

Another World 321

Chapter 321 - Apologizing

Blockhead's words made Zhao Hai and the others stare. At this time, Blockhead continued, "Look, we just came back from the prairie and immediately got a title from Grand Duke Evan. All of these meant that we had a common ground between the Grand Duke and the prairie. Before, the only person who had a relation between the Grand Duke and the prairie was the Dark Mage Zhao Hai. Therefore, today's mastermind wanted to see whether Young Master is a Dark Mage. If they proved that you are a Dark Mage, they could know of your identity which would be very troublesome for us."

Zhao Hai and Laura looked at each other, then they nodded. They felt that Blockheads speculation was spot on, otherwise, there wouldn't be any plausible explanation for today's attack.

Then Zhao Hai turned his gaze towards Shun. He looked down and said, "You should have guessed who I am right about now. Well, do you still want to be my follower? If you do, I won't treat you any worse than Shue. But if not, you should know how I do things."

Zhao Hai's method was widely known in the Purcell Duchy. They knew that he liked to turn people into undead, making them his eternal slaves.

Naturally, this method was also widely used among Dark Mages. This was the reason that any ordinary person didn't annoy Dark Mages for no reason. Nobody liked to die and have their corpse serve others in eternity.

Shun kneeled on the ground and said, "Yes, I am willing." Then he bit his finger and made a blood oath. Zhao Hai's body felt the same way as the time when Shue made his blood oath. Now, Zhao Hai believed that he was not deceived.

Zhao Hai looked at Shun and said, "Good, you're now my follower. Shue, take him, explain to him the rules here." Shue complied, then he led Shun out.

Zhao Hai looked at Blockhead who was beside the door. He smiled and said, "Blockhead, who would've known that you would think of things we hadn't thought of."

Blockhead laughed, "It's because the Young Master thinks of too many things, so it's natural to miss things from time to time. My brain is very simple, it doesn't need to think of many things. So I accidentally thought of it."

Zhao Hai laughed, "You guys are getting more and more interesting. Right, we didn't get much sleep tonight. I think the enemy wouldn't dare make another move, go get some rest." Blockhead nodded and walked out.

Like any other high-class hotel suite, there would generally be three-four rooms in each accommodation. Brown Hotel's high-class suite had three rooms, Shun, Shue, and Blockhead lived in one room, Laura, Meg, and Nier lived on another, and Zhao Hai occupied the third. In fact, even if their arrangements were like this, they actually prefer resting inside the Space. But because of tonight's situation, they chose to not go to the Space, they just rested on their hotel rooms.

While Zhao Hai's group rested quietly, the rest of the people in the hotel didn't get any sleep. The hotel owner Brown was rescued from his room. He wasn't harmed, but he was in shock. After knowing of what just happened, he was even more distressed. He didn't know how to explain to Zhao Hai what happened tonight.

Brown himself had a bit of background, he was the Blanca town lord's wife's younger brother. Because of this, he was able to open his hotel. But Blanca's town lord is only a viscount, a rank similar to Zhao Hai's. Even more, from Ruyen's carriage, the Purcell family emblem had been hung. They were people that Brown couldn't offend, but they were attacked on his hotel, Brown thought that he was already dead deep in his heart.

At the same time, Ruyen's heart couldn't calm down. She didn't expect that Wales turned out to be a three element mage. On the continent, having a skill in one element is considered as average talent, knowing two elements were considered to be geniuses. Knowing three elements, however, was a very rare talent in the continent, most people wouldn't even see one in their entire lives.

However, even if one was a three element mage, they would still major in a single element, otherwise they would be very distracted in their studies. But looking at Zhao Hai, he was a three element mage, but it looked like his spells were high ranked in all elements. What did this mean? It meant that he had very high innate talent for magic.

Originally, Ruyen was very proud of herself. Although she was still young, she was a talented Water Mage who reached the 6th rank, this achievement was considered rare in the continent.

However, over these two days, she felt her confidence being attacked. Not to mention Zhao Hai being a three element mage, Meg who was beside Zhao Hai wasn't any weaker than her, this made her disappointed with herself.

Ruyen sat down in her room, her two maids were standing behind her while Jill and another warrior was standing opposite her. Ruyen looked at them calmly and said, "What do you think of what happened tonight?"

The warrior looked at Ruyen and replied seriously, "That group was obviously after Mister Wales, but I think that group of people didn't belong to any organization or group, like Eight-armed demon Shun, he was a very famous assassin in the continent but he was a paid hand, he didn't join any group. He was a very hard to deal with character, I heard that besides his hidden weapons and disguises, he is also very proficient with poison. The weapons on his arsenal are all poisonous. His employment showed that tonight's attack mostly involved mercenary assassins, those who receive cash for tasks."

This moment, Ruyen frowned, "Doomed soldiers are also mercenaries? How come I haven't heard of mercenary doomed soldiers?"

The warrior calmly replied, "There are some of them in the mercenary circle, some escaped from their Clans and some rebelled. They would even sometimes find a wife outside and later bear a child which they would pass their skills to. This situation isn't unusual."

Ruyen nodded, he turned to Jill and asked, "You were with Shue and Blockhead's room tonight, did you manage to get any information?"

Jill shook his head and said, "I didn't, after eating their meal and returned to their room. Their lights were immediately turned off, and no sound could be heard from then on. I called them later, but they said they were too tired and needed to rest, unwilling to come out."

Ruyen knitted her brows, "I just want to know what father told them, why he gave them the viscount title, and why father had me travel along with them. This matter is really strange. Right, how many night guards were incapacitated? How many were killed?"

The warrior replied, "All were killed, there are no living witnesses left. It seemed to be under the hands of another doomed soldier, they only have one wound on their neck, their throats were sliced by a sword. It wasn't Shun's doing also, or else he would have used his poisonous hidden weapons."

Ruyen nodded, "Cremate their corpses and send their ashes back to the Grand Duke's mansion. Tell father to give their families some compensation." The warrior nodded.

Ruyen continued to frown and said, "Tonight's attack is too strange, Mister Wales' identity is too mysterious. No matter what, we should be more careful for a few more nights. Increase the number of night guards by a few more people." Jill and the warrior nodded.

Ruyen looked at the two, "You go back and rest, send some people to patrol tonight. Jill, Mister Wales is currently in your room, go rest with the guards tonight." Jill complied, then he asked to be excused.

