces, Zeke and his men were astonished.

Those duo was Chris and his son, Connor.

Chris had died when Prince’s Residence was raided back then, whereas Connor, Ares’ impostor, was rescued by people from Netherworld after being heavily injured by Zeke.

They did not expect the two of them to be back in circulation so soon. Moreover, the father and son duo’s capabilities seemed to have returned to their peak

Undoubtedly, it was all Netherworld’s doing, which proved just how strong the organization was.

Gritting his teeth, Ares spat, “You two traitors should be killed for betraying Eurasia!”

Chris exploded into a peal of maniacal laughter. “T don’t think you’re capable of doing so. Do you still think of me as the man I used to be? Well, you couldn’t be more wrong! Keep your eyes wide open and watch!”

With that, he shuddered and unleashed Invincible Wave Energy, which was the emblem of the Ultimate Class.

Chapter 1677

Chris had also become an Ultimate Class warrior.

Connor, too, released an intense burst of energy with a sneer.

Although his energy had yet to take the form of Invincible Wave Energy, it was still much stronger than that of a King Class warrior.

His rank was now truly close to Ultimate Class.

Frowning, Zeke and the others began to take their opponents seriously.

Jackson was an Ultimate Class warrior who was most likely as strong as Zeke was.

With Chris and Connor to assist him, Zeke and his group knew they would have a slim chance to emerge victorious in this battle.

However, they refused to admit defeat.

Instead of showing their fear, they became even more ferocious.

Zeke assured in a hushed voice, "Don't be afraid. Don't forget the gift that the four Ultimate Class elders gave me. It can turn things around at a critical moment."

Everyone shot him a curious look. "Can you tell us what's so special about that gift?"

Zeke did not answer, merely flashing them a mysterious smile. "You'll know when the time comes."

Reduced to a perfect nonplus, they stared at him silently

In truth, the others suspected that Zeke was simply comforting them and that he himself did not know the significance of the gift.

At the same time, Chris pleaded, "Sir, please grant me the permission to kill Zeke Williams so that I can avenge the deaths of my family members."

"Permission granted!" Jackson readily agreed.

"Time to die!" Chris charged at Zeke.

"I'll help you, Father!" Connor yelled and followed him.

Soon, the two sides were embroiled in a fierce battle.

The battle between Ultimate Class warriors was a rare sight.

In no time, the battleground was instantly turned into a living hell.

However, the advantage the Blacks had against Zeke, in terms of numbers or strength, meant nothing to the latter.

As Zeke was too mighty, they were soon pummeled by him.

Jackson scolded, "How useless! The two of you can't even kill a man."

Then, raising his voice, he commanded, "Attention, guardians!"

"Yes, sir!"

Four men in black robes hurriedly kneeled behind Jackson, awaiting his command.

"Zeke Williams is the biggest obstacle on Netherworld's path to take over Eurasia! I now order you to remove this obstacle! Failure is not an option!"

"Understood!" the four men chorused and joined the battle.

With their participation, the tables were suddenly turned.

Zeke, who initially had the upper hand, was now at a disadvantage.

Of the four men, one of them was an Ultimate Class warrior, while the rest were close to the Ultimate Class

No matter how powerful Zeke was, it was still impossible for him to hold out in a battle against two Ultimate Class warriors and four warriors who were close to the Ultimate Class.

Soon after, he was forced to retreat backward.

Seeing his predicament, Jackson gave another order by shouting, "Attention, members of the Tenth Branch of Netherworld!"

Nearly a thousand subordinates shouted in unison, "Yes, sir!"

"These people killed many of our people, so they're our enemies. Kill them all and bring their heads to me to claim your reward. One head for a chance to soak in Pool of Life for a day!"

"Yes, sir!"

The thousands of members of Netherworld lunged at Ares and the others.

Greedy for the attractive reward promised by Jackson, the people went all out in attacking Zeke's group.

Ares and the rest formed a circle, struggling to hold on

Nonetheless, they knew they could not cope for long and would be defeated at any time.

Most of the members of the Tenth Branch were Archduke warriors, and at least fifty of them were King Class warriors,

Meanwhile, on Ares' side, only he and Alfred were capable of putting up a fight.

As the rest had had their life force damaged, their ranks had dropped, and thus, they could not be of use in the battle.

Chapter 1678

Feeling anxious, Ares urged, "Great Marshall, I can't keep up with them anymore! It's time to make use of the gift from the four Ultimate Class elders to turn the tables around!"

Zeke answered, "It won't work until I reach Summerbank!"

Left with no choice, everyone could only grit their teeth and bear through it.

They had to go against more than a thousand enemies when there were merely less than ten of them.

Unless one of them was an Ultimate Class, they wouldn't be able to put on much of a fight, let alone last more than a few minutes.

When they thought it was over for them, someone commanded at the top of his lungs, "Keep Mr. Williams safe at all costs! Take the ones surrounding them out at once!"

Zeke and his party turned around and found the six hundred members of Azure Dragon had rushed to their rescue.

Alfred roared, "It's time to teach those bastards from Netherworld a lesson for the coup! We'll get them to atone for their sins since they have the guts to challenge Mr. Williams! Kill them all and leave no one alive!"

The members of Azure Dragon answered in unison, "Yes, sir!"

All hell broke loose the very moment members of Azure Dragon engaged themselves in a fight with those from Netherworld.

Ares and his party felt a sense of relief since reinforcement had rushed to their rescue in the nick of time. He even thought they might triumph against their foes soon.

On the other hand, it was tough for Zeke since he had to take on two Ultimate Class warriors alone.

To make things worse, another four warriors that were close to Ultimate Class were constantly pressuring him as well.

Several times, he tried to get closer to Summerbank so he could use the gift the four Ultimate Class elders gave him. Unfortunately, his efforts were in vain as he was stopped each time by his opponents.

When he was about to lose it, he knew it was time to stop holding back.

It turned out he had been holding back all along because Jackson of the Ten Commandments had not joined the battle. Instead, the latter had been keeping a safe distance away as he observed Zeke fighting

Zeke was aware of Jackson's presence. Therefore, he knew he couldn't afford to expose his actual capabilities just yet.

Otherwise, Jackson might come out with something to defeat him as soon as he joined the battle.

In an attempt to take his foes by surprise, Zeke had been concealing his full capabilities to lure Jackson out of hiding.

Right at this critical moment, Antonio, one of Netherworld's Ultimate Class guardians, took out his comrade next to him.

His defenseless comrade passed on within a few seconds since his vital organs had sustained serious injury.

At the last moments of his life, his eyes widened in disbelief. He couldn't fathom the reason his comrade had turned on him.

When everyone turned around and looked at Antonio in disbelief, Antonio knelt and announced, "Greetings, Great Marshall. I'm Agent 1173, a spy of Eurasia!"

What? He's actually a spy from Eurasia?

Those around them thought they had been hearing things because they couldn't believe someone had infiltrated the ranks of Netherworld.

Aware the man in front of him wasn't just a normal spy, Zeke asked, "Which team are you affiliated with?"

Zeke had sent tens of thousands of spies to infiltrate organizations from all over Eurasia.

However, he was sure this spy was not one of his as he hadn't heard of Netherworld back then.

Antonio answered, "I'm not affiliated with any of your forces because your mentor is the one I've sworn my allegiance to."

"Huh? Who's this mentor of mine you're talking about?"

"He's none other than Pietro White. Apart from him, we'll only listen to you, Great Marshal."

Chapter 1679

Zeke was overwhelmed by Pietro's great vision. On top of forming Azure Dragon for him, he had dispatched spies to infiltrate the ranks of Netherworld on his behalf.

Seriously? Is he a seer or something?

Jackson was on the verge of going berserk when he figured out someone had infiltrated the ranks of his branch.

The higher-ups are going to give me hell after this even if I take Zeke out! How could there be a spy within my branch?

He berated Antonio furiously "Aren't you aware of the consequences awaiting you for betraying Netherworld?"

When Antonio heard Jackson, he remarked with a smirk, "What do you mean? I seriously think it's a steal as long as I get to drag a few of your men to hell with me!"

"Ha! You don't think you're the only one taking an express trip to hell, do you? We'll take out the family members of those betraying us as well! Just you wait and spend the rest of your life in despair!"

All of a sudden, Antonio burst out laughing. "I'm afraid I'm going to let you down again because I'm an orphan! Mr. White's the only one I'm affiliated with ever since I was young! Why don't you go ahead and see if you can take him out?"

"I want the duo from the Black family and the rest of you guardians to take them out at all costs! All of you are the ones taking the express trip to hell if you can't take him out!" Jackson instructed with veins bulging all over his forehead.

“Understood!” they shouted in reply

“Antonio, fight alongside me and take out our foes with me!” Zeke instructed in a similar manner.

“Yes, sir!”

Antonio turned into the main target of the fight as they engaged themselves in another tedious battle.

Zeke was glad Antonio was around to keep some of their foes occupied since they were greatly outnumbered.

Despite the pressure, Zeke could still manage to slowly steer the battle toward Summerbank while keeping Antonio safe from their foes.

Jackson frowned when he noticed Zeke had been edging closer to the direction of Summerbank. Although he wasn't aware of why the latter wanted to go there, he knew he had to stop him when he recalled the conversation Zeke had with his subordinates.

His trump card from the four Ultimate Class elders might turn the tide of the battle! There's no way I'm allowing him to move toward Summerbank!

Once Jackson made up his mind, he catapulted in the direction of Zeke and yelled, “Die!”

Jackson was an equally formidable warrior of Ultimate Class. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been appointed as a member of the Ten Commandments.

In other words, his presence tipped the balance of the battle again-Zeke and Antonio could barely defend themselves from their foes due to Jackson's participation.

