

Chapter 1513

As everyone either screamed or stared dumbfoundedly at the bloody scene, one of the family heads managed to snap out of it and immediately bowed before Gerald, expressing his amazement and respect by shouting, "Master Crawford...!"

Upon seeing that, the other family heads immediately bowed in unison as the words 'Master Crawford' echoed throughout the entire underground area.

Finnegan, on the other hand, turned to look at Stetson—who was still frozen on stage—and signaled him to escape together with him. To his relief, Stetson saw and understood Finnegan's signal, prompting both of them to slowly begin walking away from the area.

Despite his name being shouted, Gerald appeared indifferent, and he simply turned to look at Carlos before saying, "Carlos Xenos... I remember asking you something before you fled... Since I didn't get an answer, I'm just going to repeat what I said. Give me one good reason why I shouldn't kill you."

Upon hearing that, Carlos instantly gulped before replying, "I... I'll be your lackey till the day I die, Master Crawford...!"

Despite being rather unwilling to be Gerald's servant, anything was better compared to facing a death similar to Ghose's. That ninja's death was truly pitiful...

"Hmm... I accept. With that, I'm sure you know what you have to do next, correct?" replied Gerald as rested his arms against his back before turning to look at the escaping father and son.

Instantly getting what Gerald was trying to say, Carlos then roared, "How dare both of you offend Master Crawford!"

Since Finnegan had earlier instructed Ghose to kill Gerald, he had pretty much already sealed his fate by that point.

Either way, Carlos easily caught up to the duo and after receiving three strikes each, both of them flopped to the ground, dead.

"Now then... If there aren't any further objections, does that mean that I've now gained full control over this underground world?" asked Gerald.

"But of course, Master Crawford! We'd very much prefer having you be the person in control rather than the Waddys!"

"Indeed! With how strong you are, the Yahtos are more than willing to serve you as our head for the generations to come! Even so, please don't underestimate my family, Master Crawford, for we own a third of the assets in the entire Jenna Province!" added the head of the Yahtos in a flattering tone.

While the other family heads were already fawning over Gerald, Yaakov didn't even dare to say a word.

With mixed feelings in his heart, he wondered how he had been so blind... How he had actually failed to recognize how strong and powerful Gerald actually was at the start...

Regardless, he understood very well that he had previously offended Gerald quite a bit. It was the reason why he was staying put in complete silence, fearing that he would share the fate of Finnegan and his son.

Despite Yaakov's worries, Gerald didn't even look at him from the start till the very end.

After a brief moment, Gerald then declared, "I only wish to obtain one thing from the miracle on Tierson Mountain.

Once I obtain it, the rest of the items will be equally distributed to all of you!"

"...W-what?! T-Thank you, Master Crawford...!" cried out the family heads, unable to contain their excitement.

Watching as Gerald stood in the limelight, Xyrielle felt her heart pounding rapidly.

Just as she had thought... Stetson hadn't been the one the fortune-teller had predicted to be her optimal lover...

No... As it turned out, Gerald was the actual one for her!

Now genuinely feeling happy for him, she hoped that he would at least turn back to look at her...

To her disappointment, after he explained a few things to Perla—about the distribution benefits since he was placing her responsible over that—Gerald swiftly went off without another word.

Seeing that, Xyrielle felt slight feelings of loss and bitterness in her heart...

Fast forward to after the underground festival, several big changes had already taken place within the Jenna Province.

The changes included several ancient martial arts families, secret societies, as well as several forces that possessed special skills. Essentially, all of them now obeyed and took orders from Master Crawford.

In relation to this, there were also quite a number of people—who were training to attain spiritual enlightenment—who stepped forth to meet Gerald. While they had previously entrusted themselves to the powerful families within the Jenna Province, they were now pledging their allegiance to Gerald instead.

These were all people similar to Julian in the way that they were all self-taught and weren't particularly tied to any organizations. With Gerald's agreement, they were all overjoyed to finally have a strong and powerful person to back them up.

Among the twenty-seven people who had attached themselves to Gerald in that short amount of time, Gerald found that most of them were First-rank masters while the others were Second-rank ones.

While that meant that Carlos was most definitely the strongest among them, he opted not to turn down any of them.

After all, he was truly in need of people at the time.

Regardless of how powerful they were, Perla was still Gerald's first disciple. With that said, despite being considerably weaker than the rest, her words were still absolute among the other disciples.

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Since Gerald's new force was still relatively small, those within it instantly began discussing the matter. Eventually, they wondered if it would be best if they set up a sect. In doing so, they'd surely be able to properly establish everyone's respect and ensure that they had a name.

Unfortunately, after they brought their concerns up to Gerald, he simply turned down their request, stating that it still wasn't the right time for them to do so yet.

Either way, after postponing any further discussions about that topic, Gerald used that opportunity—since they were all already there anyway—to tell them that he would be staying atop Tierson Mountain for a few days. He also added that nobody was allowed to enter the mountain throughout that period...

Meanwhile, Perla and her cousin sister could be seen getting ready to leave for one of Jenna City's luxurious clothing malls.

"Are you sure about this, Perla...? Didn't grandpa tell us not to go out so much...? After all, girls have been going missing all over Jenna City throughout this period of time... I fear that bandits are the ones responsible for this! With that said, shouldn't we be a little more careful...?" muttered Perla's cousin.

"I know, I know... But think about it. Do you actually think that anyone in this city would dare lay a finger on us now?" replied Perla in a slightly defeated tone.

Hearing that, her cousin thought about it for a bit. Of course, Perla was right. After all, she was Master Crawford's disciple. While it was mostly just a fancy title, it was nonetheless a great title to have.

What more, after that incident, the Sherwins had risen up the ranks, now seconded only by the Quantocks.

As if that wasn't already enough, the many individuals with hidden talents within Jenna City would now all line up respectfully whenever they came across Perla.

With all that in mind, who in the right mind would still dare to provoke anyone from the Sherwin family?

"Besides, I'm only heading out since I wish to prepare some nice clothes for Master Crawford today. After all, he'll be setting up his own force in the future, and with that in mind, he has to at least own some decent clothing! Speaking of which, Qiselle, I'll be needing your help in selecting clothes for him as well. With how elegant he is, I wonder what kind of clothes would suit him best..."

Following that, the two girls then chatted and laughed between themselves, eventually arriving at the most luxurious clothing mall in all of Jenna City.

To their dismay, they instantly bumped into someone annoying upon entering the building.

"So, it's you again! How terrible is my luck for me to have to keep bumping into you!" scoffed the woman who was currently blocking the two girls' way, malice reflected in her eyes.

"Indeed, Jenny..." grumbled Perla. Of course, it had to be Jenny...

Perla recalled how her master had punished that woman back at Heartstone Manor's parking lot just a few days ago.

Even so, from what Perla could see, Jenny seemed to have already forgotten all about that incident...

Regardless, Perla soon realized that a few of Jenny's friends were also present.

"Hah! You really are amazing, you know that? Having fun at Heartstone Manor and even entering a luxury store..."

Have you Sherwins already given up on living or something?" said Jenny with a snort, sarcastic as ever.

"Say what you want as long as you're happy..." replied Perla in a defeated tone as she put on a wry smile before tugging on Qiselle's hand to leave.

"Stop right there! Who gave you permission to leave? We still have an unsettled score, you know?!" growled Jenny as she firmly held onto Perla's shoulder.

Hearing that, Jenny's friends immediately began surrounding Perla as well.

"Don't let her leave, sisters!" shouted one of Jenny's friends who had her arms crossed.

"Just what is the meaning of this, Jenny..." growled Perla, an icy expression on her face.

"Are you playing dumb? Did you think I'd forget about that little incident we had back at Heartstone Manor?"

Regardless, now that I have your attention, tell me where you hid that pathetic loser from last time. I'll say it right now that Benson and the others have been looking everywhere for that kid! Once he's found, they'll tear him apart, and you, too, will be done for then! That being said, how dare you play that mean trick on us that day?!" hissed Jenny, getting angrier by the second as she thought about that incident.

In fact, she got so angry that she began yanking on Perla's hair in her frustration!

Little had she expected that Perla would actually retaliate by slapping her hard on her face!

"You... Have you gone mad?! You dare hit me, Perla?! You really have a death wish, don't you, you b*tch?! Fine! I'll gladly fulfill that wish for you then!" roared Jenny before fishing her phone out and making several calls in a way that suggested that she was the leader of some underground gang.

Soon enough, eight Buick commercial vehicles came to a halt right before the mall's entrance, and out stepped a group of burly and strong-looking men...

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As the men quickly rushed over and surrounded Perla, what seemed to be the leader of the group asked, "What happened, Jenny?"

Upon closer inspection, Perla realized that the leader was no stranger. He was Benson, the cocky guy who had tried to outmuscle Gerald but ended up getting tricked the other day!

"She slapped me, Benson! Also, remember that kid we met at Heartstone Manor's parking lot? It appears that Perla is closely related to him!" replied Jenny in an exaggerated manner.

"D*mn it! I've been looking for that little b*stard for the longest time! I'm going to rip him to shreds once I finally find him! Regardless, to think that you'd actually dare to hurt Jenny! Are you sick of living or something?!" roared Benson as he raised his palm, fully ready to hit Perla.

"Stop this at once!" shouted a cold voice at that moment.

Turning to look at the source of the voice, Benson saw that the one who had shouted was a middle-aged man who had a tag above his front pocket stating, 'manager'. Following closely behind him, was a group of security guards...

The manager himself was fuming mad. This was the most famous clothing mall in all of Jenna City! Anyone daring enough to cause trouble here must surely be tired of living!

However, after stomping a bit closer, the manager suddenly stopped in his tracks when he saw who the leader of the group was.

A surprised expression on his face, the manager then said, "...Oh? Is that you, Benson?"

"Hmm? Ah, so it's you, Manager Xenthe! It's nothing much, really, I'm just teaching this woman here a lesson! It's a personal grudge, you see. With that said, I'm sure you don't have a problem with that, right?" asked Benson with a cold smile on his face.

"Heh! But of course, not! Since you're involved, I'll be giving you some face this time around!" replied Manager Xenthe with a snort before laughing aloud.

"Is there really a need to talk this much, Benson? Go beat her up already! I need to show her what happens when someone dares to offend me!" grumbled Jenny.

