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"How could you ask such a question, Mr. Lassen? Mr. Chance is right here, standing before us, alive and well," Zain uttered. Claus did not bother to look at Zain. He remained fixated on Kai, his disbelief refusing to waver. "You chased after the Blazing Tiger and ventured deep into the treacherous Demon Beast Mountain. Weren't you in grave danger? And what about the Blazing Tiger?"

Claus was so curious that he could not help but wonder what had transpired when Kai ventured into the treacherous depths of the Demon Beast Mountain and how he managed to emerge unscathed.

Considering Kai's strength, it would be nearly impossible for him to escape from the clutches of the mountain's perilous confines. Yet, it was clear that Kai stood composed and unharmed before Claus. That sight left Claus both astonished and captivated.

"Claus, you know Kai?" Hailey was surprised. "Yes, we've crossed paths a few times. We even met in the mundane world." Claus bobbed his head in response.

"Mr. Lassen, I only pursued the Blazing Tiger for a short distance, so I didn't venture deep into the mountain. I emerged unharmed because I swiftly made my way out," Kai explained, giving him a subtle smile.

He chose not to mention anything about taming the Blazing Tiger. It was his trump card, and he intended to keep it hidden unless he faced at dire situation.

"That makes sense. Hardly anyone who ventures deep into the Demon Beast Mountain comes out alive. And even if they do, they would at least suffer severe injuries!" After learning that he had not gone deep into the mountain, Claus finally understood why Kai was still alive. Claus held Hailey's hand and said, "We've got to go, Hailey. Mr. Hargreaves and the others are waiting for us."

As Claus was about to take Hailey away, she cast a quick glance at Kai before forcefully pulling herself away from Claus' grasp. Her expression turned grave and awkward, signaling a change in her demeanor..

Claus froze for a moment, casting Hailey a puzzled look. They had been childhood sweethearts, and their families had long been preparing for their marriage. Claus did not understand what had happened to Hailey and why she refused to hold his hand that day.

"Stop it. People are watching us!" Hailey said while walking toward the plaza. Dumbfounded, Claus followed right behind. "Come on, let's go," Kai said, leading Evangeline and Zain to the plaza.

The plaza was already crowded with people, and more than ten individuals were seated on the raised platform in the middle. They were clearly influential figures from the secret realms. Behind them stood five young people, among whom was a woman who covered her face with a white veil.

"Mr. Chance, the five young people standing are individuals who have made it to the Supreme Honor Rankings, and the lady in the veil is Aislin Yuchamore, the eldest daughter of the Yuchamore family from the Gate of Heaven. She is the sole female member among the rankings. The elderly man sitting in front of her is her father, Quindon Yuchamore, the head of the Yuchamore family.

He is regarded as the most formidable individual in the Eight Major Secret Realms, holding significant influence and authority over the Secret Realm Conference. The young man standing beside Aislin is Sigwin Green, the man who topped the Supreme Honor Rankings. He's also the principal disciple of Gate of Earth's Violet Fulmina Sect."

Zain, who possessed a profound understanding of the Eight Major Secret Realms, continued providing Kai with a comprehensive explanation. That granted Kai an initial glimpse into the Eight Major Secret Realms.

However, when Zain mentioned Santiago from the Gate of Thunder's Violet Cloud Palace, Kai narrowed his eyes and exuded a murderous aura. Sensing the changes in Kai's aura, Zain immediately asked, "Is everything okay, Mr. Chance?"

Upon hearing that, Kai immediately held back his aura and flashed a faint grin. "It's nothing. Carry on."

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Even though he said that, Kai could no longer listen to what Zain had to say. His eyes were riveted on Santiago. My mother must be at Violet Cloud Palace right now!

Soon, a thought popped into Kai's mind, and he hastily asked Zain, "Monkey, how many clans with the family name Hargreaves are there in the Gate of Thunder? Could Hailey be related to Santiago?"

Zain shook his head. "I'm not sure about that, but Santiago has a daughter. Perhaps Hailey is his child. After all, there aren't many Hargreaveses in Gate of Thunder's secret realm." Kai furrowed his brows. I never anticipated Hailey to be a member of Violet Cloud Palace. In this case, she'll become my enemy!