Watching Jill leave, Ruyen murmured to herself, "Things are getting more and more interesting, hehe." Then she yawned and went to her room to rest.

The next day, Zhao Hai and the others woke up quite late. Zhao Hai's body wasn't very good so he needed a good rest, so he slept till it was late.

After they washed up in their rooms, they came out of their suite just to see a fat figure standing outside their door. When he saw them come out, the fat man immediately went to greet Zhao Hai, but he was blocked by Shue and Blockhead. The fat man could only stop and bowed his body and said, "This little Brown has seen Sir Viscount. Sir Viscount was frightened yesterday, this one apologizes deeply to Sir Viscount."

Zhao Hai looked at the fatty, this fatty looked the same as the fatty that Shun just imitated. But this one had very bloodshot eyes and a very sweaty face, he wore an expression as though his mother just died.

Zhao Hai calmly replied, "It's nothing, I don't blame you. Those people came for me. I apologize to Mister Brown for destroying a few things in your hotel."

Brown's body bowed even lower, "This little one had heard the Viscount. This one is very happy. This one has prepared some liquor to get over the shock, I invite the Viscount to the dining hall."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, then he headed towards the dining hall. When he entered the dining hall, he saw Ruyen sat there drinking tea. She was in the middle of drinking tea when Zhao Hai entered, Ruyen immediately place his cup down and stood up. "Mister came, how was mister's rest?"

Zhao Hai calmly replied, "Fortunately well, young lady, please take a seat." After having said that, Zhao Hai sat down.

Fatty Brown who was at their side bowed, "Your Highness young lady, Sir Viscount, this one specifically prepared liquor and some dishes to overcome yesterday's shock. I hope you two could accept my invitation."

Ruyen didn't speak, she looked at Zhao Hai, giving the decision to him. Zhao Hai calmed the nervous Brown, "Good, Boss Brown doesn't need to be polite, let them serve it. We'll leave after eating. Just as what I said before, I don't blame you, you don't need to be so nervous. When we head down, we'll provide the payment for our rooms."

As soon as Brown heard Zhao Hai's words, he immediately replied, "This one wouldn't dare, the room charges could be considered to be my apology. Right, I'll excuse myself and make the staff serve the food. I invite the Your Highness Young Lady and Sir Viscount to take your time." Then Brown bowed and went back.

Chapter 322 - Shun's Family

After eating their breakfast, the group returned to their rooms and prepared to leave. Naturally, Zhao Hai paid for their accommodations. This matter involved a nobleman's pride, he must pay for their rent, he had to, given his current identity. Not paying the rent is unbecoming for a young master such as him.

After boarding their carriages, they slowly left the town of Blanca. Shun sat by Shue outside Zhao Hai's carriage to drive.

Today, Shun dressed normally. He wore ordinary warrior's clothes, he looked very normal while sitting beside Shue.

Shue told him yesterday about Zhao Hai's ability as a mage. He told Shun to not dare betray Zhao Hai, or else face being turned into an undead.

Shun didn't want to be turned into an undead, thus he acted obediently and asked about Zhao Hai's dislikes. Because of this, he just wore ordinary clothes today.

One could say that Shun wasn't ugly, he had a childish face and adding on to his small stature, it made him look younger than his actual age.

Zhao Hai also asked about Shun's capabilities. Shun could use stealth techniques, wield poisonous hidden weapons, and disguise himself, he was someone born with the innate abilities of a successful assassin. Moreover, his fighting strength isn't weak. His strength was that of a 6th rank warrior, but during assassinations, he could deal with 7th ranks easily.

Regarding Shun's strength, Zhao Hai was very satisfied. Adding on to the fact that Shun made a blood oath to him, Zhao Hai believed that Shun wouldn't dare deceive him. However, Zhao Hai still decided to observe Shun for 1 or 2 days, after which he would bring Shun to the Space. If Shun wasn't loyal, Zhao Hai wouldn't be merciful and simply turn him into an undead. In any case, he could still keep his abilities when he becomes an undead.

Shun was very obedient, he also recognized his own situation, he was currently Zhao Hai's slave. He wouldn't be able to survive if Zhao Hai wanted him dead, so for his own good, he naturally would be loyal.

At noon, they had a simple lunch. But their lunch was much better than the Ruyen's which were just ordinary dried food. Zhao Hai's group had mutton and mutton soup.

These mutton and mutton soup were the remainders from back in the prairie. When they set out for war, Wales killed all of their argali to be made into food. When they won the war, they obtained too many argali, naturally Wales wouldn't want to keep consuming mutton and mutton soup. The remainders were still kept with Zhao Hai, enough for them to eat for quite a long time.

Now that the continent was still in winter, the temperature was cold. Naturally, warm mutton and hot soup would taste better in such conditions.

In the evening, since they didn't manage to find any hotels, Zhao Hai and the others decided to rest inside a small village. This village's name was Cat Ear village. It had a few dozen families and the highest ranking official was the Village Chief. The village chief wasn't appointed by the empire. In the village, there was a very common surname. The village chief was that family's patriarch, holding the highest authority for the village.

However, in the eyes of a noble, a village chief isn't an official at all. The people in the village hadn't even seen a high official before, the highest authority they saw could only be the tax officer the came from the city to collect taxes, and that tax official isn't even an aristocrat. So when the village people saw Zhao Hai's group, especially their weapons, they were very terrified. And after hearing that Zhao Hai was a Viscount and Ruyen was a Duchy's young lady, every single person became scared as they knelt on the ground, kowtowing repeatedly.

They tried their best to cater to Zhao Hai because they were terrified. The Village Head even lent his house for Zhao Hai's stay.

Zhao Hai wasn't polite, he immediately occupied the house and asked the Village Head to have the women of the village to prepare some food. The Chief immediately complied, he hastily asked the women to prepare some food for Zhao Hai's group. Zhao Hai left the dishes to the women's hands.

However, he also had Meg supervise their job. These women can cook ordinary dishes, but they hadn't seen Zhao Hai's magic vegetables before, so they didn't do what to do with those. Fortunately, Meg was there and before long, the food was cooked quickly.

After dinner, Zhao Hai went to his courtyard to rest, Shue and the others followed. Since Zhao Hai's group wasn't large, a small courtyard was enough for all of them. Meanwhile, Ruyen's group was large, so they occupied three large courtyards by themselves, some even couldn't sleep indoors since each house can only hold about ten people.