Perla herself was currently feeling a slight mix of anxiousness and anger. After all, she really hadn't expected the manager of the shopping mall to not care about his customers at all!

While Perla wanted to take immediate action, after thinking about it for a while, she figured that with her current position, she didn't need to personally do anything in order to resolve the problem.

With that in mind, Perla then took in a deep breath before saying, "I'll have you know that I'm only choosing not to retaliate because I don't want any trouble, Jenny. In other words, I'm not afraid of you in the least. Regardless, take my advice and cease this nonsense before it's too late!"

"Hahaha! Are you actually trying to threaten me, Perla Sherwin? Come to think of it, you're the kind of person who's terrified of being humiliated in public, right? Well guess what? I'm going to be recording you getting beaten up and once I'm done with you, I'll be uploading it on social media! I'm going to make sure that everyone sees what has become of the great young lady from the Sherwin family!" scoffed Jenny as she prepared to record all the action with her cell phone.

Upon hearing that, Benson instantly began tugging onto Perla's hair!

However, before he could do anything else, everyone suddenly heard an angry voice shouting, "Stop, right there!" The next thing Benson realized, a person had come dashing toward him before landing a swift kick onto his wrist! As a result, Benson—who was now in great pain—lost his balance and ended up toppling onto the ground!

Holding onto his aching hand as he screamed miserably, he turned to look at his assailant—who was now standing right in front of Perla—before roaring, "Who the hell are you?!"

By that point, several other middle-aged men had gathered behind the attacker, though none of them even bothered replying to Benson.

Regardless, the middle-aged man who had first arrived then walked toward Perla and bowed before ashamedly saying, "My sincerest apologies, Miss Sherwin! To think that you had been so close to getting humiliated!"

"...Don't mention it... And you are...?" asked Perla.

Truth be told, she had already planned on how to avoid Benson's attack earlier. To think that someone would suddenly come to her aid instead! Even so, she hadn't the slightest idea who he was.

"Ah, where are my manners. I go by Hanson Luwie, and though you may not know me, I certainly know who you are. The thing is, I first came across you while I was accompanying Chairman Yahto, the head of our family!" replied Hanson in a respectful tone.

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"I see... that explains it!" replied Perla with a nod.

"...What? Hanson Luwie? Who the hell is he? Is he powerful? Perla couldn't be acquainted with anyone powerful, right?" muttered the surprised Jenny who was still standing at the side.

"Keep your voice down! That person is Chairman Hanson Luwie, the former driver of Lord Yahto from the Jenna Province's Yahto family! Not only is he a great man with exceptional abilities, but he's currently also the general manager of several shopping malls!" whispered Benson who was equally as shocked as Jenny was.

Still, that at least explained why Chairman Luwie's bodyguards were so strong!

At that moment, Hanson asked in a serious tone, "Could you detail what happened here earlier, Miss Sherwin?" Anyone who wasn't living under a rock knew that all the forces in Jenna City were now under the control of the incredible and mysterious Master Crawford. Hanson, for one, knew this, and he also knew that Perla was Master Crawford's most beloved disciple.

With that in mind, despite knowing that Perla could very easily handle herself, there was no way he was going to risk her accidentally getting humiliated, especially not in his territory. Besides, this was a prime opportunity for him to prove his allegiance toward Master Crawford, and he could show how serious he was as well.

Hanson also feared that if he didn't step in, news about that would reach the ears of his head of the family who was still trying to curry favor with Master Crawford. Should that happen, he'd surely be done for! With all that in mind, he was determined to help Perla vent her anger out today.

"Well... This woman here keeps pestering me! She even called for backup so that they could force Master to come get me after beating me up! After hearing that they wanted to rip master to shreds, I instantly got angry and hit her in response! That's pretty much the gist of it!" replied Perla with a subtle smile.

Momentarily stupefied, Hanson shouted, "What? You... You actually dare show that much disrespect toward Master Crawford?!"

Finding herself gulping, Jenny felt slightly intimidated not only because of Hanson's high rank, but also because of his reddened eyes that were now glaring straight into her soul...

Even Benson was stunned by Hanson's response, and he was so terrified that he quickly replied, "C-Chairman Luwie! There must be some sort of misunderstanding here! My uncle's name is Finnegan Laidler, you know?"

Despite bringing up his connections, Hanson barely even flinched as he ordered, "Men! These people are daring enough to cause trouble in our mall! With that said, break their legs in accordance with the rules! Also, that woman there was disrespectful to our VIPs! With such a potty mouth, the only reasonable punishment is to slap her till she can't speak anymore!"

The second his sentence ended, several of his bodyguards instantly took action without the slightest hesitation. What followed after were screams of pure pain and terror that echoed across the entire mall...

Looking at Benson's broken legs as well as his subordinates who were now all convulsing erratically on the floor, the terrified Jenny found herself slowly taking a step back... Before turning around to book it!

To her utter dismay, she felt as her hair was yanked right back to where she had initially stood!

Turning around, she realized that one of the bodyguards had found a thick wooden plank somewhere, and he was now slowly walking toward her...!

Once, twice, and thrice. The plank continuously and mercilessly smacked the arrogant woman's face. Soon enough, Jenny's face was completely bloodied, and her cheeks were both so swollen that her face almost looked deformed. By that point, even Perla couldn't bear to watch anymore. All this was simply too cruel!

As his eyelids twitched, Hanson knew that he didn't really want or need to be this cruel either. After all, breaking someone's legs was already punishment enough.

Even so, he had ordered his men to beat these people half to death, and he was aware of how vicious his order had been.

However, there was simply no other way to deal with them. After all, these people had chosen to offend Master Crawford of all people, even going so far as to threaten to rip him to shreds!

Had they not said that, they wouldn't be suffering as much as they currently were.

Regardless, teaching these people such a ruthless lesson was his own way of showing mercy. If he didn't do so now, he was worried that they wouldn't even know how they ended up dying later on...

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Naturally, Jenny was swiftly dealt with without much hassle.

Moving back to Gerald, there were simply too many people these days who were looking for an opportunity to approach him.

While it was honestly getting to a point where he found it troublesome, Gerald was thankful that he was going to be staying in the miracle cave on Tierson Mountain for the next few days.

As suggested by its name, the place truly was a miracle, and Gerald found several magic artifacts inside. Even so, it took Gerald three whole days before he was able to find the exact one that Master Ghost had told him to find.

It was a blue elite crystal that was about the size of an adult's nail...

While he was pleased to have finally found it, Gerald hadn't the slightest idea how to even use it. After observing it for a while, however, he realized that it seemed to contain a very strong and special form of energy within it.

'I wonder why Master Ghost insisted on locating this specific gem...' Gerald thought to himself before continuing to research it.

However, even after a few days had passed, he still didn't have any idea how to utilize it. With that, he concluded that he needed Master Ghost's help to figure it out.

Knowing Master Ghost, Gerald had a feeling that that man had already foreseen him locating the crystal. In other words, everything was probably going according to how Master Ghost had planned.

Even if that was the case, however, where was Master Ghost even hiding...?

Just as Gerald was beginning to worry, Julian walked up to him before saying, "Master Crawford, Miss Xyrielle from the Waddys family is here! While I had expected her to leave after denying her entry, she's been waiting for you outside for an entire day and night! She keeps saying that she has to meet you no matter what!"

"...Hmm? Xyrielle? What is she doing here?"

Naturally knowing who she was, Gerald remembered how indifferently she had behaved every time she was around him. Aside from her birthday banquet, they pretty much had no other reason to meet each other. Even so, if she truly had been waiting for him for an entire day and night, he had no reason not to meet her. Besides, he felt slightly guilty for initially thinking of using her to obtain an admission ticket.

"Let her in, then!" added Gerald with a nod.

With a flick of his wrist, the blue crystal disappeared just as Xyrielle was brought into the backyard.

The moment she saw Gerald, her heart instantly began palpitating as she stuttered, "G-Gerald... No- M-master Crawford!"

Thinking back, she wondered why she had found this person to be so mediocre just a few days ago... Honestly, hadn't she been acting rather high and mighty before him at the time? To think that she would now be too nervous to even look him in the eye!

Smiling as he turned to look at her, Gerald then asked, "So... I'm here. Did you want to talk to me about something?" "Y-yes! Though... I doubt you'd agree to my request..." replied Xyrielle in a slightly saddened tone.

She was fully aware that what she wanted to ask from him was slightly impolite, and though she was sure that Gerald would've agreed with it had she not found out about his true identity, now that all this had happened, she wasn't so sure anymore. To make matters worse, her nervousness and inferiority were making it extra hard for her to bring the request up.

"Well, that depends on the request... Go on..." said Gerald.

"W-well... The thing is, I wanted to ask if you could accompany me on a trip to Sacrasolis Mountain... B-but I can see now that you're very busy so...!" replied Xyrielle.

Though she said that, her hopeful eyes clearly betrayed her.

"Hmm? Sacrasolis Mountain? Is there a reason you'd like me to accompany you there?" asked Gerald, flashing a slightly wry smile.

"...T-that..." muttered Xyrielle.

She didn't really know how to explain it without making the request sound absurd. In the end, however, she simply gave up and decided to be straightforward about it.

Essentially, Xyrielle wanted him to accompany her there since she wanted to look for the fortune-teller that she had previously met at the riverside behind that mountain. In other words, she wanted the fortune-teller to determine whether their marriage truly was predestined by fate, despite knowing how ridiculous her motive sounded.

It didn't help that she was well aware that while marriage was the only thing on her mind, Master Crawford was an actual busy person.

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Her understanding of that only served to further increase her embarrassment.

Despite that, Xyrielle still valued this predestined marriage too much for her to ignore.

Eventually, she gave in and simply told Gerald more about the fortune-teller that had given her, her reading back then.

"...Hmm? A fortune-teller? What does he look like?" asked Gerald in a simultaneously excited and serious tone.

After all, the description she made... Was the person she had gotten her reading from actually Master Ghost?

Could Master Ghost have been hiding on Sacrasolis Mountain this entire time? If that truly was the case, then Gerald didn't have to waste any more time and effort locating him!

After thinking for a short while, Gerald agreed to escort her over to the mountain. This was a chance for him to reunite with Master Ghost, and he wasn't about to say no to that.

Regardless, the second Xyrielle heard that Gerald was willing to go along with her request, she instantly felt both surprised and happy.

