

Another World 151

Chapter 151 - Asking The Enshrined Deity To Act

Lani was surprised for a moment. As the First Elder's assistant, she naturally knew some things about the clan. She clearly understood the situation with the Buda clan and hadn't thought that this time the Buda clan would suddenly break off the engagement.

Lani knew that this matter was important, therefore she didn't say anything more about it to Stern and instead said, "Alright, I'll immediately inform the First Elder." Then she turned around and entered the doors opposite the sofa.

Soon, Lani came back out. She smiled while saying, "Stern elder, the First Elder asks for you to go in." Stern stood up, adjusted his clothes, and expressed gratitude to Lani. He then pushed past the doors and entered the room.

The room was magnificent. Inside stood two bronze incense burners with lit incense sticks. The carpet on the floor was thick and a map hung on the wall. Under the map was a fragrant red-wooden table, upon which a thick stack of documents were placed.

Behind the desk was a seated old man that looked to be around seventy years of age with neatly combed hair. Right now, he held up a brush, poised to write on a document. This person was precisely the First Elder of the Purcell clan, Kaiser Purcell.

Stern didn't dare to disturb the elder. He carefully walked to the front of the table and positioned himself on the left side.

A moment later, Kaiser placed the brush in his hands down and looked up at Stern, saying, "Well, sit down Stern. I heard that a Buda clan member wanted to break off the engagement?"

Stern bowed and answered, "Stern has seen the First Elder. Yes, Green came earlier. He had come to break off the engagement."

Kaiser nodded and said, "How do you see it?"

“The people we sent over to the Black Waste are dead, killed by Green,” stated Stern. “With Green and Meirin’s skill, they possibly hid Adam, escaping unharmed into the mountains when a magic beast tide occurred. There shouldn’t be much remaining of the slaves and commodities they brought. When Green came earlier, he was on foot, not on a horse or carriage. Later on, he went to a cheap hotel. It seems like he doesn’t have much money in his hands. Also, this time, Meirin didn’t appear, probably to protect Adam in the Black Waste. Green probably knew that this time, if they didn’t break off the engagement, then we wouldn’t be polite. Thus they came to break off the engagement and looked for me in order to ask to withdraw it.”

Kaiser sat in the chair with his eyes closed, quietly listening to Stern. After Stern finished, Kaiser looked uneasy, not knowing how to react.

Stern clearly knew the First Elder’s temperament. He was greedy, lustful, prideful, sinister, and cold. When all these words were used to describe him, it was obvious that he wasn’t a good person.

But this person had dominated the Purcell clan for fifty years. His henchmen could be found in every corner of the clan. Because of this, the Elder’s Assembly now had more power than the Clan Lord. In the face of such a person, Stern dared not overstep even a little.

Kaiser kept quiet for a moment before asking, “How was Green’s attitude?”

Stern truthfully replied, “His attitude is very bad. He taunted this subordinate again and again. It didn’t look like he came to break off the engagement, but to demonstrate this attitude.”

Kaiser nodded his head and said, “I will keep you posted on our decision. But we have to teach him a lesson; he must know that the Purcell clan can kill whomever they want to kill. When mocking a Purcell clan person, there will be a price to pay.”

Stern listened to the words of Kaiser and with a low voice, he said, “Yes, but First Elder, I found out that Green’s rank seems to have increased. Now, he seems to have reached the peak of Rank Eight. I fear that it wouldn’t be good to offend him.”

As soon as Kaiser heard Stern’s words, his eyes shoved open and gleamed as he said, “Really? Green has really reached the peak of Rank Eight?”

Stern was shocked from Kaiser's look, but he still respectfully replied, "Yes, this subordinate didn't feel wrong. He is indeed at the peak of Rank Eight."

Kaiser's eyes looked more cold. He spoke with a soft voice, "It seems that this time, not dealing with them won't be good. Stern, go back to the Grand Duke's Mansion and stall him. I will go to the Clan's Consecration Hall and request the enshrined deity to act."

Stern held his breath. He was very clear that the clan's worship was divided into many types, but that the enshrined deity he referred to was the Guardian Deity. This person's rank was truly representative of a godly character as they were the Rank Nine experts of the Purcell clan, an actual Pseudo-God existence.

Stern hadn't expected for Kaiser to even ask for the presence of a Rank Nine deity, thus he stammered and said, "Th, this. First Elder, do we really need to request Sir Guardian Deity just to deal with the puny Buda clan?"

Kaiser stared at Stern and said, "Fool, Green is now a Peak Rank Eight and most likely would be a Rank Nine deity expert soon. Right now, we shouldn't have to give face to the Buda clan. You said he will leave us alone after this? What is easier, dealing with a Peak Rank Eight expert or pleasing a Rank Nine deity? This time, we must ask the Guardian Deity to move. Attack and kill Green who is in our sights, then deal with Meirin and Adam within the Black Waste to completely remove the threat."

Stern felt cold as he understood what Kaiser meant. He couldn't help but feel ashamed and bowed his head. "First Elder's vision is really great, your subordinate is really unknowledgable. This subordinate will immediately look for Green." After bowing, he withdrew from the First Elder's room.

The First Elder stood up, fixing his clothes as he murmured, "Ah, a really big trouble. So many problems happening at the same time." Then he walked out.

Lani stood outside, looking at Stern as he left, then turned back to the First Elder and quickly greeted him with a bow. "First Elder, what are your orders?"

Grand Elder looked at Lani and said, "Immediately convene a meeting with all the elders. Arrange the carriage now, I'll be going to the Consecration yard." Lani stared, then immediately complied. She went on the desk and pulled on a rope.

After pulling the rope, a burst of bell sounds came immediately. Soon, the entirety of the building heard the sound of the bells. Lani then followed the First Elder who walked out.

What Lani pulled was the Purcell clan emergency convening bell. Upon hearing the sound, even the Clan Lord should arrive in the conference room of the Elders Court along with the other hundred elders. This bell was what the Purcell clan Elders Court used and was handed down from generation to generation. Unless there was a very big problem, one couldn't use this bell.

Lani dared to use this bell because of the First Elder's words. Afterwards, she prepared the carriage that would leave for the Consecration yard. He had only spoken a simple sentence, but Lani had been the assistant of the First Elder for a long time; she understood what the First Elder had meant.

The Purcell clan gave a lot of dedications. They did so for anyone with at least a strength of Rank Eight without exception. Their status wasn't low, but rather high. The Greater Elders and the Elders were the ones who can give them a task if something happened. If the order was good, they could follow it. Otherwise, they don't even have to dedicate themselves to the Elders Court.

There was only one who could make the First Elder personally come out and leave to pay homage directly from the Elders Court. This was the Guardian Deity of the Purcell clan, a Rank Nine deity.

To make the First Elder ask and please a Rank Nine deity to resolve a matter wouldn't be a small thing, right? Using the bell at this time wouldn't be wrong at all.

The two went to a conference room on the fourth floor which was the biggest conference room of the Purcell clan. This conference room was divided into several steps, wherein the highest seat was reserved for the Clan Lord. The next level of seats were for the three greater elders, while all the other elders sat around the conference room. The entire conference room had only one place for passing in and out of, which was a five meter square space placed in the middle. There was a table placed that allowed an elder to preside over the people in the area.

The First Elder arrived at the conference room early, as the other elders had not arrived yet. He walked silently towards his seat and closed his eyes.

Soon, bursts of footsteps could be heard, a sign that the other elders of the Purcell clan had arrived. These elders looked at the Grand Elder's seat and saw him waiting for them there. They were afraid to speak out of turn and immediately went to find their seats quietly.

Kaiser didn't seem to hear these sounds as he still sat with his eyes closed. Then a heavy pair of footsteps could be heard. All the elders in the room stood up and saluted the man in the door, saying, "Clan Lord Wanan"

Kaiser then opened his eyes and looked towards the door of the conference room. Standing there was a tall man, about two meters. He had a body like a mountain, a face with a full beard, and a look similar to an ordinary male lion that radiated fierce power.

He wore a navy blue noble's suit and held a scepter about a meter long. Walking slowly, this man was the Grand Duke of the Purcell clan, Evan Purcell.

The First Elder's big eyes flashed. Standing up and facing Evan, he bowed slightly and greeted, "Clan Lord Wanan."

Evan returned the courtesy and said, "The First Elders is too polite. I don't know why the great bell was used by the elder to convene everyone. What has happened?"

The First Elder said with a low voice, "Please sit, Clan Lord."

Evan nodded. He went to his seat and sat down, the other elders following after.

The greater elders were seated on the left and the right side of the First Elder. They were the clan's Second and Third elders. Both of them looked to be sixty years old. One was fat and the other was thin. One wore black while the other was in white, both wore elder's attire as they sat there looking at the First Elder.

The First Elder looked into their eyes, sneering in his heart as he knew that these two were looking for trouble. If he made a single mistake, they would surely catch it. But the First Elder wasn't worried. He believed that he had made the right decision and wouldn't be at fault.

Chapter 152 - Puzzled

Seeing that everyone was in attendance, Kaiser stood up. He slowly walked towards the middle of the room and onto the stage. He stood at the stage, looked at everyone, and with a sinking voice, said, "Clan Lord, fellow elders. Our Purcell clan has been struck by a string of troubles recently. Those shameless merchants, looking for a chance to pressure our clan due to the Ica plain incidence, have taken this opportunity to increase the price of food. Fortunately, under everyone's efforts, our clan hadn't taken significant losses. But now, someone dares to challenge the dignity of the Purcell clan. This absolutely cannot be permitted."

He paused for a while, looked at some of the people in the room. He felt like he were the master of the world. This feeling fascinated him. As some said, power was the best elixir of life. These words were truly accurate. Kaiser felt as if his body was full of vitality as he stood upon the stage. He felt that he could live for a hundred years. Since he felt so young, then he could still do better.

The people in the room soon began to whisper to each other. They didn't know what had happened that would make Kaiser be this serious. Kaiser looked at the crowd and continued, "Just a moment ago, the Buda clan member Green came to the Grand Duke's Mansion to break off the engagement. Some time ago, the Black Wastes had experienced a magic beast attack. For fear that a disaster would befall the Buda clan, our Purcell clan sent members to go observe and search for them, but they are now already dead. They were killed by Green. This time, they came with a desire to break off the engagement. It simply seems like they are looking at my Purcell clan as if it was nothing. Such as thing as this, he cannot be left alive."

Everyone in the conference room was surprised for a moment and looked puzzledly towards Kaiser. Kaiser saying this had confused them, but the elders understood how and what had happened. They wanted to look for the Buda clan so they had sent people to observe and even lend a hand. But the Buda clan member had killed them, which wasn't good. Now that person had even come to the Grand Duke's Mansion?

Only the Second Elder and the Third Elder, these old men, had understood why Kaiser had sent the men to the Buda clan. What they didn't understand was why Kaiser was speaking so highly of the Buda clan. Thus, the two didn't say anything and just watched Kaiser, puzzled.

Kaiser knew that what he said wasn't enough to impress these people. Although he was powerful within the Purcell clan, it was impossible to cover the skies with his hand. Furthermore, the Second and Third Elders also kept him in check.

Kaiser continued, "Green is now a Peak Rank Eight expert. Everyone knows that we initiated the engagement with the Buda clan, but now with the Buda clan's status, they are simply not a match for our Purcell clan. Although this time they offered to break off the engagement, haven't you all thought about the effects this would have towards us? Seemingly, this Green bears a grudge against us. Once he reaches Rank Nine, what will happen then?"

