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Jose and the others stood at the foremost position with their respective subordinates. In front of them, over ten men littered the ground, all seemingly dead. "What happened here?" Verner questioned in puzzlement, eyeing those who had collapsed and died on the ground.

Jose's face was as black as thunder, and he said nothing. Instead, Marcelo cursed, "D*mn it! It turned out that there's a Mountain Defense Formation here, causing us to lose so many of our men!"

As soon as Verner heard that, understanding dawned upon him. Ah, these people were from the families of Jose and the others. They probably wanted to enter first, so they neglected to check out the situation and ended up getting killed by the arcane array.

Thanks to Jose and the others' precedent, all those behind them did not dare act rashly. No one was willing to risk their lives in the face of such a powerful arcane array.

At that moment, the thousands of people gathered there could only watch helplessly, none daring to attempt to deactivate it. After all, it took tremendous strength to deactivate an arcane array, and one might even lose his life. If that happened, the sacrifice would benefit others instead.

Therefore, they merely stood around and watched. Not a single one of them stepped forward to deactivate the arcane array. The atmosphere promptly turned awkward.

Everyone stared at each other. No one spoke or moved, and the only audible sounds were the harsh breathing of the crowd.

Bursts of light kept flashing from around the hill. It was the Mountain Defense Formation, and one could only enter after deactivating the arcane array. With such a massive arcane array in place, everyone was convinced there must be tons of treasures in the ancient ruins.

As everyone remained stationary and waited silently, Kai swept his gaze around in search of Skylar and also Claus, whom he met in the tavern. In his opinion, they posed the greatest threat to him.

Unfortunately, he saw no signs of them both even after scanning the entire place. Hmm, perhaps they aren't here or hiding in some corner!

"Sir, since we want all these people to enter the fake secret realm, why would we set up such a powerful arcane array on the outside of it? No one dares to go in now," Skylar

mused in perplexity. He did not quite understand the reason for setting up an obstacle when they wanted to trick everyone in.

At that question, the spirit within him chuckled softly. "What do you know? The more: formidable the arcane array outside, the greater their curiosity about whatever is on the inside. At that time, they'd undoubtedly swarm in.. Someone will certainly deactivate this arcane array. Just wait patiently."

Time ticked by, yet no one moved. None of them left, but neither did they make a move to attempt to deactivate the arcane array. At long last, a bearded elderly man from one of the families headed toward the hill at a steady. pace.

The instant the crowd saw that someone had taken the first move, they all trained their gazes on the elderly man. Kai could tell that the elderly man was an advanced-phase Greater Martial Arts Marquis, so he knew the latter must be an elder from one of the families..

"Can he deactivate the arcane array, Mr. Chance?" Verner asked in a whisper when he saw the elderly man walking out.

"I'm not sure either. If the arcane array is deactivated later and we gain entry, don't act recklessly, let alone get physical with others. Wait for my command," Kai instructed Godrick, Fernando, and Verner.

All three men bobbed their heads in acknowledgment, for they all looked to Kai for guidance. Right then, the elderly man had reached the arcane array. Just after a burst of light flared, he abruptly let out a roar so resounding that it resembled the rumble of thunder.

A wild gust of wind kicked up. On the heels of that, a faint white mist manifested from his hand before it began spinning, forming a vortex. None among the crowd had an inkling of the technique he was using and could only watch silently.

"Shatter!" He shot his palm out, upon which a majestic aura burst forth. Most of the crowd quickly backed away. Sensing the terrifying surge of energy, everyone felt that the arcane array would definitely be broken.

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When the elderly man's hand came into contact with the arcane array, he was suddenly hurled backward and smashed into the ground. Blood started to seep from his nose and mouth, and his face quickly drained of color. It was clear that he was gravely injured.

Everyone's eyes widened in disbelief. The elderly man was powerful, and yet even he was unable to break the powerful arcane array that was blocking the entrance to the ancient ruins. This meant that no one would be able to enter the ruins.

"The arcane array is too strong. I can't believe an advanced-phase Greater Martial Arts Marquis couldn't destroy it!" Verner commented in shock.

Kai explained calmly, "One must seek out the core of the arcane array in order to demolish it. Only those who are exceptionally powerful are able to annihilate it through sheer strength and power."

It was obvious that Kai knew the elderly man wouldn't be able to destroy the arcane array before the latter even took action. Godrick asked, "Kai, can you destroy it?"

Kai nodded. "I only need a sword to destroy the arcane array."

He was not bragging as he had managed to uncover the core of the arcane array. With his own ability and the assistance of the Dragonslayer Sword, he was certain that he would be able to demolish it without any difficulty.