Fast forward to sometime later, both of them were able to see a church in the distance...

Sacrasolis Mountain was located south of the Jenna Province, and it was also where Sacrasolis Church could be found. There were apparently quite a number of pilgrims who came here too.

Regardless, the more he looked at the church, the more Gerald felt that Master Ghost truly was in there.

Upon getting close enough to the church's entrance, two young priests stopped them from proceeding.

"Have both of you come to pray?" asked one of them in a respectful tone as the two priests smiled warmly.

"Not at all, sir. We just came here to have a look at the back of the mountains. Also, why are there so few pilgrims here today?" asked Xyrielle while looking around.

"Oh? Our apologies, but Sacrasolis Mountain has been closed for about a month now! With that said, the back of the mountain is no longer open to the public... I'm afraid that both of you are going to have to go back if you're heading there just to have some fun!" replied the other priest as he lowered his head.

Though it was subtle, Gerald managed to catch that same priest—who had just spoken—sneaking glances in between gulps as he stared at Xyrielle's bosom. From that alone, Gerald could tell that these two weren't good people.

It was also at that moment when Gerald noticed traces of deliberately hidden murderous auras exuding from the two. Things like these weren't going to escape Gerald's eyes that easily.

With that, Gerald activated his divine sense to get a better grasp of his surroundings. A brief moment later, he realized that the two priests truly were the only people atop the mountain.

Giving the duo a brief—but cold—glance, Gerald decided not to say anything for the moment.

Xyrielle, on the other hand, looked visibly disappointed to hear that news. Just as she turned around, ready to leave, Gerald noticed the two priests nudging each other by their elbows while exchanging glances.

As Gerald pretended not to have noticed, the two priests eventually chose to run up to Xyrielle before saying, "Miss! Do stay!"

"...Huh? Is something wrong, masters?" asked Xyrielle.

"Let's just say that both of us have seen how pious you are. Due to that, we're making an exception and granting you access to the back of the mountain!" explained one of the priests.

"What? Seriously?! I greatly appreciate it!" replied Xyrielle, both surprised and overjoyed.

"However, note that while we're permitting you entry, you'll only be allowed to head up the mountain one by one. The other person can wait and rest in the guestroom till the other party returns. It's just how things work here, and it'd be difficult for us to explain ourselves if others somehow noticed that we led both of you in at the same time!" added the priest.

"...I see! I'm fine with that!" replied Xyrielle as she turned to look at Gerald.

Since he didn't look like he was against the idea, Xyrielle simply nodded, now more determined than ever to meet up with that fortune-teller. With any luck, she'd be able to get another reading from him.

The fortune-teller had previously shared the exact location for her to find him too, which was why she wasn't worried about not being able to meet up with him once she was at the back of the mountain.

With that, Gerald and Xyrielle then followed the two priests into the church.

Unbeknownst by the priests, Gerald secretly flicked his finger toward Xyrielle, injecting a stream of essential qi into her body...

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Naturally, the first to enter was Xyrielle, and one of the priests promptly began leading her to the back of the mountain.

As for Gerald, he was led toward another mountain path by the other priest.

Walking slowly with his hands in his pocket, Gerald heard as the priest suddenly laughed before saying, "I have to say, you really are fortunate, brother! Your girl's a real beauty you know? Probably among the top hundred beauties in the world!"

Displaying a smile, Gerald then replied, "Really? I don't think she's that beautiful!"

"I see... What a pity! Well, since you don't even realize how lucky you are to have such a beauty by your side, why not give her to us instead?" said the priest with a snicker as he smiled coldly.

Was he finally showing his true colors? Whatever the case was, Gerald pretended to be momentarily surprised before angrily retorting, "What? What kind of talk is that? Aren't you a priest?! Aren't you afraid that I'll look for the head priest and complain about you?!"

"Hahaha! You fool! You're actually thinking of complaining about me? Do you think you'll still be able to even speak once I'm done with you?" scoffed the priest before laughing.

"...What do you mean by that?"

"Hah! Truth be told, both your fates had already been sealed from the moment you approached the mountain! You know, my brother's probably already turned that girl of yours into his plaything by now!" replied the priest as he laughed sinisterly.

The second his sentence ended, Xyrielle's terrified screams could suddenly be heard coming from a distance! "Heh! I'm sure you heard that too, right? With that, I'm sorry but I'm not going to be wasting another second on you! After all, if I don't rush over and get my share of the fun now, I'll probably have to wait in line once the other guys hear her screams!"

Before Gerald could even reply, the priest swiftly slammed his palm right into Gerald's chest!

Shouting in pain, Gerald ended up flying backward until he eventually collided against a tree! The second the impact hit, blood instantly began spurting out of his mouth before Gerald fell feebly to the ground...

A few twitches later, Gerald finally stopped moving, now fully unconscious.

"What useless trash! It's such a waste that that woman ended up with you! No matter! Once I'm done with you, I'll quickly head off to have some fun with her! Still, that d*mned Calven... You should've been more careful about her screaming!" grumbled the priest as he quickly tossed Gerald's corpse to the side.

As the priest ran in Xyrielle's direction, Gerald remained utterly still...

It was only a few seconds later when some rustling could be heard... and all of a sudden, several people—who were all well-camouflaged—suddenly dropped down from above!

After testing to see if he still breathed and confirming that he was truly dead, the men exchanged glances with each other before quickly running after the priest.

It was only then when Gerald finally decided to slowly open his eyes again.

Following a loud 'crack', Gerald's body began straightening itself again as though some form of necromancy was being used on his body.

'This mountain truly is interesting... From what I've observed, it appears that not only are there quite a lot of masters here, but there also seems to be two different forces present!' Gerald thought to himself with a frown.

Realizing that Xyrielle was most probably still in danger, Gerald swiftly made his way in the direction that all the others had headed to...

Dialing back time a bit, Xyrielle had been so anxious to find the fortune-teller earlier that she truly hadn't expected the priest to actually have malicious intentions toward her.

When he attempted to force himself onto her, Xyrielle was instantly scared half to death. After all, while Xyrielle did have a bit of training, she was well aware that the priest was much stronger than her. She wasn't his match at all! Watching Xyrielle struggle desperately as he continued pushing her onto the ground, the sinister-looking priest then laughed maliciously before saying, "Go on, continue screaming! And make sure to struggle all you want because nobody's coming for you~! Push a little harder, won't you? Hahaha!"

It was at that moment when Xyrielle's flailing caused her to accidentally hit the priest at the side of his neck... Almost immediately after, a loud sound was heard as massive amounts of essential qi was released where Xyrielle's palm was!

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And just like that, the priest was momentarily sent flying... Before his body exploded into a million pieces!

Staring wide-eyed at the bloody mess she had caused, Xyrielle's first reaction was to scream in horror.

After calming down slightly, the dumbfounded Xyrielle found herself staring at her palm. Despite being terrified out of her mind, she was simultaneously curious where all that power had suddenly come from.

It was around then when the second priest from earlier arrived and witnessed the aftermath of her unintentional attack.

Utterly flabbergasted by the scene before him, the horrified priest instantly yelled, "F-f*cking hell! You were this strong this entire time?!"

Realizing that the other priest was now present, the terrified Xyrielle instantly began backing away as she shouted, "Y-you... Don't come any closer...!"

As Xyrielle extended a hand, hoping that it would deter him from coming any closer, the priest—who thought that she was charging up an attack—became so frightened that he almost felt like wetting himself on the spot!

However, the priest soon realized that no attack was coming for him. Though he was still afraid, the priest then laughed before shouting, "W-well? Don't tell me that your powers have suddenly disappeared!"

"I-I'm warning you...! Don't you dare take a step closer to me...!" retorted the terror-stricken Xyrielle.

Even so, the priest felt that she would've attacked by now if she could. With that in mind, he disregarded her warning and instantly ran toward her, ready to pounce!

However, before he could even get far, the priest felt a hard kick against his back that sent him flying face-first into the dirt!

Crawling back up as soon as he could, he quickly turned around to see who his assailant was.

Standing not too far behind him, the priest was able to identify three masked males.

Not knowing when they had even snuck up behind him, the priest then roared, "Who are you people? How dare you trespass into Sacrasolis Mountain?!"

"Quit it, you fake priest! You must really want to die!" retorted the one who had attacked.

Just as that masked man was about to launch another attack, the priest pulled out a hidden paper talisman that—upon activation—created a large 'boom' before a flame shot out of it!

Unable to dodge it in time, the masked man's arm ended up getting wounded!

Before the masked man could recover, the priest had already drawn out another talisman. This time, however, the flames produced were green, and they shot into the sky before exploding dazzlingly!

"This isn't good! Our location's been exposed!" yelled the leader of the trio in a cold voice.

Following that, he pulled out a dagger, hoping to at least end the priest's life and save Xyrielle while they still could. Unfortunately, several rustling sounds could suddenly be heard, and the next thing he knew, dozens of people dressed in priest-like clothing were already descending from the treetops!

Now completely surrounded, the trio of masked men could all sense the immense murderous auras exuding from the ruthless-looking men who had encircled them.

Before the masked man could make another move, a middle-aged priest waved his hand before ordering, "Capture them!"

Heavily outnumbered, the masked man could only surrender as the other priests quickly took the three masked men and Xyrielle under their custody.

Ripping off the leader's mask, the middle-aged priest then sneered, "So it really is you, Hubert Younger! To think that you'd actually dare to ascend Sacrasolis Mountain! I guess you never anticipated getting caught, huh? No matter! Take them away!"

After laughing mockingly, the priest then began leading the four of them away...

Eventually, they arrived before a large cave located at the back of Sacrasolis Mountain.

Watching as the four people were led into the heavily guarded area, Gerald—who had been witnessing all this from afar—found himself thinking, 'There seems to be quite a big problem with Sacrasolis Mountain... Could Master Ghost really be here...?'

He had already guessed that the priests on the mountain were all up to no good. It was the reason why he had earlier injected some essential qi into Xyrielle. After all, he would very much prefer if she didn't suffer any harm throughout this incident.

Either way, Gerald had already planned from the very beginning that if things went awry, he would definitely make a move.

With that said, he deduced that his current best course of action was to capture one of the priests for interrogation. He'd start making further plans once he knew more about the current situation...

