

## Another World 201

### Chapter 201 - Intents

After the farm reached Level 21, it had given Zhao Hai many benefits. Zhao Hai, however, was wondering about what would happen when the ranch also reached a high level. At that time, what sort of benefits would they obtain?

Even if they couldn't get any benefits, so long as they could raise more magic beasts, their overall strength would increase. Just raising the blue-eyed rabbits alone made them earn a profit in gold coins.

Green and the others nodded as they now knew what they should currently upgrade. In their opinion, however, leveling up the ranch wasn't as important as leveling up the farm. By leveling up the farm, once they reached Level 30 they would be able to detoxify Zhao Hai's Water of Nothingness.

Right now, Zhao Hai had Cai-er and Zhao Wen by his side. As such, they weren't worried about his security. Yet they still wished to cure him quickly. Once that happens, he would be able to find a wife and try to sire a child; to sprout branches and scatter leaves .

If Zhao Hai knew Green had such ideas, he wouldn't know if he should laugh or cry. He would just place these issues on hold and say that such matters could be spoken of another day. Zhao Hai just couldn't bear it. In Green's view, however, Zhao Hai's marriage and ability to have children was his greatest concern.

Zhao Hai actually had headaches about the matter. To be honest, he did feel something for Laura. After all, Laura was very attractive and had a very good disposition. Zhao Hai, however, couldn't just turn down Meg. With regards to Meg, she had accompanied Zhao Hai when he'd confronted Zhao Wen, a Rank Nine expert. This had made a mark in Zhao Hai's heart.

To say that Zhao Hai had been moved by Meg for only this matter would just be deceiving people. This just wasn't the case. After all, after Zhao Hai had woken up, Meg had been the one who'd taken care of him. Moreover, the present Meg was interested in him. By adding in that recent incident, asking Zhao Hai to give Meg up would be impossible.

Zhao Hai had been a person who believed in a single love. He was also a perfectionist. His beliefs meant that he did not judge multiple loves as true love, but rather, universal love. However, this term was just sugar-coating the act itself.

When love arrived, it wouldn't be something he'd be able to control. The more one would try to control it, the less one would be able to. It was almost like a drug. Unknowingly, one would start to sink into it.

When one truly encounters love, their view will start to become completely different than how it had been. At that time, what kind of choice would one make? For a man, it could possibly be a good choice since monogamy wasn't practiced on the Ark Continent. Instead, marrying several women was the norm.

For an idealist, however, this choice would be difficult. Zhao Hai wanted the perfect love, but he didn't have any control over his heart.

What was it that restrained a human the most? It wasn't the law, but one's own heart. When a human had their own set of standards within their heart, one will then find out how hard it is to cope with new standards.

Zhao Hai was such a human. He had his own views on love. Because of these views, he had been a 20-year-old virgin on Earth .

On Earth, a mortal's world, Zhao Hai could hold true to his heart. Of course, in other people's views, these were just the collected thoughts of a fool. As for Zhao Hai, what others said didn't matter to him as he had a firm hold on his set of standards.

This was Zhao Hai's disposition. He was plain, gentle, and responsible; but he also had an arrogant side.

\* \* \* \* \*

As he spoke, Zhao Hai re-entered the Space, then travelled to Stony Mountain's Bluestone Villa which had the same circumstances as Fort Iron Mountain. The area was similar to that of Flower City in that it had turned into a seven-colored flower's world. Zhao Hai and the others were now accustomed to the change in scenery, so they weren't that surprised anymore.

Sitting down in the living room of Bluestone Villa, Zhao Hai contacted Laura through his undead. He wanted to know if there had been any matters that have occurred these past few days.

Zhao Hai had expected something, but there really hadn't been anything going on. Alodia and his followers were unexpectedly staying honest lately. They didn't cause much trouble. Casa City was also tranquil. Aside from the small sensation that had been caused when Laura brought along the undead the other day, there hadn't been many incidents occurring.

Such a situation wasn't something Zhao Hai expected. He thought that those subordinates of Carlo would cause some trouble, or that he'd send people to rescue Alodia. Now, however, there hadn't been any such movements. Why was this so? Carlo should be a person who wasn't good to deal with, no?

Zhao Hai told Green about the situation, and Green turned gloomy afterward. He turned his head towards Zhao Hai and said, "Young Master, I fear that this time around, things won't be good. If Carlo moved earlier, then it meant he didn't want the entirety of the Markey Dell clan to be involved. If he wanted to do it himself, he has the strength. This was shown with his recent business in the Purcell Duchy. He should have begun a few days ago. Instead, he didn't make a move. Thus, it is probably safe to say that he has consulted the Markey Dell clan and requested them to solve this matter. In such a case, they wouldn't be able to start quickly. After all, they would need time to consolidate their own forces."

Zhao Hai nodded. He understood what Green meant. If this matter was something Carlo wished to solve himself, then they wouldn't need to worry. With Carlo's strength, they wouldn't even need to pay attention. If this matter was handled by the Markey Dell clan, however, then it would be troublesome.

The Markey Dell clan was a formidable commercial clan that stretched across half the continent. Although they had an overbearing conduct, which increased the number of enemies, they had their own means of dealing with them. Furthermore, their strength was also high. They needed such strength, else they wouldn't have their present status.

Although he was currently in a coalition with Laura and Evan, which allowed them to put up a fight with the Markey Dell clan, the winner at the end was still an unknown.

People on the continent didn't dare to easily move against a merchant clan. This was due to a basic reason: the merchant clans were really too rich. They could spend a ton of wealth and batter their targets to death with money.

A common respected clan, even if they were rich, wouldn't be able to spend money the same way as a merchant clan. Because of this, few respected clans would move against a merchant clan. Naturally though, a merchant clan wouldn't try to go up against a large aristocratic clan.

Although merchant clans were rich, their status was inferior to those of large aristocratic clans. Furthermore, these large aristocratic clans associated with many other merchant clans, and middle or small aristocratic clans. These large aristocratic clans wouldn't ever have a status lower than any merchant clan.

Simply put, if both sides had scruples, it wouldn't be an easy thing. The situation right now, however, was related to the stability of the Purcell clan. As such, Evan had tied himself to a pledge with Zhao Hai and Laura, preparing to cope with the Markey Dell clan.

Obviously, Carlo had thought of this point and therefore, wouldn't make a move because of it. Instead, he reported it to the Markey Dell clan headquarters, asking Sioux to decide.

Almost everyone on the continent knew that one cannot easily please a Rank Nine expert. Even if the clan wanted them to move, they would be required to pay a huge price. Therefore, if two clans were to really fight against one another, they would rely heavily on their Rank Eight experts. This was also something their economic status depended on.

With their economic strength, the Purcell clan and Laura could not beat them. However, would the Markey Dell clan try and fight them to the death?

The answer was no. The Markey Dell clan was an overbearing merchant clan. With regards to the interests of merchants, war was the most stupid way to solve problems. It was just something merchants didn't like. Letting both the Markey Dell clan and Purcell clan wound one another because of this situation wouldn't be possible. Sioux, that old fox, just wouldn't allow that.

Since the Markey Dell clan wanted to deal with them, it wouldn't start with the Markey Dell clan dirtying their hands. If they were as soft as persimmons, the Markey Dell clan would have directly destroyed them. If they were persistent and difficult to chew, then the Markey Dell clan would find some other means necessary to deal with them.

Now it looked like such things might really happen. So long as Carlo told the Markey Dell clan about this matter, things will start to get messy.

Fortunately, they now had Zhao Wen and Cai-er and thus weren't worried about the Markey Dell clan attacking. Even if the Markey Dell clan goes all out and desperately asks a Rank Nine deity to get rid of them, they still needn't be afraid.

Going up against the Markey Dell clan, however, wasn't something Zhao Hai wanted. Unfortunately, the present situation didn't allow Zhao Hai a way out. If he tried to run, then the Purcell clan and Laura would still be implicated.

Zhao Hai frowned as he asked Green, "Grandpa Green, what methods do you think the Markey Dell clan will come up with to deal with us? Will they use some sort of business-related means?"

Green shook his head and said, "I fear that won't be it."

Zhao Hai was surprised for a moment. He wasn't able to understand what Green meant. As a merchant clan, they were the best at using business-related attacks. This method would be the best way to deal with the Purcell clan. It won't only slowly beat down the Purcell clan, but the Markey Dell clan would also gain some advantages from it .

Green looked at Zhao Hai's expression and understood what he was thinking. He smiled faintly and explained, "Business-related actions can make the Purcell clan take some losses, but wouldn't be enough to extinguish them. Furthermore, if the Markey Dell clan did such a thing, it would be equal to offending the other respected aristocratic clans. The Markey Dell clan can deal with the Purcell clan this way, but how about the other aristocratic clans? If the Markey Dell clan dares to do so, then they wouldn't be able to do business on the continent. All of the large aristocratic clans would join up and suppress them until they wouldn't be able to recover. This is how the larger aristocratic clans handle things."

Zhao Hai hadn't thought it would really be like this. On Earth, some large financial groups could control the economic direction of a small country, or even control those countries through economic means. He hadn't thought it wouldn't be an alright action here on the Ark Continent.

In the end, the Ark Continent still places a lot of respect on strength. Laws, to those large aristocratic clans, weren't binding and was just used as a tool to restrain others.

## Chapter 202 - Beastfolk Three Classes

This still made Zhao Hai relax a little. If the Markey Dell clan wouldn't use business-related means when they moved against them, then they wouldn't have anything to fear. If the Markey Dell clan spent money to buy their lives, he knew it wouldn't be easy.

It could be said that this world had mercenaries and killers everywhere. Those mercenaries and killers were outlaws, and would do anything so long as one gave them money in return.

Those mercenaries, however, weren't brainless. They knew they couldn't mess with some people. But if they obtained a mission, they would do everything they can.

Among mercenaries, there weren't any strong experts. Strong experts were already recruited by the large aristocratic clans. They didn't even need to do much. All they did was go to the villa each day and just eat and sleep. At any time, however, their lives could be lost.

Even though these mercenaries didn't have strong experts, they utilized a variety of methods. For those experts the large aristocratic clan trained, although they reached high ranks, they were actually inexperienced in actual combat. Those experts and the mercenaries were, after all, from different worlds. As such, mercenaries might actually use traps or poisons, not like those that were trained by the aristocrats who refrain from such methods.

This was like what Zhao Hai had read in a novel before. Those mercenaries were the ones hired by those who didn't have the means to send in a Rank Nine expert. Also, those experts trained by the aristocratic clans were apprentices of their respective clans. As such, their treatment would naturally be different.

Green looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Young Master, I think we don't need to worry now that we have Zhao Wen and Cai-er. This means we actually have two Rank Nine experts. If the Markey Dell clan really went too far, we can definitely let Zhao Wen and Cai-er deal with them. Don't forget, the Rank Nine experts of our clan are different from the Rank Nine experts of other clans. Those clans need to please their Rank Nine experts and pay a huge price while we don't."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Truth is, I'm actually worried about Miss Laura. This time around, the issue is quite big. Also, it was because of us that it had occurred, so I feel somewhat sorry."

Green smiled and said, "I don't think it's a bad thing. In any case, through this matter we will gain deeper ties with Laura and the Purcell clan. This is what we call, personal connections, and sometimes, such things are very important. In the past, our clan had fallen because we didn't have any such contacts. During that crucial time, nobody helped us. It was also due to the fact that we were people of the old king, so if we did have strong connections, then the king might not have entrusted us with heavy responsibilities."