After saying this long speech, everyone understood the point within the sentences Kaiser had spoken and they were of the same mind with Kaiser.

They all knew that the Buda clan was suffering and had even added insult to the injury, thus making the Buda clan have a great hatred towards them. If Green really does become a Rank Nine one day, it definitely wouldn't be a good thing for the Purcell clan.

"No wonder the First Elder wants to deal with the Buda clan." After Kaiser said his reasons for wanting to deal with the Buda clan, everyone agreed to the idea. Evan could only sit at his station. He said no words as he knew they would be useless.

Second Elder said, "The First Elder's words are justifiable. However, now that the Buda clan has a Peak Rank Eight master, wanting to deal him won't be easy. Even if we can kill him, our losses wouldn't be small. I wonder what are the First Elder's thoughts about this?"

Kaiser knew that the Second Elder wouldn't be so easily swayed by his words, but he was well prepared. He nodded and said, "Naturally, I had thought of something beforehand. The carriage is now prepared and ready to go and ask a Rank Nine deity to extend his hands. First is to kill Green, avoiding any future troubles. Then, to deter those profiteers, letting them know that our Purcell clan is capable of extinguishing them."

The quiet conference room suddenly broke out in a huge burst of applause. As Laura had said, these aristocrats had large aristocratic pride; they wouldn't allow anybody to encroach on their dignity.

Kaiser's words naturally aroused the sympathy of the people in the room. Even the Second Elder, the Third Elder, and Evan didn't say anything about it.

The Second and Third Elders had been struggling for power against the First Elder. Looking at the now popular First Elder, they were naturally not in a good mood. Even now, Evan's heart was complex.

He was nominally the Lord of the Purcell clan, and the Grand Duke of the Purcell Duchy. But here in the Elders Assembly, he didn't have any right to speak. In fact, him sitting there was just him being a decoration. This was something all the elders knew. On the surface however, they were still respectful towards him. This matter was what Evan was most angry of.

Unfortunately, he didn't have any other way to change this situation. In fact, this matter was a Purcell clan secret. He had no way of telling other people. While outside and in front of other people, the elders were still very respectful towards him. This made outsiders think that the Purcell Grand Duke was still respected.

Before, there had been no reason for the Purcell clan to deal with the Buda clan. Furthermore, Evan was a friend of Adam's father, which naturally made him wish for the Buda clan to not disappear.

Unfortunately, he had helped the Buda clan in the past which greatly diminished his power. Now, he had no ability to help the Buda clan. Even if he wanted the support of the First Elder, it would be impossible.

Evan was a warrior and one could say he was not made for political plays. It was precisely because of this that he could be the patriarch of the Purcell clan; since he didn't understand politics, he was easily controlled.

Even though these three didn't take their stand, it wouldn't matter much as the other elders had already approved of the words of the First Elder which had made their blood boil.

Kaiser satisfyingly watched the result and said, "Please raise your hand if you share my opinion."

More than half of the people in the conference room raised their hands, which ultimately decided the outcome. Those whom hadn't raised their hands were the diehard supporters of both the Second and Third elders.

Kaiser nodded his head and said, "More than fifty percent of the votes approve." He then turned his head and bowed to Evan, saying "Clan Lord, Sir, may I ask the exalted deity now?"

Evan looked at Kaiser with a calm face and nodded without saying anything. As Kaiser saw Evan nod, he also didn't say anything. He bowed once more to Evan and turned around, proclaiming, "This meeting is adjourned." He headed outside after saying that.

The elders in the conference room had also left one after the other. The Second and the Third Elders sighed, then exited the room.

Although they had grabbed several elders under Kaiser's these past few days, obtaining a better position to speak up, when compared to Kaiser's power they were just almost there. But this time, this matter had made Kaiser more attractive. His popularity would surely reach a new height. When that happened, they wouldn't be able to put up a fight against Kaiser anymore.

To be honest, their moods were quite complex right now. They wanted Kaiser to be victorious in order to make the Purcell clan maintain their dignity, frightening this generation of hoodlums.

However, in their hearts, they hoped Kaiser's plan would go wrong. They hoped that the Buda clan could resist, thus making Kaiser's move void. When that happens, they could attack Kaiser, bringing down his prestige. They could then take the opportunity to deal with Kaiser.

Sadly, they knew this was impossible. This time, in order to succeed, Kaiser was willing to go please and request the Guardian Deity. The Guardian Deity was a Rank Nine expert, synonymous to invincible. It was easy for them to get rid of others, yet hard to be defeated.

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What they didn't know was that when the Purcell clan rang the bell, Zhao Hai had also received the message. Zhao Hai had previously instructed the Night Shades to observe the Purcell clan. These Night Shades were high ranked undead. In addition to being undead, they could also restrain their auras. The Purcell clan didn't have any high ranking light magicians, thus making the Night Shades even harder to detect.

The average person might not know what the sound of this bell meant, but these Night Shades knew. Don't forget, these Night Shades were high ranked undead made by Zhao Hai that also had their memories retained. Their prior organization had a certain understanding of the large clans within the continent. Since the Purcell clan had its own Duchy, then of course they were also investigated. This naturally made them understand what the bell represented for the Purcell clan.

When the Purcell clan sounded the bell, the Night Shades immediately informed Zhao Hai about the situation and what this matter meant.

Around this time, Zhao Hai was lying in his bedroom, afraid of going out. He feared Meirin would insist on continuing the discussion of the issue of marriage to him. Upon receiving the message however, Zhao Hai immediately stood up and went out.

Green was sitting in the living room and staring at the screen. He had to pay attention to his room in the hotel while in the living room. If he let others enter his room and they found out that he disappeared, then there would be trouble.

Zhao Hai also saw Green in the living room and immediately said, "Grandpa Green, there's been changes in the Purcell clan. They had just rung the emergency bell."

Green also knew a little about the emergency bell. After hearing Zhao Hai, his face couldn't help but change as he said, "Really? Did the Night Shades send the message?"

Zhao Hai nodded. "Yes, the Night Shades had sent the message. Since the Night Shades weren't detected by the Purcell clan, after the emergency bell rang they immediately notified me."

Green stood up, raised his brow, and said, "Why do they have to pull the emergency bell? We only went to break the engagement, which was what they also wanted to do. So, they shouldn't be planning anything against us, right?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "The Night Shades are observing the Purcell clan right now. However, I think that this time I'm afraid they'll never let us go easily. Grandpa Green, you must be careful with this. Maybe you shouldn't go to the Purcell clan right now and just wait till another time so that we'll know what they want to do."

Green shook his head. "No, we must withdraw the marriage proposal. If I don't see them, they'll just get suspicious. I really wish to know what they will be doing."

Zhao Hai stared at Green and said, "Alright, but you should always have the Ghost Cane with you. I'll also keep the Night Shades there to observe them. Once there's movement from the Purcell clan, I will immediately inform you."

Green nodded as Zhao Hai received some transmitted information from one of the Night Shades that stated the Foreign Affairs elder, Stern, was currently traveling towards Green's lodgings.

Zhao Hai told Green about the situation. Green smiled faintly and said, "Stern will be coming to get me. Master, I'll exit the space and see what the Purcell clan plans to do."

Around this time, Meirin and Meg entered the villa. Even Rockhead and Woodhead had come. Zhao Hai also wanted to know how the Purcell clan would plan to deal with them.

Zhao Hai saw Green move to go out and immediately said, "Alright. Grandpa Green, you must bring the Ghost Cane. This will make it easier to contact you." Green nodded and held onto the Ghost Cane as he appeared in the hotel room.

The Ghost Cane had an ability. If Zhao Hai wasn't the one holding the Ghost Cane, he could use it to communicate with the person he entrusted the cane to while staying within the space. Furthermore, their communications wouldn't be heard by a third party. This was what Zhao Hai concluded after conducting several trials.

Meirin and the others looked at the screen in the living room as they observed Green. Green sat in the room and closed his eyes. With his eyes closed, he began to recuperate his energy.

Green was aware of the problems when he went to the Grand Duke's Mansion this time. Fearing that the matter wouldn't be good, he knew he needed to keep himself in good condition.

Stern didn't let him wait too long. Pretty soon he knocked on the door. Stern then said, "Head Servant Green, it's Stern. The Purcell Grand Duke has a matter to discuss with you at the clan's mansion."

Green stood up and went to open the door. He stood in front of Stern and waved his hand towards the inside of the room. "Stern elder, please come in and we can discuss it."

Stern shook his head and said, "Mister Green, the Grand Duke is currently waiting for you. Please hurry and head over to the Grand Duke's Mansion as soon as possible."

Green narrowed his eyes which made Stern nervous, thus revealing that he was acting fishy. Although Green would like to know what the Purcell clan intended to do, he wasn't stupid. He let go of the door and walked back into the room while saying, "Come in and sit for a while. I had travelled a long way and feel very tired. I wish to drink a pot of tea first."

Stern looked back at Green, gnashing his teeth with hatred. He was, however, a member of a refined class of people and didn't urge Green. He knew that if he urged him further, it would only make him seem more suspicious. Thus, he decided to enter the room.

The hotel room wasn't large. The living room and the bedroom were placed together as one room. Green didn't call Stern to sit down on the sofa. Instead, he actually went to get a pot of tea from the tea table. He poured himself a cup of tea and made a cup for Stern. He then carried the cup over and gave it to Stern, then drank with delight.

Stern sat down and drank the tea. He couldn't help but wrinkle a brow. He knew that a small hotel like this could not provide good tasting tea. The tea was poor in these hotels, which was why he never drank it.

Green wasn't worried as he drank a mouthful of tea. Stern following him inside the room affirmed that the Purcell clan must have arranged something. Otherwise, Stern wouldn't be this cooperative with him. If, indeed, Evan was waiting for him, it wouldn't be possible for Stern to just sit here and drink tea with him. Stern coming inside the room meant that they wanted him to go to the clan's home and didn't want him to leave early.

If the Night Shades hadn't made that report about the issue of using the emergency bell, Green wouldn't have been suspicious. But because they now knew the Purcell clan sounded the bell, Green was more sure of his thoughts.

How long could two people take to drink a pot of tea? If someone dared to ask this question, Stern would have thought that such a person was a lunatic who could just leisurely think about such issues.

However, now Stern was subconsciously thinking about it and had been counting the time away. He was looking forward to finishing this pot of tea.

In fact, Green was stalling for as much time as he could as he wanted to wait and see if the Night Shades would be able to get more information. The Night Shades didn't let him down. While drinking the pot of tea, Zhao Hai informed him that the carriage of the Purcell clan had gone to the Consecration Hall.

The Consecration Hall of the Purcell clan was located in the western yard. This was a large area dedicated to those Deities.

These Deities had their own separate yards as they didn't like living together with other people. This was the reason why the Purcell clansmen lived a bit further away from them.

The Night Shades naturally knew of Kaiser elder of the Purcell clan. In fact, his former organization knew the situation in the Purcell clan very well. It even knew that Evan was just a puppet.

Zhao Hai told these things to Green. Green almost instantly thought of the words, 'Rank Nine expert' upon hearing the report. Thus, he couldn't help when his complexion changed.