As evening drew close, one of the priests on duty craned his neck as he walked toward a wooded area to relieve himself...

Before he could even do so, however, he was suddenly yanked away by some invisible and silent force!

Chapter 1521

When the priest finally awoke again, was greeted by the sight of a young man's back.

Recalling that he had been yanked by some strong and invisible force earlier—before he blacked out—the shocked priest then muttered, "W-who are you...?"

"Who I am doesn't matter. However, what does matter is who you people are, and what you're all planning to do here on Sacrasolis Mountain," replied Gerald as he slowly turned around before staring coldly at the man.

The second that man saw Gerald, his entire body began trembling uncontrollably as he stuttered, "Y-young Master?! It's you?!"

Watching as the terrified man knelt right before him, Gerald couldn't help but frown slightly as he curiously muttered, "... Young Master?"

"Indeed! Still, when exactly did arrive, Young Master?" asked the priest

"I can come and go as I please, can't I?" sneered Gerald in response.

While he wasn't exactly sure why the priest was referring to him as 'Young Master,' Gerald still felt that this was the perfect opportunity to bait some information out of the man. He was hoping that some probing around would do the trick.

"Also, you've yet to answer my first question!" added Gerald in a commanding tone.

Hearing that, the frightened priest quickly bowed before replying, "H-how could you possibly have forgotten, Young Master...? Regardless, we're all here since we got secret orders from the family to head to Sacrasolis Mountain to refine the holy stone! There's an area here called the Sacrasolis Pond, and we've been refining the Sacrasolis Holy stone for over a month now!"

"The Sacrasolis Holy Stone, you say? I see. And what happened to all the original priests from Sacrasolis Church then?" asked Gerald as he nodded while slowly piecing together the bigger picture.

"W-well, anyone who wasn't compliant was killed on the spot... The rest of them are currently imprisoned in the dungeon! Regardless, I wonder if the chief knows that you're already here, Young Master? I can immediately report to Mr. Hoyt Crawford about your presence if you'd like!" replied the priest.

"That can wait. Speaking of which, have you heard of a person called Master Ghost before?" asked Gerald, now more certain than ever that there were loads of secrets hidden within this mountain.

"Master Ghost? But of course, I know him! After all, you were the one who ordered us to hunt him down! If you've forgotten, we already have him in our hands! You even ordered the chief to keep a close eye on him at all times!" said the priest.

"So Master Ghost has been captured by your group this entire time?!" replied Gerald as he slightly raised an eyebrow.

"...Y-young Master...? What are you...?" muttered the priest as he raised a slight brow as well, finally realizing that the person in front of him seemed to have a rather different personality compared to the young master he knew...

Besides, wasn't it bizarre that the young master of all people was asking him all these questions...?

'Well, this is just perfect! To think that I'd get all this information that easily!' Gerald thought to himself.

As it turned out, Master Ghost had fled all the way to Sacrasolis Mountain to hide within Sacrasolis Church, and all this had led to the incident where he had met Xyrielle and told her about her fortune at the back of the mountain a while back. Unfortunately, this group of 'priests' came over sometime later and completely turned Sacrasolis

Mountain upside-down for two distinct reasons. Firstly, to seek out and capture Master Ghost, and secondly, to gain access to the Sacrasolis Pond.

With that said, no wonder he couldn't find where Master Ghost was this entire time!

"...So, who is this Hoyt Crawford that you mentioned? Also, detail me a bit more on your young master," replied Gerald with a smile.

"...H-huh? So, you really aren't the young master...?!" replied the priest as he instantly got to his feet, a vigilant expression on his face.

"I'm honestly surprised it took you this long to notice," replied Gerald with a chuckle, knowing full well that this man was trying to escape.

Chapter 1522

As the priest attempted to book it, he didn't make it past the third step before some ungodly force began lifting him off the ground! This time, however, all his internal organs felt like they were simultaneously being torn apart!

Trembling violently from the near-unbearable pain, the priest quickly began shouting, "S-spare my life! P-please, spare my life...!"

"I'll consider once you answer my question. If you need a refresher, I asked why you recognized me as your young master," replied Gerald.

"W-well, Young Master's appearance highly matches yours! It's almost as though you're his doppelgänger! With that said, there's no way I could've been able to easily tell you apart! Though, I do wonder if you're also a member of the Crawford family... After all, there's no other reason you could look so similar!" explained the man who was still aching terribly.

"...Oh? The Crawford family, you say?" replied Gerald as his eyes momentarily lit up.

Observing the squirming man, Gerald could see that the priest appeared to be a master-in-training, though he was probably still far from achieving his goal.

'Does that mean that the Crawfords that he's talking about are the other Crawford family that Second uncle found out about? Are these people connected to grandpa...?' Gerald wondered in slight bewilderment.

"Tell me the location of your Crawfords," said Gerald.

"T-they're currently on Yearning Island! Are... Are you from that family as well?" asked the priest in shock. However, before Gerald could say anything in response, the priest seemed to realize something. Staring wide-eyed at Gerald, he then said, "I... I get it now! Are you from the Crawford family from Northbay?!"

"You got me red-handed. Regardless, I'm assuming that Daryl is the head of the Crawfords from Yearning Island?" asked Gerald in an indifferent tone.

"T-that's right!" replied the priest as he nodded.

'So there really are two separate Crawford families... Then... Doesn't that mean that everything Second uncle found out about is true...? But... Why would grandpa do any of this...?' Gerald thought to himself with a slight frown, feeling extremely puzzled.

Whatever the case was, Gerald had a hunch that his family's disappearance had something to do with these other Crawfords. He now knew that he had a lookalike in the other family as well. After all, the priest truly seemed to have believed that he was his young master earlier.

As Gerald frowned slightly while thinking about all the clues he had just gathered, the priest suddenly grabbed a handful of dirt from the ground. Following that, murderous intent seemed to flare out of his body as he tossed the dirt toward Gerald's head!

However, instead of dirt, the contents he threw now appeared to be a volley of golden needles that glowed brightly as they flew toward Gerald's head!

Much to the priest's surprise, Gerald's essential qi simply blocked the needles when they got too close.

Watching as the momentarily petrified priest stared wide-eyed at the falling needles that were slowly reduced to dust, Gerald then asked, "You already know my identity, no? In other words, you should know full well that we're from the same clan by this point. With that in mind, why are you still trying to kill me?"

"T-there's a huge bounty on your head if we manage to kill you!" replied the terrified man.

“And who was it who issued that order? Also, were you the ones who had kidnapped my family?” asked the puzzled Gerald, wondering why all this was necessary in the first place.

“If you wish to learn more, you should ask Mr. Hoyt yourself!” replied the priest as he sneakily lit up a paper talisman...

Shortly after, the talisman began releasing multi-colored smoke that quickly dissipated into the air!

Knowing that it was most probably some sort of secret code, Gerald then turned to look at the laughing priest who smugly said, “Look, I know that you’re just one of those lowly Crawfords who’s managed to slip away. I bet you hadn’t expected me to fire off a warning signal while you were questioning me, right? Regardless, you’re done for this time, kid!”

Feeling even more puzzled now, Gerald then replied, “...Why are you even getting so excited for? I was already aware that you were lighting that talisman up from the moment you started doing it, you know? Besides, I’m not going to just leave immediately after getting here. With that said, why are you so happy?”

“Hahaha! Since you look exactly like Young Master, I’m sure you have a pretty important role among the other lowly Crawfords! With that said, I’ll surely be promoted to deputy chief once I successfully capture you! Just so you know, several experts are already making their way here! Does that answer your question?” replied the priest as he laughed joyously.

“Ah, I see, I see... So, you’re feeling proud of yourself, thinking that you were being resourceful earlier... You must be feeling ecstatic from assuming that you’ve already captured me by this point! Still, you keep repeating the phrase, ‘lowly Crawfords’... Just to clear things up a bit, I hope you realize that to me, you’re nothing more than an ant!” said Gerald with a wry smile on his face.

Chapter 1523

“...You...! To think you’d still behave so presumptuously even though you’re about to be done for!” growled the priest in anger.

Before he could say anything else, however, the priest momentarily froze. Now staring-wide eyed at Gerald, the priest was able to somehow see flames reflected in Gerald’s eyes. He couldn’t look away, and shortly after, the priest began feeling a burning sensation on the soles of his feet...

Following that, the priest screamed miserably before turning into nothing but dust in less than a second!

“And to me, the lives of ants are insignificant!” declared Gerald as he shook his head with a smile before placing his arms against his back.

With that out of the way, Gerald’s figure slowly wavered as it became one with the wind! Due to that, he was able to swiftly return to the cave where Xyrielle had last been led into.

The cave was naturally still heavily guarded, and the second the guards noticed Gerald’s presence, they immediately attempted to stop him from entering.

However, just as Gerald had earlier said, all of them were simply ants to him, and he swiftly took all of them out.

Though they were technically Crawfords as well, since these people were clearly not against harming him, all of them had to die!

Watching as the group of experts—who had been standing guard at the mouth of the cave—got annihilated like they were nothing, the prisoners who were located just a little deeper in the dungeon found themselves shocked beyond words.

Before they could even recover, all of them stared wide-eyed as a miniature hurricane blew its way into the cave, eventually dissipating and revealing Gerald!

The second she saw him, Xyrielle instantly shouted excitedly, “G-Gerald!”

Truth be told, Xyrielle had been scared half to death earlier, thinking that she was eventually going to get raped by those people! With that in mind, it was no wonder why she was so overjoyed to see Gerald now.

“Everything’s fine now,” replied Gerald indifferently as he gently flicked his fingers...

And just like that, all the shackles simultaneously clicked open. The prisoners were now free!

Looking around, Gerald saw that the three masked men who had attempted to save Xyrielle earlier were present. Aside from them, there was also a group of priests. However, what shocked Gerald the most was the fact that there were so many ordinary women who were trembling in fear in the innermost part of the dungeon...

He had heard of the missing women cases before he set off for the mountain a few days ago. As it turned out, this was all the handiwork of the fake priests... Were these truly Crawfords...? How could they be this disgusting and lustful...? The thought of it alone made Gerald extremely angry.

Regardless, the captives were then led out of the dungeon, and the second the cave’s entrance was in sight, an old priest—who seemed to be the leader of the group—bowed respectfully toward Gerald before saying, “Thank you for saving our lives, master! I don’t know how to repay your kindness!”