Zhao Hai understood what Green meant. In the past, the Buda clan had been the old king's sword that he wielded in his hands. This sword could only be held by the old king. If this sword suddenly had a network of connections, how could the old king have trusted them? When the time comes that the old king didn't need the sword to be used against those aristocratic clans, then what would happen to the Buda clan?

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "That is true. So long as our group of three fight side by side, our relationship wouldn't be ordinary. Grandpa Green, if there are no incidents, then in two days time, we should go and visit Casa City. What do you think?"

Green agreed with a nod. "Yes, we should go and visit Casa City. Some time ago, we had bought things in Casa City and placed them in the warehouse. Young Master, do you think we should place a transfer point there?"

Zhao Hai thought for a moment before shaking his head. "We shouldn't as we're already quite close to Casa City anyway. Placing a transfer point in Casa City would be a loss, especially since we can only place ten transfer points. We have already constructed four points, so there are only six remaining. We must save these transfer points."

Green also thought about it. Travelling to Casa City right now was very convenient for them. No matter if they used Alien or the wind chasing horses, they could arrive in Casa City in a short amount of time. It was better than using the scaled wildebeests from before.

Since they only needed half a day of travel time, setting up a transfer point was an unwanted luxury. Green was very clear that these transfer points had a big role. It represented, aside from being used to gain money, as a method to save lives.

Zhao Hai turned his head towards Green. "After all of these matters have been resolved, we should head for the Beastfolk Prairie. There, we can buy some slaves and sell food commodities to them. It's also a must to set up a transfer point there."

Green nodded and said, "I had been to the Beastfolk Prairie several times before. If there are any wars going on, there would be a lot of slave clans. Although the slaves don't have a high battle efficiency, they are very good at doing labor. Those beastfolk slaves are many times stronger than ordinary human slaves."

Zhao Hai nodded. He also knew about these beastfolk slaves Green spoke of. The beastfolk race was divided into three classes. The first were the war clans. These were clans that had formidable battle strength. For example, there was the Lion clan, the Tiger clan, the Wolf clan, the Eagle clan, the Snake clan, and so on.

The second clan were the ethnic groups. These clans didn't have extremely high battle abilities, but they did have a certain level of fighting power. Examples included the Cattle clan, Sheep clan, Pig clan, and so on.

Lastly, the third class were called the slave clans. Their combat effectiveness were the weakest. Examples of them were the Rabbit clan, Chicken clan, Mouse clan, and so on. The slave clans also had a number of humans included, those that had become prisoners of war. Their status was the same as that of a slave clan member. There were also times when a human and a beastfolk married each other, and as such, they had given birth to the new race, that of the half-beast race. This new race also lived as a part of the slave clans.

The beastfolk slave clans had a higher status than that of the Terran slaves. The half-beast race was lower in status than beastfolk slaves, and their status was actually similar to that of Terran slaves.

Naturally, this was all superficial. The reason why the slaves clans were called such among the beastfolk classes was because they had masters. So long as the master wished, they could sell these slave clans at any time.



On the continent, only a few would go and buy slaves from the beastfolk because slaves in the Beastfolk Prairie were not the same as slaves in places like the Aksu Empire.

The beastfolk slaves could not plant anything as they only knew how to herd. As such, these slaves wouldn't be able to farm, only herd. In the Aksu Empire, however, the primary livelihood was farming and there wasn't much land like prairies that were suitable for herding. Those who bought beastfolk slaves needed to teach them how to farm. Since they hadn't been able to learn how to farm, their prices were cheaper compared to local slaves bought on the continent.

This wasn't a problem for Zhao Hai since his fields didn't amount to much. Allowing these slaves to study how to farm would enable them to quickly learn the trade.

Farming. Such a subject could be said to be simple, yet for all its simplicities, it also had some difficulties. As long as the elders learn farming then guide and teach the young ones afterwards, after several years, there wouldn't be a problem.

Zhao Hai wanted to go to the Beastfolk Prairie and have a look. He especially wanted to have a look at the magic beasts in the prairie. If they went there, they could obtain a lot of magic beasts. Perhaps it could even help them upgrade the ranch.

Suddenly, they heard an eagle's cry in the sky. It flew down and was shown to be an eagle sent by Laura to Zhao Hai. However, it wasn't red as it hadn't been in the space when the transformations caused by the upgrades had happened.

Zhao Hai beckoned and the eagle entered the room slowly. Tied to the eagle's talon was a small bag. This small bag was filled with many things.

Zhao Hai inspected the bag and found that it was stacked full of red paper. Obviously, these were the marriage certificates Zhao Hai had asked for. He examined them and found that the craftsmanship was very good. Zhao Hai gave Green the marriage certificate and he looked at it closely. It was very refined, and the quality of the paper was also very high.

There was also a piece of paper in the bag. This paper contained information Zhao Hai wanted, gathered by Laura's information network across the Purcell Duchy. Laura's current influence wasn't only concentrated in the Purcell Duchy. She could also gather information from other places. However,

although she could get them, they wouldn't be very detailed. As such, Laura hadn't reported them to Zhao Hai before.

Zhao Hai carefully read the information written, which was packed with details. The situation in Casa City at the moment required various responses, and Laura was on top of them. Although there wasn't any important matters happening in Casa City, from the intelligence report, Zhao Hai saw a trace of something surging underneath it all.

Obviously, those large merchant firms in Casa City knew about Laura's movements. These people weren't fools. If Laura had her own intelligence network, they had theirs as well. Adding in the fact that they had conflict with her in the past, then due to her movements these people began to have their suspicions. Even if they didn't find anything, these people wouldn't give up so easily.

In this world, nothing could truly be kept secret. So long as someone looked closely, they would be able to find clues. Many of those from the large merchant clans were aware of Alodia. They knew Alodia was the head servant of Carlo, and was an honored and popular character. Now, however, he had been restrained by Laura. As such, even fools could see something had happened between Laura and Carlo.

With regards to the Markey Dell clan, the large clans on the continent had a certain level of knowledge about them. They also knew of the standing Karen and Laura held within the Markey Dell clan. This time around, the battle between Laura and Carlo was something these large merchant clans thought fun to watch.

Afterward, however, they found something that was a bit off. The Purcell clan was participating in this matter, and that had made the large clans puzzled. Although Laura had helped the Purcell clan, she supposedly wouldn't be given this much face. If the Markey Dell clan moved, would that mean they dared to go up against the Purcell clan?

With further investigations, they immediately found out Carlo's goal. It was too obvious. First, Alodia had gone to the Grand Duke's Mansion to meet with the Grand Duke and had then been detained the following day. Next, Laura had visited Stony Mountain and was ambushed along the way. When she came back, she led an army of undead. If they still didn't understand the situation, then they surely wouldn't be based in Casa City.

## Chapter 203 - Cai-er's Abilities

In all honesty, those large merchant clans within Casa City all had ideas about Zhao Hai. Since their businesses were based in the Purcell Duchy, they knew about the opportunities provided by the Taoyuan products a great deal earlier than Carlo.

Those merchant clans didn't chase this opportunity as they understood the situation clearly. Their plans during the food crisis had failed because of Zhao Hai's intervention. Although it could be said that Zhao Hai had done something that had negatively affected them, what he'd done was equal to giving the Purcell clan a large favor. With regards to the Purcell clan, they regarded Zhao Hai with the utmost importance. As such, it was difficult to move against Zhao Hai. Doing so would be the same as slapping the Purcell clan's face. If they wanted to continue doing business within the Purcell Duchy, then they couldn't move against Zhao Hai.

In addition, those large merchant clans wouldn't dare to mess with a black magician. Black magicians were widely known on the continent as tough to handle. If one really messed with them, then one would have to deal with an endless amount of undead. Although they were large merchant clans, if they got entangled with a black magician, losses would be inevitable. Merchants weren't willing to suffer such unexpected financial losses. They would rather pay attention to harmony and wealth.

To be honest, these large merchant clans didn't have a very good opinion of the Markey Dell clan. The Markey Dell clan, however, had a great deal of potential and were in the limelight. As such, they didn't want to offend them.

For this current matter, the large merchant clans just wanted to watch and see what would happen. Although they had made their own preparations, the people from these large merchant clans didn't think the Purcell clan would be defeated. One side was a large and respectable clan that had a Duchy as their fiefdom. Would they lose against a merchant clan? It was impossible, an unprecedented matter.

Great aristocratic clans had their own circle. This circle wasn't something the circle of the large merchant clans could compare with. Such a thing was mainly because the aristocratic circle was a great deal more reliable, and had a greater strength behind it. The merchant clans just couldn't compare.

If the merchant clans had a grasp on wealth, then the aristocratic clans had a grasp on power. Sometimes, even if one could spend their wealth, one wouldn't be able to buy power. However, if one had power, then it was simple to acquire wealth.

It was precisely because of this that those large merchant clans had made their preparations. They didn't dare to move against the Purcell clan though. Instead, it was the other way around—they were preparing to deal with the Markey Dell clan.

Don't just look at them as merchant clans. The actions of the Markey Dell clan had truly been too overbearing and their reputation within the business circle wasn't good. Unexpectedly, the Markey Dell clan wanted to deal with the Purcell clan at the moment. This was a very good opportunity for the large merchant clans to tidy up the Markey Dell clan. They certainly wouldn't let such a chance slip by.

\* \* \* \* \*

The report Laura had sent to Zhao Hai didn't have such matters written within it. Although Laura's intelligence network was strong, it was still impossible to pry out such secret matters. While Laura looked like she was spying on those large merchant clans, her actions were just a small trick.

Zhao Hai explained to Green these matters afterward. Green thought that the goal of these large merchant clans couldn't possibly be to deal with the Purcell clan. They had just recently offended the Purcell clan, so if they moved against them this time, then they'll have offended them once more. Later on, they wouldn't be able to do business in the Purcell Duchy. With such thoughts, Green decided that the goal of these clans would possibly be to deal with the Markey Dell clan.

Zhao Hai agreed with what Green said. They chatted for a bit, then Zhao Hai wrote a letter of thanks to Laura afterward and readied the eagle.

After setting up the eagle, several Spatial Bags appeared in front of Zhao Hai. He gave a few to Green and the others. These Spatial Bags were the ones Zhao Hai had previously used for storing the seeds bought from before and couldn't be taken outside. He had used it recently when buying seeds. Since the farmland area in the Space was now larger, Zhao Hai had instructed Cai-er to plant many things. There were many such Spatial Bags. Even with Green and the others each having one, there were still many of them left over.

The Spatial Bags Zhao Hai prepared were all taken out. Naturally, it was impossible for them to use them all, so he was planning to send some to Laura. One must know that spatial equipment was sought after on the continent.

Although the Spatial Bag's capacity wasn't that large, the storage space was more than enough for them. If such Spatial Bags were to be marketed on the continent, each bag would cost around a few thousand gold coins.

After he released the eagle, Zhao Hai returned to the Space and went to Fort Iron Mountain. Upon his arrival at the fort, Zhao Hai went out with Green. He intended to look at the area outside Fort Iron Mountain.

Zhao Hai was stunned for a moment after seeing the outside of Fort Iron Mountain. He really hadn't expected that it would be a great deal more beautiful than what he'd imagined. All of the houses were covered with seven-colored flowers, and the most important thing was that all of the windows had been blocked by vines. During the day, those vines would curl up. When evening came, they would automatically roll back down. It was like an automated curtain, and this made Zhao Hai joyful.

Seeing these small vines, Zhao Hai immediately called out Cai-er. Cai-er liked to stay inside the space. Since she herself was a plant sprite, the Space was the place most conducive for plant growth. Naturally, she liked to stay inside the Space.