Green was an experienced person and was also very clear minded. The person who could make these elders move could not be an ordinary person, not even if they were a Rank Eight expert. To make these elders of the large Purcell clan personally move only meant that it should be a Rank Nine Deity.

During this time, why would the Purcell clan suddenly act and invite a Rank Nine deity? There was only one answer, and that was to deal with him.

Green placed the half-empty cup in his hands down on the table slowly. He turned around and looked coldly at Stern. Stern watched Green and was frightened within his heart. He actually felt that Green had seen through him. He unconsciously moved his body and said, "Head Servant Green, what is wrong?"

Green suddenly smiled and said, "Nothing, thank you for accompanying me to drink tea. Stern elder, let us go."

Stern busily stood up. He couldn't seem to understand if what he saw was just an illusion. When he saw Green smile, he felt as though this smile had a profound meaning.

Green restrained his anger as they headed out of the hotel. Inside the carriage that the Purcell clan sent for him, he was thinking. He couldn't believe that the Purcell clan, in order to deal with him, would even invite a Rank Nine deity. This time, the issue was really big.

Green haven't thought that the Purcell clan would be this ruthless. He thought that if the Purcell clan could invite a Rank Nine to deal with him, then they also wouldn't let Zhao Hai and Meirin off. That is to say, the Purcell clan really planned to exterminate the whole Buda clan.

This was exactly why Green was so angry. If it were other nobility, then Green wouldn't be as angry with them as he was already disappointed with those aristocrats. But he hadn't really thought that it would be the Purcell clan who would do such a thing. Before, he had a better evaluation of this Purcell clan. He haven't thought that in the end, it would be this Purcell clan whom would be the most ruthless to them.

Although Green knew that the opposite party had invited a Rank Nine deity to deal with him, he still dared to go. In the bottom of his heart, he knew there was Zhao Hai's space. Even in the face of a Rank Nine deity he wouldn't worry much.

Green didn't tell Zhao Hai about his suspicions as he was afraid Zhao Hai would be worried. This time, he had gone to the Grand Duke's Mansion in order to completely expose the nature of the Purcell clan. He wanted them to think that even after inviting a Rank Nine Deity, they still couldn't kill him. He was waiting for that expression of shock.

The carriage immediately went into the Grand Duke's Mansion. The two men stepped down from the carriage and went towards the courtyard's living room. Upon entering the Grand Duke's Mansion, Stern's heart finally calmed down. He couldn't help look at Green strangely while smirking.

He hated Green. He started hating Green when he had asked to drink the cup of tea. He felt Green definitely asked him to drink a pot of tea that had been poisoned, or that his drink was the more poisonous one.

Once they entered the living room, Green deliberately said, "Stern elder, didn't you say that the Grand Duke was looking for me. Or is it someone else?"

Stern coldly replied, "I don't know. Probably because we took so much time, the Grand Duke went back." Then he sat on the sofa, spoke no words, and closed his eyes. He didn't even make himself available to answer Green,.

Green looked at Stern, whose appearance had a faint whiff of a smile. He understood why Stern was giving such a performance. Stern had performed as such because he believed that there was no more need to keep things hidden since they were already back in the Grand Duke's Mansion. Therefore, Stern didn't hide it anymore and tore off his disguise.

However, seeing this, Green became even more excited. Green now wanted to see what these people's face would be like when he disappeared in front of them.

Green also didn't say anything and just sat quietly. He was waiting, waiting for Stern to play his tricks, allowing Stern to feel that they were still in control. And then at the last moment, he would tell these people that he was just teasing them in order to make them play their move.

Soon, Green heard the sound of footsteps from a distance. He opened his eyes and looked at Stern, saying, "Stern elder, are you just going to accompany me in sitting here?"

As his voice faded, suddenly, the proud voice of an old man sounded. "Of course not, I'll be the one to give you an explanation."

Chapter 154 - Wind Saint Buffy

Green knew who this prestigious voice belonged to. It was the Purcell clan's First Elder, Kaiser!

Green was aware of who Kaiser was. He had some contact with him, but not too much. Thus, this made his understanding of him very limited. Kaiser gave a bad impression to Green as Green felt he was a very hypocritical old man.

However, this hypocritical and arrogant man was currently standing behind another person. This other man looked even more arrogant. He seemed to be of an elderly age with his white hair and beard on his head. His face had wrinkles that looked as though they could clamp mosquitoes dead. He wore a very ordinary magic robe along with a very common wand, but his expression wasn't ordinary.

His face showed a trace of impatience while his eyes weren't truly focused on anything. He wasn't a blind man however. On the contrary, it was just a performance that showed off his arrogance. He simply didn't place any of these people in his eyes. For him, it seemed as if he felt that everyone's presence here were nothing but air, even for these adults...

He had the qualification to think as such because he was one of the two Guardian Deities of the Purcell clan, Wind Saint Buffy!

Wind Saint Buffy was a very interesting person. He was a genius magical talent of the Purcell clan and liked magic very much. He hadn't married in his whole life as he had focused all of his energy into the study of magic laws and in practicing refinement methods. His interpersonal relationships were a complete mess.

The Purcell clan only asked him to kill. Thus, we could say that from the very beginning of when he started learning magic, the Purcell clan had made him their sword. Whomever the clan wanted killed, he would kill. Another thing besides this matter was that other than being a murderer, he was also a practitioner.

Others had said he was a lunatic. Some say he was a cultivation madman. But no matter what, he was now a Rank Nine Deity. His existence was a Deity, a Guardian Deity of the Purcell clan. Perhaps it was because of his dedication and madness that he could have his current achievements.

Buffy hadn't killed anyone for many years. He'd been a Rank Nine Deity for a decade already. But since the time he had reached Rank Eight, he still hadn't killed anyone. That was thirty years ago.

This time, Kaiser had gone to request his help in removing someone, so his appearance was him giving great face. Remember, Buffy had a strange temperament which was on par with his famous talent in magic.

Upon seeing Buffy, Green's expression couldn't help but shrink. He was very clear how strong a Rank Nine expert was. He was also clear about their self-respect for their own status, which wouldn't easily allow them to attack a lower-leveled expert. Even if they got involved, they would still act with honesty. But Buffy was not the same. Buffy was an unreasonable person for him to face. He would murder and kill people and wasn't an upright person as he usually used sneak attacks.

Upon seeing Buffy appear, Green immediately put his heart on guard. He was on full alert as he watched Buffy. Towards Buffy, however, he still stood there, seemingly defiant.

Inside the space, Meirin had also been paying attention to the situation. Upon Buffy's appearance, her complexion changed as she told Zhao Hai, "Master, please get ready to let Green back into the space at a moment's notice. This old foggy doesn't want to live — he'd even dare to face a Rank Nine expert."

After seeing this, Meirin had understood it all. Before, she felt that Green hadn't seemed quite right. But in the end, even if she felt something was wrong, she couldn't tell what it was. Now she knew that Green was prepared to face a Rank Nine expert, thus, he had looked a little strange.

Zhao Hai stared for a moment, then his complexion changed. "Grandma Meirin, you said that the old man standing there is a Rank Nine expert?" Zhao Hai referred to the old man, who, of course, was Buffy as he didn't look any older than the others present.

Meirin nodded her head and said, "Yes, that old man is named Wind Saint Buffy, a famous figure for nearly five decades. He was a cultivation madman, a cold-blooded killer. Once he became a Rank Five magician, the Purcell clan had kept him in order to use him to kill. It can be said that his entire growth process was one of murder — a very terrible person."

Zhao Hai's complexion changed. Although he hadn't seen a Rank Nine expert before, he had still heard of the prowess of Rank Nine. Since Green was the person he most cared about, right now that Green was facing a Rank Nine expert, Zhao Hai almost immediately pulled him back into the space.

Although Zhao Hai didn't immediately do so, his attention was completely focused on the outside. As long as they made a move, he would immediately pull Green back into the space.

Green looked at Buffy and said with a sinking voice, "Kaiser elder, what do you mean?"

Kaiser looked back at Green. Laughing like a fox, he replied with a deep voice, "Green, today you didn't come here to break off the engagement. Instead, I'm telling you this: we will be the ones to withdraw this marriage. Here's the marriage certificate." He handed over a piece of paper that seemed similar to a razor sharp blade as it flew towards Green.

There was a custom in the Aksu Empire. If two sides were engaged, and suddenly a side wanted to break off the engagement, they should first raise the initiative and must give the opposite party a copy of the documents of the engagement.

Green looked at the piece of paper and lifted a hand. The paper landed in his hands and he carefully read the contents. Its content were very ordinary. It stated that the Purcell clan agreed to the proposal of the breaking of the engagement that the Buda clan required. As simple as that.

Green received the piece of paper and placed it carefully in his arms. He looked at Kaiser and said, "Green would like to thank the First Elder."

Kaiser looked at the appearance of Green, smiled strangely, and replied, "Do not thank me, Steward Green. I had granted your request, so it ends now. But you should also give something to me, right?"

Green looked at Kaiser. He knew what he meant, but he still rhetorically replied, "I do not know what the First Elder wants, please tell me what it is."

Kaiser sneered and said, "What's wrong? Has Head Servant Green already forgotten that some time ago, there was a Magic Beast riot in the Black Waste? We sent several people to look into your situation, but we hadn't thought that you would actually kill them. Green, you should probably know whom you had

killed, right? They were members of the Purcell clan. Do you think that you can just kill any member of the Purcell clan? You should give me a detailed account of it.”

Green’s eyes flashed with coldness as he watched Kaiser. He snorted and said, “Kaiser, do not put an act here. Why did you send people to the Black Waste where the soil and weather was known to all. Now you want an account from me? Alright, I’ll tell you: they had brought weapons and intruded into my Buda clan’s territory. They were clearly up to no good. So, did that explanation suffice?”

“You!” Kaiser looked at Green angrily. He hadn’t thought that Green wouldn’t budge, even after seeing Buffy. In this case, since he didn’t budge, it made the people there a bit puzzled.

But he still didn’t think of it so much. He just wanted Green dead today. No matter what reason Green said, he could not be left alive. With a cold voice, he said, “Green, this is your Buda clan’s fault for forcing me. Don’t blame me for being impolite.”

Green sneered. “Do not be a hypocrite here. You know who forced who. You even invited a Wind Deity to come. How much have you paid to him? Even if I am polite to you, would you let me off? Stop dreaming, Kaiser. You’re gone, your rule over the Purcell clan will be over!”

Green spoke of a sore spot of Kaiser’s. Even though he ruled over the Purcell clan right now, Evan, Second Elder, and the Third Elder were actually unceasingly struggling for power with him. Dealing with them was a struggle that he couldn’t cope with. This feeling of powerlessness was something he had never felt before. But it was precisely because of this that he preferred to act and use a brilliant victory so that he could firmly hold his position as the First Elder.

Kaiser looked at Green and maliciously said, “Good, Green. You are unexpectedly being unappreciative. Then do not blame me. Wind Saint Sir, please begin.”

He had just finished saying those words when Buffy’s body emitted a bluish-green light. This bluish-green light was difficult to visually observe as it hit Green with a speed that had gone beyond a person’s imagination.

A green guard shield appeared on Green’s body as a mass of white mist simultaneously appeared behind Green. Upon noticing the mist, Green’s face couldn’t help but relax. He laughed and said, “Kaiser, you

want to keep me here? It won't be easy; even a Rank Nine expert cannot keep me here. Purcell clan, wait till you hear from me!"