After returning to his courtyard, Zhao Hai didn't immediately rest. He sat by the living room and drank some tea as he observed the ornaments in the room. Even if this house was considered as a high-grade house, the ornaments inside the living room were still ordinary, one could understand that the inhabitants weren't living better lives.

However, Zhao Hai didn't feel bad for the villagers. In his mind, they were also living good lives, they get to eat and wear warm clothes. One must know that back on Earth, in 21st century China, there were still places in China where people are living the same kind of life. So relatively speaking, the villagers had it good, considering how backward in technology the Ark Continent was.

At this time, Shun went towards Zhao Hai and kneeled, "Young master, this one had performed the blood oath with you, this one had also been very obedient. I request the young master to have this one visit his family for just a short while."

Zhao Hai was surprised, then he looked at Shun and asked, "You are married? How many members are there in your family?" In Zhao Hai's mind, people like Shun rarely married. Because if one day they fall while doing a task, their families would certainly suffer.

Shun nodded, "I am, this one had gotten married. There are five people in my family, besides this one, I have an old mother, a wife, and two children."

Zhao Hai said, "Where is your family right now?"

Shun immediately replied, "Tomorrow, we should pass by this one's home. The home isn't quite far from a small village. This one had bought a few mu of land in that village, doing only a few trades with the village so the village people would not know of this one's identity."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Very well. How about this? We'll pick your family up then bring them to my territory."

Shun stared for a moment, then he immediately responded, "Thank you, young master, from here, my house would take two hours of travel. But my family's village isn't along the main road, we still need to take a side route to reach my home."

Zhao Hai nodded, he watched the sky then turned to Shue, "Shue, go fetch my carriage and meet Shun's family." Shue nodded, then went and fetched Zhao Hai's carriage which made Shun surprised, he didn't know any other noble who would allow their servant's family to ride their carriage.

Looking at Shue and Shun leaving the village, Laura turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, are you not afraid of them escaping?"

Zhao Hai just smiled and said, "Aren't they under blood oath? Where can they escape to? Also, I placed the Ghost Staff inside the carriage, so if they run into trouble, we can immediately arrive at the carriage."

At this moment, a knock came from the door followed by Jill's voice, "Is mister Wales here? Her highness wanted to ask whether mister left." They also saw Zhao Hai's carriage leaving the village, so they came to ask.

Blockhead opened the door and asked Jill to enter. Then when Jill saw Zhao Hai sitting in the living room drinking tea, he relaxed. He went forward and immediately gave Zhao Hai a salute, "Mister Wales, the young lady saw your carriage leave and thought that maybe something happened, so he sent this one to inquire."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "We made the young lady worry, there's nothing wrong. I just let my two servants do something, they'd be back in a while." Jill nodded, then asked to be excused.

Looking at Jill leaving, Laura couldn't help but pout, "Brother Hai, it seems that young lady Ruyen had become attached to you, do you have any idea what to do?"

Zhao Hai sighed, "What do do, she followed us very well. Anyway, when we reach Rosen Empire, she wouldn't be able to follow us anymore. Also, it wouldn't be good to Uncle Evan if we just left her."

Laura smiled, "I think that the young lady is heavily paying attention to you, looking at her actions these past few days, even her previous attitude has changed, it wouldn't be easy."

Zhao Hai sighed again, "How could she change, me and her are just casually travelling together. Forget it, let's talk about Shun, I didn't think that he would be married. Also, do you think that Shue is also married? His age isn't that small."

Hearing what Zhao Hai said, Laura just laughed. This time, it was Meg who talked, "Young Master, why are you worrying too much about these? You aren't even married."

Zhao Hai also laughed, "I have two fiancées, can't a full man know a hungry man's thoughts? I was just worried for Shue."

When Laura and Meg heard what Zhao Hai said, they couldn't help but look at Zhao Hai and snort. Zhao Hai laughed, the women also laughed, everybody became very jolly.

While the group was chatting, time unconsciously passed and the sky slowly turned dark. Although this village didn't have any magic lamps, they still had oil lamps. But Zhao Hai actually didn't light their lamp, and instead went inside the Space, he looked at the screen to observe Shue and Shun.

Shue and Shun were chatting while travelling. Shue asked about Shun's family, and Shun asked Shue about Zhao Hai. Shue's mouth was very solid, not revealing any unnecessary information. He just repeatedly advised Shun to never betray Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai was observing the two while they were going along the road. When they left Cat Ears village, they travelled for a while before they went down a fork in the road. After going along for a while, they saw village lights in the distance.

Seeing the village, Shun couldn't help but reveal a gentle gaze. He turned to Shue and said, "Brother Shue, this is my village, my father was a doomed soldier before. But he was injured and decided to stay here, I got my skills from him. My mother was a medicine master in the village, but didn't formally study potion making. She only used the herbs in the mountains to cure the people's illnesses. She also knew how to make poisons, there were many poisonous plants in the mountains, and their toxicity was very strong, I learned by poison making from her. Later on, my father died because of his old injuries, so I went to the City to find some jobs. After a few years of doing missions, I managed to get my hands on some money and bought a few mu of land. Then I had a wife and two children. Because of them, I opted to do less dangerous missions if possible, nor could I go too far from the village. Most of the time, I do some farm work in the village, I think this life is good."

Looking at Shun's expression, Shue smiled, "If you really think so, then even more reason for you to not betray the young master. As long as you stay in the Young Master's good side, you would find out later that it was the best decision of your life."

Shun forced a smile, "Perhaps, but I just don't want my children to be slaves in their lifetime. But I already made a blood oath with master, so I have to follow him now. Without my support, my family

couldn't survive. I can only depend on the young master to find them somewhere to settle in. I just don't know where the young master would take them."

Shue looked at Shun and said, "Don't worry, I assure you they would be sent to the best place in the world. For commoners like us, it would be heaven." Honestly, Shue couldn't think of any other place better than Iron Mountain Fort. There, they all work together to improve their lives and support their children. They would have food to eat everyday, and didn't need to worry about their food in the future. If such a thing isn't heaven for an ordinary commoner, then what is?

Shun sighed, he didn't speak, his mood was very complicated right now. He is very aware that even though he had bought some land, it was just enough to live by. If he wanted his family to live better, the family could only rely on him to work much harder. But now he became Zhao Hai's subordinate, and if he left, the family would lose their main source of income. So he can only force himself to ask Zhao Hai for some time to settle his family. But he didn't think that Zhao Hai would volunteer to take the family to his territory. It was a matter of worry and joy for Shun, since his family would have some sort of security.