She was puzzled as to why she was called out by Zhao Hai, so Cai-er asked, "Young Master, what do you want me to do?"

Zhao Hai pointed towards those fine vines and said, "Cai-er, those thin vines are good, but what about winter? Won't those vines be frozen when winter arrives?"

Cai-er smiled upon hearing Zhao Hai's questions. "Young Master, you underestimate me. I came from the Devil World, and the environment there is a lot worse than here. That place is a lot colder throughout the year than here on the continent, and I'm afraid of the cold. Don't underestimate these flowers. These flowers not only emit light in the evening, but also release a certain amount of heat when it is cold. As such, the castle will not have a low temperature during the winter months."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but be stunned for a moment. He really hadn't known Cai-er had such abilities. Cai-er looked at Zhao Hai's expression and smiled. "Young Master, you don't truly understand what kind of situation the Devil World is in. If I didn't have such abilities, then how would I get the respect of the creatures of the Devil World? I will tell you, this isn't the limit of my abilities. Some creatures from the Devil World eat my leaves and gain increased longevity. These are the reasons why those creatures give such great respect for me."

Zhao Hai nodded. An idea appeared in his mind. Since Cai-er had such abilities, then when winter came, couldn't he use Cai-er to build a greenhouse? If such a thing was possible, then during winter, he wouldn't be able to just plant in the Space, but outside as well.

Zhao Hai gently shook his head and threw away the idea. Now wasn't the time to think of such things as winter was still far away. So long as he had Cai-er, thoughts about building a greenhouse would be too simple.

Zhao Hai and Green slowly walked out of the castle. They looked at the castle square and the outside of the castle and found that the slaves were very busy.

The vegetables they planted had now grown to become little seedlings. In addition to looking out for pitifully small ones, there was a need to eliminate the extra seedlings. This was so that they could allow the rest of the vegetables to grow and mature as long as they could and become as big as possible.

Looking at the greenery emerging from the ground, Zhao Hai and Green's mood became particularly good. Green's eyes were watery as he thought of the first time they'd arrived here in the Black Waste. They were truly in despair then. During that time, he really had no ideas in mind. He just wanted to keep Zhao Hai's life safe. Who knew that this would be given to them, and that they would reach their current situation.

The two went to the canyon to have a look. The corn planted there was now tall and long. This was due to the special care given by the slaves, which allowed it to grow well. Zhao Hai was satisfied.

Zhao Hai next went to check the blue-eyed rabbits. These blue-eyed rabbits had a very abnormal maturity speed. This may have possibly been due to the Space's radish leaves that were given as fodder. Those leaves allowed them to mature faster, and thus have a faster reproduction speed. This made Zhao Hai the happiest.

The Black Waste could now be considered on track. It was now possible to support their current population of people and live on the lands of the Black Waste. This was a very good result.

After seeing all this, Zhao Hai and Green returned to the castle. After they sat down, Meg gave each of them a cup of tea.

Zhao Hai drank the tea and sighed. “Now that the day has passed, we have at least achieved a few of our goals. Haha, Grandpa Green, don’t you also think so?”

Green nodded. He smiled and said, “Yes. Ah, today, we have achieved a few of our goals. Haha, after arriving here in the Black Waste, I never dreamed such a day would come. If not for the Young Master’s Space, our Buda clan would have ended.”

Zhao Hai smiled faintly. He turned his head over to Green and said, “Grandpa Green, tomorrow, we’ll go to Casa City and see Laura. I want to give her several Spatial Bags and ask her to buy some fingerlings to place in the moat over there. Now that we have Cai-er, the seven-colored vines can be used as fences for the moat, so we won’t need to worry about placing the fingerlings there. The tarn also has many crystal-horned larvae . As such, we can breed the fingerlings there and, later, we can eat fish.”

Green nodded and said, “Indeed. Anyway, Young Master, will you ask Zhao Wen to go into the Carrion Swamp and capture some magic beasts? In any case, she is very familiar with the Carrion Swamp, so there shouldn’t be a problem with that, right?”

Zhao Hai nodded. “Yes, there shouldn’t be any issues. Still, we should be careful. If we let the other magic beasts know of our situation , it will be very troublesome for us. Didn’t Zhao Wen say that there were more than ten Rank Nine magic beasts in the Carrion Swamp? If these magic beasts tried to look for us and cause trouble, then that will mean the people on the continent will know of our existence. Then we’ll be in danger.”

Green nodded. Zhao Hai continued, “We’ll just let Zhao Wen do some small-scale magic beast hunting and see what happens later. Anyway, we’ll soon go to the Beastfolk Prairie. That place will certainly have many magic beasts. I believe that when the time comes, our ranch will level up.”

Green nodded. He had been to the Beastfolk Prairie and had some small understanding of it. He knew that there were many unique magic beasts on the continent that thrived there. If they could get those magic beasts into the Space, then the Space’s promotion won’t be that difficult.

That night, Zhao Hai told Meirin about their plans to head to Casa City. Meirin didn't oppose him. On the contrary, she was very supportive of the idea.

Meirin had once dealt with those major aristocrats. She was very clear that if an aristocrat didn't have any contact with others and just closed themselves up in their domains, they wouldn't be able to achieve any sort of development. In the past, although the Buda clan didn't have a proper network of contacts, they still had some dealings with major aristocrats. As such, it was convenient to do such things.

Because of their previous identity, Zhao Hai wasn't able to make any proper contacts. This was very unfavorable to their future development. Therefore, Meirin hoped that Zhao Hai would head to Casa City and make connections with the honored and popular characters there.

Truth was, Meirin had another plan, one that focused on Laura. Meirin had already decided that Laura would be Zhao Hai's wife, so she naturally wished for Zhao Hai to have many interactions with her. This would be good in growing their relationship and allow for earlier results.

The next morning, Zhao Hai led Meg and Green out of Stony Mountain and towards Casa City. This time around, Zhao Hai rode upon Alien and they sat comfortably while riding it. Alien was quick, steady, and, when compared to the automobiles Zhao Hai remembered from Earth, more pleasant.

Zhao Hai, however, also released several wind chasing horses that followed behind Alien. This was so that when they reached the gates of Casa City, Zhao Hai could get off Alien and ride the horses before entering the city.

When Zhao Hai arrived, news of him spread throughout the city. At almost the same time he'd entered through the city gates, the news was made instantly known to the city's large and medium sized forces. One must know that Zhao Hai, towards those major influences and powers in Casa City, was a mystical existence. Everyone was looking for an opportunity to contact him, yet he had hidden himself in Stony Mountain. Due to that, they didn't have a chance.

Now, Zhao Hai had suddenly come to Casa City. It wasn't only the large merchant firms, but even Evan was alarmed. Evan, however, wasn't too agitated. Although he wanted to see Zhao Hai, he was still a Grand Duke, the head of a duchy. Thus, if he went out and received Zhao Hai, then they would lose face.



\* \* \* \* \*

Laura was naturally the first to receive the news. When she heard Zhao Hai had come, she was surprised. It was only yesterday that she'd sent the letter through the eagle, so how come Zhao Hai came today? Now wasn't the time to think of such things, however, and she immediately told Nier, "Nier, call Grandpa Quinn John quickly. Inform my father as well."

Nier quickly complied, turned, and ran.

Laura stood and, with a loud voice, called, "Searle."

Although Searle was Laura's guard captain, his strength didn't amount to much. His loyalty and devotion, however, were the things that had earned him the position. He had followed Laura for some time now and wasn't a warrior without brains. When he noticed that Laura was in the middle of handling an issue, he seemingly turned into a steward rather than a guard captain.

Searle ran in from the outside immediately. He wasn't wearing his full body armor, but rather, simple warrior clothing. Upon arriving, he quickly bowed to Laura and greeted, "Young Lady."

Laura nodded and ordered, "Go and open the main entrance quickly. Prepare to greet Mister upon his arrival, then immediately tell the kitchen to prepare a few exquisite dishes. Today, regardless of what happens, Mister must stay and eat with us."

Searle complied and passed down the instructions. Laura stood and walked to her room. Once she was in her room, she opened her closet and immediately began to pick through her clothing. It took some time before she made her choice. Finally, she decided on her favorite dress, a lunar white princess skirt, and put it on.

Quinn John and Karen arrived at Laura's study but didn't see her. They asked the servants if they knew where she went, and they all said she'd gone back to her own room. Both of them were wise and fine people, so after hearing the servant's reply they immediately understood what she was doing. Quinn John couldn't help but smile as he turned to Karen. "Master Karen, it seems we will have to hurry and prepare a dowry for Laura."

Karen laughed but said, "I must have a look at this person first."

For a father, seeing their own beautiful and capable daughter dress up and appear for a smelly boy—it just made Karen's heart somewhat sour.

Quinn John naturally understood what Karen was thinking about. When Laura's mother married him, Quinn John also had such thoughts. Although Quinn John wasn't the father of Laura's mother, the two men had the same fatherly love for a daughter. As such, Quinn John knew what was going through Karen's mind.

After he heard what Karen said, Quinn John couldn't help but laugh. He said, "This is something beyond your control."

Laura left her room wearing the lunar white princess skirt. The skirt was made of fine spider's silk and looked very beautiful.

Karen looked at Laura's appearance and couldn't help but smile. But after he thought about it and realized Laura was this beautiful because of Zhao Hai, he couldn't help but show a sour expression.

Laura actually didn't notice this. She stopped in front of the two, twirled in a circle, and asked, "Father, Grandpa Quinn John, does my skirt look pretty? Do I need to change it?"

Quinn John laughed. "You don't need to change. Our little Laura is the most attractive." Karen was calm, but didn't speak.

Laura also noticed that something was wrong with Karen, so she asked, "Father, are you alright? Why do you have an ugly expression? Who made you this angry? Did one of your experiments fail?"

Karen snorted. "I'm fine. I'm well." After he finished speaking, he walked into the study with a stinky face. This made Laura confused as she didn't understand what was happening with Karen.

At this moment, a whinnying sound was heard from outside. Then Searle's voice called out, "Master Zhao Hai, Sir, please come inside. The Young Lady is waiting for you."

Laura smiled when she heard Searle. Immediately straightening her skirt, she walked towards the front doors. Before she arrived, Zhao Hai and Green had just stopped at the front entrance. The three of them had been riding horses and jumped down, giving the horses to the servants of Faith Mansion. Searle then led the three inside.

Laura quickly collected her skirt and made the noble's ritual greeting to Zhao Hai, saying, "We welcome the arrival of Mister. Please don't be offended for having greeted you so late."

Zhao Hai chuckled. "Miss Laura is too polite. I came here today on a whim. After looking around the city, there wasn't exactly anything I was going to do. Instead, I have disturbed Miss Laura. Miss Laura, please excuse my rudeness."

"For Mister to come, it is an honor for Laura," she replied with a smile. "Mister Ringer, Miss Meg, please come inside."

Green and Meg also greeted Laura, then Quinn John. Laura, who was full of anticipation, led them to the study room.

Once they arrived at the study, they couldn't help but stare at Karen who sat there with a stinky face. His eyes were staring at Zhao Hai as if he were an enemy. This made Zhao Hai confused and shocked. He looked down at himself but didn't find anything amiss. Then he looked at Karen, whom he had never seen before. He really didn't know how he'd offended Karen.

Zhao Hai couldn't help but pause. He turned towards Laura and asked, "Miss Laura, this is?"

Laura saw Karen's sour expression, but didn't think it was the right time to ask him about it. She smiled as she answered Zhao Hai's question, "This is my father."