Once Jackson joined the battle, Zeke and Antonio were slowly steered away from Summerbank. However, Zeke wasn't afraid since it wasn't necessary for him to hold back anymore.

Once an opportunity presented itself, he clenched his fist with all his might and focused his energy to throw a powerful punch in Jackson's direction.

D*mn it!

Jackson finally figured out he had been tricked. Unfortunately, there wasn't anything much he could do apart from bracing himself for the powerful punch.

He wasn't a match for Zeke in terms of speed Zeke was already a few inches away from him with his powerful punch when Jackson finally linked the missing pieces of the puzzle together.

Thump!

Seconds after a muffled grunt was heard, Jackson's still beating heart was sent flying out of his chest

The father and son duo of the Black family and the rest of the guardians were in a state of horror because of Jackson's passing.

They couldn't believe someone else had killed the man they regarded so highly in just one punch.

Chapter 1680

Like ants that had lost their queen, they weren't sure of what to do next since Jackson, their leader, was now dead.

On the other hand, Zeke knew it was time to wipe his foes out of existence because the rest of them weren't in the mood to fight anymore due to the passing of their leader.

He instructed members of Azure Dragon to take out their foes as soon as possible.

Yet at that moment, just when everyone thought it was over for Jackson, he gulped down something from a miniature bottle he retrieved from his pocket.

To everyone's surprise, his wound started healing at top speed. His pale and haggard look disappeared as his complexion became healthy again.

It seemed as if Zeke's punch wasn't much of a threat as it merely took him a few seconds to regain his full strength.

Jackson brought himself up and announced while stretching his limbs, "This resurrection potion works like a charm! I guess it's not considered the best for nothing!"

He startled those around him, including those affiliated with Netherworld, with his presence since they thought he was dead for sure when his heart was sent flying by Zeke.

What the hell? Did he fake his death, or has he truly returned from hell?

Zeke was in awe because of the things the members of Netherworld were capable of.

Jackson rejoined the battle shortly after. He remarked with a vicious smirk, "I must say I'm surprised, Great Marshal! You did a great job keeping everyone in the dark about your true capabilities. However, I'm afraid it's over since you've just exposed your trump card in front of us! I'll take you out today!"

To Jackson's surprise, Zeke asked rhetorically, "How can you be so sure?"

What does he mean? Is he indicating he has something else hidden up his sleeves?

In the next second, Jackson felt the tremendous growth of Zeke's Invincible Wave Energy, indicating Zeke's power was no longer the same as it was a few minutes ago.

What?

Jackson's eyes widened in disbelief when he found out Zeke hadn't given everything he had to offer with the punch a few minutes ago. It was then he finally figured out he wasn't a match for Zeke in terms of strength.

How is that possible? How is he so strong when there are close to no resources for those from the mundane world?

Jackson was on the verge of going through another emotional breakdown in fear of losing the fight.

Zeke did a great job keeping his foes at bay once he unleashed his actual potential. He remarked, "Ha! It turns out there's nothing great about the members of the Ten Commandments, huh? It was very wrong of me to think it was necessary for me to go all out to take you out!"

As Zeke continued steering the battlefield in the direction of Summerbank, Jackson yelled, "I'll never allow you to take the fight to Summerbank! No matter what it takes, I'm going to stop you!"

Jackson was multiple folds stronger than he used to be once he finished another resurrection potion. It was made possible through the conversion of life force into strength.

Zeke could barely keep Jackson at bay due to the tremendous growth in strength that made Jackson twice as strong as him.

How many of those do the members of the Netherworld have? If I can get my hands on the resurrection potions, I can easily save more than tens of thousands of Eurasia's soldiers' lives each year!

Antonio was intrigued by the reason Zeke wanted to get to Summerbank as well.

Thus, he asked Zeke, "Great Marshal, are you in a hurry to Summerbank in an attempt to turn the tide of the battle?"

When Zeke nodded in response to his query, Antonio announced, "I'll buy you some time, but you need to hurry!"

Huh? What is he trying to do? It's almost impossible for him to stop Jackson when he's not a match for him in terms of power! Is he trying

Halfway through his train of thought, Zeke turned around and looked at Antonio with his eyes widened.

Chapter 1681

Antonio sped in the direction of Jackson before slamming a palm into his abdomen.

He was trying to implode his life force.

Damn it!

Horrified, Jackson couldn't care less of Zeke and thought of fleeing the scene to keep himself safe.

However, Jackson was still sent flying from the aftermath of the explosion.

"It's an honor to sacrifice myself for a greater cause!"

Zeke felt his heart aching as Antonio, a loyal soldier of the nation, spoke his last words.

As upset as he might be, he knew he couldn't afford to waste the time the loyal soldier had bought him. He made full use of it and launched himself in the direction of Summerbank.

Jackson yelled in a panic, "Stop him at all costs! We're done as soon as he reaches Summerbank!"

Upon Jackson's announcement, the Netherworld soldiers stopped fighting with the members of Azure Dragon and rushed in Zeke's direction.

Their effort wasn't much effective since Zeke managed to send most of them flying with a powerful punch or kick. It was inevitable since they weren't on par with him in terms of strength.

Shortly after Zeke reached the bottom of the mountain, he catapulted himself in the direction of the summit

Jackson, who was way behind Zeke, continued swearing as he tried to catch up to Zeke.

Meanwhile, Zeke unleashed the energy he had gathered from the four elders of Ultimate Class the moment he made it to the summit.

He closed his eyes to get a grasp of the weak tendril of energy, but he thought there was nothing special about it. On top of that, nothing seemed to be going on.

What's going on? Please tell me they weren't trying to pull my leg! Just to be safe, I think I'll try my luck at another location!

Zeke was utterly speechless because it was another futile attempt.

Is this some kind of joke? Weren't they aware this isn't a laughing matter when the future of the nation is at stake?

Zeke was speechless as Jackson, who was two times stronger than him, continued closing in from afar. He knew he wasn't a match for Jackson unless Jackson stopped tapping into his life force.

I hope the effect of whatever potion he has runs out soon! Otherwise, I can't even put on much of a fight against him!

On the other hand, Jackson yelled seconds after he reached the summit, "It turns out it's another one of your bluffs, huh? It doesn't matter if you made it to the summit of Summerbank or not because you're going to hell soon!"

Jackson was afraid things might spiral out of control if he couldn't finish Zeke off as soon as possible. Thus, he launched himself in the direction of Zeke.

Something dashed out of hiding from the cave a few feet away and stopped Jackson when Zeke was about to defend himself.

The silhouette took everyone by surprise when they figured out its actual identity.

What is that? A tiger? I've never seen such a gigantic tiger! It's a few feet taller than a camel! And that majestic fur!

The Tiger Lord lunged in Jackson's direction and sent the defenseless man flying off the summit.

Jackson yelled when he was on his way off the summit, "What the hell is this!"

Others would've long passed on if they were to fall off the summit of Summerbank. However, Jackson was an Ultimate Class warrior, so it didn't even harm him.

Aware he couldn't afford to let his guard down, he leaped to his feet the moment he reached the ground.

Jackson hadn't sustained any serious injuries. It was the same for Tiger Lord since it managed to adjust its position in the nick of time.

Roar!

When Zeke heard the tiger roaring at him, he thought the gigantic tiger wanted to be praised for a job well done.

Chapter 1682

Zeke got the feeling that the gigantic tiger would listen to him. Hence, he instructed, "Kill him!"

With another roar, Tiger Lord pounced on Jackson.

Jackson had no choice but to engage in a fight with the gigantic tiger.

Although the tiger was a few feet taller than Jackson, Jackson was an Ultimate Class warrior. In spite of the difference in size, it wasn't a match for him.

Jackson had the upper hand and continued attacking Tiger Lord as if it wasn't much of a formidable foe.

With that being said, Jackson couldn't shrug it off since he couldn't inflict any serious injuries upon it. It was only a matter of time until Jackson's potion ran out of effect.

Hence, he yelled, "Where's the members of the Black family and my guardians? Hurry up and do something to take this nasty creature out!"

Tiger Lord was outnumbered once Chris, Connor, and the rest of the guardians rushed over to the scene.

Despite the injuries it was slowly gaining, it had its eyes glued to Jackson and refused to let Jackson leave the battlefield.

Jackson was enraged and unleashed an attack in the direction of Tiger Lord's rump. As a result, a chunk of flesh was sliced off.

It growled in pain as blood continued gushing out of the wound.

At the end of the day, Tiger Lord was just another living being. There was no way it could withstand the agony of having a chunk of flesh cut off.

Irrked by Jackson's attack, its eyes glowed brightly in fury. It turned around and roared in the direction of the summit.

A few seconds later, the trees started shaking vigorously, as if something was on its way down the mountain to join the fight. Even the mountain itself seemed to be trembling.

A moment later, a variety of beasts came storming down the mountain. In spite of the different species, they had one thing in common-the beasts were all of extraordinary sizes.

They spent most of their time at Summerbank, a place with bountiful spiritual energy. Therefore, it wasn't much of a surprise for them to grow much larger than their normal counterparts.

Some of the beasts had even developed astounding intelligence. Tiger Lord happened to be one of them.

Another roar from Tiger Lord was all it took to get the beasts to charge at the humans below the mountain.

The beasts took out a great number of humans regardless of their affiliation as they began attacking

Countless members of Netherworld and Azure Dragon sustained serious injuries due to the beasts' brutal attacks.

It was a piece of cake for them to take the beasts out if it was an ordinary fight. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case since the beasts came rushing down in hordes.

The beasts were a few times larger than normal. As such, it was child's play for them to take out an ordinary human.

Most of the forces there couldn't even defend themselves against the beasts.

Cold sweat broke out on Jackson's body when he saw the losing battle. He yelled, "Stop gathering together and spread out! Don't clump together, you idiots!"