“There’s no need to be so polite with me, priest. Regardless, the reason I came here was to look for someone.”
“Oh? Who could you be looking for?” asked the old priest.

“I’m looking for a person called Master Ghost. From what I’ve managed to gather, he once took lodging here atop Sacrasolis Mountain. Despite that, I didn’t see any traces of him in the dungeon at all!” replied Gerald.

Hearing that, a middle-aged man—who had been standing beside the old priest—turned to face the elderly man before respectfully asking, “Master, do you think this is the Master Gerald Crawford that Master Ghost told us about?”
“That’s right, I’m Gerald Crawford!” replied Gerald as he nodded joyously.

“So that’s the case! You know, Master Ghost kept saying that you were a supreme genius... After witnessing your capabilities, I have to admit that he was right, Master Crawford! You truly do have supernatural powers! Regardless, Master Ghost had first come to us to avoid the pursuit of the Crawfords. Unfortunately, he failed to escape in the end, and he ended up being taken away by Hoyt instead of being locked up together with the rest of us!” explained the old priest.

“Do you know why they were so keen on hunting Master Ghost down?” asked Gerald.

“That I’m unsure of... However, do know that Master Ghost placed all his hopes on you before the great calamity. With that said, whether he manages to escape it or not all depends on how soon you find him!” replied the old priest.
“Copy that!” said Gerald with a slight nod.

Chapter 1524

At that moment, the leader of the three masked men—who had been standing behind Xyrielle this entire time—came forth and said, “Thank you for coming to our rescue, sir! I go by Hubert Younger!”

“Oh? You were here as well, Mr. Hubert?” exclaimed the old priest as he immediately greeted the three masked men as well, making it clear as day that they were well acquainted.

“Indeed! After receiving your secret message stating that Sacrasolis Mountain was in trouble, we immediately rushed over to investigate. Still, to think that Hoyt would end up getting this powerful in just a few decades since I last saw him... I honestly found it exceedingly difficult to withstand even a single blow of his. Had I not dispatched my Dragon Zone, I wouldn’t have been able to fight against him and his men at all! All that aside, I made an almost fatal mistake today when I decided to save this girl’s life! Due to that action, all three of us ended up getting captured by his men!” explained Hubert.

Following that, Hubert couldn’t help but take a good long look at Gerald’s extraordinary temperament. From what he had witnessed, Gerald was also a master of using profound and unpredictable methods that left even him surprised. How had he not heard of such an amazing person before?

Whatever the case was, he was now brimming with respect toward Gerald.

Just as he was about to exchange a few words with him, however, one of the younger priests—who had earlier been sent out to scout the area—came running back while nervously shouting, “M-master Crawford! Things aren’t looking too good! Those men have completely surrounded us!”

Upon hearing that, the kidnapped girls instantly began screaming before huddling together in fear. It was clear as day that this reaction was due to the psychological trauma that those men had left on them.

“There’s no need to panic, just follow my lead!” instructed Gerald as he began leading the group out of the cave.

As he stepped out into the open, Gerald could see that a large number of ‘priests’ had encircled the area right outside the cave, completely blocking any possible escape routes.

Upon seeing Gerald’s face, a middle-aged man—who appeared to be the head of the opposite team—was instantly stunned. However, it turned into an expression of joy just seconds later.

Laughing aloud, the man then declared, “So it’s you! To think that you’d walk straight into my lap! I guess I don’t have to waste any more time hunting you down now! But before that, allow me to confirm something... You’re Gerald from the Crawfords of Northbay, correct?”

“That is correct. And you are...?” asked Gerald.

“Finally! Do you even have any idea how hard we’ve been searching for you? Where the hell have you even been hiding this entire time? Even the picture of the sun couldn’t locate you! Regardless, keep in mind that the one who captured you today goes by the name of Luther Crawford!” sneered Luther.

“The picture of the sun? I’ve had access to it myself. Regardless, can it also be used to locate others?” asked Gerald.

“Hah! You? As if a cheap and lowly b*stard like you would be worthy of possessing the real picture of the sun!” retorted Luther.

“...Whatever the case is, it appears that you truly are the ones responsible for capturing my family members. Still, I just don’t understand. From what I’ve gathered, both of us are essentially from the same family, no? Why participate in all this senseless murder?” asked Gerald rather curiously.

In all honesty, Gerald was still in disbelief of all this. None of their actions seemed to make any sense to him at all! “Let’s just say that due to some incidents, the lord’s plans have deviated slightly, and he predicts that things will only continue developing in a bad direction... Due to that deviation, however, it appears that the Crawfords on your side won’t be of any use to us anymore! With that said, it’d be better to take care of all of you while we can rather than leave a chance open for you to possibly ruin our entire plan in the future!” replied Luther with a snicker.

“I see... Speaking of which, I’d like to know whether my grandpa, the man I’ve always respected, is the actual mastermind of all this. Has my family been used this entire time?” asked Gerald.

“Hahaha! I can’t say anything about the former part of your question, but for the latter, of course, you’ve been used! That’s the only use of such lowly people as you! Also, I’d prefer if you stopped saying that you’re from the same clan as us! Know that we’ve always been ashamed of you, so it’s honestly great news for us that you’re finally going to be taken out with our very own hands now!” retorted Luther with a sinister laugh.

“I see. And what about the rest of my family members?” growled Gerald, immense murderous intent reflected in his eyes.

“Hah! If I remember correctly, by the time I began carrying out this mission, Dylan had already been tortured beyond recognition! I honestly don’t even know if he’s still alive now!”

“That’s great to hear!” replied Gerald with a nod.

“Did I hear that right? It’s great to hear? That man’s your father!” declared Luther while looking at Gerald and wondering if he had gone mad.

"You misunderstand me. Of course I wasn't talking about how terribly you people have treated my father, but nonetheless, your statement has dispelled all my worries. Now then, since I've probably gotten all the relevant information out of you, I can kill all of you without any hesitation! Mark my words, not one of you is leaving alive!"

Chapter 1525

"Humph! You truly are an expert at saying conceited things, Gerald! It appears that you won't be able to understand how wide the gap between us is until I show you my training!" retorted Luther before laughing again.

"You're a Second-rank master, no?" asked Gerald.

"Oh? Color me surprised! You actually know a thing or two about those who train to attain spiritual enlightenment!" replied Luther as he stared sinisterly at Gerald.

"Just curious, but what is Hoyt's rank then?" asked Gerald.

"Hah! Our chief is a legendary master that's at a level close to that of a Fifth-rank master! A realm that no ordinary person would ever be able to comprehend!" said Luther, his eyes momentarily filled with admiration.

"I see. So it appears that there truly are a lot of experts within the Crawford family... To think that there even exists a fifth rank!" replied Gerald as he rested his arms against his back.

"I do wonder why you're still asking so many questions. No matter! I'll just capture you first and hand you over to the chief so that he can deal with you!"

Following that, Luther positioned his hand into a sword finger, and immediately after, flames began bursting out of his body! With a layer of fire surrounding him, the man then rushed toward Gerald!

From an outsider's point of view, Gerald could very well be taken out in a single swipe if those large, burning hands ever caught onto him.

Regardless, everyone else present was shocked speechless by the intense flames.

This was the Fire Armor Demon Technique! Anyone using it would be able to summon flames—that could burn through anything—that would then surround the user's body! Upon coming into contact with said flames, the virulent fire would instantly burn all the victim's main internal organs!

'If even Luther is already this terrifying, what kind of power does Hoyt even have...?' Hubert thought to himself as he trembled in fear.

By the time Luther was close enough to Gerald, Gerald still had both his hands in his pockets. He, of all people, knew that the flames were nothing to be alarmed about.

Even so, the others didn't see things the way he did, and Xyrielle instantly shouted, "P-please be careful, Gerald...!" Hearing that, Gerald simply turned to look at Xyrielle before nodding as he replied, "Don't worry, everything's under control!"

Following that, Gerald extended a hand before snapping his fingers.

The next thing Luther realized, a golden aura had appeared before him! Unable to react in time, he felt as the aura's golden rays began piercing through his body, causing his skin to start smoking!

"What?!" shouted the surprised Luther as he instantly attempted to escape the attack. However, it was far too late for him.

The second the golden aura fully engulfed him, Luther felt as though his entire body had just been pierced through! The next thing he knew, he was already spurting blood as he flew backward!

Upon landing on the ground, he found that he couldn't even move a muscle anymore! The only indication that he was still alive was the fact that his eyes were wide open on his bloodied face...

Upon snapping out of his shocked state, Luther instantly cried out in disbelief, "You...!"

Meanwhile, the other Crawfords each found themselves gulping as they slowly took a few steps back.

Luther had ended up in such a state from just a single blow...? This person was way too terrifying...!

Hubert himself had his jaw hanging wide open after witnessing all that. By god! What kind of person even was Gerald?!

Sliding his hand into his pocket again, Gerald then casually walked over to Luther. Once he was standing before him, he stepped on Luther's face, slowly applying pressure as he said, "I haven't even utilized my true capabilities yet, you know? Is this all you've got to capture me with? How pathetic!"

"You...! L-look, while I admit that I severely underestimated you, know that you can't just kill me! I'm just following orders, you know? If you really want to settle the score, you should duke it out with chief Hoyt instead of me!" replied the stupefied Luther.

"Of course I'm going to settle the score with him. However, I hope you realize that me killing you won't affect that outcome at all! I hope you all know that I, Gerald Crawford, always keep my promises! With that said, I promised to kill all of you today, and I'll make sure it happens!"

Chapter 1526

The second his sentence ended, Gerald increased the pressure of his foot without warning! A split second later, a sickening sound was heard as Luther's head exploded like a watermelon!

Seeing that Luther had been reduced to such a state before he could even scream, some of the remaining Crawfords instantly yelled, "H-hurry! Run for it and tell the chief about this...!"

With that, the hundred over terrified people began scattering in all four directions, hoping to escape with their lives intact!

"Oh? Are all of you seriously trying to escape now?" said Gerald with a faint smile before closing his eyes...

As soon as he did, a golden eye suddenly appeared on his forehead! Almost instantaneously, a strong light was then ejected from the eye! The light itself easily homed in on everyone Gerald deemed as an enemy, and whenever the light pierced through someone, their bodies would end up exploding in gory sounds!