After knowing that this man was Laura's father, Zhao Hai's heart tightened. He hastily walked forward and respectfully presented himself with a noble's ceremony before Karen. "Zhao Hai has seen uncle. I had taken the liberty of visiting, and I hope uncle wasn't offended."

Karen, though angry, didn't abandon his daughter. He also didn't hold a grudge with Zhao Hai. After seeing that Zhao Hai was humble and polite, he immediately felt embarrassed. He stood quickly and helped Zhao Hai up. "Mister is too polite. You have rescued Laura several times already. For this, I am very thankful to you."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly as he replied, "Uncle is too formal. I hadn't seen you before, which was an injustice. I hope uncle won't mind."

Laura watched Karen's reaction and relaxed, then quickly said, "Father, you're talking to Brother Hai while standing. Quickly, take a seat." Since there were no outsiders in the room, Laura naturally called Zhao Hai by Brother Hai. After hearing that, Karen's facial expression became sour once more.

Karen, however, had received an aristocratic education in his youth. Thus, he politely asked Zhao Hai to sit down. Zhao Hai was a bit nervous, but carefully sat next to Karen.

Laura examined the people inside the room. Turning towards Searle, she said, "Searle, draw back for now. Call two undead to guard the door. Don't allow anyone to enter. Pay attention to every detail and if there is anything urgent, you must call for me personally."

Searle complied immediately, turned around, and gently closed the door for Laura.

Karen looked at Laura with a bit of confusion. After Laura watched Searle draw back, she turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, there are no outsiders here. Please, take off your hat. Grandpa Green, you can take off yours as well. Meg, don't just stand there. Take a seat here, quickly."

Zhao Hai and Green both chuckled. They removed their hat and hard helmet. Karen was shocked upon seeing Zhao Hai's face as he hadn't thought Zhao Hai would be this young. He imagined Zhao Hai to be around 30 years old. Reaching Zhao Hai's current strength at the age of thirty was already an extreme talent. He really wouldn't have thought that Zhao Hai's age was even lower than 20 years.

Laura also sat down while Nier gave each of them a cup of tea, then retreated to Laura's back. Looking at Zhao Hai, Laura smiled and asked, "Brother Hai, have you just come for a visit today? Or do you have some other matter to discuss?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Today, I just came for a visit. There really are no issues that require discussion. Oh, right. I brought several presents." He waved a hand after speaking and three Spatial Bags appeared in his hands.

Zhao Hai placed the Spatial Bags on the table, then smiled and said to Laura, "This is my present to you. They are Spatial Bags. They have ten square meters of space inside. Go ahead and take a look. Try it out."

Laura and the others were stunned. They hadn't expected Zhao Hai would be this generous. Handing out spatial equipment that had no market price on the continent wasn't something they'd expected.

#### Chapter 205 - Sudden Change

Without waiting for Laura, Karen picked up a Spatial Bag and carefully began to examine it. These Spatial Bags looked like ordinary cloth sacks. They were brown colored and had a hemp rope along the opening. Unextraordinary looking, they appeared inferior when compared to a woman's handbag that was manufactured on the continent.

Such a bag, if one threw it in front of an aristocratic madame or young lady and didn't tell them it was a Spatial Bag, then they might be afraid to check or even pick it up. It may be possible they wouldn't even glance at it.

Karen, however, wasn't looking at these superficial aspects. He was examining the magic arrays placed on the Spatial Bag. Karen was a magic array researcher and mostly liked to study the magic parts of various magic tools. Common space tools, however, had above-average, sophisticated magic arrays. Furthermore, it required a space magician in order to activate its space. This space magician also needed to be of a high enough rank in order to do the job, otherwise, the magic contained within would be pitifully small.

This so-called activation was actually the sealing process. Once a space magician reached a high rank, they could use their magic power to cut apart spaces into subspaces and then seal them. This procedure was also called the activation process.

The magic arrays placed on spatial magic tools, to put it bluntly, was just a very special type of magic seal. Its most important function was to assist the magician when they divided the space into subspaces and help make them independent of one another. This enabled humans to be able to use them at any time.

It was because of this that general spatial magic tools on the continent were made with metal . Furthermore, the tools were made with a variety of metal types, and the quality of the requested metal made it so that the manufacture would be difficult.

These Spatial Bags Zhao Hai had taken out were a type of spatial magic tool that had never before appeared or been heard of on the continent. This had certainly made Karen curious.

Karen took the Spatial Bag and carefully examined it, but didn't find any special spot on it. He untied the rope that held the bag's mouth closed and checked it. When he still didn't find anything special, he frowned and opened the bag.

He struck the bag's mouth and a projection of a magic array suddenly appeared atop the bag. This magic array projection was blue colored, like the blue light shone from a firefly.

Karen thought about it for a while and rotated the bag. The magic array projection also rotated along with the bag's movement. Karen made the magic array cover a chair and said, "Collect!"

The chair immediately disappeared. Karen then said, "Place!" and the chair that had disappeared reappeared in its original position.

Karen nodded and said, "Sure enough, the magic used isn't for sealing, but rather to gather and release. This is a good tool. In the end, I wonder how it was made...?" He'd spoken as if he were lost in his thoughts.

Zhao Hai and the others stared dumbfounded after they watched Karen. Zhao Hai had wanted to explain to Karen the use of the Spatial Bag, but hadn't thought that Karen would be so unexpectedly intelligent. He had unraveled the function of the Spatial Bag, yet his reaction was too strange, right?

Laura looked at Karen's expression and immediately knew he'd fallen to focusing on researching the magic array. Now, even if one shouted in his ears, he wouldn't be able to hear it. She couldn't help but smile at Zhao Hai. "Brother Hai, don't worry, my father is normally like this. He really likes to study magic arrays and magic tools. When he starts, he forgets everything around him."

Zhao Hai examined Karen's appearance. Karen really did look like one of those crazy scientists. In order to focus on the study of their subjects, they could get so carried away. Such people were worth admiring.

Shaking his head, Zhao Hai said, "Uncle is really such a rare person. It's precisely because of people such as uncle that the development of magic here on the continent has reached such a degree."

Laura heard Zhao Hai's thoughts about Karen and couldn't help but smile sweetly. She reached out and picked up a Spatial Bag, carefully examining it. Zhao Hai smiled and said, "The use is how you saw. This Spatial Bag isn't very large, at most about 10 cubic meters. Any more than that and you can't fit anything else inside."

Laura happily said, "This is still very good, especially now. Most of the space equipment on the continent is controlled by and in the hands of those great aristocratic clans. Now we have our own. Furthermore, I heard that their space equipment isn't very large. This is really amazing."

Zhao Hai smiled. "I am glad you like it. For me, this thing isn't difficult to obtain. I cannot, however, take out too many as it would be conspicuous."

Laura nodded and said, "Brother Hai, rest assured, I will not easily reveal such a thing. By the way, Brother Hai, is this the only matter for today?"

"Ah, yes. I visited today for this matter and also to tour Casa City," Zhao Hai said with a smile. "By the way, I wanted to ask you if you could help me buy some fingerlings. Do you know where to buy them?"

Laura frowned and said, "Fingerlings are easy to buy. I have ways to obtain them. The problem is how to transport them. Fingerlings are very delicate, and because of the distance between their location and Stony Mountain, I'm afraid that for every ten being transported, one can only be saved. This is why I haven't bought them."

Zhao Hai smiled. "I see. Originally, it was like this. I say there's no problem. Please contact the seller and place a few orders. When the time comes, look for me and I'll take them."

Laura immediately replied after hearing Zhao Hai, "Alright, I'll contact them as soon as possible. Once they reply, I'll send someone to look for you."

Zhao Hai nodded and was about to say something when suddenly, his complexion changed. He turned and told Green, "Grandpa Green, people are attacking Stony Mountain. Let's go back immediately."

Green was surprised for a moment. His complexion then changed and his eyes glazed over. "Good courage, they really came." He stood up afterward and placed his helmet back on. Zhao Hai also put on his magic hat and the three stood up.

Zhao Hai turned towards Laura and said, "There's an incident happening at Stony Mountain. I must go back immediately. I will visit again in several days. Ah, right. Please be careful. I'm afraid these people were sent by Carlo."

Laura and Quinn John also stood, their complexions ugly. While they also thought that Markey Dell clan would send people, they hadn't thought it would be this fast.

Nodding to Zhao Hai, Laura said, "Brother Hai, rest assured, there won't be any issues here. Please, you have to be careful."

Zhao Hai nodded and complied with her words. He led Green and Meg as they left Faith Mansion on their horses and quickly left Casa City.

Once they were outside Casa City, they found a place with nobody around and entered the Space along with their horses. Then they left the Space and appeared in Bluestone Villa's yard.

The villa was still fairly calm. After all, Cai-er was present and had assumed command. If those people really dared to attack and climb the mountain, then they wouldn't be able to pass the courtyard since Cai-er was there. They wouldn't even be able to attack and climb the mountain as there were undead at the base of it.



Zhao Hai and the other two appeared at the villa and immediately traveled to the foot of the mountain. Zhao Hai released both Cai-er and Zhao Wen. Zhao Wen was atop Zhao Hai's head while Cai-er sat on his shoulder.

Zhao Hai then released the Eagle Virtuous Phantasms. He wanted to have a look and see how many had been sent to attack this time.

The three weren't worried and slowly arrived at the base of the mountain. They actually didn't leave the black mist, instead just standing inside. Cai-er waved her hand and a screen-like projection appeared in front of them. Since the area the screen could monitor had increased, Zhao Hai could clearly see the situation outside.

There were a number of mercenaries outside fighting the undead. Zhao Hai hadn't placed many undead there, but most of them were experts like Zhao Jia, Zhao Shi, and Zhao Jie . They weren't good to mess with.

More importantly was Buffy, Reo, and the group that was caught by the eagles during the ambush against Laura and were turned into undead afterward. The number in this group was quite large.

Zhao Hai released the eagles as he wanted to see if the opposing side had any reinforcements. These eagles acted as scouts as they flew through the air between Stony Mountain and Casa City. Zhao Hai suspected that the opposite party might possibly be using the attack on Stony Mountain as a cover for the real killing move that would have ambushed Zhao Hai's party on their way back. What they wouldn't have suspected was that Zhao Hai had the Space and could thus instantly travel back to Stony Mountain.

Soon, the eagles returned and hadn't found any ambush in the area. This was somewhat contrary to Zhao Hai's expectations. Although Stony Mountain was being attacked by a large number of mercenaries, about a thousand of them, they didn't have a genuine expert. There were several magicians, but none of high rank. These magicians were ones that specialized in area of effect attacks, but their magic power was too scarce and they couldn't keep it up. With Zhao Jia's team composition, attacking Stony Mountain with such a force was futile. What was this all about?

Zhao Hai told Green the news and Green shook his head. "Young Master, I think we should go back to the outside of Casa City. After that, we can travel for a bit and see if an ambush happens there. What do you think?"

The reason Green suggested this was because there were many ways to avoid reconnaissance in this world. Don't think of anything else, just using a stealth technique would allow one to evade the view of the eagles. If the other party really wanted to ambush them, then they would certainly use a foolproof approach. It wouldn't be like the last time when they failed to ambush Laura.

That time, the reason the ambush against Laura was so carelessly done was because they weren't prepared. They hadn't thought Laura would be so daring to begin with. This time around, they would obviously make sure to have the proper preparations.

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, we'll go back and travel slowly. I want to see what they have in store for us."

After the three returned to the yard, they quickly transported back to the Space and then to the outside of Casa City. They then sat in Alien's body and quickly dashed towards Stony Mountain.