Zeke returned the favor and instructed Tiger Lord, "Tiger, get the beasts to surround his forces!"

Seconds after Tiger Lord responded with a roar, it got itself into another fight with Jackson and his forces, ignoring Zeke's instruction

Somehow, Zeke seemed to understand what Tiger Lord's roar meant. It seemed to be dissatisfied with the way Zeke had addressed it.

Thus, Zeke corrected himself, "Tiger Lord, do me a favor and surround them! Also, don't injure the members of Azure Dragon and allow them to retreat, please!"

When Tiger Lord turned around and responded with a grin, Zeke thought he was seeing things. At that moment, he was at a loss for words and knew Tiger Lord wasn't just another ordinary tiger from the woods.

Chapter 1683

What sort of tiger is a sucker for titles? Well, I guess it's fine as long as it's one of us instead of our foes!

Seconds after another cry from Tiger Lord, the beasts started surrounding the humans.

It was then Zeke repeated himself, "Set the members of Azure Dragon free! Just take out the ones with negative energies!"

The members of Azure Dragon hurried their way out of the encirclement of beasts immediately after they heard Tiger Lord roaring.

A few members of Netherworld thought of sneaking their way out with the members of Azure Dragon. However, they couldn't conceal their negative energy from the beasts. The beasts took them out without a second thought and smashed them into pieces.

Zeke repeated his instructions to take out those affiliated with Netherworld. Subsequently, the beasts went berserk and took out the ones inside the encirclement.

Those affiliated with Netherworld were dead before they could even get themselves ready for the beasts' brutal attacks.

A few minutes later, Zeke jumped off the mountain and fought alongside Tiger Lord. He would launch the fatal blow to kill their foes as Tiger Lord continued stirring things up.

Subsequently, Jackson's guardians, Chris, and Connor were all taken out within a short while.

Jackson was the only one alive. The effect of the resurrection potion was gradually wearing off. Therefore, his life was at stake when he had to take so many foes on at once.

Having no choice left, he consumed another bottle of resurrection potion to ensure he was capable of defending himself.

With that being said, the resurrection potion wasn't as effective as it was before. He was no longer at his peak since his life force had been exploited more than it should.

Jackson slammed into the wall of Summerbank and passed out in front of Zeke and the beasts.

Tiger Lord charged toward Jackson in an attempt to avenge itself. After all, Jackson was the one who sliced off a piece of its rump.

Zeke hurriedly stopped it. "Hold on a minute, Tiger Lord! Kindly spare him because I need him alive! I have something else planned for him!"

Unwilling to set the one who humiliated him free, Tiger Lord roared to express its disapproval.

Zeke remarked, "Tiger Lord, you shouldn't waste your time with such a trivial character. Doing so is beneath your status."

Tiger Lord gave it a thought and decided Zeke was right. It responded with a grin while nodding to express its agreement.

Zeke was speechless when he found out the tiger in front of him possessed enough intelligence to understand what he was saying.

The battle between the beasts and the members of Netherworld lasted for another thirty minutes.

While some of the beasts had sustained serious injuries, all of them managed to make it through the fight alive.

On the other hand, the corpses of those affiliated with Netherworld were lying in puddles of blood throughout the woods.

Another roar from Tiger Lord was all it took to send the beasts back to the woods.

Ares approached Zeke and showed him a huge thumbs up.

"Great Marshal, I'm impressed! I can't believe you possess the ability to order the army of beasts around!"

Zeke shook his head and clarified, "Actually, it's the gift from the four elders. They spent most of their time here at Summerbank alongside these beasts. They were the ones who tamed the beasts. The energy of the elders was the sole reason they fought for us."

"I see! It's truly the best gift we can ever ask for in times of emergencies!"

Chapter 1684

Sole Wolf sneaked his way to them and remarked, "Zeke, this kitty is so adorable! Can you give it to me as a mount?"

"Sure! Why not?" Zeke answered with a smirk as if he was up to no good.

It would be great if Sole Wolf could tame Tiger Lord. Even if he fails, it's not like I'll lose anything. Why not let him try?

Thrilled, Sole Wolf approached Tiger Lord and announced, "Come to Papa, little one! I'll take good care of you from now on!"

Roar!

As Tiger Lord produced a few consecutive roars, Zeke understood that it was displeased with how Sole Wolf called it "kitty." Secondly, it was a proud creature, the king of beasts, so how could it lower itself to become somebody's mount?

Zeke stated, "You know what? I'm going to leave you two to figure out who's the superior one!"

As Tiger Lord continued howling at the top of its lungs, Zeke had a feeling it was swearing at him. However, he paid no heed to it.

Sole Wolf climbed on top of Tiger Lord's back and yelled, "Go, kitty!"

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Tiger Lord began running and jumping all over the place in an attempt to buck the man off its back, but its effort was to no avail because Sole Wolf had his arms wrapped around its neck tightly. He even bit down on its ear to anchor himself.

Infuriated, Tiger Lord started ramming into trees just to get rid of Sole Wolf.

Zeke ignored the duo and instructed Ares, "Can you please bring Lacey here and keep her company until she's recovered?"

"All right!" Ares departed immediately after he received Zeke's instruction.

Zeke then instructed Alfred to take charge and gather the members of Azure Dragon around to start cleaning up the scene.

Shortly after he sorted out most of the things he had in mind, he turned around and instructed Greedy Wolf, Killer Wolf, and Tyler, "I want all of you to recover at the summit and make sure you're in your prime as soon as possible."

They rushed up the summit and focused on stimulating the process of recovery with the aid of the bountiful spiritual energies.

Once he had everything sorted out, he marched in the direction of Jackson, who was still embedded in the wall.

After abusing three consecutive bottles of resurrection potion, he had the appearance of a man in his mid-seventies.

He couldn't even bring himself out of the wall without help. In the end, he mustered his strength and yelled, "K-Kill me! O-Otherwise, I'll find a way to kill you as long as I-I have breath left in my body!"

Instead of killing him, Zeke used Ammo Needle to stop him from tapping into his energy and trying anything silly.

At the very least, Zeke could ensure Jackson wasn't capable of harming others. On top of that, he wouldn't pass on due to excessive drainage of life force.

In other words, he was not much different from a vegetative patient, incapable of moving around without aid.

Jackson started yelling due to extreme frustration, "As a member of the Ten Commandments, no one has ever humiliated me in such a manner! If you still consider yourself a man, do me a favor and kill me at once! I won't allow others to humiliate me!"

Zeke launched a slap at his face and instructed, "Shut up!"

"I-I'll—"

Slap!

"I-I'll never forgive you—"

Slap!

Whenever Jackson tried to say something, Zeke would slap him in the face in an attempt to humiliate the defenseless man.

Once Zeke thought it was time to get to business, he brought Jackson to the summit.

Tiger Lord joined him with a proud grin a few minutes after he made it to the summit.

Sole Wolf, who was supposed to be on its back, was nowhere to be seen.

Since it was evident Tiger Lord had successfully shrugged Sole Wolf off, Zeke asked, "Where's Sole Wolf?"

Tiger Lord rolled its eyes before ignoring Zeke and returning to its cave.

Chapter 1685

A beat later, Sole Wolf's shout reached Zeke's ears. "Get the hell out here, little kitty!"

Zeke turned around and saw a man with bruises all over his body painstakingly climbing the mountain.

Sole Wolf couldn't even reach the summit due to the injuries he sustained after the failed attempt to tame the tiger.

Afraid Sole Wolf might hurt himself, Zeke brought him up using Invincible Wave Energy.

Sole Wolf panted for a moment before walking toward the cave. "C'mere, little kitty! I'll take you on until you acknowledge me!"

Roar!

Tiger Lord jumped out of the cave with its eyes fixed on Sole Wolf in a hostile manner.

Sole Wolf was about to battle with Tiger Lord once more when Zeke stopped him and said, "Sole Wolf, you need to stop because there's no way you're a match for him when you're in such bad shape. Just join the rest and give it another try once you're feeling better."

"Zeke, you need to stop getting in my way! I'm not going to stop until I tame this adorable kitty over here!"

Sole Wolf rushed into the cave once he was ready to start another fight to tame Tiger Lord. A few minutes later, human screams of pain rang out, accompanied by the furious growls and roars of the tiger.

Zeke knew it was time to leave Sole Wolf alone as the latter wouldn't stop once he made up his mind. Hence, he headed into another cave and found Greedy Wolf and the rest were there recuperating.

This cave was the location with the most abundant spiritual energy. As they continued accelerating the process of recovery with the spiritual energy, their injuries swiftly healed.

Zeke knew it would merely take them another day at most until they were in their prime again. Instead of interrupting them, Zeke took a seat at the entrance of the cave to keep them safe from disruption.

In the middle of the night, someone sneaked his way to the summit.

"Who's there?"

The observant Zeke unleashed his Invincible Wave Energy as a countermeasure to take out the one approaching them. Once he found out the mysterious figure was a foe, he would strike.

Ares announced in a hushed voice, "It's me, Great Marshall I've returned with Lacey!"

Without a second thought, Zeke rushed over to check on the woman he held most dear.

Zeke asked concernedly, "Did you encounter anyone affiliated with Netherworld on your way here?"

He was worried the rest of the Ten Commandments would come after him since he had wiped one of them out of existence.

Ares assured Zeke, "You don't have to worry because I'm sure no one is aware of our whereabouts. On top of that, I was pretty cautious when I was on my way here.'

"All right, I have another task for you. Interrogate Jackson and get him to confess about Missy's whereabouts. You're free to do whatever it takes to force him into submission."

"I'll definitely try my best until he tells me everything."

It wasn't even necessary for Zeke to bring up the request – Ares had a similar plan in mind to figure out his granddaughter's whereabouts.

Without further ado, Zeke brought Lacey into the cave with the abundant spiritual energy since it could easily ward off negative energy.