At that moment, his eyes shone as he suddenly thought of a method to rescue his mother. By relying on my current strength, it's almost impossible for me to barge into Violet Cloud Palace and save my mother. However, suppose Hailey is a member of Violet Cloud Palace and Santiago's daughter. In that case, I can use my relationship with her to enter Violet Cloud Palace and figure out how to save my mother!

At that thought, Kai hurriedly turned around to scan the crowd for Hailey's figure. I need to establish an amicable relationship with Hailey now. If I can start dating her, I'll have an even better chance of rescuing my mother.

He swiftly located Hailey, who was also staring intently at him, among the crowd. When their eyes met, she blushed and averted her gaze. Taking in her response, Kai instantaneously fathomed her feelings for him.

He immediately strode in her direction. Seeing that, Zain and Evangeline quickly followed behind him. When Hailey saw Kai walking toward her, delight and excitement surged within her.

"Ms. Hargreaves, are you here to participate in the battle too?" Kai took the initiative to ask Hailey. "Of course!" She nodded and glanced at him. "Do you still have that gem I gifted you?"

Kai fell into a momentary daze before replying, "Yes, of course." With that, Kai retrieved the gem Hailey had given him in the past from his Storage Ring. At that time, he didn't sense the gem. possessed any unique features, so he put it away in his Storage Ring.

"You thought this was just an ordinary gem, so you didn't wear it and just kept it in your Storage Ring?" Hailey asked. "Oh, that's not the case. I feared I would lose it, so I was reluctant to wear it," he explained.

"This may seem like a normal gem, but it's actually a Life-saving Runestone. It can help you to resolve a crisis. Hurry up and put it on. Perhaps it'll be helpful during your battle today."

"Okay!" Kai swiftly put on the gem. At that moment, Claus, who had witnessed the scene, knitted his brows and said, "Hailey, Mr. Hargreaves customized this Life-saving Runestone for you. You've been wearing it since you were little, so how could you give it to him just like that?"

Claus didn't know Kai had previously saved Hailey's life or the fact that Kai had held a special place in her heart ever since. "It's mine, so who are you to question my decision?" Hailey rolled her eyes at Claus.

Her retort caused Claus to feel embarrassed. Seeing that, Kai uttered to Claus, "Mr. Lassen, Ms. Hargreaves gifted me the gem after I saved her in the past."

"You saved Hailey?" Claus was stunned and felt slightly incredulous. Kai nodded and recounted his previous encounter with Hailey. Only then did Claus recall Hailey had indeed sneaked out of the secret realm and was ambushed. To Claus' surprise, it was Kai who saved Hailey.

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Since it was to repay Kai for saving her life, Claus no longer had a reason to question Hailey's decision to gift that Life-saving Runestone to Kai.

He could only watch Hailey chat enthusiastically with Kai. Taking in her delighted mien, Claus felt extremely jealous. He merely wished the Secret Realm Conference would begin as soon as possible to put an end to Kai and Hailey's conversation.

"Everyone, please quiet down." At that moment, Quindon, sitting on the platform, got to his feet and spoke loudly. Instantaneously, everyone stopped talking and shifted their attention to the platform.

After everyone quieted down, Quindon continued, "As the Secret Realm Conference restarts, I hope everyone will maintain a learning attitude and avoid harming others intentionally. Remember, friendship is more important than the outcome of the competition. Now, please welcome Sigwin Green from the Supreme Honor Rankings to strike the Dragon Bell to officiate our conference! However, there's a slight amendment to the rules this year. Anyone can challenge themselves and strike the Dragon Bell, but whether the bell will ring depends on each individual's skills. I would suggest all of you to exercise caution. Don't end up failing to ring the Dragon Bell, only to suffer a backlash and serious injuries from the attempt. That would be a loss."

After saying that, Quindon turned to Sigwin. "Mr. Green, please go ahead." Sigwin nodded. Then, he gently kicked off the ground, instantly launching himself toward the bell tower. He pushed the bronze door open and entered.

The moment the door was opened, a terrifying aura burst forth. The bell tower was only around fifty meters tall, but it took half an hour for Sigwin to reappear at the top of the edifice after going in. "Outstanding!" Many people cheered and applauded when Sigwin reappeared on the top of the bell tower.

"It seems like Sigwin has significantly improved. It only took him half an hour to reach the top of the bell tower now," Zain couldn't help but exclaim. "Is half an hour considered short? But that tower is only fifty meters tall, right?" Kai asked puzzlingly.