However, Kai wasn't about to do so. He was waiting for someone else to do it. He knew that Skylar had brought along four Black Gold Robe warriors. They could join hands and easily destroy the arcane array. The young man he saw at the pub should be capable, too.

These people didn't take action or reveal themselves, so Kai decided to stay put. They were all competing to see who could remain patient and composed under the circumstances. Kai was patient, but someone else couldn't wait any longer.

Jose stepped out and announced, "Everyone, we have finally arrived at Encanta Island, so we mustn't let a mere arcane array stand in our way. Everyone here is equipped with a sacred martial arts relic, so we are more than capable of handling the array. Should anyone else wish to join us in taking down the arcane array, we would appreciate your assistance. If you have a sacred martial arts relic, then that would be all the better! We can work together and show that the array is nothing to be afraid of when we join forces. However, I must make myself clear. Once we destroy the arcane array, those who didn't offer any help should stay back. Otherwise, don't blame me for taking action against you."

The arcane array outside the ancient ruins alone was powerful enough, so Jose knew more dangers would be lurking inside. He wanted more families to join forces with them to keep the situation under control.

After all, the three families in his faction weren't strong enough to face the obstacles alone. A representative of one of the families declared, "I'm willing to join forces with you, Mr. Danaher. I have a sacred martial arts relic!"

Following the incident, it became apparent that if they continued to proceed independently, they would not reap any rewards. "I'm willing to join you, too!" Another family chose to join hands with Jose.

Within a short period of time, over ten families decided to join forces with Jose, and the faction he led quickly swelled to include hundreds of members. This newfound power made them the most influential group on the island.

A smirk of derision spread across Jose's face as he shot Kai a challenging glare. He then turned to look at the arcane array. "Everyone, let's join forces to destroy this arcane array!" he declared and pulled out his sacred martial arts relic. Everyone else retrieved their weapons, uniting their martial energy to create a brilliant luminosity that illuminated the area.

They were all Greater Martial Arts Marquises, wielding immense strength with the aid of some sacred martial arts relics. This force they were able to conjure up was exponentially more powerful than what a single person could generate on their own.

Everyone watched intently. The moment that the Mountain Defense Formation was shattered, they would immediately storm into the ancient ruins without any hesitation.

Jose and his cohorts had surrounded the entrance, forming an impenetrable barrier that denied access to anybody else. Many were displeased at his actions, yet they had no other alternative but to accept it.

Boom! Following the thunderous sound, the combined energy charged toward the arcane array. The ground shook and the sea roared as the entire Encanta Island trembled violently. That showed how powerful their combined energy was.

Alas, their aggressive attack only managed to leave a faint mark on the Mountain Defense Formation. These people didn't suffer from any backlash, but they still failed to destroy the arcane array.

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Seeing that, everyone gasped in disbelief. Even Jose and the like froze in shock. None of them had expected that the arcane array would be able to resist their combined efforts, which had been bolstered by the power of various sacred martial arts relics.

After a moment of utter shock, Jose's demeanor shifted dramatically. A menacing glimmer appeared in his eyes and his countenance darkened as he scowled in anger.

Skylar said worriedly, "Sir, they were still unable to destroy the arcane array despite joining forces and having the help of sacred martial arts relics. Is it too powerful for them? If they can't destroy it, all of our efforts will have been for nothing."

As he watched in a corner, he grew increasingly anxious to discover that Jose and the like couldn't destroy the arcane array despite their combined efforts.

Malphas snapped, "What a bunch of trash. Do they not understand how important it is to find the core of the arcane array in order to destroy it? There are so many people here. Don't tell me none of them knows where the core is!"

He had not expected that the people here knew nothing about arcane arrays. Jose's aura kept intensifying. He was determined not to be seen as a fool and be the subject of ridicule for his inability to destroy the arcane array. "Let's have another go!"

With that, Jose and his companions launched another attack again. This time, they had put in every ounce of their energy and were determined to see a successful outcome.

The mighty force caused the earth on Encanta Island to tremble, and the sound of crashing waves could be heard from miles away. Alas, nothing changed. The arcane array was still intact.

After launching two consecutive assaults, Jose and his cohorts had expended half of their martial energy. They glanced at each other in silence. If they couldn't destroy the arcane array, there was no way they would get to enter the ancient ruins.

Nevertheless, the formidability of the arcane array only made everyone grow more excited about the ancient ruins, for they were sure there must be some treasures hidden within. In fact, the rumored magical items that would grant immortality might very well be true. The prospect of finally laying their eyes on such treasures was too tantalizing to ignore.

Skylar was getting anxious. If no one could destroy the arcane array, the traps they had laid out would be in vain. "Sir, should we destroy the arcane array ourselves?" he suggested. They had set up this arcane array, so it was possible for them to be able to destroy it as well.