The reason they had to seem anxious was because Zhao Hai wanted to make them appear as if they were worried. This would then make people think they were anxious to head back and help in the rescue. With no time to look around, they manufactured an opportunity for others to ambush them.

## Chapter 206 - One Person Becomes a Thousand

While traveling forward, Zhao Hai paid attention to their surroundings through the projection of the monitor. Green and Meg were also attentive. Even if those stealth techniques could deceive an excellent eye, it couldn't hide from the monitor.

What made Zhao Hai feel strange about was that after traveling for more than two hours, they still hadn't found the existence of an enemy. If they continue for another half hour more, they would soon arrive at Stony Mountain. By that point, there would obviously be no good places for an ambush.

Green was also a bit unsure and had shared Zhao Hai's thoughts that they would be ambushed past the halfway point to Stony Mountain. Now, however, they still hadn't found anyone. This was truly beyond their expectations. He looked puzzledly at the screen and said, "Aren't they going to ambush us halfway to Stony Mountain?"

Suddenly, a green dot appeared on the screen. Afterward, there was a rapid increase in the number of green dots, the change visible to the naked eye. This made Zhao Hai and the others dumbfounded as they didn't understand what was going on.

Before long, those green dots had them surrounded. Green seemed to have thought of something and his complexion suddenly changed. "One person becomes a thousand, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows."

Zhao Hai and Meg were surprised for a moment. They turned their heads towards Green with a bit of confusion in their expression as they didn't understand what he'd meant. Green looked at them and said, "Young Master, you needn't be confused. There's actually only one person outside, yet we can also say there are a thousand individuals as well. This person is very famous on the continent as he is a renowned assassin for hire. What's more important is that this person is a Rank Seven warrior and, simultaneously, a Divergent Warlock."

"Divergent Warlock?" Zhao Hai and Meg both cried out in alarm at the same time. A couple of days ago, they had just said that Zhao Hai was a Divergent Warlock. They didn't expect that they would encounter a Divergent Warlock today.

Zhao Hai couldn't help but stop Alien. They were surrounded by a thousand individuals. What was strange about these thousand individuals was that they all wore the same clothing and carried the same weapons. Only their posture as they wielded their weapons were different.

Green, however, was calm this time around. He looked coldly at those silhouettes before turning his head towards Zhao Hai, saying, "Yes, a Divergent Warlock. Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows is very strange. He has a very enviable Divergent technique, a doppelganger technique. His doppelganger technique creates sub-bodies that aren't dummies or illusions but real people. The attacks of these avatars of his are the same as his own attacks, and they also have the same strength as him. What's more important is that his doppelganger technique can allow his avatars to also use his weapon. I hear he can produce a thousand avatars. As such, he can perfectly be described as 'one person becomes a thousand'."

Zhao Hai was surprised. "I really didn't expect that there could be such a Divergent technique. It's really too great. No wonder the other side is assured. With a thousand people used to deal with us, if this happened in the past we would have been thrown into confusion. But now? Haha."

Green also laughed after hearing what Zhao Hai said. Truly, if this had happened before and they met with this Divergent Warlock, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows, then it would have been a headache. This wasn't the case now. Don't even mention Zhao Hai with his two Rank Nine experts, even if he just used the eagles flying overhead, the quantity wouldn't be limited to just a thousand.

Smiling, Green said, "Young Master, you must go out and see Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows. Although this person is an assassin, he works quite frankly. Furthermore, he doesn't hurt the innocent, so he can be considered a good individual, a decent person to meet."

Zhao Hai showed a faint smile and nodded. He knew that here on the Ark Continent, common assassins were like mercenaries and weren't truly disliked. Only those that were notorious and evil would be shamed. As such, no one really cared that much about common assassins.

The three of them walked out of Alien's mouth. They saw the battle formation outside that was composed of a thousand people. The small army all wore leather armor and held a weapon in their hands, looking coldly at Zhao Hai.

These thousand individuals looked exactly the same. Their height was about 1.8 meters or so, and they looked very strong. With messy hair that was uncared for, they had silver-gray eyes that gave one a cold feeling.

The weapons they held were actually two-handed axes that looked quite heavy. They gazed at Zhao Hai and the other two. When the three came out, the sharp eyes of the army flashed.

Green stood beside Zhao Hai, looked at Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows, and with a cold voice said, "Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows. I never would have thought we would run into you here. Why? How much of a bounty did they place on us?"

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows had already thought he'd been recognized, so he wasn't startled. Instead, he looked coldly at Zhao Hai and said, "10,000 gold coins."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but laugh. "I didn't think we were that valuable, how come? Are you confident enough to keep us here?"

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows stared at Zhao Hai. He smiled coldly and said, "A thousand against three. I cannot see the possibility of my loss."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly. "Who said it was a thousand against three? Go ahead and look up."

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows was surprised for a moment, then looked up at the sky and found that there were many small black spots circling the sky. These black spots were densely packed together. Based on his estimation, they were more than a thousand in number. Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows couldn't keep his complexion from changing.

Zhao Hai looked at Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows' appearance and couldn't help but chuckle. "What's wrong? Now, which side has more people? You won't think I can't control them, right?"

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows lowered his head, then shook it. "I believe you can command them. However, I have taken other people's money, so I will naturally need to handle this matter. Kill!" Having shouted that, he flew towards Zhao Hai.

Meg didn't wait for Zhao Hai and quickly took out the Sealed Magic Iron Tome. An angel instantly appeared over Zhao Hai's body, protecting him. Zhao Hai also wasn't idle as he cast an earth elemental magic spell, 'Ground Thorn Technique'.

This Ground Thorn Technique was an area-of-effect earth element magic spell. The range was around a hundred meters, but the lethality wasn't very high. For a common warrior, so long as they could jump, they could avoid it.

Even if it wasn't an effective attack, at this moment it was effective at blocking his enemies. With Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows momentarily blocked, Zhao Hai held the Ghost Cane and waved it. Stone Giants appeared around Zhao Hai, blocking attacks.

Green didn't help Zhao Hai get rid of their enemies. To him, this was a rare combat opportunity for Zhao Hai, and Green wanted him to experience it. Anyway, there was still Cai-er and Zhao Wen on Zhao Hai's side, so Green wasn't worried about his safety.

At this time, the eagles flying in the sky began their attack on Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows. These eagles screamed as they flew down swiftly. Their present battle efficiency wasn't weak as they flew awe-inspiringly with killing intent around them.

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows hadn't thought that Zhao Hai would be so unexpectedly hard to deal with. What's more was that the information he was given said that Zhao Hai was a black magician. The information hadn't listed that Zhao Hai could use earth element magic. Moreover, he could command flying magic beasts with blood-red bodies. At a glance, this wasn't easy to deal with.

After the eagles flew down and attacked Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows, he became filled with regret. He hadn't thought that the battle efficiency of the eagles would be so strong. Moreover, their talons were strange since they could block his axe attacks. He began to feel his battle qi draining fast, faster than its usual consumption. This made Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows secretly complain.

At this moment, Alien looked up into the sky and suddenly roared. It fiercely charged towards Zhao Hai. It was unknown when exactly it had transformed into a large zombie predator. It struck rapidly, not giving Zhao Hai the chance to hide.

Green and Meg were both startled. They had been standing beside Zhao Hai and had absolutely no guard up against Alien. The two would never have thought that Alien would change form at this time.

Just then, Green angrily shouted. Alien threw itself onto Zhao Hai, but instead of crashing into him, it opened its mouth and swallowed Zhao Hai. Furthermore, they didn't know when but it had suddenly changed into skeleton form. After swallowing Zhao Hai, a sword appeared, piercing straight down onto its head.

Right! A sword appeared above Alien's head and this sword was very hard. Alien's head couldn't help but be pulled downward, sinking together with the sword and into the ground.

Green and Meg now clearly understood what had happened. Originally, Alien didn't really want to attack Zhao Hai. Instead, it tried to save him. They hadn't expected that there would be another hidden assassin in the vicinity. That assassin had suddenly attacked Zhao Hai with a quick burst. If not for the timely rescue from Alien, the consequences would truly be inconceivable.

Actually, Green didn't know that just as Alien took action, Cai-er had already appeared on Zhao Hai's shoulder and Zhao Wen on his head. Thus, even if Alien didn't make a move, Zhao Hai wouldn't have been in any accidents. Since Cai-er and Zhao Wen weren't large, nobody had felt their presence .

With the sudden appearance of the assassin, Alien didn't have to just save Zhao Hai but also had to take the brunt of the assassin's attack. One must know, however, that Alien was an undead variation. Spiritual attacks were his forte, so to suddenly move made the other shocked .

That person, however, was strictly trained. Thus, when the person found out their attack had failed, he immediately wanted to retreat. Green didn't give the person a chance. With his Spirit Wind Sword, he charged straight at the person.

Zhao Hai was drenched in cold sweat. He hadn't thought that the assassin's stealth techniques would be this fierce. Not even Green had found him.

Thinking about this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but feel his heart tighten. He turned towards Cai-er and said, "Cai-er, help Grandpa Green. Don't let that assassin run."

Cai-er complied immediately. With a swift movement, she suddenly appeared beside Green with the use of a Spatial Crack. Several vines extended from the inside of the Spatial Crack and headed straight for the assassin.

This sudden attack greatly startled the assassin. His appearance was that of a person making continuous dodges with great difficulty. Yet, he hadn't actually thought that those vines would vanish. Just as he was startled, behind him appeared another Spatial Crack and vines stretched forth from it. The person was then bound tightly. These vines had small fibrous roots that were like steel needles stabbing into his body. The person's endurance was really astonishing. Even with this much pain, he didn't make a sound.

## Chapter 207 - Blood Oath

This matter wasn't finished yet. Those small fibrous roots pierced into the assassin's body. As though they were regular roots, they began to suck on the flesh and blood of the assassin. In the blink of an eye, the assassin had actually disappeared from the spot.

Zhao Hai and the others were convinced that their eyes didn't play tricks on them. The assassin was actually gone, only leaving behind tattered clothes and an almost transparent piercing sword. He had completely vanished, not a single trace of skin, bone, blood, or flesh left behind. Completely gone, as if the person had never existed on this world.

The three looked at the spot blankly. After causing the assassin's disappearance, one of the vines curled around that piercing sword and then vanished into the Spatial Crack.

That assassin was at least a Rank Eight expert. A Rank Eight expert was instantly sucked dry. Had Cai-er really caused the person to disappear in the blink of an eye? The fibrous root hairs didn't leave behind a single thing. Wasn't this too formidable ?

A thought flashed in Zhao Hai and the others' head. If that assassin wasn't a Rank Eight expert, then it wouldn't have been possible for him to hide from Green. A Rank Eight assassin that wanted to kill on purpose, not even Green would be able to escape.

Such strength, in front of Cai-er, simply vanished from the world. Not even a bit remained. Such a strength made Zhao Hai and the others scared in their hearts.

Zhao Hai turned his head to look at Cai-er's adorable figure. He suddenly imagined that she'd grown a tail and two sharp horns and became a little devil.

Cai-er looked at Zhao Hai's appearance, puzzled. "How is the Young Master? What's wrong?"

Zhao Hai calmed down a bit and said to Cai-er, "Cai-er, did you eat that assassin?"

Cai-er was still puzzled when she looked at Zhao Hai. "What does it mean to eat? He died, so he naturally became fertilizer. I am a seven-colored flower, so what's wrong with absorbing fertilizer? In the Devil World, after the magic beasts and other creatures die, then except for turning into undead they would try and attract my attention. They would even take the initiative and let me absorb them. What's so strange about this?"