What worried him was what would happen to his family members when they reach Zhao Hai's territory. If they become slaves and Shun somehow falls, they may starve to death, this bothered him very much.

After talking with each other, the two finally entered the village. It was a small village about the same size as the Cat Ears village. Behind the village was a mountain, which seemed to be the mountain that Shun talked about. As soon as they entered the village, a low level magic beast which looked like a dog back on earth barked at them, Even though the magic beast looked like a dog, its combat capability was miles ahead of Earth's dog, it was a magic beast after all.

Shun pointed at a tree inside a courtyard and said, "There is my home."

Chapter 323 - Trap

Shue looked at the direction that Shun had pointed to. He saw a very typical farmhouse courtyard wall built with stones. The courtyard wasn't large, and because of the winter, you cannot clearly see what is inside it.

In it were four clay houses, ordinary commoners would construct these types of houses, only few made their houses using stones. Clay brick houses were warmer compared to stone houses, therefore their houses were generally made of clay brick.

The sky was already dark, and at the distance a small light could be seen, maybe to provide warmth. However, Shue suddenly felt that something was off.

At this moment, Shun's ears suddenly moved. He could hear something different coming from his family's room, it sounded like the friction of a full body armor. This made Shun stare blankly, when he was about to set out, a voice suddenly told him, "Don't make unnecessary moves. Your family has been taken hostage. You'll bring them more harm if you go."

This was Zhao Hai's voice, Shun couldn't help but be surprised. He clearly remembered that Zhao Hai didn't go with them. Shue was already accustomed to this, he said, "Young Master, why did you come?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "I didn't plan to come originally, but seeing Shun's family being held hostage I had to. Stop the carriage, Shun's family is surrounded by ten people, all the family members are in the same room with one person inside as a lookout. The remaining nine are outside preparing for an ambush. It appears that they are completely ready for Shun. Weird, they seem to have just arrived, did they know that Shun will come back today?"

Naturally, Zhao Hai saw Shun's family's situation through the monitor. He just didn't understand why the other party decided to set up an ambush here. According to Shun, his family should be very well hidden.

Zhao Hai turned to Shun and said, "Shun, are there other people who know where your family are? If not, how did they trace your family? Looking at their appearances, they should know about your identity. Otherwise they wouldn't send such people to deal with you. Moreover these people had shields as well as full body armor. They were obviously guarded against your hidden weapons."

Shun froze, and after a moment he shook his head, "Nobody should know about my family. I generally act alone, and even though this village isn't that remote, nobody would generally come here. So how could other people notice my family?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "Very well, no use getting bothered over it. First, we need to save your family, then we go deal with those guys." Zhao Hai waved his hand, then a monitor appeared showing the situation with Shun's family.

Shun's mother, wife, and two children were grouped up at the east side of the house. Another man who wore a shield and full body armor was standing by the door, coldly staring at the family.

Shun's eyes couldn't help but turn red. Zhao Hai talked with a deep voice, "Cai'er, deal with that fellow, don't make any noise." Cai'er complied, then under Shun's gaze, a vine silently appeared behind the armored man, then the vine turned into an extremely sharp point and aimed at the person's head. His head was punctured, then his body trembled and didn't make any sound anymore. The vine didn't immediately retreat, instead it wrapped around the warrior's body. The vine was always behind the warrior, so Shun's family wasn't able to see it.

Zhao Hai nodded then said, "We're good." His hand moved, then the three immediately appeared in front of Shun's family. As the family see Shun and was about to shout, Shun immediately stopped them, "Don't make any noise, come with me." Zhao Hai instructed him to say this.

Seeing Shun, the family immediately nodded and tightly closed their mouths. Then they vanished from the room, Zhao Hai brought them to the space along with the warrior that Cai'er killed.

After entering the Space, Shun and his family members just stared. Zhao Hai looked at them and then smiled faintly, "Well, Shun, this is our greatest secret. After knowing this, you wouldn't be forgiven if you betray me."

Shun quickly said, "Young Master can be assured, ever since I have followed you, I didn't even think of being disloyal. This time, I want to thank Young Master for saving my family." After saying that, Shun introduced his family members to Zhao Hai.

Shun's mother is named Suju, his wife is called Nalan, and his two children are called, Shungan and Shunliu. After hearing the children's name, Zhao Hai almost couldn't stop himself from laughing. The names Shunliu and Shungan were too domineering, Zhao Hai almost asked Shun if he had participated in the Sino-Japanese War.

Zhao Hai nodded, then sat down with the group inside the Space's villa. Zhao Hai turned the screen on and the group looked at the courtyard. The armored group was ready for an ambush. Although they only faintly surrounded the house, it was clear that they intend to seize the victim in one fell swoop.

Zhao Hai looked at the people, then he said seriously, "Look at what these people are wearing, it looked like they aren't any ordinary mercenary. Their armor are very refined, it seems like they are employed by a big family. Shue, what do you think?"

Shue looked at the screen for quite some time before he said, "Right, even though they didn't wear any emblems, you can see that their weapons and armor are made in the same style. Ordinary mercenaries simply don't use these kinds of equipment."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Seems like a powerful figure had their eyes on Shun. We'll capture these guys later, I want to know who wanted to deal with Shun."

Shun felt touched while looking at Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai knew that it was already late, so he turned his head to Shue and said, "Shue, arrange two rooms for Shun's family. Then we'll go take care of those guys, we still need to go back to Laura and the others."

Shue nodded, then went and settled Shun's family down. And since Zhao Hai was afraid that they still didn't have their dinner, he gave them some food to eat. He also told them to go to the bathroom and wash up. Not for long, the family exited the living room.

Seeing the other warriors, Zhao Hai turned to Shue and Shun and said, "Shue, Shun, remember their locations." The two confirmed, then Zhao Hai sent the two of them outside.

As soon as they arrived outside, Shue immediately released a hundred shadows, Shun also prepared his hidden weapons, then the both of them carefully walked towards the house.

When Shun entered the courtyard, the waiting warriors immediately jumped from their hiding spots and surrounded him. On their hand were big shields, two of them were actually holding crossbows loaded with bolts.

It seems like they were completely prepared to deal with Shun. They knew that Shun was very mobile, therefore they prepared crossbows and bolts to cope with him.