Green's body was covered with a white fog which then turned into a misty cage. His whole body completely disappeared as he finished speaking.

When Green completely disappeared, Kaiser hadn't been able to react. He hadn't thought that this would happen in any case.

Just then, Buffy suddenly calmly said, "That transfer scroll didn't have any magic fluctuations. It appears to be ancient magic. Ah, that is a good thing."

Buffy's words made Kaiser recover. With a pale face, he said, "Your excellency Deity, did he run?"

Buffy coldly snorted and said, "No one can escape Buffy's hands. Though the magic he used was very mysterious, my Wind Bladedge still hit him. He was seriously injured. After today, his Rank Eight strength will slowly fall. Where is he from?"

Obviously, Buffy had not perceived the words that they had spoken. He regarded their existences, along with Green, as just wood. It's no wonder. After all, the strength of a Rank Nine, compared with a Rank Eight, wasn't just as simple as a difference of ranks. People who weren't Rank Nine would not appear in his eyes. Even if he sees them, they would just be ignored.

As soon as Kaiser heard what Buffy said, he was overjoyed. He was very clear that if Buffy really was excited by Green, then during the second time he made a request, the entire Buda clan wouldn't be able to run. He quickly said, "Enshrined Deity, the Buda clan had made a mistake before and was sent to Fort Iron Mountain in the Black Waste. I believe you can find them there."

Buffy nodded his head and said, "I was just thinking of going out to the Carrion Swamp to explore."

His figure flashed, disappearing from the area.

Chapter 155 - Magic Peach Treats The Wound

Upon entering the space, Green spat out a mouthful of blood. Zhao Hai and Meirin were shocked for a moment, then they quickly ran over and grabbed Green.

Green was pale, though fortunately he was conscious. Zhao Hai held Green and asked, "Grandpa Green, how are you?"

The weakened Green looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Master can rest assured, I won't die. However, that was a Rank Nine deity which I can't resist."

Green's body didn't show any signs of being wounded. There wasn't even a bone that was broken. But after Meirin checked on Green, she saw that his meridians were injured.

If it were only a flesh wound or a bone injury, then it wouldn't be too serious and would just take a little time to recuperate. But if it were the meridians, then it was a very serious injury. It may not hurt much, but fundamentally, there was a chance that one could not be restored to their optimum state.

Zhao Hai wanted to say something when Green interjected. "Master, please go back to Fort Iron Mountain. Immediately transfer all the people there and pack up everything, even the undead, back into the space. This time, the Purcell clan would surely send someone to go there and it might even be Buffy who would be going."

Zhao Hai was shocked for a moment and hadn't reacted. Meirin, however, immediately said, "Master should hurry. A Rank Nine expert is fast and if Buffy arrives earlier than us moving everything, then we're done for."

Zhao Hai immediately nodded to Meirin. "Grandma Meirin, I'll leave Grandpa Green to you. Meg, Woodhead, follow me." The three complied and followed Zhao Hai to Fort Iron Mountain.

The three people appeared in a flash at Fort Iron Mountain. Woodhead immediately organized the slaves so that they could enter the space in the shortest possible time.

Zhao Hai had actually placed various things around Fort Iron Mountain. Now, there were too many things in Fort Iron Mountain, so he could only take as much as he could. He went first to take the millstones and rollers, then took the rabbits and finally the people in the valley.

Zhao Hai hadn't taken and removed the corn seedlings, allowing them to grow well. Buffy wouldn't be able to see the corn seedlings anyway. Even if he could see them, he wouldn't be able to recognize them.

Zhao Hai spent a day or so to collect everything. Then he let loose the undead in order to destroy the castle. Afterwards, he took them back inside the space.

The slaves also had a lot of things to pack up. Although some of these things were worthless, for the slaves they were very important. They weren't willing to throw this and that away.

Zhao Hai really had no other means to take them away. Finally, after a busy night, Zhao Hai finished packing up by early morning. The castle was also restored to its originally ruined appearance.

Looking at the situation here, Zhao Hai couldn't help but hate the fact that he hadn't expected they would go back into the space. This wasn't even because of the Magic Beasts rioting, but rather because of humans.

However, Zhao Hai felt thankful as after they entered the space, a figure appeared within Fort Iron Mountain. This man was Buffy. Zhao Hai took note of him while he was in Fort Iron Mountain. Zhao Hai felt shocked. For the first time, he understood how powerful a Rank Nine was.

From Casa City to Fort Iron Mountain, if they hurried along the normal path, it would still take a month's time. Even if Zhao Hai used his oddly shaped undead, it would still take half a month of rushed travelling.

What shocked Zhao Hai more was the fact that Buffy didn't walk or run, but rather he flew through the air without anything to aid him.

Zhao Hai was shocked after seeing this scene.

“The greatest ability of a Rank Nine was to fly through spaces. Therefore, they were called pseudo-gods or Deities. Buffy entered Rank Nine more than nine years ago. As a Rank Nine, he is considered to be a powerful existence. Also, look at his appearance. It seems like he didn’t just come here to look for us. Master, please tell Drunk to be careful. Buffy might be entering the Carrion Swamp.” Meirin said all this sullenly as she sat beside him.

Meirin was in a bad mood. Green was badly hurt this time, with a lot of his meridians injured. It was difficult to think about his recovery. Even if he did recover in the future, they feared that he wouldn’t be able to return to his original state.

Zhao Hai coldly snorted. “Alright, we’ll just cut off the supply of food to the Purcell clan. Let’s see how they can cope with that.”

Meirin shook her head and said, “Master, it is not good to cut off their food supply. If we do, it will lead to retaliation from the Purcell clan. Even if we’re not the ones they will retaliate against, what about Miss Laura? We have no choice but to think about her too.”

Zhao Hai looked on calmly as he firmly shook a fist and said, “Such a thing like this is considered finished? I am not that willing to reconcile.”

Meirin took a breath and patted Zhao Hai’s back. “Master, we need to endure for now. Later, once we are powerful enough, we can fight back against them.”

Zhao Hai also took a few breaths to calm himself down. This time, he really was furious. Green was an elder whom he respected. Since he had come here to the Ark Continent, Green had been continuously loving towards him. It was like he were his own grandfather since he cared so much for him. Now that Green had been injured by the Purcell clan; how could Zhao Hai not be angry?

Zhao Hai calmed down, turned to look at Meirin, and asked, “Grandma Meirin, how’s the situation with Grandpa Green?”

Meirin frowned. “It’s not good. His meridians were injured and if they aren’t properly handled, then his strength will regress. It may be impossible for him to become a Rank Eight expert again.”

Zhao Hai gritted his teeth and punched the table with his fist. He hated himself. Why couldn't he enhance his level faster. If he did, then there would be better herbs that could be planted which could help Green recover.

After thinking about the herbs, Zhao Hai suddenly remembered that in his space, there were four magic peaches that were left untouched. When he'd received the magic peach, the space had prompted that the magic peach's flesh could cure injuries.

With a thought, Zhao Hai turned his hand and a large peach appeared. He handed the peach to Meirin and said, "Grandma Meirin, please give this peach to Grandpa Green. The flesh of the peach could cure his injuries. However, I don't know much about the effects. Also, please leave the seeds."

Meirin certainly knew what the magic peach was. However, she hadn't known that the flesh of the fruit could cure injuries. Now that Zhao Hai had taken it out, she thought that it might be possible.

Meirin immediately took the magic peach. "Ok, I'll show it to Green." She stood up and walked out of the room.

Zhao Hai stood up and said, "I'll go with you."

They went to Green's room where Green lay on his bed. His body looked so weak. He had a pale face and the usually serious and strong old man looked so weak right now.

Meg was the one taking care of Green. Meirin entered and immediately placed the peach in Green's hand, saying, "Eat this immediately. Master had just taken this out and said that the flesh of this peach can treat wounds."

Green was stunned for a moment, then he remembered that there was such a thing. He slowly sat up and impolitely raised the magic peach and took a bite.

He had just eaten through the skin and felt the peach juices flow out. Green hastened to suck it all in. The whole magic peach turned into peach juice and then something different as it flowed into his mouth.

After he extracted all of the juice from the peach, the skin of the peach also turned into liquid and was sucked by Green's mouth. Now, only the seed remained in his hands.

Yes, the magic peach's seed core was different. The seeds of a normal peach had a natural looking pit, while the magic peach's seed was smooth. It was about five centimeters in diameter, dark brown in color, and had a white dot at the center. This small dot bulged. It looked nothing like a peach seed. It looked more like metal, a bit like a scaled down version of a grenade.

Zhao Hai and the others couldn't help but be curious as they saw the peach pit. Although this peach pit had been inside the magic peach, the surface wasn't sticky and it was actually very dry.

Green felt heat flowing through and surging within his body. He quickly placed the peach pit down and started cultivating.

Slowly, the heat flow grew bigger and bigger. Along with his Battle Qi, it flowed throughout his body. His damaged meridians, as long as this heat flowed through, would immediately feel comfortable. This feeling... let's say it were like your whole body had soaked in a hot spring.

Green also studied the Wild Dragon Battle Qi. In this world, Battle Qi was divided into two versions. One version was the attributed Battle Qi while the other was the non-attribute Battle Qi. The attributed Battle Qi only applied when the attribute of the body and Battle Qi were consistent with each other. Only then could one practice this. For example, if one had a wind element physique, then they could study Wind element Battle Qi. If one wanted to study water element Battle Qi, that would be impossible. They might even get injuries on their meridians, or have an accidental magic discharge.

Although this type Battle Qi had such a limit, it was undeniable that such Battle Qi was powerful. Moreover, practitioners with their own attributes that coincided would have a much faster speed while practicing. This attributed Battle Qi, however, was generally controlled by major clans, with little of it divulged to outsiders.

The other Battle Qi was the non-attribute Battle Qi. This non-attribute Battle Qi meant that anyone could learn it, no matter what constitution their body had. This was the non-attribute Battle Qi.

Non-attribute Battle Qi was also further divided into two parts. One was low-level and the other was high-level. Low-level non-attribute was very common on the continent. Every magic military academy

could learn it. Even the army taught some practitioners such non-attribute Battle Qi practice methods. Wanting to get a positive results from cultivating low-level non-attribute Battle Qi, however, was very difficult.

Another type was the high-level non-attribute Battle Qi. This type of Battle Qi's power wasn't any worse than the attributed Battle Qi, and the number of people that practiced this was very rare in the continent. The Buda clan's Wild Dragon Battle Qi was a type that belonged to this group of high-level non-attribute Battle Qi.

Chapter 156 - To Wait

After absorbing the Battle Qi, Green's injuries were miraculously improving. He opened his eyes and saw Meirin. She stood before him with a worried expression and he couldn't help but chuckle slightly. "Good stuff. The injuries are completely cured."

Meirin and the others couldn't help but be relieved. At the same time, Meirin asked, "Are you really fine? But your meridians had been injured,"

Green nodded his head and said, "I'm fine, really. This Magic Peach is really amazing. It seems we will have to save a few for our own use."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but laugh. Green stood up from the bed, looked at the crowd, and questioned, "Master, how are the arrangements for the slaves? Now that they are back in the space, I fear some of them won't be that used to it."

Zhao Hai nodded. The slaves had been used to life outside of the space where they had their own rooms along with their own meager possessions that they cherished a lot. Since they have returned to the space, they were somewhat sad.