While all this was taking place, those standing behind Gerald could only scream in terror. After all, all this was simply too cruel for them!

Once everyone was taken out, Gerald closed his divine eye before turning to look at the old priest while asking, "Are you sure that Master Ghost is currently in Hoyt's hands?"

"Y-yes, Master Crawford!" replied the shocked old priest.

Though he had experienced a great deal throughout his lifetime, this was the first he had witnessed such a bloody scene... It made him fear Gerald since the young man was actually willing to resort to such vicious methods...

"Very well, then. Regardless, I'll have to trouble you to lead my friends down the mountain and settle down there for a bit. For your own safety, please don't re-ascend the mountain till I get down!" instructed Gerald.

Before anyone could even say a thing about that, Gerald's figure had already dissipated into thin air...

Regardless, Gerald's words seemed to be imbued with some sort of magic. After all, though some of them were initially hesitant, everyone eventually hurried down the mountain in retreat.

A little while later, two rows of people could be seen sitting on both sides of a secret chamber located on Sacrasolis Mountain. Sitting at the highest point in the chamber, was a middle-aged man with a square jaw.

Lying right in the middle of this group, was an oil cauldron, and right beside it was an old man who was being held captive.

“Correct me if I’m wrong, but I remember you promising us that you’d give us the answers we wanted after a month of purification. We trusted in you, but it’s now well over a month. Since you attempted to deceive us, I’m now reminding you that there isn’t a way out for you. Look, either you fulfill your promise and cooperate with us, or my men will dunk you into that boiling hot oil cauldron!” sneered the middle-aged man—who was clearly the leader of the group—as he took a sip of his wine.

“Oh? Did I promise such a thing? I’m sorry, my memory hasn’t been the best! Do tell me what exactly I promised at the start!” replied the old and extremely thin man sitting by the oil cauldron.

As expected, the man was none other than Master Ghost, though he now looked rather haggard after being tortured for so long. Even so, his eyes were still brimming with vigor.

“Firstly, I want you to tell me where Gerald is. You, of all people, should know how much we’ve gone through throughout the years just to locate him. Secondly, I need you to tell me where the Astrigite is. Even so, aren’t you just playing a fool, Master Ghost? Do you think any of us here buy your confused act?” growled Hoyt.

“Hahaha! I’ve already told you, haven’t I? Gerald’s coming over to find you sooner or later! However, you got impatient and captured his family members! Regardless, as for the second request... Let’s discuss that once you meet up with Gerald. That is, if you’re still alive by then!” replied Master Ghost before laughing aloud.

This prompted a fat middle-aged man—who had a katana sheathed under his Japanese garments—to slam his fist onto the table before shouting, “You old b*stard! Who do you even think Gerald is? Killing him would probably be easier than killing an ant for me!”

“Look, if you know what’s good for you, just tell us where Gerald is right now! Otherwise, you’ll be facing so much misery that you’ll be wishing that we allowed you to die!” grumbled another impatient person.

At that moment, everyone heard slow, but distinct, footsteps approaching the room...

“...Hmm? Who could that be?”

Chapter 1527

Realizing that all of them had heard the same thing, everyone turned to look at the doorway...

Following that, a young priest who was trembling in fear walked into the room...

Staring at him, Hoyt then asked in a cold voice, “What is it-”

Before his question could even end, a figure—who had been hiding behind the priest’s back—slowly revealed himself. Naturally, it was Gerald.

It took Hoyt a moment, but when he finally realized who the youth was, he found himself muttering, “...You... You’re Gerald from the Crawford family, no?”

“Bingo!” replied Gerald with a subtle smile.

“M-master Crawford...! I’ve already led you here! You... You promised you’d spare my life once I did that, right...?” stuttered the priest fearfully.

The second his sentence ended, however, Gerald simply flicked the back of his palm against the priest’s skull... and just like that, the priest’s head exploded! As if that wasn’t already enough, the priest’s entire body then quickly dissipated into a bloody mist!

What a joke... As if Gerald would’ve ever considered sparing his life!

Regardless, Hoyt and the others were momentarily stunned speechless. As it turned out, Gerald was actually pretty skillful!

“Young brother Gerald!” announced Master Ghost who couldn’t help but sigh with relief.

“Master Ghost! I’m so sorry that you had to suffer this much just because I was a little late!” replied Gerald as he, too, nodded in relief when he saw that Master Ghost was still alive.

Before anyone could say another word, Hoyt slammed both his hands against his table before shouting, “We’ve been searching for you for so long... To think that you’d actually come to our doorstep on your own accord! Very well, then! You’ve truly saved me a lot of trouble and manpower!”

The second his sentence ended, Hoyt’s figure seemed to waver for a moment... and the next thing anyone knew, he was already standing before Gerald!

Even the eight experts—who were standing on both sides of the room—were already armed and seemingly ready to attack at any moment.

From what Gerald could see, some of the experts were Japanese, whereas the others were from other foreign regions.

“Is he the one, Chief Crawford? Is the Herculean Primordial Spirit really inside his body?” asked one of the eight people as they exchanged glances among each other with joyous expressions on their faces.

“That’s right! Speaking of which, I’d like to remind all of you that it was the Crawfords who had spent a great deal of time and effort to nurture the Herculean Primordial Spirit. With that said, you’ll still have to listen to the Crawford family’s commands if you wish to even get a share of the pie, understood?” warned Hoyt.

“That’s only natural!” replied all eight of them gleefully.

“You know, I’ve heard from Luthor that the Crawfords of Northbay are nothing more than a tool to your half of the family. Does that mean that the Crawfords of Northbay were created just so you could nurture the Herculean Primordial Spirit within me?” asked Gerald in slight disbelief.

“Oh? It appears that you’re quite smart! Every word you said was pretty much true! Regardless, we’ll be harvesting the Herculean Primordial Spirit in advance due to some changes!” replied Hoyt.

“I see... While I’m sure that you’ll be getting rid of my family members sooner or later, I can’t imagine why you guys are being so ruthless. So what if we’re vastly different? In the end, we’re still from the same family, no?” asked Gerald, finding all of this to be increasingly outrageous.

“Well, I guess it wouldn’t hurt to tell you this since you’re about to die anyway! Look, are you really stupid enough to believe that your Crawford family is from the same lineage as ours? Hahaha! You see, the ancestor of your Crawford family was initially just a stand-in for our Crawford family’s ancestor! In the end, we allowed him to create the Crawfords of Northbay—which would eventually end up becoming a world-class power that owns over half of the planet’s wealth and assets—just for the sake of this nurturing plan! As an extra titbit, in order to ensure that your Crawford family wouldn’t branch out, we personally made sure to get rid of as many of your family’s members as possible!” sneered Hoyt.

“And here I was wondering why my family’s lineage didn’t seem to be prosperous despite the fact that we’re so economically strong... So they were murdered by all of you...!” growled Gerald, his eyes filled with rage.

Chapter 1528

“But of course! Regardless, everything is perfect now! After waiting for over a dozen generations, the prophecy of the picture of the sun is finally going to be fulfilled! After all, you’re the true bearer of the Herculean Primordial Spirit!” declared Hoyt with a laugh.

“What I’m hearing is that since the mission is now complete, my family and I should no longer exist among the living, correct?” asked Gerald.

"Naturally. While I admit that you're able to see through issues pretty thoroughly, it's quite unfortunate that there really is no other way out for you. Your fate had already been determined from the moment you were born! You were always destined to end up in our hands!" retorted Hoyt, his mocking expression filled with ridicule.

After taking note of all of this, Gerald then laughed bitterly before replying, "You almost sound proud of your ability to manipulate others and play god."

"Of course, I am! As if there's anything more exciting than that in the world!" sneered Hoyt before laughing aloud. "From what you've said, it appears that aside from my strength, everything else that I've experienced up till this point could very well be artificial! Regardless, I had trusted others way too easily, resulting in my family getting kidnapped and possibly even harmed... What a pity that I was so careless..." muttered Gerald, hints of remorse reflected in his eyes.

Why hadn't he thought of establishing a protective formation for his family upon awakening to his powers? That could've possibly prevented his family members from getting kidnapped!

Thinking about all this also made him slightly frightened. After all, had Zyla not helped him unlock the natural gift from the Herculean Primordial Spirit, he could've easily died at the hands of either this group or the King of Judgment Portal.

Momentarily staring at his palm, he couldn't help but clench it slightly.

"Hahaha! Well, truth be told, it's exactly because you were late that your family members are still alive! Had we found you that day, none of them would be among the living anymore!" replied Hoyt as he fished out his cell phone before playing a pre-recorded video...

From what Gerald could see, the video had been recorded in some kind of dark dungeon...

Upon the video zooming in, Gerald realized that a person was being tortured with an iron whip! The person himself looked badly mutilated, and Gerald's eyes were filled with rage the second he saw the victim's face. It was his father! As Gerald's heart began beating wildly, he noticed the presence of a masked youth who was sitting at the side of the dungeon. That person simply sat there, laughing and ridiculing Gerald's father who was still being whipped repeatedly.

"While it's true that they're alive, it's only fair that we make them suffer in exchange! Well, Gerald? Are you feeling powerless now? Hahaha! I understand how you feel! After all, it must be quite unpleasant to know that your entire family was manipulated like mere pawns!" sneered Hoyt with a malicious laugh before putting his cell phone away.

"Chief Crawford, there's no point talking to him anymore. Why don't I capture him first? Once that's done, we'll use the remaining time to discuss how we'll share the energy from the Herculean Primordial Spirit!" grumbled a Japanese man who was among the eight experts. From what Gerald could see, he was at the very least a Fourth-rank master.

Not even waiting for Hoyt to reply, the samurai then leaped forward in an attempt to grab hold of Gerald's neck!

Gerald, however, was having none of that. Now extremely furious, Gerald instantly declared, "You utter b*stards...!"

For doing all this, I, Gerald Crawford, swear to turn all of you into nothing but ashes once I'm done!"

Following that, Gerald was instantly covered in a bloodred glow that made the hearts—of anyone who saw it—palpitate wildly. Adding that to the pressuring killing intent that Gerald currently exuded, it almost seemed like he could murder just with the two!

Even the Japanese master who had earlier rushed forward found himself freezing in place when he felt Gerald's monstrous killing intent.

"W-what...?!" muttered the man as he instantly felt a strong urge to take a step back.