Zhao Hai was dumbfounded. With regards to Cai-er, it truly was what she'd said. Her main body was that of a plant, and plants didn't know what was good or evil. They only desired to seek out nutrition in order to grow. Zhao Hai didn't want to tell Cai-er that what she did was wrong, because Cai-er herself didn't make any mistakes.

At this time, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows discovered the death of the assassin and his complexion couldn't help but change.

That assassin had been sent by his employer to help him complete this task, so the commission he obtained was only 10,000 gold coins. For these 10,000 gold coins, he wasn't entrusted to take Zhao Hai's life but to distract them and allow the assassin the opportunity to strike out and kill Zhao Hai.

Assassins weren't fools. To take a life for money yet die in the process wouldn't earn them anything. Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows had previously inquired about Zhao Hai's strength before taking the assignment. Zhao Hai was at least a Rank Eight expert. Moreover, he had several Rank Eight experts by his side. If 10,000 gold coins was to be used to buy Zhao Hai's life, then Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows wouldn't accept such an assignment. The risk was just too great.

The person who had hired him, however, had said that the 10,000 gold coins was just to attract Zhao Hai's attention. As such, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows accepted the task. Yet now the true assassin was dead. This was the same as saying they had failed their task this time around. Currently, he didn't want to remain and continue to go all out against Zhao Hai.

At this time, Zhao Hai walked out of Alien with Cai-er on his shoulder and Zhao Wen on his head. There shouldn't be any more worries.

As he left Alien, Zhao Hai saw Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows and his flying eagles. The shadows soon disappeared slowly. One by one, their numbers decreased until even the last Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows disappeared from the battlefield.

Zhao Hai was surprised for a moment. He immediately understood that originally, only the doppelgangers of Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows were present. The real body, however, was nowhere to be seen.

Green also witnessed the situation and turned towards Zhao Hai. “Young Master, we cannot let him escape. If we let him escape, then outsiders will know of our situation.”

Zhao Hai nodded and ordered, “Zhao Wen, find and capture him.”

Zhao Wen immediately complied and shifted a little, completely vanishing from her previous position.

Zhao Hai had understood what Green meant. If they let Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows escape today, then he would definitely let others know that Zhao Hai had other abilities such as earth elemental magic and the ability to command flying eagles. He would even let them know of the existence of Cai-er. All of this would naturally be exposed. These were cards Zhao Hai kept hidden in his hand, so he naturally didn't want to let Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows escape. It was better to not let others know of it.

Turning towards Cai-er, Zhao Hai said, “Cai-er, aren't you going to take out that man's sword? Go ahead and let me have a look.”

Cai-er complied immediately and the sword appeared in front of Zhao Hai. The materials used for the sword were very special. It seemed transparent and it didn't reflect light. Moreover, it was extremely thin and the sword was unexpectedly soft.

Zhao Hai took the nearly transparent soft sword. He couldn't believe that this world would have such a thing. Even on Earth, wanting to make such a sword of similar quality wouldn't be easy. In the end, how did they much such a sword here on the Ark Continent?

The appearance of the sword looked very sharp. Zhao Hai couldn't help but take the Ghost Cane and try to knock it against the sword. He wouldn't have thought that upon the two objects touching, the eyes of the skull on the Ghost Cane would flash with a red light. The skull's mouth suddenly opened and bit the sword. Zhao Hai didn't respond fast enough and could only watch as it continued to bite into the sword. One bit after another, the sword was slowly eaten.

Zhao Hai and the others were dumbfounded. They didn't understand what was happening. At this time, Cai-er turned to Zhao Hai and said, “Young Master, the Space has analyzed that the sword is made from some unknown animal's bone. That animal bone isn't only sharp, but also hard, as hard as steel. It was eaten by the Ghost Cane, so now the Ghost Cane can transform into that sword at any time. Even if you don't want it to transform into a sword, you can now make the Ghost Cane either soft or hard.”

This was an unexpected surprise. Zhao Hai was overjoyed. Looking at Cai-er, he asked, "Really? Does the Ghost Cane really have such an ability?"

Cai-er smiled. "It didn't have such an ability in the past, but when Zhao Wen and I entered the Space, it naturally acquired this ability. As such, the Ghost Cane also gained that same ability. Haha."

Overjoyed, Zhao Hai picked up the Ghost Cane. Looking at its appearance, one wouldn't see anything special. He could help but hold the Ghost Cane in two hands and try to bend it. He didn't expect that although it looked hard, the crystal-like Ghost Cane bent like a bow.

Zhao Hai gawked. He loosened his grip and the Ghost Cane returned to its original appearance. Zhao Hai picked up the Ghost Cane and tried to knock it against Alien. A ding-ding sound was heard, reflecting its hardness .

Zhao Hai nodded in satisfaction. The Ghost Cane could change according to his will and become soft or hard. Zhao Wen soon flew back from the distance, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows grasped in her forelegs.

Before long, Zhao Wen arrived in front of Zhao Hai. She loosened her grip and threw Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows onto the ground before going back to her position atop Zhao Hai's head. "Young Master, this guy is really cunning. His main body was a thousand meters away from here. Moreover, he was hiding in the woods which made it really hard to find him."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "If he was easy to find, then we wouldn't have needed our Little Wen to move personally. Say, Little Wen, what do you want to eat today?"

Zhao Wen had been eating the blue-eyed rabbits the Space produced, but she doesn't eat much. Moreover, the rabbits were really delicious and had become a favorite of Zhao Wen.

"Rabbit!" Zhao Hai had expected such an answer. Zhao Wen was more childish when compared to Cai-er. Cai-er, on the other hand, didn't have much contact with others so she appeared somewhat naive. Zhao Wen was instead closer to a human child.

Zhao Hai complied with Zhao Wen's wish. He then turned towards Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows and saw that he'd fainted and wasn't dead. Zhao Hai turned towards Green and asked, "Grandpa Green, what should we do with him?"

Green was feeling somewhat awkward. Letting Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows live would mean he must keep the secret. Instead of that, they might as well just kill him, turning him into an undead as added security. With this thought, his eyes flashed and he said, "Young Master, only a dead man can keep a secret. We must kill him."

Zhao Hai's heart was somewhat uncomfortable, yet he couldn't blame Green for being ruthless. He just wasn't accustomed to killing someone who didn't have the ability to resist .

At this time, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows, who had been lying prone on the ground, turned over and was now kneeling before Zhao Hai. He said, "Mister, please do not kill me. I am willing to become your slave. Mister, please forgive me."

Zhao Hai and Green didn't think Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows would wake up so quickly. They looked at each other, then Zhao Hai turned towards Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows and asked, "Become my slave? Are you sincere? Would you undertake a blood oath?"

Blood oaths were messy, and under a blood oath, one cannot violate their pledge. Otherwise, that person would be punished. This wasn't Earth where swearing was similar to eating a cabbage. Blood oaths could not be violated afterward, else the blood within their bodies will flow backward. In the end, they will die due to their heart rupturing .

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows hesitated a bit, then clenched his teeth. He lifted his hand and bit his finger. This issued the blood oath on the spot. When Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows completed the blood oath, Zhao Hai felt a mystical connection between himself and Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows. Seemingly, it was like his connection with the undead. If Zhao Hai wanted him to live, he would live. If he wanted him to die, he would die.

Watching Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows give his pledge, Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, follow me now. We will go back to Stony Mountain." Turning around, Zhao Hai entered Alien.

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows followed behind and was startled when he entered Alien. He hadn't thought that Alien would hide such an appearance. He didn't say anything, however, and just sat honestly behind Zhao Hai. He lowered his head and didn't dare to make a noise.

#### Chapter 208 - Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows's Shock

Zhao Hai didn't restrict Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows. He turned his head towards Green and said, "Grandpa Green, our previous guess was correct. They besieged Stony Mountain in order to get us to return and provide aid. It seems that as long as we head back, the alarm around Stony Mountain will be lifted."

Green nodded. He turned towards Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows and asked, "Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows, was it the Markey Dell clan that had hired you this time?"

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows nodded and said, "I was hired by the Markey Dell clan's Fifth Young Master, Carlo. My main duty was to assist the assassin by drawing Master's attention. After that, the assassin would attack Master. I ask Master to please forgive me."

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "Before, we were enemies and our positions were different. Those matters mean nothing now. Later on, call me Young Master as I don't like to be called Master."

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows complied immediately. His heart began to loosen up as he'd feared Zhao Hai might blame this matter on him. Since he was now a slave to a blood oath with Zhao Hai, he knew Zhao Hai had the power to dispose of him. This was the largest thorn stuck in his heart.

Zhao Hai didn't pay any attention to Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows' mood. In any case, they would need to buy slaves afterward. Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows was now bound by a blood oath, so as a slave he was a great deal more loyal compared to bought slaves. As such, Zhao Hai could trust him.

He then said to Green, "It seems that the Markey Dell clan wants to get involved. Even though I don't think that assassin was from the Markey Dell clan headquarters, but instead from Carlo, this might just be a test. The real attack will soon follow."

Green nodded. "Maybe Carlo doesn't want to place such a piece of fat in the maw of the clan, so he probably made this last ditch effort against us. Anyway, the people he sent this time, besides the assassin, didn't have any masters with them. Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows was only bought with money, and to Carlo that money simply means nothing to him."

Smiling coldly, Zhao Hai nodded and said, "If he wants to send people, then let him send them. If he wants to ask others, then I'll let him do as he pleases. I want to see how much money he'll spend in the end. Just wait, when the time comes for us to tidy him up, I'll let Laura take over all of his businesses here in the Aksu Empire. That Markey Dell clan... Hmph. They provoked us, so they shouldn't feel good about it."

Green sneered and said, "The Markey Dell clan has been in the scene for too long now and truly think highly of themselves. As for the Purcell clan, what kind of clan are they? They're a pure, established aristocratic clan, a clan with its own fiefdom and personal army. Can the Markey Dell clan compare with them?"

"That said, these past few years, the Markey Dell clan has offended many people. These people are eagerly waiting for an opportunity. At this time, they won't dare to move against us because they won't just be offending us, but the Purcell clan. They truly are courting death. Later on, when the Markey Dell clan can't even dig up their own skin, we'll surely take a look and see how many benefits we can gain from them."

Zhao Hai revealed a faint smile. "We don't have to think about the benefits. The advantage we have is our closer relationship with Laura and Evan. Oh, say, we don't have much manpower so we can grab that benefit."

Nodding, Green said, "That's also good. Haha. So long as the Young Master marries Laura, it will mean we gain the wealth of two people as a result."

Zhao Hai couldn't bear to hear this and said to Green, "Grandpa Green, those words can't be spoken irresponsibly. It will make us look as though we schemed for Laura's money."

Green smiled. "We had a part in how they had gotten their wealth as well. Laura has her current status thanks to us. Others might not know, but she clearly understands this. Otherwise, she wouldn't pay so much attention to Young Master. Ah, right. Young Master, we should notify Miss Laura to save her from needless worrying."

Nodding, Zhao Hai said, "After we return to Stony Mountain. When we get back, then we can send a letter to Miss Laura. First, we will have to check the situation."

Green nodded. On the other hand, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows was listening closely to their conversation. To be honest, as an assassin, he didn't need to understand these matters. Furthermore, he didn't work for the Purcell Duchy, and thus didn't have any interests in the duchy's gritudes and grudges.

Now, however, he was a slave of Zhao Hai's and thus needed to understand the situation of the duchy. When he heard what Green said, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows was startled. This issue unexpectedly involved the Markey Dell clan and Purcell clan. Those two clans were very famous on the continent. A bad step would mean dire results.