Seconds after Lacey joined the rest in the cave, a majority of the negative energy was forced out of her system.

Zeke was thrilled and thought Lacey was finally saved.

The next morning, a sliver of sunlight crept into the cave. Zeke, who was sleeping soundly, felt someone caressing his cheeks in a gentle manner.

The cautious man roused himself from sleep and saw that Lacey had finally regained consciousness.

Grasping her hand, he asserted, "Lacey, I'm glad you're finally awake!"

She snuggled against him in his arms. "Zeke, || knew you wouldn't leave me and our daughter alone! I always knew you would be back!"

When others told Lacey Zeke passed on after falling off the cliff in front of the president's residence, she passed out in fear of the worst.

Chapter 1686

If it weren't because she had faith in him, she might've joined him in the afterlife.

Therefore, she couldn't even keep herself calm when her husband returned to her.

He kissed her on the forehead and apologized, "Lacey, I'm so sorry for scaring you. We'll brace ourselves through the challenges awaiting us in life together."

Out of nowhere, Lacey shrieked, "Missy! Our daughter was kidnapped by those bad people! You need to save her!"

As soon as she recalled that their daughter had been abducted, torrents of tears streamed down her cheeks.

"You need to calm down, Lacey. I've sent someone to get their hands on our daughter's whereabouts. I'm sure they'll return with great news soon.'

"I'm afraid she won't make it through whatever they have in store for her since she's just a frail little girl! W-What if she's-"

"Lacey, you need to stop overthinking things. From what I've heard, Missy was kidnapped because her abductor was interested in her talent and wanted to recruit her as a disciple. There's no way Missy's life will be in danger."

Despite his words of reassurance, she wasn't convinced at all. Her emotions were written all over her face.

In an attempt to divert her attention, Zeke suggested, "Why don't you come with me for the time being?"

Zeke brought Lacey out of the cave and showed her the way to the place he kept Jackson confined.

Ares had spent the night interrogating Jackson, who was barely alive after being tortured with different methods for the past few consecutive hours.

As much as he thought of killing himself, there wasn't anything he could do since Zeke had sealed his energy with Ammo Needle.

Lacey shrieked at the top of her lungs when she caught a glimpse of Jackson's situation.

Ares turned around and expressed his excitement when he saw Lacey, "Lacey, I'm glad you're finally awake!"

The moment Lacey saw Ares, she hastily hid herself behind Zeke in fear.

She just couldn't forget the things the fake Ares had done to her previously.

Even now, she was unaware that the man who picked on her back then was Connor instead of her father.

At first, Ares was confused at Lacey's response. Seconds later, he figured out the truth and bellowed, "That d*mn Connor Black! I can't believe he had the guts to pick on my daughter while impersonating me! I'm going to kill him!"

Zeke was quick to fill her in on the truth.

When he was done, Lacey was stunned. Shortly after, she returned to her senses and expressed her concerns, "You must have had it tough as well when you were imprisoned against your will. Allow me to express my utmost apologies for not being much of help when you needed me the most."

Overwhelmed by guilt, Ares couldn't resist the urge to weep. He spent most of his days blaming himself for not playing the role of a father for Lacey all these years.

Yet now, instead of holding a grudge against him, she was even apologizing for not being much help. This only served to make him feel guiltier even as he was touched by her kindness and thoughtfulness.

As guilty as he might be, he was glad to have such a reliable daughter. It was then he made up his mind to appoint his daughter as his successor.

Zeke asked, "Have you figured out Missy's whereabouts?"

Ares answered after heaving a long sigh, "I tried everything I could, but he told me he wasn't aware of Missy's whereabouts since his men weren't the ones behind Missy's abduction. He refused to tell me anything else."

Zeke looked Jackson in the eyes and announced in a callous tone, "It doesn't really matter since we have plenty of time to kill. Torture him until he tells us everything we need to know. No matter how much he wishes to die, he can't kill himself."

"Yes, sir!" Ares replied with a nod.

Jackson raised his head and looked at Zeke in return, cursing the man in front of him in his mind.

H-He's a freaking demon!

Chapter 1687

He gasped out his request, "K-Kill me..."

"I'm afraid that's impossible until I get my hands on Missy's whereabouts."

Jackson went dead silent as if he was about to change his mind and tell them the truth. Right now, the biggest temptation for him was being set free from this torture.

At that moment, a commotion came from below the mountain. Frowning, Zeke rushed outside to check on the source.

It turned out the members of Azure Dragon were in the middle of a conflict with another party.

"Stay right here until I'm back. I'm going down to figure out what's going on." Zeke leaped off the cliff seconds after he delivered his instructions.

He surveyed the scene and took in how the other party was behaving arrogantly as they had a verbal conflict with Azure Dragon.

Curious, he asked, "Can anyone tell me what's going on?"

Alfred swiftly explained, "Great Marshall, they wish to request an audience with you. I told them we would revert to them as soon as we inform you of their presence, but they insisted on traveling to the summit and even started a fight with a few of us."

Zeke tapped on Alfred's shoulder and assured him, "You made the right call to stop them here."

The one leading the party broke the silence and greeted, "Hello, Great Marshal! It's been quite a long time, hasn't it?"

Zeke turned around and found the man familiar. However, he couldn't recall the identity of the man at all.

He asked, "Who are you? What brings you here today?"

"Tsk, how forgetful of you, Great Marshal. I'm Joseph Lewis, an inspector from Eurasia's Ministry of Celestial Affairs."

Zeke finally recalled the identity of the man in front of him.

The Ministry of Celestial Affairs was the one in charge of overseeing the spiritual objects of the nation.

However, Zeke had a bad impression of those affiliated with the ministry since they failed to carry out their duties despite being paid a fortune every year.

Their negligence and laziness were the reasons those affiliated with Netherworld managed to steal so many of the nation's spiritual drugs. Eurasia was rich with resources, yet the ministry had only discovered less than one percent of them.

In fact, they probably confiscated more spiritual drugs from people that randomly stumbled upon them than they did by searching.

On top of that, Zeke had discovered the higherups of the ministry selling spiritual drugs to others more than once. They were the ones betraying the nation.

Worst of all, as the ones in charge of distributing the spiritual drugs, members of the upper echelon were the ones they cared most about.

Only half of the spiritual drugs ended up making it to the commoner martial artists as well as the army. This was precisely the reason Zeke's soldiers were constantly dying-because of the lack of spiritual drugs to help them.

There wasn't enough supply for the ones putting their lives at stake for the nation. Zeke had always held the Ministry of Celestial Affairs accountable for that.

However, Zeke couldn't do anything about it since the ministry possessed the Imperial Decree from the previous presidents.

Zeke asked in a contemptuous manner, "So? What brings you here today?"

Joseph asked in return, "You must be trying to pull my leg, aren't you? I'm sure you're well aware of the reason we're here today."

"What is it? Stop wasting my time and get to business."

"If that's the case, my apologies for being frank. We're here because the ministry is now taking over possession of Summerbank. You don't have to waste your time here anymore, Great Marshal."

"Come again?" Zeke turned around, glaring at Joseph. He added after a few seconds of pause, "How dare you show up when my comrades and I have put our lives at stake to defend this

place? Where were you during the battle with members of Netherworld? There's no way I'm allowing you to reap the fruits of our labor!"

Chapter 1688

Joseph was startled by Zeke's glare. However, since he possessed the Imperial Decree from the previous presidents, he uttered, "Great Marshal, I'm sure you're aware the ministry is in charge of all the spiritual objects in the nation. Since Summerbank is still within Eurasia's borders, that means it's also under our jurisdiction. You're not trying to tell me Summerbank isn't a part of the nation, are you?"

Zeke sneered and asked in return, "I'm impressed! | guess it's true those affiliated with the Ministry of Celestial Affairs are preachers of great eloquence, huh?"

"Great Marshall, you're not being sarcastic, are you? Are you indicating I've misrepresented the facts when I've been telling the truth?"

"Haven't you misrepresented the facts? Well, why don't you answer the questions of this humble one? What has the ministry contributed toward the welfare of the nation? Weren't any of you aware of the presence of Summerbank ahead of us? Why have you shown up out of nowhere only after we've gained ownership over it?"

Joseph flushed in embarrassment when he heard Zeke. He stuttered his reply, "A-Actually, we discovered Summerbank long ago!"

"If that's the case, why hadn't the ministry done anything to secure the perimeter from foes from neighboring countries? Isn't it too much of a coincidence for you to show up immediately after our battle? Is this an attempt to abuse your authority over us? Were you afraid of defending this territory from the nation's foes?"

"..." Joseph was at a loss for words.

"Where were you and your men when my men were dying? What makes you think you're in a position to gain ownership over this mountain when we were the ones sacrificing our lives for it? How am I supposed to justify this to our fallen brothers?"

Joseph went quiet since he couldn't find the words to defend himself and the ministry.

Zeke turned around and ordered, "Kindly do me a favor and see yourself out! I don't want to see any of you within five hundred meters of this mountain in the future!"

"Hold on a second, Great Marshal!" Joseph mustered his courage and stopped Zeke. "I'm afraid what you want is impossible. No matter what, I'm taking over this mountain today."

"Have you a death wish or something?"

Zeke's murderous intent was written all over his face. Having an Ultimate Class warrior like him staring at them like that was incredibly terrifying.

Regardless, Joseph showed Zeke the Imperial Decree he brought along and yelled, "This is the Imperial Decree, signed by the previous presidents. They've ordered us to be in charge of all the spiritual objects in the nation and to distribute them as we see fit. We're merely following orders. By refusing, are you trying to challenge their authority?"

"The current president is the only one I'll listen to! Has he signed the Imperial Decree just like the previous presidents?"