However, before he could even do so, he felt a strong force yanking him toward Gerald! His hand now over the Japanese man's throat, Gerald then squeezed it hard...

And with a sickening sound, the man's head exploded into a million pieces... He was now as good as a lump of flesh. "...H-huh...?!"

It took everyone a moment to register what had just happened, but when it finally hit, their eyelids instantly began twitching rapidly.

This was especially the case for Hoyt, who was already taking a few steps back in sheer horror and amazement after witnessing Gerald's terrifying change.

How... How could any of this be?!

Chapter 1529

"Just because you people have a slightly higher rank, you all think you're so invincible... Is being strong the reason why all of you think it's fine to manipulate the lives of others? Well guess what? Your lives are dirt cheap before me!" roared Gerald.

"Everyone, keep your guard up! Attack him together or we'll never be able to capture Gerald!" ordered Hoyt whose eyelids were still twitching.

Since the remaining seven experts now had a common enemy, all of them instantly began charging up their strongest attacks before assaulting Gerald together! Due to the immense release of essential qi, the entire area began trembling rather violently...

With debris and dust flying everywhere, the seven men were just about to land their attacks on Gerald when suddenly, he seemingly vanished into thin air!

Before anyone could even react, the first wail of despair could be heard... Then another... And another...

By the time the dust finally settled, seven mangled and bloodied corpses lay at Gerald's feet.

Gerald himself appeared to be completely unharmed, and there wasn't even a single trace of dust on him!

"A-amazing... You truly are amazing...!" stuttered Hoyt as he revealed himself from behind a stone pillar.

As Hoyt stared at the seven corpses on the ground, Gerald saw that the man was simultaneously strangling Master Ghost with one of his hands! In Hoyt's other hand, he seemed to be holding some kind of bead...

Regardless, as Hoyt continued muttering something in his horrified state, Gerald simply remained calm as a cucumber. Sliding his hands into his pockets, Gerald then smiled while asking, "What exactly is so amazing?"

"Y-you are, of course! Just so you know, the eight who you just murdered were all great masters, and all of them were incredible individuals! Despite the fact that you were face to face against seven of the strongest attacks from the best of the best, none of them even seemed to be a match against you! With how tragically each of them died, I admit that we've seriously underestimated you! You're simply too strong and capable compared to us...!" replied Hoyt as he continued holding Master Ghost hostage. It was also evident by this point that the bead in his hand was no ordinary object.

Though Hoyt did appear to be extremely surprised, he seemed unusually calm for some reason...

"Whatever the case is, it appears that you're no idiot, at least when compared to all the stupid folk I've had to meet before. After all, you didn't just rush over to me to attack. Now that would've instantly spelled your doom. Instead, you actually used your wits to hold Master Ghost hostage amidst all the chaos!" said Gerald with a sincere smile on his face.

Though Hoyt realized that Gerald's praise was authentic, he still remained stern as he chuckled before coldly replying, "...Well, as they say, when a young man has great power, he'll surely get extremely arrogant and think that strength will get him anything that he wants! Just so you know, when it comes to fights between masters, wisdom is what counts at the end of the day!"

"...I'm sorry, did you... Did you just say wisdom?" replied Gerald who was so caught off guard by Hoyt's words that he almost felt like his jaw was about to drop.

"Are you... honestly saying that you're filled with wisdom just because you've taken Master Ghost hostage...? Or is it because of that toy in your other hand?" added Gerald with a wry smile.

"I'll say it right now that I've been nicknamed 'the Crawford family's wisdom' for the longest time among those in the realm of training. Also, did you just say that this bead is a toy?!"

"Indeed. It appears to be a toy that's currently being held by an infant!" replied Gerald with a nod.

"Hahaha! Now you're just being ridiculous... While I could explain what it is, I think it'd be better if Master Ghost elaborated on it. After all, you've been seeking him for such a long time!" scoffed Hoyt.

"I-it's the Thunderstorm Formation...!" exclaimed Master Ghost, a fearful expression on his face.

"Insightful as ever, Master Ghost! That's right! I hope you understand, Gerald, that as long as I move my finger, the formation will instantly activate, and when it does, the chaos it'll cause will disallow even an inch of grass to grow within a hundred-mile radius! Needless to say, all three of us will be ashes by then! While dying now doesn't matter to me, I'm sure it'd be a shame if you lost your life here, no? After all, the rest of your family members are still suffering in the hands of my half of the family! Regardless, it seems that in the end, both of your lives are still under my control! With that said, I don't think I need to spell it out for you, for you to know what's most important, right?" scoffed Hoyt rather smugly.

Shaking his head with a wry smile, Gerald simply replied, "Well, since you're calling the shots, what do you propose I should do then?" asked Gerald as he took a few steps forward, his hands in his pockets.

"You... Don't you dare come any closer! Make one more move and all three of us are dying together!" roared Hoyt nervously as the muscles on his face twitched slightly.

"What's wrong, Wisdom? Are you that scared already when I've barely even moved? Speaking of which, there's something I'd like to remind you about," said Gerald.

"...What is it?"

"As I've said, that formation in your hand? It's nothing but a toy to me. Consider the fact that I murdered all eight of your 'experts' as easily as slaughtering chickens. Have you ever thought about what would happen to you if the formation fails to hurt me?" asked Gerald.

"...T-that..." muttered Hoyt with a gulp as his face went deathly pale.

While Gerald simply looked like an ordinary person, the aura he exuded was simply too overpowering...

Chapter 1530

After hearing what Gerald had to say, Hoyt's nervousness and anxiety instantly peaked. Feeling cold sweat drip down his forehead, he was now having trouble just holding the bead steadily in his hand.

"I advise you to think this through. Know that if you get careless, I'll make sure to fully dismantle you as you watch your body fall to pieces before the formation even activates... I'm not one to joke around, just in case you were wondering," replied Gerald.

"...T-that...!" muttered Hoyt as he stared at the carnage that Gerald had left behind, too nervous to even speak anymore.

Both Hoyt's hands now trembling violently, he watched as Gerald extended his own hand to take the bead off him. "So... This is the Thunderstorm Formation?" asked Gerald as he carefully observed the bead. True enough, Gerald was able to sense a small formation contained within the bead.

"T-that's right!" replied Hoyt as he nodded like an idiot.

Following that, both Hoyt and Master Ghost's eyes widened as Gerald tossed the bead up into the air... instantly triggering the formation!

The second it activated, a dark cloud came out of nowhere and quickly began spreading out across the ceiling... Seconds before the bolt of lightning—that would decimate everything—struck, Gerald flicked his finger as he called out, “Recall!”

And just like that, the dark clouds turned into nothing but smoke before completely disappearing.

“...W-what...?” muttered Hoyt who took two steps back before slumping to the ground.

Master Ghost himself was so terrified that his face had gone as pale as a sheet. Simultaneously, he was also feeling shocked to see how far Gerald had come.

Though he already knew that Gerald was no ordinary mortal, he truly hadn’t expected the youth to already possess such terrifying abilities...

Once the fear and shock passed, however, Ghost quickly began feeling overjoyed!

Gerald, on the other hand, displayed a wry smile before saying, “Now do you see that I wasn’t kidding? This bead is simply a toy to me!”

“M-master Crawford! P-please, please spare my life...!” pleaded Hoyt as he fell to his knees the second he regained his senses.

After watching Hoyt kowtow repeatedly while begging for mercy, Gerald then asked, “I want you to tell me the coordinates of Yearning Island.”

“...Y-Yearning Island? That’s my Crawford family’s island... It’s at...”

Without completing his sentence, Hoyt suddenly raised his head before crushing a jade talisman that he had hidden up his sleeve!

Almost immediately after, a bright light appeared and the tiles beneath Hoyt’s feet suddenly began cracking open!

And just like that, Hoyt vanished into the crack, successfully making his escape!

Seconds later, several huge stone doors began toppling around them with explosive sounds, completely sealing the place up!

“That cunning man! He actually managed to escape!” exclaimed Master Ghost in a regretful tone.

“There’s no need to worry too much, Master Ghost. I’ve already planted a spell on him, and with any luck, he’ll eventually head back to Yearning Island. When that time comes, I’ll be able to find the island without too much effort and finally rescue my family!” replied Gerald while shaking his head with a wry smile on his face.

“...Oh? Apologies, I got a little flustered due to how panicked I was... That’s right, you’re no longer a person to be trifled with, Mr. Crawford... After all, despite Hoyt’s strength, he was nothing but an ant before you! Regardless, this place is filled with traps... How are we to get out?”

“Oh, that’s simple!” replied Gerald rather indifferently as he waved his hand...

Following that, a golden light shot out, causing the ground to shake so much that the ceiling of the area collapsed, revealing a new opening!

From below, the light from the outside world was so bright that Master Ghost had to momentarily look away to adjust his vision...

Truth be told, Master Ghost was still utterly shocked by how much Gerald’s skills and techniques had improved...

Turning to look at Gerald, near-incomparable awe and admiration could be seen reflected in Master Ghost’s eyes...

Chapter 1531

The reason why Hoyt was able to escape was because Gerald had deliberately let him go.

He originally thought that he would be able to make use of Hoyt so that he could find Yearning Island.

Unexpectedly, Hoyt had actually gone into hiding on his own instead.

Since Hoyt was no longer of any value to him, Gerald would obviously not let him off just let that. At that moment, he activated his spell on the spot in order to kill Hoyt, who was a thousand miles away.

Fortunately, he had already found Master Ghost. So, once Master Ghost had recovered his vitality, Gerald believed that at that time, Master Ghost would be able to determine the direction that Gerald's family was in, then.

Over these past few days, Carlos and the others could not hold back, and they kept coming forth to request for Gerald to set up his own cultivation sect to formally establish his superiority in front of his subordinates.

The difference this time was that this proposal had been directly approved by Master Ghost.

At this moment, even Master Ghost had explained and shown the importance of establishing his own cultivation sect to Gerald.

After all, in the future, he would not only need to face the Crawford family, but he would also need to face many other cultivation forces. It could already be seen directly from the fact where his family members had been captured that Gerald would not be able to personally get everything done on his own no matter how strong he was.

This point struck Gerald directly in his heart.

"It seems as though it is time for me to establish a cultivation sect of my own!"

Gerald looked at the group of people who were looking at him with an eager expression in their eyes before he nodded.