Seeing the situation, Shun pretended to be shocked, then he talked as his expression changed, “Why are you here friends? I didn’t offend any of you, right?”

One of the warriors said, “Enough spouting, your family has fallen to our hands. Comply obediently, my family’s master has some words to ask you.”

At this time, footsteps could be heard outside the courtyard which caused the group to be surprised. Shun immediately made his move, he quickly had his weapons take out the crossbows from the hands of the two people, since they held the most threat. Taking those crossbows out would make everything easier for Shun.

Since the group are experienced in battles, they quickly sobered up from their shock. The two who held the crossbows immediately held their shields up. But this way, they couldn’t take a proper shot. At this moment, Shue came rushing in.

These warriors aren’t very strong, they were only about 6th rank. But since they are wearing armor, general hidden weapons cannot penetrate them. Adding on to the fact that they held Shun’s family, they dared to face him.

However, with the help of Shue, whose strength was comparable to them. The group immediately got captured, this time they were captured, not killed.

Shue and Shun brought the captives to Zhao Hai’s carriage. When they entered, they saw the corpse of the warrior that was killed by Cai’er. Seeing the puncture wound caused by the vine, the group of warriors immediately thought that it was caused by Shun’s short sword.

Zhao Hai sat in front of the warriors and looked at them, he smiled faintly and said, “You people, tell me why you wanted to attack my follower, is it against my follower or to me?”

When the group of warriors heard Zhao Hai, they didn’t say anything. Each and every one of them tightly closed their mouth, looking like martyrs.

Looking at their appearance, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smiled, "Not talking? Very well, you are currently wearing full body armor, what would happen if I grill your armor with fire? What do you think would be the effect?"

After Zhao Hai said that, the groups faces immediately paled. They didn't think that Zhao Hai would be that cruel, their armor were all made with metal plates.

If such armor was roasted with fire, they would naturally become barbeque.

At the same time, Zhao Hai wielded his Ghost Staff. A head sized fireball appeared and flew towards one warrior.

The warrior's face immediately lost its color, the he said hastily, "I'll talk, I'll talk! Please don't burn me."

Zhao Hai also looked at the other warriors. The group of warriors looked at each other and knew that they couldn't escape. They immediately nodded and said, "We'll talk, we'll also talk."

Zhao Hai turned his head to Shue, "Shue, take them inside the house and interrogate them one by one. If two people says different things, inspect the others and find out who lied. When you find out who lied, kill him."

This was the first time that Shue encountered this type of interrogation. The group now knew that there really wasn't any other way to fool Zao Hai. They immediately complied, Shue took four people to the house and interrogated them one by one. These warriors didn't dare to speak untruthfully, each of their faces showed bitter expressions.

Chapter 324 - Spring Grass Residence

Sitting in the carriage, Zhao Hai observed as Shue took each person to the room one by one. After a few moments of interrogation, Shue placed all the warriors in front of Zhao Hai as he said his report, "Young master, from the interrogations, these fellows were sent by Southern King to Blanca Town, tasked with

probing us if we are Dark Mages. When the plan in Brown Hotel didn't succeed, they began to trace Shun's origins. They wanted to capture Shun, and through him they could better understand our situation. Knowing that Shun frequented the town, they concluded that he had family nearby. And through the Blanca's town lord, they finally found Shun's home. They knew that when Shun became your follower, he would certainly return to settle his family. Therefore, they waited here for him, but were instead caught by us."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he turned his head to Shun and said, "Shun, what do you want to do with these fellows?"

Since they dared to hold his family hostage, Shun certainly wouldn't be merciful. Therefore he told Zhao Hai, "Young Master, I leave it to you."

Zhao Hai nodded, he looked at the warriors and turned his head back to Shun, "Shun, you can't return here again, you don't need this house anymore. Let's burn it."

Shun was stunned, although he was a bit sad, he nodded. He also knew that Zhao Hai was right. He wouldn't be able to return to this place again in his entire life.

Seeing him nod, Zhao Hai waved his hand, a few wind blades appeared and chopped the heads off of the warriors. Then he had Shue quickly stack their bodies inside the house and produced several fireballs as well as an Inferno spell for good measure. Shun's house immediately went up in flames.

Zhao Hai didn't turn the warriors into undead as he didn't lack undead right now. So he killed the warriors and dumped them here, doing this also reduces other people's doubts about his identity.

Looking at his own home slowly getting burned, Shun's heart was very gloomy. But he knew that he couldn't come back here anymore. Finally, he turned his head and went with Shue towards the carriage.

When they left the village, the other people in the village became aware of what happened to Shun's home. Rural people were a very tight knit group, they would take care of each other, especially in this case where a fire happened. Each resident took action to put out the fire, but unfortunately this was magical fire, it wouldn't be easy to exterminate. In the end, they could only watch as everything burned down to ash and as the fire also slowly grow weaker.

The villagers cannot extinguish the fire, but they also didn't see Shun's family. When the fire extinguished itself, they went towards the house and looked at what remained. Inside the house were distorted armors, a few discerning eyes also noticed some burnt bones inside those armors. The villagers knew that something had to have happened here and didn't dare intrude anymore. The village chief quickly rode to Blanca and sent his report. Later on, the town lord heard the report and in turn Southern King also was informed. But at this time, Zhao Hai was already no longer in Purcell Territory.

That night, Zhao Hai returned to Cat Ears village and rested. When Ruyen saw Zhao Hai's carriage return, she didn't say anything. The next morning, after eating their breakfast, Zhao Hai's group immediately left the village. Cat Eats village, even though it was a small village, managed to make Zhao Hai feel comfortable and warm.

When those villagers first saw Zhao Hai's group, they became nervous, but he could also tell that the people wanted to treat them well, which moved Zhao Hai. So when he left the village, he gave the village lord ten gold coins as compensation for their stay. But the village lord became frightened instead, saying that he wouldn't dare accept such money. In the end, Zhao Hai forced him to accept the money, and when he received the coins, he repeatedly kowtowed to Zhao Hai.

One could say that the villager's life wasn't any good. But since the tax in Purcell Duchy is not high, they could still dress themselves and eat warm meals. And with this ten gold coins, the villagers could manage to have a good winter.

The group were slowly moving forward. Zhao Hai told Ruyen to not disturb him, then he called Shun over to the carriage. Afterwards, he had Laura and the others enter the Space and meet Shun's family members.