Joseph shook his head and announced, "Since the current president has just stepped up to the plate recently, we haven't had the chance to request an audience with him."

"If that's the case, return to me only after you've gotten the current president's signature!"

"Great Marshall, are you trying to challenge the authority of the previous presidents when they were the ones behind the country's current achievements? Not even the current leader has the guts to challenge them since they still reign over the nation."

"You know what? I hate it whenever others try to threaten me or force me into submission! All those who have ever tried to threaten me are no longer alive. Since you have a death wish, I'll do you a favor and send you to hell!"

The faces of the officials from the Ministry of Celestial Affairs turned pale since they knew Zeke was serious.

As Zeke marched in their direction, they inched away from him.

Right as a fight was about to break out, a commotion coming from the direction of the summit took them by surprise.

They turned around and looked at the summit as an explosion caught their attention. Debris rolled down the mountain before raining on them.

Chapter 1689

As two different Invincible Wave Energies burst forth from the summit, Zeke's eyes gleamed since he knew someone had achieved the rank of Ultimate Class due to the abundant supply of spiritual energy

Not just one either, but two!

Just as he was puzzling over the identities of who had achieved the rank of Ultimate Class, two silhouettes dropped down beside him.

It was none other than Sole Wolf and Tiger Lord.

Despite the heavy injuries on them both, they didn't look exhausted at all. Instead, they appeared thrilled.

Before everyone's eyes, their wounds began healing at top speed.

What the hell is that creature!

The officials from the Ministry of Celestial Affairs were taken aback by the presence of Tiger Lord since it wasn't just an ordinary tiger.

Meanwhile, Sole Wolf, who was seated on top of Tiger Lord, announced with a proud grin, "Zeke, told you it was only a matter of time until I tamed this adorable kitty!"

Zeke smiled in return. His earlier bad mood was forgotten as he said, "Don't tell me you spent the entire night trying to tame it?"

"Of course!"

Sole Wolf is probably the only one capable of taming it since I can't think of anyone else as durable or stubborn as him. Others might have given up after the first failed attempt. This time, not only did he gain Tiger Lord, but they both even attained the rank of Ultimate Class. Seems like the one who benefitted the most out of this trip to Summerbank is Sole Wolf.

"Huh? Joseph, what are you doing here? Have you nothing else to do at the Ministry of Celestial Affairs?" Sole Wolf asked when he noticed the presence of the officers of the Ministry of Celestial Affairs.

"Thanks for your concern, but I'm here for work. I've been instructed to acquire ownership over Summerbank from the Great Marshall."

"Are you f**king kidding me? Most of our comrades almost died during the battle to obtain Summerbank from members of Netherworld! What the hell makes you think we're going to hand over the mountain to you when you and those behind you have done nothing? If you don't stop talking nonsense, I'll chop your d*mn head off!"

Sole Wolf had always been more easily angered than Zeke, and he swore at Joseph even more violently than Zeke did.

To his surprise, Zeke stopped him from trying anything rash and suggested, "Forget it. Since they have the Imperial Decree, let them take the mountain."

Huh?

Apart from Sole Wolf, the members of Azure Dragon were equally confused as Zeke was of a different idea a few minutes ago.

To be precise, Zeke had threatened to take them out if they were to continue pushing their luck.

Unable to fathom the reason Zeke had changed his mind within a few minutes, Joseph thought he had been hearing things as well.

Sole Wolf asked, "Zeke, have you lost your mind or something? It's not like you're unaware of just what we sacrificed to—"

Zeke reprimanded Sole Wolf, "That's enough! We cannot go against the Imperial Decree!"

As much as he was against the idea, Sole Wolf fell silent and kept his thoughts to himself.

On the other hand, Joseph played along with Zeke. He suggested, "Great Marshall, we'll excuse ourselves and proceed to the summit to tabulate the herbs at once. Kindly step aside and allow us to carry out our duties."

"Go ahead!" Zeke answered with a nod.

When Joseph started traveling to the summit with his party, the irked Tiger Lord roared, indicating it was against the idea of others barging into its domain.

Zeke explained, "I'm so sorry, Tiger Lord! I've no intention of allowing others to set foot here, but we can't really afford to defy them!"

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Tiger Lord let out a few cries, implying it would never allow others to set foot there without its consent.

The sole reason it had acknowledged the presence of Zeke and his party was Zeke's affiliation with the four Ultimate Class elders.

Chapter 1690

Turning to the mountain, Tiger Lord bellowed once more.

In the next second, the army of beasts appeared again before staring menacingly at the men from the Ministry of Celestial Affairs.

A gigantic gorilla cast a boulder that was at least a few hundred pounds in Joseph's direction. Had he failed to step aside in time, he would've been turned into mush.

The officials of the Ministry of Celestial Affairs were astonished by the presence of the beasts that were a few folds larger than ordinary beasts.

On top of that, the beasts were extremely hostile toward them. The officials knew their lives would be at stake if they were to continue advancing to the summit.

Joseph secretly gulped and tried his best to remain calm. "Pull yourselves together and stop panicking! They're merely larger than ordinary beasts since they spend most of their time at a place with abundant spiritual energy! I'm sure they're not going to kill us for real! We'll keep going!"

The moment Joseph tried leading the rest of his party up the mountain, the enraged beasts rushed down and formed a defensive line.

As they surged forward, they crushed everything in their way, including the trees and boulders.

The officials knew it was time to stop challenging the beasts unless they had a death wish.

Joseph and his party hurriedly retreated. Suddenly, he yelled, "Great Marshall, can you please tell the beasts to step aside and stop getting in our way?"

Zeke asked sarcastically, "When will you stop asking for the impossible? What else do you want from me when I've stopped getting in your way? I've already given you the mountain, which is already more than you deserve, but now you're even asking me to help you get up the mountain? Do you take me for a doormat you can walk all over? I'm not the one calling the shots around here, instructing the beasts. That's not the way things work around here."

Joseph gritted his teeth when he figured out the actual reason Zeke agreed to stop getting in their way.

He was obviously aware there was no way the beasts would allow us to make our way to the summit!

Out of the blue, Zeke asked, "Correct me if I'm wrong, but the Ministry of Celestial Affairs has pledged to hand over one-tenth of the total gain to the ones contributing spiritual objects to the nation, hasn't it? Since we're the ones contributing, can you hurry up and return the favor since I'm in desperate need of those spiritual objects?"

What the f**k! So this is none other than a trap! Zeke's going to justify his actions of taking us out for not fulfilling the ministry's pledge!

Sole Wolf and the rest of Zeke's party found Joseph and the officials behind him hilarious since they had the guts to challenge Zeke.

They must've lost their minds or something! Did they think they would be able to force Zeke into submission? What kind of joke is this?

Zeke has always been a visionary man! The moment Joseph showed up in front of him, Zeke has already had everything sorted out!

Since Zeke's the one with the upper hand, if Joseph fails to carry out the pledge of the ministry, no one will fault us for taking them out!

When the conflicting parties were about to start another fight, a mysterious figure was on its way up the summit.

The suspicious-looking thing was nothing more than a shadow. Thus, it managed to travel through the woods within a short while.

Only a member of Azure Dragon was around to keep an eye on the frail Jackson. The rest had long joined Zeke and the officials of the ministry.

The soldier wasn't even aware of the shadow closing in from afar. When the suspicious-looking shadow merged with the soldier's shadow, the soldier felt his limbs turning stiff.

He was longer in control of his body as the shadow took possession of him.

Jackson finally figured out what was going on when he saw the soldier's body convulsing against his will.

Chapter 1691

His eyes widened in disbelief when he caught a glimpse of the soldier's shadow-it was deformed.

He stuttered, "U-Josiah, is that you? A-Are you here to save me?"

The soldier approached Jackson and reprimanded him, "Jackson, you're just a good-for-nothing! We don't need you when you can't even keep a domain safe from our foes!"

Once Jackson was assured it was indeed the Ninth Commandment, he couldn't conceal his excitement anymore. "Josiah, I'm willing to atone for my sins of not carrying out my duty! Can you please take me to Netherworld? I'll explain everything to the rest in person!"

Josiah, the Ninth Commandment, asked in return. "Have you mentioned anything regarding us of Netherworld?"

"No, Josiah! I'll never turn my back against Netherworld!"

"Great!"

"Josiah, can you please take me away with you? I'll hand over everything I have to you!"

Sneering, Josiah remarked with a vicious smirk, "Jackson, you're such a fool! Do you really think we're going to forgive you when you're the reason the Tenth Branch no longer exists? Consider yourself lucky we're not going after your family members even when you're the one behind the loss of Summerbank!"

Jackson fell into despair when he knew it was over for him. It turned out Josiah was merely there to kill him.

"To hell you go!"

Seconds after Josiah leaned over and whispered, he retrieved the dagger he had and stabbed Jackson in the forehead.

After struggling for a little more than a few seconds, Jackson's limbs turned stiff as he finally died.

The suspicious-looking shadow sneaked its way down the hill and through the woods as soon as it ensured Jackson was dead.

The soldier surveyed his surroundings in puzzlement seconds after he returned to his senses. He couldn't even understand why he was next to Jackson, let alone realize that he had murdered Jackson after being possessed.

When he caught a glimpse of the blood-drenched Jackson, he staggered backward and shrieked.

W-What happened? Great Marshal needs him to get his hands on the whereabouts of the nation's foes! H-How could he die on my watch? I'm doomed!

Horrified by the consequences of his negligence, the soldier yelled, "H-Help! There's an assassin!"

Zeke, who was about to take Joseph on had a bad feeling when he heard the soldier yelling. With a jump, he returned to the summit without a second thought

Zeke's mind was all over the place when he found out Jackson was dead. To be precise, Jackson was drenched in blood as blood continued gushing out of the wound on his head.

F**k! Who did this!