After thinking about the situation, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows didn't feel angry. Instead, he felt a bit lucky. If he did successfully deal with Zhao Hai this time around, then the Purcell clan would know of it and he'd be finished. The Purcell clan wouldn't be polite to him. Even if he were a Divergent Warlock, he feared it would be difficult to run from them and he might actually die.

As they spoke, the group had almost reached Stony Mountain. Zhao Hai began to hear chaotic war cries, but he didn't stop Alien from moving forward. They continued on straight to Stony Mountain .

Cai-er, who was sitting on Zhao Hai's shoulder, waved her hand and a screen projection appeared before them. They all examined the screen and didn't notice Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows' shock.

This was the first time Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows had seen a monitoring device that could project such a thing. What he didn't know was that the screen in the Spatial Villa was a great deal larger than this. It was the size of a person and had a crystal clear quality.

Zhao Hai carefully observed the situation. The dressed up mercenaries weren't that strong. As such, they couldn't charge into the mountain and many of them had died already.

Looking at the map above the projection, he found several green dots that stayed at the opposite side of the mountain, unmoving. Evidently, this was where they commanded the fight.

When Zhao Hai pointed out these green dots, the projection turned. Those few green dots began to enlarge, and Zhao Hai soon found the position of these green dots. Some of the dots then turned into three black magicians.

These three black magicians, along with two mercenaries, were standing to the side of Stony Mountain. They were looking at the mountain, and also at Alien.

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows was dumbfounded after seeing all this. It was truly beyond his imagination. He wasn't a person who never had contact with a magician. On the contrary, to complete his assignments he had to regularly work with magicians. However, he had never seen magic like Zhao Hai's.

He truly thought that Zhao Hai was using magic. On the continent, magic was really mysterious. No matter what abilities people had, unless it was extremely abnormal, it would be considered magic.

In the past, he had seen magicians using reconnaissance magic before, but that kind of magic can only inform the magician casting it. When listening to the magician's description of the situation, it would always seem vague or unclear.

Zhao Hai's ability was completely different. Everyone could see the real individuals, and even their movements were clearly shown. Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows even saw the individual hairs on the back of a black magician's hand.

Zhao Hai was carefully examining those three black magicians when Green breathed in deeply and said, "This Carlo is really attentive. This time around, he even searched for three black magicians to deal with us. It seems like they want to use those three black magicians and have them deal with Young Master's undead. Haha. This was a good idea."

High ranking black magicians could steal a low ranking black magician's summoned creatures, especially the native kind of undead. The only thing was that their rank must be sufficiently high enough. This was because they weren't only dealing with the black magician, but with their undead as well. It was equal to fighting against the spiritual attacks of two individuals.



Carlo, however, took the time to look for those three black magicians in order to deal with the undead. They were told to leave Zhao Hai to the forces while they specifically dealt with the undead. Without Zhao Hai, dealing with the undead would be a lot easier.

On the other hand, Zhao Hai wasn't actually worried about his undead since they were different from the common undead on the continent. Furthermore, their own ranks were high, so even if he hadn't subdued them, the three black magicians would probably have trouble taking control of them anyway. Right now, it should be impossible.

Zhao Hai showed a faint smile as he said, "Should we let them be? Or how about letting them join the company of Zhao Zui? Since we sent Zhao Zui and his team to Laura, the available manpower we have on our hands is a bit short."

Green smiled. "Let them go and tell Carlo about our situation. Since Carlo hasn't given up yet, this will also let the Markey Dell clan know we aren't easy to deal with."

"That's fine as well," Zhao Hai replied with a smile. "That kind of person can't produce anything that can threaten us. Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows, go out and repel those mercenaries."

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows was surprised for a moment. He hadn't thought that Zhao Hai would call him. He immediately complied and left Alien. After leaving, he conveniently picked up a large sword off a mercenary soldier and activated his doppelganger technique. Then he went straight off towards those mercenaries, slaughtering them.

Green was confused. Looking at Zhao Hai, he asked, "Young Master, why did you send out Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows when you could have ordered the undead to easily solve the mercenaries?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly. "Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows was sent by Carlo to deal with us. Now that he suddenly lifted his hands against those mercenaries, what do you think Carlo will feel from this? He may consider that Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows had betrayed him and wouldn't let him off. In case this happens, then Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows can only rely on us, else death awaits him. Although I had used the blood oath to restrain him, it's better if he personally cuts off his past and feels good when staying with us."

Green was surprised for a moment. He hadn't thought that Zhao Hai would think of this. Zhao Hai was also right. Although Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows was bound by a blood oath and wouldn't betray Zhao Hai, he wouldn't be loyal from his heart. Even if he doesn't dare to betray Zhao Hai now, if he doesn't work to serve them, then it might be possibly that he would do anything he can to make things troublesome for Zhao Hai.

## Chapter 209 - Identity

As Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows left, Zhao Hai didn't pay anymore attention to him and instead focused on the black magicians. He wanted to know what plays the black magicians would use. Since Carlo had sent them to deal with him, their ranks shouldn't be low. What method will they use?

Just as he was thinking this, Alien suddenly began to shake. Zhao Hai was surprised, then immediately understood. The opposite party was trying to control Alien in order to deal with them. This somewhat surprised Zhao Hai, but he decided to wait it out. Since the opposite party knew they were inside Alien, they must of thought of dealing with Alien first. So long as they controlled Alien, they could then move against Zhao Hai and the others who were inside this undead.

They really did have a good scheme, but this scheme wouldn't be able to achieve their goals. First and foremost, they didn't know of Zhao Hai's greatest cheat, the Space. Alien itself was already hard to deal with as it was a variation type of undead. Those fellows looking at Alien should soon feel they have bad luck.

To be safe, however, Zhao Hai brought Green and Meg into the Space, then to Bluestone Villa. They sat around the living room and examined the situation outside.

Alien was apparently quite irritated. He had obviously found out that the other party wished to deal with him. Moreover, since Zhao Hai left, Alien could feel relieved and move against those black magicians without a care. Therefore, once Zhao Hai left, Alien immediately threw itself in the direction of those three black magicians.

Zhao Hai watched Alien's actions and didn't say anything. If those three black magicians escaped, then things would be easier. If they didn't, then they should just stay and become Zhao Hai's slaves.

Meg took a pot of tea and poured some for Zhao Hai and Green, then sat with the other two and quietly watched the screen with them. At the moment, there were over a hundred casualties among the mercenaries. Furthermore, they still couldn't break past the foot of Stony Mountain. This had begun to make them fearful.

Zhao Hai was afraid that the other side might find out too much, so he didn't release the eagles and have them help in the defense. He entrusted everything to the undead and had them deal with the enemies.

He didn't really care about the situation on the battlefield. They just wanted to see whether Alien could tidy up those three black magicians.

The three black magicians apparently hadn't expected that Alien would find their location, or that it would charge them. They didn't know that Zhao Hai and the others were already gone and could only feel flustered.

They began to panic and threw an attack at Alien. Alien itself understood spiritual magic, so it knew what to do at this time. Strengthening its own spiritual power, it immediately released a spiritual counter-attack at the three black magicians.

One must agree that Alien was definitely intelligent. Zhao Hai hadn't ever taught it how to fight. Instead, it seemed to instinctively understand how to defend itself and counter-attack. Before it was assaulted, it hadn't displayed any strong spiritual attacks, but now it could hold its own and stay undefeated. Because of the results of their attacks a few moments ago, the three black magicians were confused and their actions became delayed. Alien then released its spiritual counter-attack, which the three black magicians were unable to dodge.

A spiritual counter-attack was the most dreadful move against a magician. The damage wouldn't be light, but have high consequences. For instance, the entirety of their cultivation could be wasted, or they could become a disabled person or even an idiot. Lastly, they could possibly die. These consequences were not light in the least.

Alien's spiritual counter-attack, this time around, wasn't light and heavily impacted the three black mages. The three's appearance shook and they were swept off their feet. The mercenaries with them saw what had happened and immediately stepped back. When they looked at the three black magicians, all they saw were pools of blood and a lack of aura.

This made the two mercenaries greatly surprised. They were shocked at Alien's spiritual attack and quickly ordered the retreat. After giving this command, they ran as fast as they could and didn't even bother to tidy up the corpses on the ground.

Zhao Hai smiled faintly. "It seems that now, we have three more assistants. Meg, call Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows back."

Meg complied and quickly walked down the mountain. She knew that if Zhao Hai didn't give his consent, then Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows wouldn't be able to climb the mountain. Nevermind the fact that he was a Rank Seven warrior, even if he were a Rank Eight warrior with a thousand doppelgangers, he still wouldn't be able to breach through and climb the mountain.

\* \* \* \* \*

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows looked at the retreating enemies and took back his avatars. He then stood at the foot of the mountain. Upon Alien's arrival on the mountain, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows still thought Zhao Hai and the others were inside it.

When Alien arrived at the mountain, it held three dead black magicians in its mouth. After spitting them onto the ground, it laid down at the foot of the mountain and shut its maw. This made Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows confused, and he didn't know what to do. As such, he just stood there and waited with Alien.

At this time, the mists around Stony Mountain fluctuated. Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows quickly looked in that direction to see who was coming out. What he saw was the silhouette of a human. Then he was shocked. He hadn't expected that the one to come out would unexpectedly be Meg.

Meg looked at Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows and said, "Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows, the Young Master wishes to talk to you within Stony Mountain. Come and follow me." She then turned and walked back up the mountain. Alien ran several steps forward before falling in behind Meg. Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows, although confused, didn't say anything and just followed Meg in.

As they walked, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows was sizing up the situation. They were surrounded by black mists and couldn't see anything past it. He didn't know how many undead were within the black mist. This made him afraid to take a wrong step and he followed Meg closely.

Before long, they arrived at Bluestone Villa. Upon seeing Bluestone Villa, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows was stunned. The beauty of the villa was beyond his imagination. He thought that Bluestone Villa would be like the rest of Stony Mountain; covered with black mists, gloomy, terrifying. He wouldn't have thought that this place would be like a flower garden.

Those vines with seven-colored flowers gave people a sensation of beauty. It felt like walking through a dream. Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows couldn't help but pause outside Bluestone Villa and stare blankly.

When Meg heard the footsteps behind her pause, she couldn't help but turn around and check. She found Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows staring at the villa's seven-colored flowers with a blank expression. Meg couldn't hold back her smile as she said, "Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows, you can look at it later. Let's go in quickly, the Young Master is waiting for us."

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows recovered and busily complied. He followed Meg into the courtyard. To be honest, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows was a bit unhappy with Meg's attitude. As a maidservant, they should be on the same level .

He didn't dare to openly display his thoughts, though. He had only just joined Zhao Hai and didn't yet understand his temperament. At this time, there wouldn't be any advantage in offending Meg.

After crossing over to the courtyard, Alien found a place and laid down on its tummy. Meg led Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows through the backyard, then into the parlor room. Upon entering the parlor room, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows was surprised to see Zhao Hai's and Green's appearances.

Zhao Hai and Green had taken off their hat and helmet. They didn't need to use those within Stony Mountain. Furthermore, they didn't fear that Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows would spread the word. If he dared to violate the oath, then it was equivalent to courting with death.

What surprised Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows was Zhao Hai's age and Green's current appearance. Green and Zhao Hai were sitting, facing one another, drinking tea. They chatted quietly as they did so. Looking at this magician and follower, it seemed as though they were family.

Zhao Hai looked at Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows and said, "Welcome back."