Shun's family was also awake right now. They hadn't stayed in a place as nice as this before, therefore they didn't dare touch any other things and just stayed in their rooms. Naturally, because of this, they still didn't have their breakfast.

Zhao Hai had them eat then took them to Iron Mountain Fort to arrange for their place to live in. He also brought Shun here to explain their current situation. Shun came to know that Zhao Hai was from the infamous Buda Family of the Aksu Empire, and the place they were in was the Black Wastelands.

Although he was surprised, Shun quickly accepted the reality. After all, he was already Zhao Hai's blood oath follower, he was stuck to him for a lifetime. Then Zhao Hai led Shun around to get him accustomed to the matters in the Fort.

Looking at Iron Mountain Fort, Shun was surprised to see so many Beastmen everywhere. Additionally, Iron Mountain Fort was warm even though it was winter, this fact didn't give him any small amount shock.

Afterwards, Zhao Hai made Green arrange Shun's two children to go to school and assign Shun's family a house. After being busy the entire day, they returned to the carriage.

The next days passed by without much accident. One could say that the road from Casa City to Iksa Domain was very peaceful, there were no bandits present and unless some people were especially targeting you, there were no dangers.

After travelling for another two days, they finally entered Iksa family Domain. Iksa Domain was slightly inferior to the Purcell Domain. The family controlled a medium size city and three small cities. Bell lived on the Domain's only medium sized city, Sarte City.

The Iksa Family Patriarch's title was a Marquis, a bit less than a Duke, even more less than a Grand Duke. But the Iksa Family was an old noble family and had existed for more than a thousand years, so even though they didn't flex their power these days, they were not actually weak. Their territory also touched borders with the Beastman Prairie where they gained so much money from smuggling. But since the first target for a beastman raid to the human territory would be the family's domain, their hands were basically tied.

After arriving at the Iksa Domain, Zhao Hai still needed to pass a small city before entering Sarte City.

Zhao Hai's group entered the small city and rested for a day. On the second day, they rushed to Sarte City. Travelling from the small city to Sarte City would only take about one day. Thus, when they left the small city, they managed to arrive at Sarte City by the next evening.

However, Zhao Hai didn't go and find Bell after arriving. They booked themselves in a hotel first and sent Shun outside to gather information to prepare for the visit to Bell tomorrow.

Even though they were already inside Iksa Territory, the customs and local culture did not differ from Casa City. But this was normal, since the two domains were under the same empire, therefore there shouldn't be any difference.

The next morning, Zhao Hai's group woke up early. Today, they were going to meet Bell. Ruyen's group also didn't stay in the hotel, after all, she was a Grand Duke's daughter. So she needed to visit the Iksha Family since the two families' relationship was good.

After breakfast, Zhao Hi got on the carriage and immediately headed towards Bell's residence. Bell's residence was very famous inside Sarte City, known as Spring Grass Residence.

Listening to its name, one could think that the residence wouldn't be large. But the city's people was very clear that Spring Grass Residence is considered to be one of the biggest mansions inside Sarte City. The entire house covered ten mu of land, it was only smaller than the city lord's mansion, making it very famous in the city.

The carriage arrived in front of Spring Grass Residence. The residence's door looked very ordinary, not having any special additions. The door was closed and did not have anybody in front.

Shue and Shun stopped the carriage. Shun went down and gently knocked on the door. Footsteps can be heard at the other side, then a person wearing servant's clothes opened the door and looked at Shun as well as the carriage behind. Then the servant immediately asked respectfully. "Mister is?"

The servant can perfectly judge the quality things. His eyes could see that Zhao Hai's carriage was made of lightwood. Moreover, an emblem of a Viscount could be seen hanging from the carriage, so naturally he wouldn't dare be disrespectful.

Shun smiled faintly and said, "I'll have to trouble little brother to pass a message to the house master, tell him a friend from the prairie came to visit."

As soon as the servant heard Shun's words, he was slightly surprised, then he immediately said, "Please wait a minute, I'll go immediately send the message.". Then he turned around and ran towards the courtyard.

Zhao Hai wasn't worried, he just sat inside his carriage quietly. After a while, rapid footsteps could be heard from behind the door. When the door was opened, Bell immediately walked out. When Zhao Hai saw Bell come out, he also immediately went out of his carriage.

Bell saw the giant-horned bull that pulled the carriage and didn't doubt Zhao Hai's identity, but when he saw Zhao Hai's appearance, he was stunned.

Seeing Bell's reaction, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile, "Brother Bell, in order to move around easier, I had to change my look. What's wrong? Can't recognize me?"

Bell quickly nodded, "I really can't recognize you. Brother, I have been waiting for you for a long time. You finally arrived, please come in." He gestured his hand and guided Zhao Hai towards his mansion.

Bell's mansion was very unique, Zhao Hai had not seen something like this before. Upon entering the mansion, you are met with a stone paved martial arts field. The mansion's entrance had a stretch of lawn and although it was winter and the grass had turned yellow, one could still picture an image of spring.

Chapter 325 - Calci Family

Bell and Zhao Hai quickly arrived at Spring Grass Residence's courtyard. Here, only the most important friends of Bell could enter, so naturally Zhao Hai would be among them.

After the group arrived inside and sat down, Bell looked at Laura and the others and laughed, "Dressing up like this, I really couldn't recognize you, but this is also good, now nobody would pay attention to you, hahaha, otherwise it would be really troublesome." Zhao Hai knew that he was just joking, the group just laughed.

Bell looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, regarding the Herculean Bull's information, I really didn't think that the Radiant Church would actually return to the prairie. When I received the information, it was already too late to inform you."

Zhao Hai smiled, "It's alright, actually, this time I came because I have a lot of information to give you. Pass this information to the league." Then Zhao Hai told Bell about the brainwashed beastmen children as well as the Ultimate Weapon program.

Bell clearly didn't know about this information, his complexion became heavy as he talked, "There's actually such a thing, it was fortunate that you are able to get these. I think that the the league was also in the dark about these, this is very important information."

Zhao Hai just smiled, "Helping the league is good, now that we are of the same group, we have a common enemy. So naturally I would tell the league information about them, I just don't know if the league could do anything about this information."

Bell smiled and replied, "Rest assured, these intel that you gave won't be in vain, the league will reward you. If you want money, the league would provide money, but if you don't, you could turn them into contribution points. If you want some information, you could obtain them through these points, you won't need to spend money. And you can get more than information, there are many advantages."