He checked the surroundings, but he couldn't even spot anything suspicious. In other words, the soldier was the sole suspect.

However, he couldn't fathom the reason the member of Azure Dragon would betray him. Glaring at the soldier, he asked, "Speak! What happened here?"

The soldier got on his knees as the color drained from his face. He stammered, "I-I'm not sure as well! I-I seemed to have lost consciousness for a short while! When I returned to my senses, Jackson had already been killed!"

Alfred rushed over and launched a powerful kick in the soldier's direction. "You better tell us the truth! What's with the weapon you have with you then?"

Shooting a glance at the dagger he had with him, he cast it aside and assured the duo, "I-I really have no idea what happened! I-I wasn't the one who killed him!"

Chapter 1692

Alfred sighed and argued, "He's the only suspect since no one else was around! Great Marshal, you don't have to go soft on him merely because he's my grandson! If he's truly the murderer. I won't! hesitate to take him out myself!"

It was then Zeke found out the young soldier in front of him was Alfred's grandson. He reassured Alfred, "Actually, I wasn't even aware this young man over here is your grandson until a few seconds ago. He stands nothing to gain from Jackson's death. If he was the murderer, why would he stand around with the weapon? Most importantly, there's a hint of negative energy around here. I think it's the doing of someone from Netherworld again."

Alfred asked his grandson, "Have you seen anyone from Netherworld?"

"I-I'm not sure because I think I fell asleep-"

"You're just a good-for-nothing and a disgrace to Azure Dragon! How can you fall asleep when you were assigned such an important job? I want you to get out of my sight at once!"

"Grandpa, I had no idea! My mind went completely blank for a short while, and by the time I regained consciousness, he was dead!"

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Just then, Tiger Lord appeared on the summit and roared at Zeke. It seemed to be saying it knew who the murderer was.

“Tiger Lord, can you please tell us who the murderer is?” Zeke asked.

Alfred and the young soldier were on pins and needles as Tiger Lord approached the soldier and sniffed him to verify its speculation.

Tiger Lord inched away from the soldier and returned to Zeke’s side, smacking the ground while roaring

Zeke questioned with a frown, “Are you trying to tell me the murderer is beneath here?”

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Tiger Lord shook its head and patted the ground once more. A few seconds later, Zeke found out Tiger Lord had its paw on a shadow instead of the ground.

“Are you indicating something’s wrong with the shadow?”

Zeke lost himself in his thoughts as Tiger Lord nodded.

“Could it be the legendary Shadow Hitman? No wonder there’s a hint of negative energy when no one’s around! I’m sure we’re talking about a Shadow Hitman!”

A few seconds later, Zeke asked, “Tiger Lord, can you detect the scent of the Shadow Hitman? If that’s the case, can you pinpoint its current location?”

Tiger Lord nodded in an arrogant manner and started sniffing to pinpoint the exact whereabouts of their target.

A few minutes later, Tiger Lord rushed to a spot and roared at the top of its lungs. Zeke knew the one at fault was currently on the run in the direction of Tiger Lord’s roar.

He requested, “Tiger Lord, can you go ahead and take the murderer into custody? As soon as I’m done sorting out things here, I’ll join you!” |

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Tiger Lord returned to its cave instead of heading out as instructed. It was evident the arrogant tiger had no intention to take Zeke’s instructions seriously

Zeke knew the one leading the beasts would never listen to him. Instead of wasting his time with Tiger Lord, he asked, "Sole Wolf, can you take him with you and go after the murderer?"

Sole Wolf glared at Tiger Lord and yelled, "Come with me!"

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Once Tiger Lord made itself clear it was against the idea, Sole Wolf warned while unbuckling his belt, "Are you trying to defy me? I'll repeat myself one last time! Are you coming with me or not?"

He cracked his belt as he spoke.

Chapter 1693

Since Sole Wolf and Tiger Lord were warriors of Ultimate Class, Zeke had nothing to fear. At the very least, they could easily flee if they weren't a match for their foe.

Tyler asked, "Great Marshall, have you identified this mysterious foe of ours?"

"Yeah! Have any of you heard of the Shadow League?"

As the rest nodded in return, Tyler commented, "If I'm not wrong, the Shadow League is the leading one amongst the Eight Major Leagues. They're well known for manipulating shadows, and through that, controlling people."

"Indeed! That's precisely the reason I think a member of Shadow League infiltrated here!"

"It's been a few decades since the last time they showed up in front of others. Why are they coming after us when we've never encountered any of them?"

"It's merely one of my speculations, but I think the Shadow League has sworn allegiance to Netherworld. The people from Netherworld needed to ensure their secrets were safe and would stand to gain the most benefit from Jackson's death. There was a hint of strong negative energy when I returned a short while ago too."

As the rest nodded once they heard him, he let out a long sigh and added, "They must've come prepared. In order to divert our attention, they sent Joseph to make a scene. Once we were drawn away, they dispatched someone from Shadow League to kill Jackson!"

Killer Wolf felt a strong urge to take out the officials of the Ministry of Celestial Affairs. Whipping out his weapon, he yelled, "I always knew the Ministry of Celestial Affairs was up to no good! I can't believe they're teaming up with members of Netherworld! Let's go back and take them out at once!"

Killer Wolf, Tyler, and the rest of them were back to full strength again after spending the night recovering

On top of that, they seemed to be stronger after basking themselves with the spiritual energy over the night.

With that being said, their improvement was relatively trivial as compared to Sole Wolf's tremendous growth. After all, Sole Wolf was finally a warrior of Ultimate Class.

"All right, it's time to deal with the ones making a scene down below!"

Along with the rest, Zeke leaped off the cliff and returned to Joseph's side. However, the officials were nowhere to be seen anymore.

Alfred asked the Azure Dragon soldiers left behind, "Where are the officials from the Ministry of Celestial Affairs?"

"They left shortly after Great Marshall's departure.

Nameless yelled, "It seems like they're trying to run away, huh? I'm pretty sure they're guilty as well! We should go after them at once!"

Zeke stopped Nameless and asked, "How long has it been since they left?"

"Just a few minutes.

"If that's the case, I'm sure they're still around."

Zeke secured the perimeter with Invincible Wave Energy. Those who couldn't stand the intimidating energy had a hard time catching their breaths.

Ares and those next to Zeke felt ashamed because their energy could merely secure the perimeter of around fifteen meters when Zeke could easily cover more than a few hundred.

However, they knew it wasn't much of a surprise since Zeke wasn't just an ordinary martial artist. It! Didn't make sense for them to compare themselves against him.

It merely took Zeke a short while to locate the officials from the Ministry of Celestial Affairs.

"Where do you think you're going? You're coming back here!" Zeke yelled and brought them back with Invincible Wave Energy

Joseph and his party ended up in front of Zeke.

Chapter 1694

Zeke repeated himself, "Did you not hear my question? I'm going to repeat myself one last time! You better answer me if you wish to leave with your limbs attached! Were you running away because you're guilty?"

"I-I don't even know what the hell you're talking about!"

Sighing, Zeke instructed, "Well, I guess it's time to show you I'm serious! Killer Wolf, go ahead and chop off his arm!"

Without a second thought, Killer Wolf chopped off Joseph's right arm. Subsequently, blood gushed out of the wound.

"A-Arggh!"

Cries of agony echoed through the mountain as the injured Joseph shrieked at the top of his lungs. Subsequently, the hearts of the ones Joseph brought along with him sank to the bottom of their stomachs.

Is he a maniac? How dare he chop off others' limbs merely because he's irritated? We're not just talking about just another man from the streets, we're talking about someone with the same rank as him! Isn't he afraid the president is going to hold him accountable?

Zeke repeated himself in a callous tone, "Are you going to answer my question or not? Were you sent here to distract us?"

Joseph stammered, "I-I'll tell you everything! I'm so sorry for distracting you and causing the death of an important prisoner! It was never my intention to distract you and your men! I-I was merely here under someone's instruction!"

"Why were you even here when you were aware would never allow you to gain ownership over Summerbank? What exactly are you up to?" Zeke queried in an attempt to sort out the confusion.

"H-Huh? What else am I up to? I'm merely trying to complete my assigned duty!"

"You know what? Killer Wolf, chop off one of his legs!"

Killer Wolf chopped off Joseph's right leg seconds after he heard Zeke.

As Joseph continued shrieking, Zeke warned him, "I'll give you another chance to tell me the truth! Otherwise, we're coming after your neck next!"

Joseph was about to weep in front of them. He stammered, "It's my father-in-law! He was the one who sent me here! He insisted on sending me here even when I told him there was no way you would hand over Summerbank to me!"

"Who's your father-in-law?"

"He's the previous person in charge of the Ministry of Celestial Affairs!"

Once Zeke linked the missing pieces of the puzzle together, he instructed. "Killer Wolf, Tyler, Nameless, I want all of you to take his father-in-law into custody at once! If he refuses to come! Along, just kill him!"

"Yes, sir!"

Once the trio departed, Zeke turned around and fixed his gaze on Joseph again. "Is your father-in-law in cahoots with members of Netherworld? Is there something suspicious about him?"

After giving it a thought, he said, "I-I'm not sure! He's my father-in-law, but we're not really close!"

Zeke placed Dragon King Sword next to Joseph's neck and warned, "I'm not going to repeat myself anymore. If you can't be of much help, then I'll do you a favor and end your misery."

"I'll tell you everything! When he was still the person in charge of the ministry, the ministry would lose about three percent of the total spiritual drugs every year! It was higher than the ordinary loss incurred! Therefore, I suspect he was involved in shady trading with others!"

"Ha! You're not trying to tell me you've never gotten yourself involved in something similar, are you? Stop bringing up something irrelevant to divert my attention!"