To his surprise, the spirit told him, "Destroying the arcane array is not possible, as it had been personally created by Lord Tanner himself. But I'm surprised by the magnitude of power it held, too."

Skylar froze in disbelief. If it cannot be destroyed, we have no choice but to wait! Jose was looking crestfallen and helpless when Kai walked out and sneered, "You chose to use brute strength to dismantle the arcane array instead of attempting to discover its core. I wonder how you managed to come this far in cultivating."

Marcelo was absolutely livid. He had already been simmering with anger before Kai spoke, but now his temper had reached a boiling point. “Kai, what the f*ck did you just say? If you think you’ve got what it takes, then destroy it instead of making sarcastic comments!” he demanded.

Jose narrowed his eyes and gave Kai a cold look. “Kai, what are you talking about? Are you saying that you know where the core is?” “Of course,” came Kai’s answer.

Marcelo raised his voice to ask, “Stop boasting. Why don’t you take action if you’ve got what it takes? Are you attempting to reap the rewards without putting in any hard work?”

“Why would I take action? I’m free to do anything I want. What I do is none of your business. Kai’s retort rendered Marcelo speechless.

Jose glanced at Kai calmly. “Kai, if you’re able to destroy the arcane array, I’ll allow you to join us as one of the first to enter the ancient ruins. How does that sound?”

Clearly, the first group of people to gain access to the ancient ruins would have an undeniable advantage over those that followed. To his surprise, Kai shook his head. “I can destroy the arcane array, but I won’t follow you into the ancient ruins. You are free to enter before me.”

Hearing that, Marcelo snorted icily. “Kai, are you scared that there would be traps or hidden weapons within the ancient ruins?” Kai’s lips curled, but he didn’t bother answering Marcelo’s question. His reaction merely served to increase Marcelo’s fury.

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Everyone else gave Kai mocking looks when they discovered he intended to take on the formidable task of destroying the formation singlehandedly. They doubted his ability to handle it because even Jose and his companions had failed to do so despite the fact that they had sacred martial arts relics.

There is no way that Kai could possibly destroy the arcane array on his own. Even if he knows where the core is, the arcane array is too powerful for him to destroy singlehandedly. Verner whispered softly, “Mr. Chance, you...”

He wanted to caution Kai to be wary of attempting to disrupt the formation, as those who had previously attempted to do so had died from the backlash. The elderly man from earlier was a Greater Martial Arts Marquis but unfortunately ended up sustaining severe injuries.

Flaxseed, Godrick, and Fernando stepped forward together to prevent Kai from attempting his dangerous feat of destroying the arcane array. After all, although many

people had joined forces in order to break the array, their efforts had thus far been unsuccessful.

Astrid and Evangeline also came over to Kai. Evangeline's expression was solemn as she said softly, "Mr. Chance, this arcane array isn't as ordinary as it seems. If I'm not mistaken, this is a Lethal Bloodsoul Formation, a powerful formation created by demon spirits. It takes an unimaginably strong demon to be able to form this. I wonder why it has appeared here."

The spirit inhabiting Evangeline's body was thousands of years old and also the holy maiden of Lunarius Palace, so she knew many things that Kai and the rest had never heard before.

Flaxseed chimed in, "I've heard about this arcane array. That name rings a bell, but I'm not sure why it is here. Why would an arcane array belonging to the demon spirits appear here? Did the blood demon set it up before its death?"

Kai could barely hide his surprise, too. If the ancient ruins are what actuates the revitalization of spiritual energy, then why would there be an arcane array belonging to the demon spirits? It's impossible that the demon spirits created the ancient ruins to activate the revitalization of spiritual energy.

"Did the blood demon set this up before its death?" Kai was confused. However, the blood demon had indeed passed away on Encanta Island and turned its body into a sculpture. Thus, it was highly probable that the arcane array was its doing.

No matter who had created the arcane array. Kai still had to destroy it and enter the ancient ruins.

He gave the others a reassuring smile and revealed, "I understand your fears, but please be assured that the power of this arcane array is waning. Despite its strong appearance, its core is already fragile."

Slowly, he made his way to the front and stood before the arcane array. "Sword!" Kai raised his arm, and the Dragonslayer Sword manifested in his hands. The blade shimmered and shone with ethereal light.

The moment Kai brandished the Dragonslayer Sword, everyone felt a tremendous spurt, of power spreading in all directions. All eyes were drawn to the ancient blade in Kai's hands..

It's a spiritual sword! Claus had been hiding away in a corner, his presence barely noticeable. Nevertheless, when he saw Kai's Dragonslayer Sword, his eyes suddenly lit up.

This guy must come from a family in one of the secret realms. That is the only logical explanation for why he has a spiritual sword of such a high caliber. Greed flashed across Claus' eyes as he fixed his gaze on Kai's spiritual sword..