Zhao Hai smiled, "Listening to you, it seems like you want me to exchange them to contribution points? Alright, change them. Let's discuss about our milk wine cooperation, what do you think? Do you want milk wine?"

Bell replied, "Of course, I already had the preparations in place. As long as you send the milk wine, I could immediately continue on to distribution. We should also make the system more refined, so that we could sell it at a proper price."

Zhao Hai nodded, "I'll hand that matter off to you, but I need to tell you that the delivery point should be on or near the prairie so that other people would not suspect. I don't want them to know that the milk wine had any relation to me."

When Bell heard what Zhao Hai said, he knew that this was the matter that Zhao Hai cared about. He smiled and said, "This is easy to handle, I have an outpost in the prairie, you can send your milk wine there, I'll give you the map for it in a while. That outpost had been with me for a long time, and the tribe has a partnership with me, you don't have to worry."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "That's good. How many milk wine do you think your shop can sell?"

Bell thought for a moment then said, "Our initial agreement is good, a thousand jin for the first month, and when the market catches on, we'll buy more."

Zhao Hai nodded, "That is good, you'll be my partner in Aksu empire. But now that I'm heading to Rosen Empire, I need to find another partner. Do you have any connections there? It'll be better if they have a relationship with the league, otherwise, I'll be going blind when I arrive there."

Bell smiled, "There is enough market in the Aksu Empire which can bring revenue to the league, I alone wouldn't be able to swallow it. Have you considered it already?"

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly, he didn't know what to say. Bell was a fanatic believer and is willing to give anything to the league. Compared to Bell, his contribution to the league is very small.

Seeing Zhao Hai's expression, Bell moved on, "Let's consider that matter finished, right, did you say Rosen Empire? What city, Carson City? If you go to Carson City, I don't have any connections there. That place contains both snakes and dragons, it's not a good mix of people. In Rosen Empire's port city, Sky Water City, the city lord is a member of the league. If you go to Sky Water City, you can get in touch with him and have him cover for you, then you won't have anything to worry about."

Zhao Hai froze for a moment, he didn't think that the league really had connections in the Rosen Empire. Moreover, it was with a City Lord, Zhao Hai quickly urged, "Quickly, tell me about him."

Bell nodded, "Sky Water City is an important port city of the Rosen Empire. It was ruled by the ancient Calci Family. The Calci Family is a very influential family inside Rosen Empire, they had members serving in the army as well as the imperial court. But many people didn't know that the Calci Family only reached their current standing due to their previous military exploits. They initially began by serving as doomed soldiers and most importantly, Dark Mages. It could be said that their family was brought up by Dark element Magic. Currently, there are a lot of Dark Mages in the family, possibly because of their bloodline inheritance. When someone from the family develops a talent for magic, it would almost always be an innate talent with the dark element. Because of this, they obviously would be a member of the League of Dark Mages, and at present, their family provided the largest contributions to the league. Moreover, their family also held several seats for the league's elder congregation. One could see that the Family had become a backbone of the league even back during its establishment. The league and the family were inextricably linked to each other."

Zhao Hai was surprised, he didn't expect that there would be such a family of Dark Mages. Good, this was really good for Zhao Hai. With Calci Family's help, Zhao Hai believed that what happened in Purcell Duchy wouldn't be repeated in Rosen Empire.

Zhao Hai nodded, "Good, I'll go to Sky Water City. I'm going to Rosen Empire mainly to do business anyway. It'll be the same everywhere, and Sky Water City is a port city, trade would be more lucrative there."

Bell smiled, "Right, I'll write you a letter of introduction for you later. In the meantime, let me tell you about the matters of the Calci Family, so that when you get there you won't be clueless."

Zhao Hai smiled, "Then I'll have to trouble you."

Bell replied, "It'll be my pleasure, you also gave me some intel as well as the milk wine business, this would be a lot of help for the league, I'll tell them about this."

Zhao Hai smiled, "Thanks, when you hand me your stronghold's map later, it'll take two days before the milk wine will be prepared for delivery. Remember to tell you people in the prairie that I won't be personally delivering the milk wine. I still need to head towards Rosen Empire."

Bell smiled, "You are very busy, right, I'll give you the money later, maybe you'll find use for it."

Zhao Hai declined, "No, we'll do it according to our previous agreement. Only pay me when the goods arrive. Give the money to the person in charge of the delivery, no need to hand it to me personally."

Bell nodded, and then he looked at the sky and said, "It's already near noon. Let's have a meal here first, let me express my hospitality, but you'll have to provide the liquor."

Zhao Hai laughed, "Don't worry, I'll take care of the liquor."

Bell immediately ordered his servants to prepare lunch, and of course, to prepare good dishes. There were a lot of people in Spring Grass Residence, this included Bell's family, he had six wives and a few children. Including the servants, the total number present reached the hundreds.

And also, being a prolific merchant, Bell also had a lot of guards. For someone of his status to not have guards would be preposterous, there were guards wherever you went inside the mansion.

When noon came, their lunch was already prepared. Bell also used this time to introduce his seven children, three sons and four daughters, to Zhao Hai. Bell's children were very young, with the eldest only at 14 years old, they still couldn't help Bell manage his business.

Looking at it, Bell already considered Zhao Hai as his peer, otherwise he wouldn't introduce his family to him.

Regarding Bell's hospitality, Zhao Hai didn't have any complaints. The two of them were allies in the same organization, moreover, they were business partners, so their relationship was very good.

Meanwhile, Ruyen's trip to see the Iksa Family Head wasn't going as smoothly.

When Zhao Hai left in the morning, Ruyen also went out of the hotel. She sat on her own carriage and went towards the Marquis' Mansion which was not far. Although the two clans' relationship wasn't too deep, they still had plenty of interactions in the past. Thus, when she arrived in Sarte City, Ruyen had no other choice but make a visit.

And also, for Ruyen's convenience, Evan had her bring some gifts to give out. These gifts were all put together by Evan to give away to certain families or groups. Evan had Jill manage these so Ruyen didn't have to worry.

Ruyen sat in her carriage as it approached the mansion. The mansion was more stylish than Spring Grass Residence. It had a wall more than three meters tall and a four meter tall gate. By the gate were two guards, one for each side. On the gate, the Iksa Family's insignia could be seen, a majestic galloping horse.

Ruyen's carriage stopped right in front of the gate, a servant went towards Ruyen's carriage and greeted, "Welcome, her highness Ruyen." Then the servant personally guided the carriage towards the main mansion.