Green said with a cold voice, "Purcell clan, you all just wait. Sooner or later, what you had given us, we will certainly return it."

Zhao Hai also had an expression of hatred. This time, the Purcell clan really went too far. They even requested a Rank Nine expert to deal with them and they wanted to exterminate them all.

* * * * *

What the group didn't know was that presently, the Purcell clan was more worried than them, especially Kaiser. Kaiser absolutely did not expect that even after he asked a Rank Nine expert, Green could still escape. If Buffy killed Green this time, then he could say it was fortunate. If they couldn't kill Green, it would be very troublesome for the Purcell clan.

Although Buffy said he had injured Green, and that it was possible that Green wouldn't make it back to Rank Eight, there was still Meirin who was also a Rank Eight water magician.

If Meirin came to confront the Purcell clan from the front, then they were not afraid. But they were afraid that Meirin would attack them from behind. The Purcell clan had a lot of business within the continent. Each year, they would send caravans along with some of the juniors of the clan to allow them to try and gain some experience. If Meirin wanted revenge, then she could retaliate and get rid of those people. Their losses would be big as they couldn't just let a Rank Eight expert follow and protect all these people. After all, they didn't have that many Rank Eight experts.

Kaiser felt sick as this was the plan he had put forward. Now, his plan could be regarded as a half-failure. If Buffy could also kill Meirin, then that was better. Otherwise, his plan would fail completely.

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Buffy also felt that things were complicated. After he arrived at Fort Iron Mountain, he found out that there was no one there. He moved to search the surroundings of Iron Mountain, but still wasn't able to find anyone, which made Buffy feel strange.

Rank Nine experts also had a weakness. That is, whenever they went somewhere, they liked to use their own divine sense to survey the place.

Divine sense was a unique ability used by Rank Nine experts, whether they were a warrior or a magician. Once practitioners reached the Rank Nine, they would gain divine sense. Before reaching Rank Nine,

most practitioners could only achieve spiritual sense that could be used to observe and detect something inside their own bodies. A Rank Nine expert warrior could use their divine sense to cover a radius of one kilometer. Rank Nine magicians, however, usually had a stronger spirit than warriors. Their divine sense could cover a radius of up to three kilometers.

Upon Buffy's arrival at Fort Iron Mountain, he had used his divine sense to investigate Iron Mountain and it had resulted in him not finding anyone. He even went inside Fort Iron Mountain and searched, but he really didn't find anyone there.

If one were a mercenary, then you could have observed details such as the thickness of dust within Fort Iron Mountain to check if someone had just recently left. Buffy, however, couldn't use such knowledge for this situation. If you wondered about his lifelong experience of murdering people, everything he knew about the person he was tasked to murder and their detailed information would already be provided. All he had to do was go to their door, kill the person, and then clean it up. This time however, he really didn't know anything. He just took a glance through Fort Iron Mountain and found there was nobody there, so he flew towards Iron Mountain to search there.

He certainly wasn't like others. As he flew, he searched Iron Mountain bit by bit while using his divine sense. In the end he still found no one as he flew by. Still, he hadn't flown past the canyon where the corn was planted. Even if he did, he wouldn't be able to recognize them.

Since Zhao Hai hadn't been found, Buffy decided to turn and fly back instead of going to the Carrion Swamp to explore. Although Buffy didn't care about the world, he was still loyal to the Purcell clan. Since he didn't find Zhao Hai, he planned to return and tell the clan about it.

Even though Zhao Hai knew that Buffy had already left, he didn't dare go out of the space. They didn't know if Buffy was still around Fort Iron Mountain. If Buffy was still there and they went out, then they would be exposed. Therefore, Zhao Hai decided to stay longer within the space.

Also, Zhao Hai's food transaction with the Purcell clan hadn't been stopped and he hadn't raised the prices. He was very clear that it was not the right time to increase the price. If they increased the price, then Purcell clan would try and retaliate. Though he wasn't afraid of them, this was not the case for Laura. In order to not get Laura into trouble, they decided to continue their normal trading with the Purcell clan.

Kaiser's mood wasn't good as he sat within his office. Papers just lay on the table since he wasn't in the mood to manage them.

Yesterday, he had planned everything properly. As long as Buffy killed Green with one strike, he could then send Rank Eight experts to the Black Waste and kill Meirin which would then settle this entire matter. He would then gain the support of most of the centrist elders, greatly stabilizing his position as the First Elder.

However, he hadn't ever thought that Green would actually have an ancient magic tool which he could use to unexpectedly escape. Although he hadn't heard of anyone using such ancient magic tools, since Buffy said it was so then it should be the truth. He could only hope that Buffy would be able to successfully find Meirin and kill them all. This would likely help him recover from the setback.

Kaiser sat spellbound, looking forward for Buffy to come back quickly to give him the news. This was because he felt that the Second and Third Elders had changed their looks towards him after Green escaped.

Kaiser understood what their gazes meant. The Second and Third Elders were waiting for him to make a mistake. If Buffy wasn't able to destroy the Buda clan this time, then his good old days would be coming to an end.

With these thoughts, Kaiser couldn't help but become irritable. He loudly called, "Lani, come here."

Lani, who was outside, froze for a moment, but still immediately went to Kaiser and bowed. "Great Elder, what are your orders?"

Kaiser looked at Lani's graceful figure that was hidden within her magic robes. He spoke with eyes full of desire, "Come here."

Lani hadn't been following Kaiser for a day or two, so she understood Kaiser's meaning. Looking at Kaiser's expression, she knew what he wanted to do. She wasn't afraid, but instead gave a charming smile back.

* * * * *

In the eyes of outsiders, on this day, the Purcell clan seemed just normal. However, the people within the clan actually understood that this was just the calm before the storm. Everyone was waiting for Buffy. If Buffy was successful, then there wouldn't be any big happenings inside the Purcell clan. If Buffy failed, then it would be a huge storm blowing towards the Purcell clan. People there feared that there would be a necessary reshuffling of ranks.

Everyone in the Purcell clan waited for the news, while the other major forces in Casa City also sent messages to the Purcell clan members to inquire about any changes. They were all waiting for Buffy's news.

Don't underestimate the power of the other respected and large clans. They had placed spies in the Purcell clan, so as soon as an important matter happened in the Purcell clan, they would know of it and word will spread all over the continent. Even the high officials wouldn't be spared from this.

This only meant that even if you were in a high position, you wouldn't have any privacy. Of course, these words were only relative to other high ranking people and it would be impossible for the commoners to know about these matters that involved the senior officials.

Laura was among such forces. Laura now sat in her study, frowning. Nier was standing behind her as usual while Quinn John sat opposite of her, also frowning. The three of them didn't say anything.

After some time, Laura loudly called, "Messenger."

A servant who stood outside the room immediately came, bowing to Laura and asked, "What are your orders, Young Lady?"

Laura said, "Are there any new reports about the Purcell clan?"

The servant bowed and said, "There has been no news yet as Buffy still hadn't returned."

Laura nodded and the servant bowed while retreating. Turning her head, Laura asked Quinn John, "Grandpa Quinn John, what do you presume the Purcell clan members are thinking? Why did they come up with such a thing this time around? This will affect our plans."

Quinn John smiled bitterly and said, "What else but the pride of those great nobles as well as the extravagant actions of these aristocrats. The matter between the Purcell clan and the Buda clan is well known throughout the continent. This time, I heard that the head servant of the Buda clan is already a Peak Rank Eight. If someday he breaks through, it will be very troublesome with regards to the Purcell clan. Therefore, they went and looked for an excuse to kill the opposite party, but they hadn't thought that their opponents would possess an ancient magic tool. This allowing them to escape. If Buffy is successful this time, then all the better. However, if he failed then the Purcell clan would have to live with it. As such, our plans will be affected."

Laura stood up agitated. "These fellows are really... the Buda clan had already met with misfortune, and now they added insult to injury. They broke the engagement and made it so that they can extinguish them, which created so much trouble. If because of this matter, a civil war starts with the Purcell clan, then along with the issue of grain production, the large firms will certainly mobilise. I fear that food prices won't be stable for long."

Quinn John smiled bitterly. "For now, we can only wait. If Buffy's operation is successful, then everything is fine. If it is not successful, we have to think of a way. Oh, right. Young Lady, I think we should go and greet Mr. Zhao Hai ahead of time?"

Laura shook her head and said, "We should first wait for the exact news from the Purcell clan. Anyway, no matter what, this issue won't affect Mr. Zhao Hai."

Quinn John sighed and said, "I feel sorry for the Buda clan. This time, I fear they won't be able to escape this difficult situation. After all, Buffy is a Rank Nine expert."

Chapter 157 - News

Laura sighed and said, "I must say that the Buda clan really has had enough injustice. They knew they were only a small aristocrat, and then the King did that thing to them. Sadly, they hadn't thought that it would actually push themselves to become the enemies of all the nobles."

Quinn John replied, "It wasn't that the Buda clan didn't understand, it's just that if they didn't do it, they would die. However, it was the Old King of the Aksu Empire that had underestimated the strength of the old nobility."

“The young master of the Buda clan really has bad luck,” said Laura. “I heard that the young master was called Adam. Although he was a dandy, he wasn’t wicked. Unfortunately, he was actually compelled to drink the Water of Nothingness. Although they has two Rank Eight experts, I fear that they cannot even guarantee their own lives. At that time, they were sent to the Black Waste while he still hadn’t regained consciousness. I really fear that they won’t escape unharmed from this disaster.”

Quinn John nodded and said, “A Rank Nine expert’s strength is not that simple. I heard that Green was injured with only one strike. To injure a Peak Rank Eight really shows the difference between Ranks Eight and Nine.”

Laura replied, “Yes ah, from what Buffy said, Green was badly injured. Even if the injury was to be healed, his rank would definitely drop. Even though the Purcell clan hadn’t successfully killed off Green, it could be said that it caused the Buda clan the loss of an arm.”

Quinn John sighed. “This is strength. If the Buda clan had a Rank Nine expert, they could officially become a powerful aristocratic clan and no one would dare to do such a thing to them.”

The large aristocratic clans on the continent were typically ranked on two main aspects. One was that they should have a long history of inheritance. This would show that they were qualified to become a great aristocrat. The second was to look at their strength. As long as they had strength, even if they didn’t have a long history, they could still become a great aristocrat. Strength wasn’t measured by their wealth, but whether or not their clan had a Rank Nine expert.

It could be said that a Rank Nine expert didn’t only represent their strength, but also their influence. If it were to be compared to Earth, then they would be the nuclear weapons. They were the deterrent force, and the times they were used was very rarely.

Laura looked at Quinn John, saying, “Grandpa Quinn John, just how many Rank Nine experts does the Markey Dell clan have? We had allied with Mr. Zhao Hai, but he’s only a Rank Eight expert. Would he really be able to help us? ”

Quinn John was smiling when he replied, “Of course. Although the Markey Dell clan seems very powerful, in fact, the clan only has two Rank Nine experts. They should be in closed-door cultivation throughout the years, thus they wouldn’t be moved so easily. The clan has an abundant amount of Rank Eight experts, but Mr. Zhao Hai himself is a Rank Eight Black Magician which no one would want to mess

with. Along with his two formidable followers, there would be three Rank Eight experts with us. If you add up this old man, then the clan won't easily move against us. ”

Laura nodded after hearing what Quinn John said. She understood that their strength was not weak; four Rank Eight experts would be enough to maintain a small clan within the continent.