"Wait, I'm not done yet! I once encountered him during one of his many trades! I thought I was seeing things, but the person on the other end was nothing more than a shadow!"

Chapter 1695

The inspector of the Ministry of Celestial Affairs was actually trading with those from the Netherworld! Just how many spiritual drugs Eurasia must have lost because of him!

Zeke said, "Throw him into the prison and keep a strict eye on him!"

"Understood!" The members of Azure Dragon dragged Joseph away.

"My leg! My leg!" shrieked Joseph in agony.

If he was treated right away, his severed limbs could still be reattached to his body.

However, the Azure Dragon would never give him this opportunity

Joseph had no choice but to watch the chance for him to recover slip through his hands.

“Alfred, Ares, come with me to go after Tiger Lord,” ordered Zeke.

“Understood!”

Zeke turned around and instructed Lacey. “Wait! For me here, Lacey, I’m going to pursue someone from the Netherworld.”

Although Lacey only had a vague understanding of the Netherworld, she knew that it was Eurasia’s enemy and that Zeke was going to eliminate these threats.

Hence, she nodded.

Zeke continued, “Missy is stuck in the Netherworld. I’ll follow the shadow, locate their base, and save her.”

Nodding, Lacey tidied his clothes and said, “THI wait for you to return safe and sound!”

“Let’s go!”

Without further ado, the three of them headed off in Tiger Lord’s direction.

For two days and two nights, they sprinted as fast as they could.

Still, they could not find any traces of Tiger Lord.

Zeke felt a bit anxious and was even beginning to wonder if they were heading in the wrong direction.

Luckily, on the third day, Zeke finally bumped into Sole Wolf and Tiger Lord.

They were curled up in a cave in the mountains and resting

When Sole Wolf spotted Zeke, he was overjoyed. “You’ve finally found us! I was so bored. I haven’t spoken to anyone in three days!”

Zeke nodded. “Update me about the situation.”

Sole Wolf replied, "The shadow was very careful. It would pause in the middle of its journey now and then and observe its surroundings to make sure that no one was on its trail. As we didn't want to be discovered, we had no choice but to stop and monitor it from afar secretly."

Zeke glanced over

It was a vast expanse of wilderness. There was nothing to be seen, let alone a shadow.

They could only rely on Tiger Lord to trace the shadow's scent and follow its tracks.

Zeke asked, "Has it been heading north the entire time?"

Sole Wolf nodded. "That's right. We didn't see it heading in any other direction."

Ares asked, "Isn't up front the North Zone? That's your base, Great Marshal. Could the Netherworld branch that the shadow is affiliated with be located within your base?"

Sole Wolf laughed. "You're right! He's really heading toward the North. We're very near the North Zone now. How dare they establish a branch in our base? They're digging their own graves!"

Zeke reminded, "Continue following its tracks. We must not alert it unnecessarily. Missy might be in that branch!"

Sole Wolf became furious when he heard that. "D"mn the Netherworld! I only have one niece. I'll not let them bully her like that! Missy, don't you worry! Even if I die, I'll drag the netherworld with me!"

Tiger Lord suddenly patted Sole Wolf's butt.

Just when he was about to lose his temper, Tiger Lord pointed to the north.

Sole Wolf declared, "Zeke, the shadow has set off!"

Zeke instructed, "Follow it!"

Everyone chased after the shadow relentlessly.

Even after traveling for the entirety of a day and night, the shadow showed no sign of stopping.

By then, they had already entered the North.

The climate in the North is extremely cold and harsh.

The northern wind blew regularly throughout the year, while snow bellowed in the sky.

Chapter 1696

The soil was completely frozen, and the surface of the lake was covered in ice a few meters thick.

As the altitude was quite high, the oxygen levels were low.

An ordinary man could not survive there for more than a day.

Luckily, Zeke and the others were either King Class or Ultimate Class warriors.

The harsh weather did not affect them much.

The next morning, the shadow stopped and rested as usual.

Just when Zeke and the rest were about to rest, Tiger Lord suddenly patted Sole Wolf's butt again and pointed in the eastern direction.

Puzzled, Sole Wolf asked, "What do you mean? The shadow is heading toward the east?"

Tiger Lord nodded instantly.

Zeke exchanged a look with the rest, his worry evident.

From the start, the shadow had been heading north.

It seemed abnormal for it to head toward the east so suddenly

There was something fishy about this, so they needed to be on their guard.

Sole Wolf said, "Do you think that we're already near the Netherworld's branch? It might be in the

East."

Zeke shook his head. "That's not very likely. If we're already near the Netherworld's branch, there's no way the shadow would stop and rest. I suspect that it discovered something weird and has been scared off."

Ares said worriedly, "D*mn it! Did it discover us? | hope that all of our efforts won't be wasted."

Zeke replied, "That's possible. Let's not panic first. We'll wait and see what happens."

Instead of heading to the east in pursuit of the shadow, they hid and observed the situation.

Surprisingly, soon after the shadow started running in the eastern direction, it met someone from Eurasia.

It started discussing something with the person discreetly.

As Zeke and the rest could not see the shadow, it seemed like the person from Eurasia was merely talking to himself.

“What the f**k? It’s him?” exclaimed Sole Wolf.

Ares asked curiously, “Do you know him?”

Sole Wolf nodded ‘Of course. He’s Aksel Lewis, the father-in-law of Joseph, the current inspector of the Ministry of Celestial Affairs. Aksel is also the previous inspector of the Ministry of Celestial Affairs. Back then, that b’stard pocketed a lot of spiritual drugs that were supposed to be distributed to the North Zone. I fought with him multiple times over that. It’s a pity that I wasn’t powerful enough at the time to kill him.”

Alfred said, “He’s really in cahoots with the Netherworld! It was all part of the Netherworld’s plan when the Ministry of Celestial Affairs asked us for Summerbank!”

Sole Wolf cursed, “Killer Wolf and the rest are really useless! We sent them to capture Aksel, the cunning thief, but he ended up escaping to the North.”

The shadow continued talking with Aksel for a short while before speeding toward the north

Zeke heaved a sigh of relief.

“Looks like they haven’t discovered our existence. Let’s continue chasing after them!” he instructed.

Everyone set off

The further north they ventured, the colder the climate became

A thick layer of frost formed on their legs.

Meanwhile, Zeke was doing much better As he was in the Ultimate Class, he could use his energy to warm himself and melt the layer of frost away.

Sole Wolf's legs were not covered in frost as well because he had been riding on Tiger Lord's shoulders and had not touched the ground.

On the other hand, Ares and Alfred were suffering.

Their legs could barely be seen under the thick layers of frost covering them.

Although they were still able to endure it, their energy had been severely depleted.

It was uncomfortable for them too, so it impacted the speed of their pursuit.

Zeke decided to transmit some energy to them and melt the frost away from their legs.

Their legs were finally freed from the frost, leaving behind two pairs of icy "shells" molded from the shape of their legs.

Chapter 1697

Ares and Alfred lamented silently.

How wasteful is it to use energy for warmth! How wasteful!

Ares and Alfred barely had enough energy to use for battles

Naturally, they could not bear to waste it on warming themselves.

Without the frost constraining them, they were able to move much faster.

One hour later, Zeke suddenly stopped. "Wait."

The rest immediately stopped in their tracks and asked warily, "What is it, Great Marshal?"

Zeke asked, "Does the shadow walk with its legs, Sole Wolf?"

Sole Wolf was amused. "What are you thinking about? It floats above the ground."

A contemplative look crossed Zeke's face. "I see... There's someone else here other than the shadow and Aksel."

Someone else?

The three of them were puzzled. "How would you know, Great Marshal?"

Zeke pointed to the ground. "Look."

They glanced over and saw three icy “shells” standing on the ground.

Those three icy “shells” were identical to those left behind by Alfred and Ares after they warmed their legs.

They could not help but tense up. “Who else would appear in this barren land?”

Zeke said, “They left footprints, so let’s follow the trail.”

They headed off in the direction of the tracks.

Luckily, it aligned with the direction in which the shadow was heading toward.

Hence, they just needed to walk in one direction instead of splitting up.

In the evening, the shadow and Aksel stopped to rest.

Zeke and the rest stopped as well.

The scenery was completely white, with the snowy mountains surrounding them.

The snow on the ground was one meter thick.

As they were hiding underneath the snow, they were not worried that the shadow and Aksel would discover them.

Sole Wolf located their coordinates using the radio waves and reported to Zeke, “We’re less than a hundred kilometers away from the borders of the North base. Are they really going to our base?”

Zeke said, “That’s highly possible. Of course, they might be trying to cross the borders too. That would mean that they’re collaborating with foreign forces.”

Sole Wolf asked, “Should I notify the soldiers in the North and ask them to prepare for battle? That’ll prevent the shadow and Aksel from trespassing the borders.”

After some deliberation, Zeke nodded. “Sure.”

Sole Wolf turned on their radio to do as told.

However, the moment he switched it on, they received radio waves from another source.

The signal was a bit messy and the voice was discordant.

However, they could vaguely hear words such as “soldiers of the North,” “receive your orders,” and “prepare for battle.”

Huh?

Everyone was stunned.

Someone was instructing the soldiers of the North.

Who is that?

Without any hesitation, Zeke unleashed his Invincible Wave Energy and searched the area.

Soon, he discovered something.

He quickly ordered, “Follow me closely!”

With that, he dove into the pile of snow. Using his energy to melt the snow accumulated in front of him, he sped forward.

Sole Wolf and the rest followed him closely.

Within ten minutes, Zeke found a burrow in the snow.

Three people were lying on the floor in rest.

When they noticed that some strangers had arrived, they quickly woke up in shock. “Who’s that?”

Zeke replied, “It’s me!”

When they took a closer glimpse of each other, they felt relieved. In fact, they were overjoyed.

The three of them were none other than Killer Wolf, Tyler, and Nameless.