"That's simply perfect!"

"Hahaha! That's right! Our presence will be considered justified, and we'll also be people who belong to a certain organization in the future!"

"In the future, Mr. Crawford will be our magnificent lord! Master Ghost has great foresight, and he could be our magnificent lord's military advisor!"

Many of the masters present were all extremely excited as they spoke and communicated amongst themselves.

"Greetings to our magnificent lord!"

At this moment, Carlos and Julian led the crowd to shout in unison.

Gerald could not help but smile wryly at this scene.

Master Ghost also said helplessly, "What's the hurry? Even if you want to set up a sect, you should occupy a region in advance before coming up with a name for our sect, right? Besides, we will also have to inform the Ringmasters of Obliteration about the matter regarding our sect first!"

"That's right! Our military advisor is right! We do not have a name yet, right?"

"Also, where should our territory be? It could not possibly be in the Sherwin Manor, right? This is downtown!"

Someone said.

"Hahaha. I actually have a territory in mind, and that is none other than Sacrasolis Mountain. After the incident this time, the priest was also worried that the Crawford family would return and retaliate. So, he already had the intention of giving Sacrasolis Mountain to us. Therefore, this matter is basically settled!" Master Ghost said.

"This mountain is so huge! It's definitely possible!"

Everyone laughed out loud.

"As for the name, sir, I'll have to trouble you to personally determine a name to meet and satisfy these people's wishes!" Master Ghost said as he bowed slightly.

In truth, even back at Langvern Mountain, Master Ghost had already determined that Gerald would be the person that he would follow in the future.

So, Master Ghost had already been making all the preparations ever since then.

"Sacrasolis Mountain, Sacrasolis Church, and even the power that I first awakened, all happened to be the Sacrasolis almighty power. So, I think that I have some sort of fate with this word. If I were to come up with a name for my sect, I think that I'll just name it Sacrasolis Palace, then!"

Gerald said after thinking about it.

"Sacrasolis Palace? Master Crawford, no, Magnificent Lord Crawford, that is indeed a good name!"

At this moment, a voice sounded from outside the door.

It was a middle-aged man.

This person was none other than Hubert, who had been staying at the Sherwin Manor after getting saved by Gerald.

"Oh! Mr. Younger, how is your injury?" Gerald asked as he smiled faintly.

Hubert was the captain of a small team from the Dragon Squad in Weston. He could be considered to have already set one foot into the cultivation realm.

Chapter 1532

It had already been very difficult for him to go even further throughout all these years.

It was probably because he was born into an ordinary mortal life in the first place. However, even though he was not very strong, Gerald also had very high regard for him.

As for Hubert, he was naturally filled with reverence for Gerald.

"My injury has been completely healed after receiving treatment from you, Magnificent Lord. I rushed here as soon as I heard that you called for me!" Hubert said as he bowed slightly.

"Well, I heard Master Ghost telling me that the Dragon Squad has a very systematic underground resource network.

So, I would like to ask for your help for a certain matter, Mr. Younger!" Gerald spoke up.

"I owe my life to you, Magnificent Lord. So, please give me any commands you may have!"

Hubert said as he bowed.

"Julian, Carlos..." Gerald looked at these two men.

"Yes, Magnificent Lord!"

"Since the establishment of Sacrasolis Palace has already been determined, I'll assign the both of you to assign the tasks so that we can complete the establishment of our force within three days. Both of you can go ahead and coordinate these matters on my behalf. There are still some other things I need to do!" Gerald instructed.

Everyone in the hall retreated immediately to get things done.

"Master Ghost has already spoken to me about it. Magnificent Lord, you want to ask me about the whereabouts of Yearning Island, right?" Hubert said.

"That's right!"

"Yearning Island is very hidden, and there has always been a curse on the people from Yearning Island. None of their clan members are allowed to tell or reveal the location of Yearning Island to anyone at all. Otherwise, they will suffer a violent death directly on the spot!"

"It is also precisely because of this wicked reason that the location of Yearning Island has remained hidden for so many years. No one knows its location, and not even a single person in the cultivation realm knows about the location of Yearning Island at all!" Hubert said.

It was no wonder why Hoyt had dared to risk death just to escape. It was because if he were to mention the location of Yearning Island, he would definitely suffer a horrible death in front of Gerald!

Gerald nodded with some understanding.

"In that case, is there truly no way for us to find Yearning Island, then?" Gerald asked anxiously.

"Not necessarily. I have a magic artifact hidden in the Dragon Squad called the Soul Arch Compass. Back then, my father also had several acquaintances with Master Ghost because of the Soul Arch Compass. With the Soul Arch Compass and Master Ghost's Nine Dragons Calculation Technique, coupled with the systematic mechanism of the Dragon Squad's ground network for so many years, I believe that it would not be difficult for us to uncover the location of Yearning Island!" Hubert said.

"Sir, that is precisely the reason why I asked Mr. Younger to come here. If we want to find Yearning Island, we will have to make use of the Soul Arch Compass. I believe that Mr. Younger will have a way!" Master Ghost said to Gerald.

"Okay!"

Gerald nodded.

"Magnificent Lord, in addition, I, Hubert Younger, have a small request. However, I do not know whether I should speak about it or not!" Hubert suddenly lowered his head as he pondered for a moment. After that, he spoke up in a soft voice, almost as though he was still feeling extremely uncertain.

"What is it?" Gerald asked.

"Well, after the battle this time, I realized that the people from the Dragon Squad are indeed a little too weak when facing certain real masters. Yesterday, I heard Master Julian saying that you intend to teach certain techniques and formations to the people in Sacrasolis Palace. We, from the Dragon Squad, are naturally not as talented as Master Julian and the others. However, since you're well-versed in these formations and techniques, I wonder if you could take the time to teach the members of my Dragon Squad a technique or two? It would certainly be of infinite and great use to us!"

Hubert was particularly eager as he spoke about this.

If Gerald were to teach them, the combat power of the Dragon Squad would certainly be greatly strengthened without limits.

"This..."

Gerald thought about it. Speaking of it, Gerald did indeed have certain techniques and formations that would be suitable for the cultivation of the members of the Dragon Squad.

Naturally, since the Dragon Squad kept one side safe, even if Hubert had not helped Gerald, if Hubert had a request, Gerald would still help if he could do so.

"Okay! I agree to your request!"

Chapter 1533

Since the Soul Arch Compass belonging to the Dragon Squad was so important, Gerald did not dare to delay any longer. After assigning certain specific tasks, Gerald rushed to the Dragon Squad's base with Master Ghost.

The Dragon Squad base was a base that was located in Tierson Mountain.

Of course, this area of Tierson Mountain was also forbidden to the outside world.

However, anyone who could enter the Dragon Squad base were all first-class masters who had to complete a variety of restricted tasks to ensure the safety of their party.

So, the Dragon Squad was naturally known as the hidden dragons of Weston.

It was under the direct control of Weston.

"Hubert Younger, are you insane?! How dare you bring such an immature and inexperienced young brat to the Dragon Squad base? That is already bad enough, but you even dared to recommend him to become an instructor at our base?!"

In the chief captain, Team Leader Lock's office.

As Hubert was excitedly talking about this matter, the other captains felt incredulous.

Even Yeshua was a little surprised.

Yeshua was about sixty years old. He had a head full of white hair, but there was also a burst of energy and vitality in his gestures.

It was obvious that this person was extremely extraordinary.

As the chief captain, he naturally had his own calm and steady aura. He was simply listening quietly at the side as his sub-captains argued over this matter.

The person who had refuted Hubert directly was the sub-captain of the first division, Burnard Jole, who was over forty years old.

What was worth mentioning was the fact that he was the three hundred and sixty eighth-generation heir of the iron palm. It was rumored that one of his iron palms could easily penetrate a rock!

However, the remaining sub-captains did not have this kind of quality.

Who would not know that the first sub-team, the Jole team, and the second sub-team, the Younger team, were extremely difficult to deal with? So, no one dared to interrupt when the both of them were engaged in an argument.

"Burnard Jole, what's your hurry? The reason I'm doing this is for the sake of the entire Dragon Squad! Mr. Crawford has extraordinary strength and abilities that are far beyond our imagination! He is only willing to impart some of his techniques to us because I worked hard for it! Team Leader Lock, you know me very well. I would never do anything unreliable!" Hubert said.

Yeshua could not help but nod gently. It was indeed true. Hubert was an extremely stable person, and he trusted him a great deal.

If Hubert said that the man named Gerald Crawford was so powerful, Yeshua could only presume that Gerald Crawford was indeed exceptional, then.

"Alright, then. Since you highly recommend him, I think we can give it a go. In addition to what you have just mentioned, what other conditions does he have, Hubert?" Yeshua could not help but ask.

"Oh! Mr. Crawford simply wants to borrow and use the Soul Arch Compass!" Hubert said.

As soon as he heard this, Burnard raised his brows.

At this moment, he said coldly, "Pfft! Who does he think he is?! He actually wants to use the Soul Arch Compass?!"

The Soul Arch Compass is a magic artifact belonging to the Dragon Squad! Can anyone simply use it whenever they want to? Are there no longer any rules in this place?!"

"Burnard Jole, don't go too far. The reason why I invited Mr. Crawford here is because I was thinking about the overall strength and future of the Dragon Squad!"

When he saw that the both of them were about to start arguing again, Yeshua hurriedly stopped them as he said, "Okay, that's enough. Why don't we do this, then? We can put the matter related to the Soul Arch Compass aside for the time being. Let's see what this Mr. Crawford that you've brought here can offer to the Dragon Squad first!"

Yeshua was obviously not someone who would allow something to go completely unchecked. To be honest, he felt that Hubert was exaggerating by describing a young man in his twenties to have such extraordinary and supernatural abilities!

Yeshua only believed in Hubert's words slightly because he was giving Hubert face.

"Alright. It's decided, then. You guys can withdraw first!" Yeshua said as he waved his hands.

"What?! Team Leader Lock, you're not going to see Mr. Crawford even though he is already here?" Hubert asked in surprise.

At this moment, Yeshua frowned a little.

As for Burnard, he took advantage of the situation as he said coldly, "Hubert Younger, you must have hit your head and lost your mind during the mission this time, right? You're actually asking Team Leader Lock to go and meet with a young lad?!"

"But!"