With this thought, Laura couldn't help but be happy. Then she said, “Grandpa Quinn John, our business recently has been very good. I will wait till this storm passes and then immediately contact Mister with regards to the meat processing plant matter. I see that it looks as though Mister is in need of money. ”

Quinn John immediately nodded and said, “We should do this thing. Mister has been really helpful to us too. This time, if not for the words of Mister, we would have a difficult time surviving here in the Purcell Duchy.”

Laura also nodded her head. It may seem like the food crisis wouldn't have much effect, but for Laura, relatively speaking it was very important. If, during this time, they weren't able to get food from Zhao Hai, then they wouldn't have any commodities to sell which would cause a rise in the prices of food. The commoners rarely ate meat, which in turn will reduce the demand for such commodities, further affecting the Higanbana shops.

They didn't want to lobby to not increase the price as this somewhat offended those merchants. If they really let those businessmen succeed, then they would start to suppress Laura. Even if they didn't directly handle Laura, they could suppress them through trade. This would make Laura think of whether or not to stay within the Purcell Duchy.

Laura wanted to add and borrow the strength of Zhao Hai, as she was grateful to Zhao Hai. But she also feared that Zhao Hai's camp might be stronger than her's. Furthermore, Zhao Hai had a large territory that supported him, so Laura needed to be careful.

Quinn John looked at Laura. “If I remember correctly, Mr. Zhao Hai said he wanted some magic plant seeds? Then we should begin to prepare them. By the way, we should also give Mr. Zhao Hai some common magic beasts. Although Mister needs the money now, if we send these things I'm sure Mister would accept them.”

“Alright,” Laura said, nodding. “We will begin the preparations now. If only we didn’t have such an issue, we would have already begun.” Then Laura called for someone, explaining the matters that needed to be handled.

Laura’s influence in the Purcell Duchy wasn’t small. Now that she was in cooperation with the Purcell clan, it could be said that her position inside the Purcell Duchy was very high. It was to the point where even the Purcell clan would give her face.

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It was tranquil now within Casa City, but underneath it all there were dark waves surging as everyone waited for Buffy’s news. The large clans were also secretly getting ready. If Buffy delivered good news, then they would give up. If Buffy delivered a bad news, then they wouldn’t be polite.

As long as the Purcell clan didn’t send their Rank Nine experts, these large firms weren’t afraid of the Purcell clan. Also, behind them was, after all, support from the other large clans. If the Purcell clan really dared to use their Rank Nine experts to deal with them, then the large clans that backed them up would definitely send their own Rank Nine experts. By that time, the Purcell clan would suffer further losses.

Kaiser ruled the Purcell clan for too long. Since the Purcell Duchy was their jurisdiction, he could do whatever he wanted. He began to grow proud and arrogant in his thoughts. He felt that as long as they could move their Rank Nine experts, then they could intimidate those large firms. What he had forgotten was that those large firms also had their own Rank Nine experts. If they really had to be dealt with by a Rank Nine expert, then those firms wouldn’t be polite.

The day passed calmly, which was the same for the next day. Since Buffy hadn’t returned, everyone continued to wait quietly. Then, Buffy finally came back on noon of the third day.

Zhao Hai had been paying attention to the situation with the Purcell clan while inside the space, especially when he saw Buffy. Buffy landed on the yard of the Purcell clan, in the area near where Green had previously disappeared from when he went back into the space. This allowed Zhao Hai to see him.

Buffy’s arrival alarmed everyone. One could say that the entire Casa City’s big influences had their nerves tightened at once.

After Kaiser had gotten the news, he arrived in the earliest possible time at the yard. He saw that Buffy stood quietly in the yard and was not moving.

Kaiser entered the courtyard to meet Buffy. He quickly gave his greetings and bowed. "This one has seen the Enshrined Deity. This old man would just want to ask Sir if they had found the Buda clan people?"

Kaiser knew Buffy's temper. Being polite to him wouldn't be of use, but directly asking him what you wanted to know would allow Buffy to naturally tell you the answer.

Buffy shook his head and said, "I didn't find him. I searched the entire Black Waste, but there was not even a shadow of the Buda clan, not even at Fort Iron Mountain. I came back to tell you of this matter. You have to be ready as I'm going to explore the Carrion Swamp. If there's a matter, don't bother coming to look for me." Having said that, his body disappeared from the area.

Buffy was gone and Kaiser's face was now difficult to describe. He didn't expect that Buffy wouldn't be able to find the Buda clan. With regards to him, this was very bad news.

Almost at the same time, the other large clans also received the news. With regards to them, this news was good but they hadn't immediately increased the food prices. Rather, they sent their representatives to the Second and Third Elders.

At the Purcell clan, the Second and the Third Elder were in a power struggle with the First Elder. Although the large clans knew about this, the matter wasn't anything new to them. Most of the large clans had this kind of situation. They contacted the Second or the Third Elder in hopes that this time around, they could give their support to either the Second or Third Elders. With this, they could then propose to increase the food prices.

Although, this idea was contradictory. If they raised the prices, that in itself would put the Purcell clan in a bad position. So, how could they get the support of the Second and the Third Elders?

Laura also heard the news, but she only felt sad. She knew that the Purcell clan would usher forth a storm, and she would also be affected by this turmoil.

Large clans used any means that could be used in order to obtain their high position. This time around, the First Elder had made a huge mishap. The attack to his prestige due to this wasn't small. Wanting to shake the foundation of the First Elder, however, wouldn't be so easy. After all, the First Elder had ruled over the Purcell clan for so many years. Naturally, he would have his own methods to deal with this matter. However, it was undeniable that this was the First Elder's weakest moment.

If the First Elder wasn't able to solve this personal matter, then he could be considered to really be in trouble. This time, the issue that would be a problem would be the food crisis.

For those in a high position, the First Elder's enemies could sacrifice some interests of the Purcell clan. They could cooperate with those merchants to increase the food prices. After the prices had risen, naturally, the First Elder wouldn't be able to solve it. Then they would take this opportunity to make the First Elder step down. In their eyes, the increase in prices would just affect the life and death of the commoners. To them, the lives of these commoners wasn't as important compared to power.

Chapter 158 - Forgetting a Person

Laura restlessly walked back and forth around the study. For her, Buffy had brought back really bad news.

She was sympathetic towards the Buda clan, but now that Buffy hadn't completed his task, it would mean that the Purcell clan would have internal disorder. For her, this was definitely bad news.

If it hadn't happened now, then it would have just been like other times where only the Purcell clan would become chaotic. Right now however, this was related to the lives of other humans. This meant that it wouldn't only affect the members of the Purcell clan, but also the millions of commoners within the Purcell Duchy.

Quinn John frowned as he sat in the study. He really didn't know what to do in this situation. They wanted to intervene with this issue, but if they failed to fix it, then they would fall deeper into the whirlpool.

The problem was that if they didn't get involved, then no matter what the outcome was, the first ones to be in a bad situation would be them. So, they could only get involved.

However, involvement and participation were different. Getting involved was most essential as long as the opportunity and the method used was correct. Not only could they preserve themselves, but they could also receive the maximum benefit.

Suddenly, a servant ran from outside and bowed to Laura. "Young Lady, we just received a message. The Cena clan and several other clans have made their move. They didn't raise the prices however. They only sent their representatives to the Second and Third Elders."

Laura wrinkled her brow and waved her hand. "Go down and look for any new circumstances, then tell me right away." The servant complied while bowing and retreated.

Laura looked at Quinn John and said, "Grandpa Quinn John, what do you think the Cena clan wants to do? Do they wish to help the Second or the Third Elders in order to gain a higher position?"

"I'm afraid this is the case," Quinn John said, nodding. "If the Second or Third Elders really do form an alliance with them, then they would even give up on the food price action. So long as they could help either elder gain a superior post, they could then receive help in return. When that time comes, they will surely dominate the market throughout the whole Purcell Duchy. Their calculations this time is very fine."

Laura frowned and said, "Then what should we do? Are we just going to wait until we are in a disadvantaged position?"

Quinn John's eyes flashed. "Wait? Of course we cannot wait. If we become more passive, in the end we will be pushed aside by them. Don't even think of looking at the matter of us helping the Purcell clan with regards to this food crisis, and that they would be grateful to us. That is useless. For them, so long as there's enough benefits, they would sacrifice anything. What we have to do now is to send a representative to someone in the Purcell clan and give him our support. Even if he cannot win, at least he will have some right to speak in the Purcell clan. That is the way we can preserve our business."

Laura was surprised for a moment and asked, "Who is it then? My fear is that the Cena clan already made contacts with the Second and Third Elders. Even if we go now, we're too late."

Quinn John slightly chuckled. “Do not forget that there is a person within the Purcell clan who also had authority. However, he helped the Buda clan and was forced to have his authority suppressed. Isn't this a good chance?”

Laura was surprised for a moment. She immediately thought of whom Quinn John was referring to. It was the titular Clan Lord, the Grand Duke of the Purcell Duchy, Evan.

Before, Evan’s power wasn’t much worse than the elders. Because he was young, he didn’t have much experience in political struggles. Adding to the fact that he had helped the Buda clan, his authority became suppressed by the greater elders. Along with him laying low, seemingly uncaring, this made him into a wooden, ornamental figure. This was also why Laura never really thought of him.

Quinn John looked at Laura, chuckling. “Recently, Evan has completely laid low and people have already forgotten his presence. But isn’t this just his wise plan? Does he really have nothing in his hands? False. Although his authority has been suppressed, he isn’t just a mere figurehead. He still has some power, but his recent forbearance kept it hidden, so people had forgotten he existed.”

Laura thought about it and said, “That does seem to be the case. Since the Buda clan issue, Evan has been very low profiled. Too low profiled that people have even forgotten about him. If he really does have some power in his hands, and we help him, perhaps he can grasp this opportunity.”

Quinn John continued to chuckle. “That’s what I mean. Right now, we need to break things down into two groups. First, meet Evan. Young Lady, you shouldn't be the one to come forward and meet him this time. This matter is widely known and the target is too big. So, I’ll handle that affair. You should immediately go to Mr. Zhao Hai and tell him about the situation here. Clearly talk to him about this so that Mister could also be prepared.”

Laura nodded her head and said, “Alright, I’ll go immediately while Grandpa Quinn John can meet with Evan.” She walked out with Nier after saying that.

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In Casa City, the large clans were all focused at the Purcell clan when people suddenly discovered that Laura sat in a carriage that was heading out of the city, straight towards the direction of Stony Mountain.

With Laura out of the city, it made those large clans relax. To be honest, they now had a knot of enmity with Laura, but they actually didn't dare to move against Laura. Laura wasn't just a member of the Markey Dell clan, but was also backed by a black magician with unfathomable strength.

These large clans also knew that the Purcell clan cooperated with Zhao Hai. At this level, doing this hiddenly and secretly wasn't possible. Precisely because of this, those people felt the fearsomeness of Zhao Hai.

For a long time, Garan had been a famous and powerful Rank Eight light magician on the continent and was known as a difficult adversary for black magicians. Previously, he led an army along with a countless number of experts. Unexpectedly, they were silently exterminated, thus showing how terrifying Zhao Hai's strength was.