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows recovered and hastily bowed to Zhao Hai. "Yes, Young Master, what is your command?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "I don't have any other order for you. Since you did a good job, and are now my follower, I'll let you know of my identity."

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows stood there with a lowered head, but his heart wasn't tranquil. To be honest, he wasn't happy to be a follower of Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai hadn't told him who he was, nor what he did. The situation, however, revealed that he was stronger than others, so he could only become Zhao Hai's slave and make the blood oath.

And now, with what Zhao Hai said, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows couldn't help but whisper some words of suspicion within his heart. Zhao Hai saying this meant he probably had another identity, but in the end he couldn't think of what other identity he might have.

Zhao Hai looked at Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows and said, "Since you had pledged yourself under a blood oath, we are now locusts tied to one rope. As such, I'm not afraid to tell you. If I told you my identity and said that you wouldn't be able to stay in the Aksu Empire for even a day after knowing it, would you be afraid?"

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows couldn't help but jump. He quickly knelt on one knee and said, "Please be relieved Young Master. Although I, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows, am an assassin, I meant what I had said. I said I would follow the Young Master, and thus will be loyal to the Young master. Please, rest assured, Young Master."

Zhao Hai nodded. "Good. Remember your words. Now, listen up. My former name was Adam Buda, and I have changed my name to Zhao Hai Buda. I am the Buda clan's current patriarch."

Shocked, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows couldn't believe what he'd just heard as he looked at Zhao Hai. He hadn't expected Zhao Hai to say he was of the Buda clan.

The Buda clan was very famous on the continent. It wasn't because of anything but the fact that they had been placed in the Black Waste by the Aksu Empire. After so many years, that place had finally become the fiefdom of an aristocratic clan. Due to this, the Buda clan became famous quite easily.

Furthermore, he had heard that the Young Master of the Buda clan was a dandy, and that he had drunk the Water of Nothingness. How could such a person sit in front of him, wearing black magician robes with a reputation of being a black magician? How could this Zhao Hai use earth elemental magic?

Watching Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows' reaction, Zhao Hai said, "You needn't be suspicious. I am Adam Buda. Now, however, I have changed my name to Zhao Hai Buda. This is our clan's Head Steward, Spiritwind Battle General Green Buda, and his granddaughter, Meg Buda."

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows now believed it as he hastily greeted Green. In the past, Green was a famous Rank Eight expert on the continent. As such, he had previously heard of his reputation, yet hadn't seen him before. Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows then greeted Meg. Now he knew why Meg was arrogant; it was because she had the capability of being so.

## Chapter 210 - Southern King

Although Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows didn't know that Meg was a Rank Six magician, just the fact that she was Green's grand-daughter was enough for her to be prideful.

Green's importance within the Buda clan was something known by most on the continent. If it weren't for Green and Meirin, then the Buda clan would have been extinguished long ago. Due to this, after he heard that Meg was Green's grand-daughter, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows' tiny feeling of dissatisfaction within his heart vanished.

Zhao Hai looked at Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows and said, "Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows, I have told you my identity. This means that I regard you as one of my people. You have pledged a blood oath, which means you cannot betray me in this life. I do hope, however, that you can become one of my genuine confidants.

“I am not afraid to tell you that although I drank the Water of Nothingness, I am still a Divergent Warlock and I also have a way to resolve the toxin. In the future, I will revitalize the Buda clan. So long as you help me, I won’t mistreat you. But if you only want to work and not strive hard on my behalf, to become aloof and act slippery, then don’t blame me for being impolite.”

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows bowed and said, “Young Master, please feel relieved. I, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows, had vowed to follow you. I will naturally help Young Master.”

Zhao Hai nodded. He turned towards Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows and said, “Come with me.” Standing up, he walked out of the room.

While Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows didn’t understand what Zhao Hai was doing, he still followed him. Before long, he walked outside and saw a large number of undead. These undead were zombies, and Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows knew that they were undead from their stiff facial features. Some of the zombies were wounded, yet there wasn’t a drop of blood flowing from them. They all just stood there with wooden faces.

Each of them held one or two corpses. Zhao Hai looked at several corpses, which were the dead black magicians. He cast his Spirit Trap technique and turned the black magicians into high-level undead. Then he cast the Bone Forging technique and turned the mercenaries into low-level undead .

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows still couldn’t understand what Zhao Hai clearly meant, or why Zhao Hai had made him observe this. Zhao Hai smiled and put all of the undead into the Space.

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows saw rays of light flash in the courtyard before all of the undead vanished. While he was in a daze, the undead reappeared with major changes.

Zhao Hai’s previous skills, whether they were the Spirit Trap or Bone Forging technique, both turned the corpses to skeletons. The undead taken out were now zombies, and the wounds of the previous zombies had already been restored. This startled Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows.

Turning towards the three black magicians, Zhao Hai said, “You three, what are your names?”



One of the zombie black magicians immediately stepped forward. It bowed and said, "Young Master, I am called Lycra . These two are my junior disciples, Trey and Mike ."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Come with me. I have matters I need to ask of you."

After saying that, he turned around and walked back towards the villa. Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows was shocked after seeing the three black magicians.

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows had seen zombies before. When he was working as an assassin one time, he'd had to cooperate with a black magician. The black magician's summoned creature was a zombie, but the black magician's zombie wasn't as intelligent as Zhao Hai's zombies. They simply didn't look like the general kind of zombies. If not for their wooden expression and the fact that their eyes didn't wander, they would have seemed like ordinary people.

Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows suddenly understood what Zhao Hai wanted him to see when he'd asked him to come out. These zombies appeared similar to humans, and they definitely didn't have an issue in loyalty. They wouldn't be aloof and act slippery. Zhao Hai was telling him that if he dared to laze about and take his status for granted, then there wasn't a problem in turning him into a zombie.

As he thought this, Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows' heart couldn't help but start. He looked at the zombies, then at the villa Zhao Hai had just walked into. Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows couldn't help but shiver. He didn't dare to hold such ideas and lightly stepped up behind Zhao Hai. As he stood there, he became as well-behaved as those undead.

Zhao Hai saw Shue of Ten-thousand Shadows' reaction and gave a faint smile. He didn't say anything more to him and instead asked Lycra, "Lycra, whose subordinate are you?"

Lycra bowed and said, "Answering the Young Master, we are subordinate to the Southern King, Boric Aksu ."

Lycra's answer was unexpected, causing Zhao Hai and Green to freeze. They hadn't thought Lycra would actually be Southern King Boric's man.

One could say that Southern King Boric had a lot to do with the Buda clan's origins. The Southern King was part of the imperial clan, and it was said he was of the direct bloodline of the founding emperor of the Aksu Empire.

The founding emperor of the Aksu Empire had twenty-one children, but only two were said to be direct descendants born of the founding emperor and the empress. The first direct descendant was the founding emperor's third son and became the Aksu Empire's King, while the second was the eleventh son of the founding emperor, the first Southern King.

Since the Aksu Empire's founding emperor liked his eleventh child very much, he had wanted to pass the throne to him. Due to the opposition of the empress and the ministers, however, he was required to pass the throne to his third child. But since the emperor considered the eleventh child to be the emperor, he gave the southern area of the Aksu Empire to him and titled him the Southern King. This was an hereditary function, and was thus inherited by his blood.

After many years of development, the King in charge of the southern areas then became an independent King. He had an army of several hundreds of thousands. Since they bordered a powerful nation, the continent's first power, the Rosen Empire, they were involved in numerous skirmishes from time to time. As such, the army's battle efficiency was formidable. This situation gave the previous Aksu Empire Kings heart disease .

Originally, the Aksu Empire's previous King wanted to deal with Southern King Boric. Thus, he had made up an excuse in order to give the Buda clan a fiefdom within Boric's territory. He wanted the Buda clan to become a nail that stuck securely within the south. What he hadn't expected was that soon after he died, the Buda clan would be pushed into the Black Waste and their territory returned to Boric.

While Green had always thought that the death of the previous King had some unclear relationship with Boric, their present situation had a very clear and definite relationship with him.

Now that they'd heard Boric's name, Green's complexion couldn't help but change, and killing intent appeared around him. Zhao Hai's complexion didn't seem well either. Although Zhao Hai himself didn't know much about the matter, it was Adam who had some impression of it. As such, Zhao Hai also knew of it.

Turning, Zhao Hai and Green both looked at one another. Besides killing intent, they both saw shock on the other's face. This issue had some relation with the Southern King. It wouldn't be easy to solve anymore.

“Since you are a subordinate of the Southern King, how come you are helping the Markey Dell clan?” Zhao Hai asked. “In the end, how is this matter possible?”

Lycra replied, “Answering the Young Master, we are subordinates of Boric, but so is the Markey Dell clan’s Carlo. Carlo had entered the Aksu Empire not so long ago and has joined with Boric to increase his wealth. The matter this time was Boric saving Carlo. Boric sent us to help Carlo deal with the Young Master along with the assistance of Shadowless Sword .”

Zhao Hai guessed that Shadowless Sword must have been the piercing sword using assassin. Unexpectedly, these four had been Boric’s men.

Green pounded the table. With a gloomy voice he shouted, “Good, Boric! Also good, Carlo! We truly have destiny with one another. Even up till now, you actually won’t let us off.”

While Zhao Hai had an ugly expression, he wasn’t too agitated. He turned towards Green and said, “Grandpa Green, don’t be too excited. Boric doesn’t know he’s dealing with us this time around, otherwise, he wouldn’t send Rank Eight experts. Instead, he’d definitely send Rank Nines in order to fish us out.”

Green snorted and sat back down. Zhao Hai turned back to Lycra and asked, “Lycra, do you know how many other experts are under the influence of Boric and have become his subordinates?”

Lycra said, “Boric currently has many experts under him. There are about a hundred Rank Eight experts and five Rank Nine experts that I know of, with the addition of Carlo’s influence. There are also a few mercenary groups that I am unsure of. This time, if we didn’t agree to cooperate with Carlo, then I’m not sure he’d even tell us about Carlo’s identity.”

Zhao Hai nodded. What he’d just been told was in line with Boric’s style. He waved his hand, allowing Lycra and the others to draw back. Turning his head to Green, he said, “Grandpa Green, we must tell this matter to Laura and Evan. This opponent is too strong, and we must find a way to change our methods.”

Green nodded. “Boric isn’t easy to deal with. He’s a villain that seeks revenge for the slightest grievance. Our Buda clan’s current situation was all due to him. Since we have killed many of his subordinates today, he will certainly not give up. We need to prepare ahead of time.”

Zhao Hai nodded. "We should help with the preparations. Oh, right. I'll send a letter to Laura and tell her of this matter. We'll then see what kind of reaction she'll have. If things don't work, then we will have no choice but to make a temporary compromise."

Green nodded. He was truly sad after hearing of Boric's strength. Boric had five known Rank Nine experts. Adding in the hundred Rank Eight experts, and such strength was greater than the Purcell clan by a hundred times. Even if they combined with the Purcell clan, they wouldn't be comparable with Boric. Moreover, Boric had won the allegiance of many surrounding aristocrats, and each of these aristocrats had strength one couldn't underestimate. In such a case, they could only come to a compromise, and this depended on the Purcell clan.

The Purcell clan, after all, was still an aristocrat of the Aksu Empire. Perhaps they wouldn't wish to go against Boric. If the Purcell clan withdrew, then the possibility of them winning would be nil. Only then would they make concessions. Not only would they draw back, but they feared that Laura would have to retire.

Thinking about such matters, Zhao Hai felt frustrated. They had made many improvements at this time, but they suddenly found themselves up against an untouchable figure. This feeling was truly rotten.