Kai ignored the greedy gazes and directed the Power of Dragons into his sword. Soon, the Dragonslayer Sword started buzzing, sounding like the roar of a ferocious beast.

A brilliant, shimmering sword energy surged forth from the Dragonslayer Sword and ballooned into the sky. The light of the sword's sharp energy flickered and danced as it rose higher.

"Break!" Kai roared. He brought the Dragonslayer Sword down in a powerful arc, aiming it directly at the arcane array.

Boom! That strike shook the entire island. Everyone felt the vibrations as if a powerful earthquake had struck the island, The arcane array glowed brilliantly and shattered into pieces before dissolving into nothingness as if it had never existed in the first place.

Everyone's jaws dropped wide open when they realized the arcane array had been destroyed. Despite their combined efforts, Jose and his faction were unable to break the formation.

using their sacred martial arts relics. However, Kai managed to accomplish the seemingly impossible task with just a single move. His success astonished everyone present, and they could hardly believe that it had been accomplished so easily.

Jose and the like had mixed feelings. Skylar was filled with a chaotic jumble of emotions as he watched Kai effortlessly shatter the arcane array. Rage and envy built up within him.

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As his thirst for retribution grew, he grew increasingly determined to trap Kai within the ancient ruins. There was no way he would let Kai become any more powerful, or he would never succeed in avenging his father's death.

Upon recovering from the shock, many individuals soon regained their senses and swarmed toward the ancient ruins. Anyone who entered the ancient ruins first would get the upper hand.

Before they could enter the ancient ruins, Jose suddenly swung his sword out. The terrifying sword energy severed the first few individuals in front of the crowd. "Anyone who dared to enter the ancient ruins shall die!" he hollered.

Jose's men blocked the entrance to the ancient ruins. Clearly, they wanted to monopolize the entire place. Their faction was vast in numbers, giving them the audacity to be incredibly assertive.

The other sects and prestigious families protested angrily at their actions. "Let's retreat," Kai announced. He was aware that both sides were about to engage in a battle, and so he instructed Fernando, Verner, and the rest of his companions to retreat.

Right after they retreated, the battle began. No one was willing to give up, so everyone rushed forward while Jose and his men attempted to prevent them from progressing.

The sound of weapons clashing was deafening, and the anguished cries of those who were hurt or killed filled the air. Jose had planned everything beforehand and joined forces with many families which enabled them to gain an advantage over the rest.

In around ten minutes, the entire place was colored with blood, and bodies were strewn everywhere. It was a horrible sight. Kai stared at the scene, his face devoid of expression. However, at that moment, he grew increasingly determined to stop the recovery of spiritual energy.

Many families were already embroiled in a violent fight even before the recovery of spiritual energy. Should spiritual energy be restored and the families from secret realms be able to return to the mundane world, this same unfortunate occurrence would likely spread to the rest of the world.

Soon, the battle came to an end. Jose and his comrades remained at the entrance, blocking the other families from entering. All they could do was glare at them with frustration and rage, powerless to do anything else.

Jose and his companions had a clear advantage over their opponents. Within the course of ten minutes, the opposing families had sustained a considerable loss and did not dare to press forward with their attack. Right then, a middle-aged man with an injured arm stepped out. He had obviously gotten hurt in the fight earlier.

He went over to Jose and gave the latter a polite nod. "Mr. Danaher, both of us come from martial arts families and so we both understand the importance of loyalty to our respective masters. There is no animosity between us, so I implore you to not be too extreme in your actions. We are willing to let you enter the ancient ruins first, but we ask that you do not block the entrance and deny us entry. If we continue to fight, even if you and your men end up as the victor, it will be a narrow victory. How many of your men will be left standing? Don't forget that there is still someone watching us from the sidelines. You won't be able to take control of the ancient ruins in such a situation."

Having failed to defeat Jose's faction, they wanted to reason with Jose. Jose took a quick glance at Kai and noticed that Kai, along with Verner, Fernando, Godrick, and the like did not take part in the unfolding altercation.

Fernando and Godrick's men were low-ranking martial artists, yet Verner's forces were composed of many Greater Martial Arts Marquises. Although Kai's faction had a substantial number of people, their collective capabilities were not particularly impressive. That was why Jose had the audacity to act this way.

He knew there was a possibility that Kai would watch in safety while others fight, then reap the spoils when both sides suffer. There was no way he'd let that happen.

Jose had been hiding a secret weapon up his sleeve. He had brought along the Elite Eighteen, but they didn't do anything until this point as they were keeping an eye on Kai.

"Stop wasting your time talking nonsense. If you don't want to die, scram. If you still want to enter the ancient ruins, let's continue fighting!" Marcelo marched forward and yelled.