These people all knew about the relationship between Zhao Hai and Laura. Zhao Hai had saved Laura's life and also produced commodities, which he then allowed Laura to sell. This had settled to become an alliance between them. In this case, offending Laura was equivalent to offending Zhao Hai. Most importantly, Zhao Hai was a black magician, an entity they didn't want to mess with.

These people thought that Laura was going to Zhao Hai to tell him about the current situation of Casa City. They were not worried so long as this move wouldn't interfere with their plans.

Laura leaving the city wasn't only to inform Zhao Hai about the current situation of Casa City. It was also to attract the attention of these large clans, which made it easier for Quinn John to approach Evan.

This time, Laura travelled faster than her previous journeys as it took less than half a day to reach Stony Mountain. Zhao Hai also received the message that Laura had arrived at the foot of the mountain. Green immediately received Laura at the mountain.

After Zhao Hai greeted Laura in the living room, he let her sit down and directly asked, "Miss Laura, are you here this time to talk about the Purcell clan's incidence? I heard that the Purcell clan is now in a little bit of trouble."

Laura knew of Zhao Hai's intelligence gathering capability as she had experienced it before, so she was not surprised this time. She just smiled and said, "I'm afraid that this time, the trouble is not small. Rather, they are in big trouble."

This made Zhao Hai stare. They didn't fully understand what the situation of the Purcell clan was. Even Meirin and Green didn't know about it either.

Zhao Hai was puzzled and asked, "Isn't it just about the engagement being broken off? They wanted to kill people because of it, so what trouble are you talking about?"

Laura smiled. "It is how you said, Mister. Mister probably doesn't know that this time around, the Purcell clan might have some civil strife."

Zhao Hai frowned and said, "Really? You should be careful of what you're saying."

Laura nodded her head. "In the Purcell clan, the Clan Lord supposedly holds the highest authority. Then the Elders Assembly, wherein the First Elder is the existence that supervises the Clan Lord. Further on, the elders have the ability to impeach the Clan Lord in cases where he had significantly offended the clan.

"However, right now in the Purcell clan, the Grand Duke, Clan Lord Evan, doesn't have much authority and power. Evan became the Clan Lord at a very young age. Since their clan's First Elder, Kaiser, had been managing the clan's affairs for so many years, it became the main reason why his influence is so strong. Seeing Evan being inexperienced, Kaiser took opportunities to suppress his authority. Later, he had heard of Evan's friendship with the Buda clan. When the Buda clan's disaster happened, Evan tried to help the Buda clan secretly. Due to this matter, his authority was suppressed even further. Now the power in the Purcell clan is concentrated in the hands of the three greater elders, with a large part of it in Kaiser's hands while the other two elders had only a little difference between each other."

Zhao Hai's face was hidden under the magic robe while Green's armor blocked off his face. Of course, this meant Laura couldn't see their faces, so naturally, she didn't discover their looks of shock.

Especially for Green. Green hated Evan even more because of Evan's previous friendship with Adam's father. He thought that when they had gotten into trouble, the Purcell clan had added insult to their

injuries and he thought Evan was the one pulling the strings. Now he knew that Evan helped them secretly, even paying such a large price because of it.

Laura saw that the two men didn't say anything, so she continued, "This time, the Buda clan's Head Servant suddenly appeared in Casa City to break off the marriage engagement they had with the Purcell clan. Kaiser saw that the Buda clan's Head Servant Green was already a Peak Rank Eight expert. For fear of retaliation once Green breaks through to the Ninth Rank, they asked their Guardian Deity, Buffy, to kill him. However, they didn't think that Green would have an ancient magic tool that unexpectedly allowed him to escape.

"Buffy then went to the Black Waste to chase down the Buda clan, but he didn't find them. This became Kaiser's utter failure. He had been the one to initiate the plan to please and request for the Rank Nine Guardian Deity's assistance, which was a big move. This time, Kaiser had forcefully advocated for this plan and finally, it didn't succeed which is a great blow for Kaiser. Now, the large clans in Casa City have taken the opportunity to initiate contact and cause competition among the elders. It seems like civil strife for the Purcell clan will be inevitable."

Chapter 159 - Zhao Hai Ponders

Zhao Hai quietly listened to Laura. He hadn't thought that this matter would have such dire consequences. He clearly understood that if a civil strife happened within the Purcell clan right now, then it would affect the entire Purcell Duchy.

While Zhao Hai hated the Purcell clan, that didn't mean he hated everyone that lived inside the Purcell Duchy. If he really hated the whole of the Purcell Duchy, then he wouldn't have sold the Purcell clan food during this food crisis.

However, if civil strife really happened in the Purcell clan, then all that they had done before would've been in vain. The most important part was the impact of this to Laura.

Zhao Hai wouldn't let Laura have an accident right now. Laura was the only channel he had to sell his products from the Space. If anything were to happen to Laura, he wouldn't be able to find and trust others to sell for him. With regards to Zhao Hai, this would be a large blow. Right now, the development of the Black Waste still needed a lot of funds.

Looking at Laura, Zhao Hai asked, "What about Buffy?"

"I heard that Wind Saint Buffy is going to explore the Carrion Swamp," Laura replied. "However, I think this is an ominous decision. Going to the Carrion Swamp isn't good."

Zhao Hai froze for a moment and couldn't help but smile. He really hadn't thought that Buffy would unexpectedly still want to go to the Carrion Swamp. Fortunately, he hadn't brought the slaves out of the Space. Otherwise, as Buffy went on his way to the Carrion Swamp, he would possibly have seen them.

"Miss Laura, what do you mean by that?" Zhao Hai asked, looking at Laura.

"I came here to inform Mister about the situation in Casa City," she replied. "Also, Mister should be prepared. Mister should pay attention to any large firms who may be cornered and act against Mister out of desperation. Furthermore, we are currently ready to make a deal with Evan and help him seize the authority a Grand Duke rightfully has. In the entire Purcell clan, only Grand Duke Evan can work with us. Since Grand Duke Evan has some conscience, he will still care about the lives of those commoners currently living in the Purcell Duchy."

Zhao Hai nodded. "I have no problem with that. Rest assured, if you require any help, then we will come to your aid. Also, I still have more than five hundred thousand kilograms of bamboo rice. If you wish, you may pick them up."

Laura was surprised for a moment. She really hadn't thought that there could still be so much bamboo rice in Zhao Hai's hands. This was too unexpected.

Naturally, it was impossible for Zhao Hai to lack such stock. Zhao Hai had started stocking up even before Laura ran out of her own stored food. To be exact, the amount of bamboo rice that he had stocked up for emergencies wasn't only this five hundred thousand kilograms. Instead, it was nearly 1.5 million kilograms. Zhao Hai hadn't put them all out at once, but only an amount that was enough to last them each trip.

Laura was overjoyed as she said, "This Laura thanks Mister. If this time around, we lose the battle against the big firms, then those big firms are likely to start releasing their own stores of food. By then, Mister wouldn't have any need to prepare such large amounts of food."

Zhao Hai was somewhat taken aback, but he understood what would happen. If these big firms really did help the Second or Third Elder seize power right away, then they could reduce the price of the food they release. Then the market in the Purcell Duchy would be stabilized for just a short time. They would help the person whom they supported in order to secure the position, which would initially make them lose some money.

Although this was the case, if the person they helped could seize the position, then they could lord over the market within the Purcell Duchy. When that time comes, if they wanted to make money it would be a piece of cake.

"Alright Miss Laura," Zhao Hai said, nodding. "I will say it again; if ever you encounter any trouble, you may come here to Stony Mountain. I can protect you even against a Rank Nine."

If it were before, then Laura would have been suspicious about the use of ancient magic tools. But now, she had no doubts about it. Don't forget, Green had used something like that. Although she hadn't seen it, Green had indeed escaped from a Rank Nine expert and kept his life. This was fact.

Similarly, Laura now understood the value of an ancient magic tool. Laura bowed to Zhao Hai and said, "Laura thanks Mister."

Zhao Hai chuckled. "Miss Laura, when you left this time, you wanted to attract the attention of those people, right? If so, then don't hurry and return. Stay for dinner. I have prepared the fire fish dishes Miss Laura likes to eat."

Laura complied, smiling, and agreed to stay for a while. It wasn't the time to eat yet, so Zhao Hai arranged a room for Laura to stay and rest in.

After Laura left the parlour room, Zhao Hai looked at Green. "Grandpa Green, what do you think of this matter?"

Green smiled lightly and said, "We cannot control them, so just let them fight each other. Anyways, there is no benefit for us there. If those big firms really dare to move against us, then we won't be polite.

"On the other hand, inform Drunk and tell them to pay attention. If they see Buffy, they should immediately return. So what if Buffy is going to the Carrion Swamp? For so many years now, a lot of Rank Nines have entered the Carrion Swamp. In the end, only a few have come back alive. If Buffy were to return alive, we can first observe. If he is injured, then we must keep him here forever. That way, we can break off one of the large arms that supports the Purcell clan."

Zhao Hai slightly chuckled. "I didn't think that things would actually become like this. And remember, Laura had said that Evan secretly helped us. Do you think this matter is true or false?"

Green, with a deep voice, said, "This matter is likely to be true. I felt that the ways the Purcell clan did things had been a little different and this doesn't seem to be Evan's doing. I had seen Evan before and he didn't seem to be an ungrateful person. I always felt that it was very strange. Why had Evan changed so much after becoming the Clan Lord? Also, our clan had been assigned to the Black Wastes and actually hadn't been exterminated by the great aristocrats. I had always felt that someone had assisted us with this matter. If my guess is correct, I am afraid that it could only be Evan."

Zhao Hai nodded and asked, "Then, should we help Evan?"

Green smiled. "This isn't something we should intervene in, so as to avoid exposure. If, however, we do put our feet in, it will likely usher in a counter attack from the collaboration of the Purcell clan and the large firms. You must remember, our current status right now is that of a black magician. That kind of person isn't popular on the continent."

Zhao Hai thought about it and then replied, "Anyhow, right now we can just be onlookers. We cannot let our identities be exposed. Therefore, in this matter, we won't participate. In any case, Laura will surely help Evan. If Laura fails, it could be considered as us failing too, so I fear we wouldn't be much help."

Green smiled. "It is true that right now, we just can't let our identities be exposed. Once exposed, we won't have a place on the entire continent to go to. Fortunately, with our present status, people won't dare to act rashly against us. As long as we don't initiate any trouble, we shouldn't have a problem."

Zhao Hai nodded. "However, if necessary we should also give Laura some help. If Laura does fail, then we won't have a place to ship our products. The Space produces so many things. If we aren't able to sell them, then that wouldn't be good."

"That's fine," Green replied. "If Laura really encounters danger, then we will surely help. After all, our relationship with them swings both ways, so nobody can say anything about it if we help."

Zhao Hai nodded. "Grandpa Green, please go and greet Laura. I will go and ask Grandma Meirin to prepare lunch. I will also tell Drunk about the news about Buffy along the way."

Green nodded and turned around. Zhao Hai went into the Space where Meirin was currently teaching the slaves. He moved her out of the Space in order to prepare lunch. Afterwards, he told Drunk of the news about Buffy, warning them to be careful.

Although the slaves were sad when they entered the Space, they looked far better now. It was thanks to Zhao Hai's decision to hand out the blue-eyed rabbits. After they entered the Space this time, Zhao Hai gave them meals with lots of meat and vegetables. Such treatment was far better than compared to when they were outside of the Space. This made their mood slowly become better.