"Mr. Chance, you're probably new to this. Although this bell tower isn't tall, the path leading up to the top is full of arcane arrays that one must pass through. Moreover, even if they overcome the arcane array and reach the top, that doesn't mean they can ring the Dragon Bell. The bell is engraved with nine dragon- shaped patterns. A golden dragon will circle around the Bell Tower every time it rings. Sigwin could only ring the bell once. Quindon, the strongest person here, once took up the challenge, but even he could only ring the bell five times. At that time, the scene featuring five soaring dragons was truly magnificent!"

Zain's eyes were distant and filled with anticipation when he recounted the story. Kai figured that spectacular view of five soaring. golden dragons must've genuinely left a deep impression on Zain.

"So, there are so many intricacies to ringing this Dragon Bell. I shall give it a try later." Kai couldn't help but become interested in the Dragon Bell.

"Kai, do you think you can strike the Dragon. Bell with your capabilities? I'm afraid you can't even reach the top of the bell tower. If you suffer backlashes from the arcane arrays, you may even risk losing your life. Do you think anyone can just take on the challenge?" Claus, standing at one side, said to Kai. Kai's pleasant conversation with Hailey earlier had already prompted Claus to be displeased with Kai.

"No matter whether I can ring the bell, it's still worth trying. If we're too scared to even attempt it, what's the point of us attaining a high cultivation level?" Kai chirped.

- "Kai, you're from the mundane world, so you don't know how formidable this Dragon Bell is.. You probably won't say something like that. once you witness its ferocity." Claus sneered and fell silent afterward.
- "Kai, don't try to act tough. You're not strong enough to ring the Dragon Bell. Let's see if anyone else from the Supreme Honor Rankings dares to try," Hailey said.

Kai didn't respond. Nevertheless, his determination to attempt ringing the Dragon Bell was resolute. Moreover, it felt like the Dragon Bell was calling out to him.

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Sigwin stood atop the bell tower, waving at the cheering crowd before turning his attention to the golden bell. With a deep breath, he gathered all his energy in his lower abdomen and let out a powerful cry, unleashing his aura. Meanwhile, Kai was puzzled as he watched Sigwin struggling with the hammer.

"Is there an arcane array on the hammer as well?" he asked Zain. Claus, who had overheard the question, chimed in, "No, there's no arcane array, but don't underestimate the hammer just because of its small size. It's made out of a meteorite and weighs thousands of kilograms. I doubt you. could even lift it."

Kai was stunned by the weight of the hammer and briefly entertained the idea of using it as a weapon. But he didn't say anything anymore and simply watched Sigwin on the bell tower. Sigwin took another deep breath, gathered his strength, and swung the hammer down on the Dragon Bell.

Chime! The resounding chime of the bell reverberated through the plaza, captivating the hearts of many with its sonorous tones. Suddenly, one of the dragons carved on the surface of the bell glowed with a golden light.

With a mighty roar, a golden dragon burst forth from the bell and took flight, encircling the tower. The spectators cheered and marveled at the sight, mesmerized by the dragon's stunning beauty.

"I haven't seen a golden dragon fly in years." "Indeed, no one has rung the Dragon Bell since the last time the Secret Realm Conference ended." "Sigwin is as powerful as ever."

As the crowd talked among themselves, Sigwin raised the hammer once more, commanding their attention. All around him, the spectators fell silent, their eyes fixated on him in anticipation.

With a mighty swing, he struck the Golden Bell once again, producing a deafening clang that. echoed throughout the plaza, followed by the sudden appearance of a magnificent golden dragon bursting forth from its surface. The two mythical creatures encircled the bell tower in a stunning display.

Meanwhile, Sigwin carefully placed the hammer back into its holder as the weight was becoming too much to bear. Nevertheless, he had proven himself to be the most powerful cultivator among the younger generation in the Eight Major Secret Realms by striking the Dragon Bell twice in a row.

"Wow! I can't believe Sigwin struck the Dragon Bell twice in a row. He's amazing!" exclaimed one of the spectators. After the two dragons circled the bell tower for a while, they transformed into a streak of golden light and returned to the Dragon Bell.