Zeke had sent them to capture Joseph’s father-inlaw. Aksel

Since they had appeared there, it was clear that they had been stalking Aksel.

Chapter 1698

Killer Wolf exclaimed happily, “You’re here too, Zeke?”

Zeke nodded. “Yeah, we followed the shadow that killed Jackson here.”

Sole Wolf, Ares and Alfred caught up at that moment.

Upon realizing that it was killer Wolf and the rest, Sole Wolf asked anxiously, "Were the three icy leg shells left by you guys?"

Icy leg shells? What's that?

Killer Wolf was confused.

Sole Wolf explained, "The icy mold left behind after you melt the frost from your legs."

Killer Wolf had a sudden revelation. "Yeah, we left them behind."

Sole Wolf glanced at the three of them. "Don't tell me that one of you has reached the Ultimate Class. Only someone in the Ultimate Class can muster energy powerful enough to melt the frost."

Nameless smirked proudly. "That's right. I've already reached the Ultimate Class."

"What's so impressive about that?" Alfred said indignantly, "Even if you managed to become a God, you still have to defer to me!"

Nameless scoffed, "Hah! You're so jealous. I've already reached the Ultimate Class while you're still in the king Class. You should be the one deferring to me!"

Alfred reminded, "Don't forget your status, Nameless. When we were working for Master Pietro, I was the officer in charge, and you were only a vice-officer. No matter how powerful you might be, you'll always be the vice-official. You'll never surpass me!"

When Nameless heard that, he massaged his temples. "He was so foolish. Considering that I'm more talented and capable than you, I should be the officer in charge instead. Why were you the one chosen?"

Alfred replied, "It's because your character is horrible."

Nameless widened his eyes. "Are you talking about me?"

Zeke quickly stopped the two of them, preventing them from arguing again.

Alfred and Nameless used to be Pietro's disciples.

Before Pietro mysteriously disappeared, he had appointed Nameless to act as a spy in the Carter sect, while Alfred was in charge of nurturing Azure Dragon

All this was to help Zeke rise to power again.

That was all Zeke understood about them.

He did not expect that such a close relationship was shared between them-Nameless was Alfred's subordinate!

Zeke said, "Are you here because you're stalking Aksel?"

Nameless nodded. "That's right. When we went to capture Aksel, he had already fled. We spent a lot of effort and even used the Imperial Decree to find out where Aksel had escaped to. We've been on his tracks the entire time. We suspect that he's heading toward the Netherworld headquarters, so we didn't want to alert him. Instead, we were planning on stalking him secretly before infiltrating the headquarters."

Zeke smiled approvingly. "Good job. If we can locate the Netherworld headquarters, we'll wipe them out for good!"

At that moment, Tiger Lord caught up with them and patted Sole Wolf's butt.

Sole Wolf was furious. "F*ck you! If you pat my butt as a greeting next time, I'll kill you!"

Ignoring him, Tiger Lord pointed in the northern direction with a proud expression.

This meant that the shadow had set off again.

"Let's chase after it!"

Zeke and the rest followed it closely.

On the way there, Zeke calculated the combat strength of their party

Sole Wolf, Tiger Lord, Nameless, and himself had already reached the Ultimate Class.

Meanwhile, Killer Wolf, Alfred, and Ares were exceptional King Class warriors.

Even if they were confronted with a Netherworld branch again, they could destroy it easily.

After a few hours, Tiger Lord suddenly became uneasy and nervous.

Its muscles tensed up. Exuding a powerful aura, it growled menacingly and went into combat mode.

Chapter 1699

Zeke asked softly, "What's wrong, Tiger Lord?"

It growled.

Zeke understood what it meant. "Tiger Lord managed to detect the scent of a lot more shadows in front. This means that it's most probably the Netherworld branch or headquarters! Let's hurry up."

Everyone hastened forward.

After climbing a hill, they were surprised by the scene that unfolded in front of them.

There was a vast river beneath the hill, whose surface was already covered with ice.

The harsh winds blew, stripping the place of any warmth

It was approximately fifty degrees Celsius beneath the freezing point.

No organism could survive in this temperature, but the riverbanks were filled with tens of thousands of people.

Crowds of people rushed around, bumping into each other.

With ten people in a group, they were digging at the ground. Their hot puffs of breaths formed mist! Clouds in the air.

There were thousands of tents set up on the peripheries.

The tents were extremely old, with some parts clearly damaged by the harsh winds.

It seemed like the people had been digging there for a long time.

Sole Wolf asked carefully, "Zeke, do you think that this is the Netherworld headquarters?"

Zeke shook his head. "It doesn't seem like it!"

The Tenth Branch, which had been led by Jackson from the Ten Commandments, had more than ten thousand people.

The Netherworld headquarters definitely had more people.

However, since there were only a little more than ten thousand here, it was probably just another Netherworld branch.

Sole Wolf asked, "What are they digging for? Think that there might be some treasures to be found underground!"

"Yeah," grunted Zeke distractedly before scanning the crowd for Missy.

However, after searching around, he could not spot Missy at all.

His attention focused on those tents.

If his guess was right, Missy might be in one of those tents

Tyler said, "Look! Aksel and the shadow walked into a tent in the eastern side."

Zeke glanced over

Considering how the tent at the eastern side was the largest and most luxurious-looking, it was probably the command center.

There were more than a hundred people guarding the tent.

Aksel and the shadow could only enter after several rounds of inspections.

As those people from the Netherworld were interested in Missy's martial talent, they might have locked her up in this tent that had the highest security.

Killer Wolf asked, "Should we attack, Zeke?"

Zeke shook his head. "Let's not alert them for now. There are too many people from the Netherworld scattered around. If we act rashly, some of them will definitely escape. Inform the soldiers in the North to seal this area and not let anyone leave."

Sole Wolf said, "I'll inform them right away."

He whipped out the radio and contacted the soldiers in the North.

At that moment, Aksel walked out with a few people following them.

There was a girl and three elderly people.

When Zeke caught a closer glimpse of the girl's face, his heartbeat quickened as adrenaline surged through him.

She was none other than Missy!

After all those efforts, he had finally found her.

Missy did not look like she had suffered from any injuries

However, she kept yawning tiredly,

It was unclear whether it was a normal physiological response or because the negative energy had depleted her of her energy

Aksel, the previous inspector of the Ministry of Celestial Affairs, walked in front of Missy

Three elderly men with white beards followed behind.

Only the shadow was missing.

Zeke suspected that the shadow was actually one of those elderly men's shadows and had already merged with the physical body.

Those three elderly men were definitely highranking officials in the Netherworld.

Their actions, demeanor, and clothes were nobler than the average person.

Chapter 1700

When they walked past, the commoners would bow to them respectfully.

Zeke was curious

Where are they bringing Missy? What are they planning to do?

He tightened his grip on the Dragon King Sword

If they were planning to harm Missy, he would definitely not show them any mercy.

When they reached the riverbanks, Aksel instructed Missy to walk in front.

Missy started wandering around the riverbanks with Aksel and the three high-ranking officials from the Netherworld.

They walked over to an empty plot of land.

When Missy pointed at the ground, a few people from the Netherworld hurried over and started to dig.

However, after digging for half an hour, they did not find anything

Missy continued walking forward.

After a short while, she pointed at the ground again.

A group of Netherworld people walked over and dug the ground.

Similarly, they did not find anything

Just like that, the Netherworld people dug dozens of holes in the ground under Missy's guidance.

Yet, there was nothing to be found

Furious, Aksel raised his hand and was about to slap Missy

D*mn it!

Fury raged through Zeke as he prepared himself to kill Aksel

However, a cunning-looking elderly man stopped Aksel from hitting Missy.

As Zeke was too far away from them, he did not get noticed.

Someone in the west suddenly exclaimed, "We found it! It's over here!"

Delighted, Aksel and the rest sprinted over.

The cunning-looking elderly man even carried Missy in his arms.

Zeke and the others glanced over to the west as well.

There was a hole that had just been freshly dug. It was around three to four meters long, while its depth was unfathomable.

Other than that, they could not see anything else.

What exactly is making those people from the Netherworld so excited?

Before they could reach the hole, the ground started trembling vigorously

It was almost as powerful as a level five earthquake

Cracks spread across the ground as rocks rolled down the hills.

Fractures appeared throughout the layer of ice. Which was several meters thick. A huge force sent the shards of ice flying in the air and blasting toward the crowd.

On their left were the falling rocks from the hills, while on their right were the surging waves from the river.

Due to how densely packed they were, many were injured in the blink of an eye.

Everyone fled in all directions.

The cunning-looking elderly man shouted, "Everyone, kneel! If you don't want to die, kneel!"

The crowd was extremely obedient. They stopped fleeing and fell to their knees instead.

Aksel and the cunning-looking man knelt as well.

Zeke suddenly realized that the locus of the earthquake was that enormous hole.

It felt like there was something in the hole slamming from side to side, causing the earthquake

He was increasingly curious about what that deep hole contained

The cunning-looking man cheered, "1. Valdemar, the leader of the Ninth Branch, welcome Quasar's return on behalf of everyone in the Netherworld."

Only then did Zeke and the rest realize that they were at the Netherworld's Ninth Branch.

That cunning-looking man was Valdemar, the leader of the Ninth Branch.

In other words, he was the Ninth Commander!

It was obvious who Quasar was.

When Valdemar said that, the tremors became significantly weaker

Three minutes later, they disappeared completely.

A strong suction was unleashed from the deep hole, sucking in almost twenty people and a large amount of water from the river.

Those who had been sucked in screamed in misery.

However, their shrieks were silenced within ten seconds

As more water flowed into the hole, the thing inside floated on the surface and entered everyone's vision.

When everyone saw what it was, they gasped in shock

It was a red coffin.