Moreover, Zhao Hai had promised them that the things they left behind before entering the Space would be given back after they go out, so they shouldn't be worried. He continued to let Meirin teach them how to read, which made the slaves feel even better.

After hearing that Zhao Hai wanted her to prepare lunch for Laura, Meirin felt very happy. In her view, Zhao Hai had just decided that Laura would be his wife, although he hadn't declared such yet. At least, Laura coming here often would be good. It would be even better if she came every day.

Zhai Hai looked helplessly at Meirin's expression. After moving Meirin out, Zhao Hai didn't bother leaving the Space. He simply stayed inside, waiting till it was time for dinner before exiting.

Seeing Zhao Hai's reaction, Meg couldn't help but feel relieved. She really did fear that Zhao Hai would also like being with Laura, that when the time comes he wouldn't want her.

Zhao Hai didn't go and teach the slaves. Instead, he let them take a rest. Then him, Meg, and Woodhead sat in the Space's spatial hall. He reiterated the news that Laura had told them earlier to Meg.

Meg really hadn't thought that matters would end up like this. Zhao Hai wasn't even finished talking when Woodhead interrupted, "Good, go ahead and let them fight each other. The more they fight, the more it is going to be favorable for us. If they fight each other, they won't have time to give us trouble and we can stay secured."

However, Meg's concern was actually for another matter. She looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Master, if the Grand Duke Evan really did secretly help us, then won't your engagement with the Purcell clan still be valid?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "That would be impossible. After all, the marriage proposal had already been drawn back, thus, it is not effective anymore. Even if Evan had really secretly helped us, we will only look for an opportunity to help him back or I'll allow myself to make a deal with them at a later time. Also, I heard that Evan's daughter doesn't have that good a reputation within the Purcell Duchy. Our Buda clan cannot take in such goods. Our little Meg is better than Evan's daughter by a thousand times."

Chapter 160 - Good Fertility

This was the first time Zhao Hai teased Meg, so she couldn't help but be surprised. Then Meg blushed, pouting with embarrassment. "Master is making fun of me."

Zhao Hai chuckled as he felt secretly relieved. Although Zhao Hai was an otaku and had never fallen in love, he wasn't a fool. He had the impression that Meg favored him a little. After getting along with each other for some time, Zhao Hai also had a very good impression of Meg. The reason why he teased Meg was to see her reaction. If she didn't get angry, then it meant that Meg liked him, which made him relieved.

Woodhead was also surprised when Zhao Hai teased Meg, since this was also his first time hearing him do so. However, he didn't say anything about it.

Meg's face was red, but her heart was secretly delighted. She had long been together with Zhao Hai, yet the way he treated her wasn't salty, nor was it pale. She didn't dare to reveal her loving emotions towards Zhao Hai and only showed it silently.

Although Zhao Hai said these things today, it was nothing much. It also wasn't the reason why Meg's heart felt delighted. Rather, it was because Zhao Hai had praised her in a way that looked like he was praising a beloved. Even if it was done in a joking tone, this didn't stop the quickening beat of a young girl's heart, one who was in love for the first time.

Zhao hai didn't tease Meg excessively. He knew that Meg was thin-skinned, so if he were to say anything more, it might embarrass Meg and she might run away. He didn't want to be known as a smooth-talker; it just wasn't his character.

After the three talked for a while, Zhao Hai felt that time was running out so he proceeded to move Meg out of the Space. Laura had already met Meg before, so if she wasn't present today, Laura might get suspicious. Thus, Zhao Hai brought Meg along with him out of the Space. He left Woodhead to look after the slaves. Afterwards, Meg made a good meal and it was sent to them.

Laura and Nier arrived at the dining area. Zhao Hai had already been seated and was waiting for them. Laura greeted Zhao Hai, "I have made Mister wait for a long time, please excuse us. We had been tired from travelling on the carriage for so long and, unknowingly, we had fallen asleep."

Zhao Hai chuckled slightly and said, "It's alright, I had also just arrived. Miss Laura, please sit down. Make yourself at home and you don't have to be too polite."

Meirin and Meg placed the food on the table as Green sat down next to Zhao Hai. The dish today was primarily bread, along with a lot of vegetables, though most of them had previously been tasted by Laura in the past.

Laura ate these fragrant dishes which could only be eaten here at Zhao Hai's place. She couldn't usually eat these dishes at her home. This wasn't because of a lack of ingredients, but rather because she couldn't cook them.

Suddenly, Laura didn't know if she was just imagining it, but she felt that Zhao Hai's maid had a trace of hostility in her eyes. She also felt that the eyes of Zhao Hai's cook was also filled with something unknown. This made her body uncomfortable.

Because of these feeling, Laura immediately said goodbye after eating and left. She didn't understand the people around Zhao Hai. Why were they acting like this? What was the matter?

Laura frowned as she sat on a trunk, puzzledly thinking. Nier looked at Laura, and with a laugh she said, "Young Lady, have you seen Mister's maid? She is very hostile towards you."

Laura was surprised. She turned and looked at Nier. "You saw it too? I thought I was just imagining things. Have I offended the maid or done something that offended Mister?"

Nier smiled tenderly at this princess and said, "Young Lady is really silly; it doesn't matter if you made a mistake. You didn't notice the maid's look towards Mister. To me, it looked like a look of love. For her, she obviously sees you as her rival. And remember that female cook who was sizing you up as she looked at your behind. I heard people saying that women with bigger butts have good fertility. I fear that the female cook was looking at yours to see if you had good fertility."

Laura was stunned for a moment, then angrily retorted, "Smelly girl, stop talking about this crazy thing every day. Since you know about feelings and love, how about I find someone to marry you off to."

Nier only gave another tender smile. "Young Lady, don't be angry. What I said are just facts. Looking at Young Lady, it seems like you're good enough to give birth."

Laura's heart was somewhat strange. She was confused, especially when she hadn't found out why Meirin and Meg had been looking at her. She hadn't known what to do, and instead she had thought that she somehow offended Zhao Hai. Now that Nier had spoken, she once again recalled how Meirin and Meg looked at her. It really did seem like what Nier stated.

Nier's soul was pure, which was why she could communicate with animals. Similarly, she was very sensitive to the changes in a person's behaviour. Therefore, she had clearly observed that Meirin and Meg had often looked at Laura.

Laura was lost in thought as she really never thought that Meg would consider her as a rival. As far as she could understand, the reason why they looked at her was because she did something wrong and offended Zhao Hai.

If it were only a misunderstanding, then that would be fortunate. However, if the reason really was because of Zhao Hai, then the matter was a very big deal. That could probably explain why Meg still showed a good impression to her while in front of Zhao Hai.

With these thoughts, Laura couldn't help but blush. Normally, she should be worried if Zhao Hai was the reason. Instead, she found that she wasn't actually worried, only a little embarrassed as she faintly chuckled.

Laura was a very calm person. Quinn John had taught her early on about being sensible. When she encountered difficulties, she should be calm. This was the most basic requirement for being a businessman.

She soon found that she wasn't feeling quite right, then immediately began to reflect on what she was doing. The result was that she got dizzy until she felt as if she were about to faint, but she still hadn't gotten any clues. She finally gave up thinking about this matter. But this matter, along with her feelings, had planted a seed in her heart.

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When she returned home, Quinn John had already come back and was drinking tea in the study. Laura entered the study, waved away the servants, and then whispered to Quinn John, "Grandpa Quinn John, how was it?"

Quinn John chuckled slightly. "It is done. Evan really does have power, and his power is not weak. Every centrist elders in the Purcell clan is his subordinate. He had secretly asked those elders to endure since early on and was just waiting for the opportunity. Right now, it is their chance to do so. Most importantly, you wouldn't believe who is backing him up. It is one of the Guardian Deities of the Purcell clan, the Universal Origin Sword Saint. He is Evan's grandfather as well!"

Laura paused for a moment, then said with happiness, "Great! With such a backing, things will be easier to handle now. However, since the Universal Origin Sword Saint is Evan's grandfather, when Evan was

treated as just a mere figurehead, why hadn't he done anything? Also, if Evan is aware of all this, then towards Kaiser and those of the Elders Assembly, why didn't he know of it?"

Quinn John smiled. "What kind of an existence is the Universal Origin Sword Saint? Of course he knew, he just didn't make a move. This is so that Evan could gain experience, otherwise, he wouldn't be qualified to be the Clan Lord. Moreover, there's a tradition in the Purcell clan that only the Clan Lord could see the Guardian Deities. Any other person wasn't qualified to do so. This is probably why Kaiser didn't know of the Universal Origin Sword Saint. Furthermore, the Universal Origin Sword Saint was already a Rank Nine dozens of years before Wind Saint Buffy. In the Purcell clan, the only one who knew of his identity would only be Evan."

Laura stood up happily and walked around. She excitedly repeated, "Great. With such strength, this matter of associating with him is certainly marvelous. Grandpa Quinn John, what has Grand Duke Evan done to prepare?"

Quinn John lightly chuckled. "What we should do is allow them to play their tricks. These large clans want the First Elder to step down, so they will increase the price of food. Such a matter can't be solved by the First Elder and this will naturally make him step down. Increasing the prices of food, however, will make us a big hurdle. We should expect that they will look for us soon and might even threaten us. So we will use this opportunity to invite Mr. Zhao Hai.

"We will allow the food prices to rise up, thus making the First Elder step down. Evan would then seize this opportunity to stand out with our cooperation by forcing the price of food down. Then the Universal Origin Sword Saint will come forward and act, fortifying Evan's position as the Clan Lord. But, we will also need more food as we know that once the food prices falls, many will begin to buy food. Therefore, we should prepare and stock up food supplies. Even if it is expensive to buy them, we should still sell them cheaply."

Laura chuckled. "What a coincidence. When I went to Mr. Zhao Hai, he told me that he had more than five hundred thousand kilograms of grain. As long as we are ready to pick it up, we can immediately get them. Ha ha, did Mister already think of this?"

Quinn John stared for a moment. He looked puzzledly at Laura and asked, "Young Lady, do you mean to say that aside from the normal food supply, you can also get five hundred thousand kilograms of grain?"

Laura shook her head and said, "I'm afraid that may not be the case. Mister said that he currently has over five hundred thousand kilograms,. I actually don't know how much more, but I presume it won't be less than seven hundred and fifty thousand kilograms. "

Quinn John said, "He can take out five hundred thousand kilograms of grain and still supply one hundred seventy five thousand kilograms everyday. In the end, how large is his territory?"

Laura smiled wryly as she was also curious about this matter, but hadn't thought of asking. Zhao Hai's body hid too many secrets which she didn't know about. Up to now, it hadn't been long since she first met Zhao Hai. Therefore, she didn't mention or ask about these things.

Quinn John was out of breath for a moment. "Anyway, I will manage the supply that we currently have. In the meantime, as we wait for these large firms to come looking for us, you should again visit Mister. Explain everything to Mister and clearly speak to him about this matter as well as ask him for help. "

Laura nodded her head. "Alright, I will. I have seen that Mister doesn't know much about the matters of the Purcell clan. While this matter is irrelevant to Mister, we can assume that he would help."

Quinn John punctually nodded. He turned around and looked out the window. "As long as this matter gets resolved, the Purcell Duchy will be our world."

Laura eyes also shone as she looked out the window excitedly.