Joy was evident on Sigwin's face as he jumped down from the bell tower. Many people crowded around him as he landed, eager to gain favor with the most outstanding, youth in the Eight Major Secret Realms.

Kai sneered as he watched the crowd fawn over Sigwin. "All he did was strike the bell twice. Why are people making such a fuss over it? Such bumpkins. It seems there's not much difference between the Eight Major Secret Realms and the mundane world." However, Sigwin overheard Kai's comment as he passed by. He paused and turned to face Kai, stunned.

"Who are you? Which secret realm are you from?" he asked. Evangeline quickly intervened before Kai could say a word, "Mr. Green, he's one of the Gundersons from the Gate of Fire!"

"The Gunderson family from the Gate of Fire?" Sigwin frowned. "I've never heard of them. producing any exceptional talent before. How can you be so bold? And did I hear you mention the mundane world? Since when can the mundane world ever compare to our secret realms?"

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Claus quickly stepped in to smooth things over when he saw that Kai had become the target of Sigwin's scrutiny. "Mr. Green, his name is Kai Chance. He came from the mundane world, just a foolish brat."

Sigwin's eyes narrowed as he asked, "From the mundane world? Since when have we allowed people from the mundane world to take part in the Secret Realm Conference?"

Evangeline swiftly clarified, "Mr. Green, Kai belongs to the Gunderson family now and is representing us at the Secret Realm Conference."

"You're letting a kid from the mundane world represent your family? What a disgrace to the Gate of Fire!" Kayden spoke up as he made his way over to Sigwin and the others.

"Mr. Green, I'm Kayden Macall of Zahrin Sect from the Gate of Fire," he introduced himself with a bow. "Mr. Macall, nice to meet you!" Sigwin greeted him as he saluted. "Who is this Kai? Is he really from the mundane world?"

"That's right. He's from the mundane world. I don't know what relationship he has with the Gundersons that they allowed him to represent their family to attend the Secret Realm. Conference," Kayden replied. "I see..." Sigwin turned his attention back to Kai. "Actually, Mr. Green-"

Evangeline started to explain, but Sigwin raised his hand to cut her off. "Hold up. I need to report this. Allowing people from the mundane world to join the Secret Realm Conference is a major violation of the rules," he said firmly. With that, Sigwin leaped onto the stage.

"Sigwin, what's happening over there?" asked Angus Green, lord of the Violet Fulmina Sect, as he observed the commotion from the stage. "Master, it seems that a person from the mundane world has attended the Secret Realm Conference," Sigwin reported.

"What? You mean to say we've got someone from the mundane world here? What's happening?" Quindon furrowed his brow. As a powerful figure at the Secret Realm Conference, Quindon was not about to let anyone who broke the rules off the hook.

"Mr. Yuchamore, I overheard someone mention that a person from the mundane world has entered the Secret Realm Conference. His name is Kai Chance, and he was brought here by the Gundersons from the Gate of Fire," replied Sigwin. Quindon immediately turned his accusatory gaze to Chester, who was seated next to him, upon hearing this.

"Chester, what's going on here?" asked Quindon. Everyone turned their attention to Chester, puzzled as to why he would bring someone from the mundane world to attend the conference.

After all, the Secret Realm Conference had strict limitations on the number of attendees, yet Chester was willing to give up a seat for someone from the mundane world.

"Mr. Yuchamore, while Mr. Chance is from the mundane world, he's also a member of the Gunderson family. Therefore, it's not against the rules to have him represent us at the Secret Realm Conference. It's common for families to have representatives in the mundane world, and some even send people there. This is not a new practice. I'm sure these individuals are allowed to attend the conference as representatives of their families upon their return, isn't that right?" Chester had already come up with this explanation beforehand.

"Mr. Chance?" Quindon turned to Chester, puzzled. "Is he a martial artist or cultivator to be addressed with such respect? It seems like he has a close relationship with the Gundersons."

"Mr. Chance is a cultivator, and we owe him a great deal. Therefore, everything the Gunderson family has should now belong to him," Chester explained. Everyone was stunned by Chester's words, except for Wayne, who remained impassive.

"I would like to meet this man, then." Quindon's curiosity was piqued. The others were also intrigued by Kai and wondered what it was that made Chester hold him in such high regard.

"Sigwin, Mr. Yuchamore is curious. Please bring. Kai up on stage," Angus instructed.