When the carriage arrived at the mansion, a young man could be seen walking out. The young man looked over 20 years old, he had a pair of glossy eyes with long eyelashes, and he wore a Noble's robe. His hair was properly combed, and had glasses worn on his eyes. He also had a somewhat pale complexion. The young man was Iksa Family's first in-line, Fernand Iksa.

This young master Fernand was quite well known in Sarte, not because of his ability, but because of his libido.

Young master Fernand, although still 22 years old, already had a wife as well as concubines surpassing 20. Moreover, he also had at least seven sweethearts in Sarte. His romantic matters could fit inside a book.

This day, when Fernand heard that the Purcell Family's young lady Ruyen would come visit, he was very excited and was the first to rush out and meet her. He was also clear that this young lady was very infamous inside Casa City as having relationships with many young masters, and that she liked men of distinguished backgrounds. Fernand thought of himself as a man of distinguished background, so how could he let go of this opportunity.

Ruyen just disembarked from his carriage when young master Fernand arrived, he looked at Ruyen's flower-like appearance and his heart couldn't help but jump. He immediately greeted her, "Fernand came late, beautiful princess Ruyen, please forgive me."

Ruyen's eyebrows twitched, she looked at Fernand and said, "Young master Fernand is too polite, I wouldn't dare blame the young master."

Fernand looked at Ruyen's face, his heart was jumping crazily, but he didn't dare be too rude so he replied, "Princess, please come in, I have sent someone to inform father, I believe father will arrive soon."

Ruyen chuckled and said, "I wouldn't dare trouble the Marquis." Then she lifted her hand gently, Fernand almost didn't understand what was happening, then he quickly extended his arm and lead Ruyen towards the mansion.

Jill and the others also followed the two immediately, holding gifts in their hands. But they also knew of the young lady's personality, so they didn't dare be noisy, they just silently followed the two.

They quickly arrived at the mansion's living room. The ornaments inside the living room were very magnificent. And standing inside the living room were six maids. When they saw Fernand come, they immediately became busy, they brought hot towels and prepared hot tea, they also lit the fireplace to keep the place warm.

Fernand hesitantly let go of Ruyen's hand, he asked Ruyen to sit down and said, "I didn't know of princess' visit, I had been disrespectful. For the princess to visit the mansion, what matters are you handling here?"

Ruyen showed a faint smile and said, "I'm just passing by, I must head to Rosen Empire to study. But my father didn't trust me, so he had me follow a Duchy's Viscount. The Viscount had come here to visit Bell to discuss some matters. So I decided to visit Uncle Robert at the same time and send some gifts that father prepared."

Fernand replied, "So the princess was actually headed to Rosen Empire to study. The mountains are high and the road is pretty rough, how could the Grand Duke allow you to travel to Rosen Empire at these conditions?"

Ruyen just smiled and said, "This time, if we wait till spring to head towards Rosen Empire, I'm afraid that I wouldn't be able to finish my admissions before the beginning of the school year."

Chapter 326 - Robert

Fernand quickly replied, "Right, I actually forgot about that. The Rosen Empire Institute's admission has very strict requirements. However, I believe that with the princess' natural talent, admittance is not a problem."

Ruyen covered her mouth to chuckled, "Come on, what talent. You hadn't seen talent until you meet the Viscount that I travelled with. Even though he is just over 20 years old, he actually knows wind, earth and fire element magic, a three-element mage. Moreover, his talent in the fire element is very good, an absolute genius." She said with twinkling eyes.

Seeing Ruyen's expression, Fernand's heart felt uneasy. Fernand already considered Ruyen as his prey, but now in front of him, Ruyen was praising another man. He couldn't stop his expression from turning ugly.

At this time, footsteps could be heard approaching. Then, while he still hasn't passed through the door yet, a man's voice was heard, "Hahaha, little Ruyen, Uncle hasn't seen you for quite some time." The man said as he strode into the room.

Entering the door was an over 40-year old man. His body wasn't that tall and he looked thin and weak. He wore a noble's clothes and had worn transparent eyeglasses, he looked quite attractive. He was the patriarch of the Iksa Family, Robert Iksa.

Although Robert is still 45 years old, he was already a 7th rank Wind element Mage. Moreover, he started managing the family at 25 years old so he was already the family patriarch for 20 years. In the past two decades, although the Iksa Family didn't have much to show, they made lots of money by taking advantage of their border with the beastman prairie by smuggling and collecting private taxes.

Iksa Family was different to Purcell Family. The Purcell family had an Elder's assembly to restrain their patriarch, while the Iksa family, however, did not have an Elder's assembly. This meant that Robert, as the Iksa Patriarch, had complete authority in the domain.

Robert and Fernand had different personalities. In his life, Robert only had one wife and one concubine, which was his wife's maid dowry. Because of this, Robert couldn't get used to Fernand's actions, but his wife is alright with it so he couldn't do anything about it.

Seeing Robert arrive, Ruyen and Fernand immediately stood up and gave a salute. Robert nodded and looked at Ruyen, "Well, little Ruyen had already grown to be a lady. The last time I saw you, you were still 7 years old, that was way back in the past. Right, how is your father?"

Ruyen smiled, "Father is well, this time he made me visit uncle personally and give uncle a gift, Jill."

Jill took a box and walked forward, in that box was a very well-made magic staff. Robert was a Mage, so it was natural to gift him a magic staff.

Robert received the gift with a smile. Then he turned his head to Ruyen and asked, "Ruyen, what matter made you visit this time?"

Ruyen quickly replied, "Nothing, I was just passing by on my way to Rosen Empire so study. Father didn't trust me in travelling alone, so he had a Duchy's Viscount accompany me. But the Viscount came here to discuss business with Bell, so I felt that it was best to come visit you along the way."

Robert smiled, "Is it? Your father was actually willing to send you far away to study? Well, I need to learn from your father. Maybe I should also send my disappointing child away to study."

Fernand's face turned bitter, he had the same situation as Ruyen. In their Domain, he was someone, but if he went to a big place such as the Rosen Empire, he wouldn't have any status, and he knew this quite clearly.

Ruyen just smiled and said, "Father was saying that I needed to go out and get some experiences, hehe."

Robert smiled, "Right, gathering experience is a good decision. Ah, this old man couldn't chat with you for long. Fernand, accompany little Ruyen around that mansion. At noon remember to come back and have your lunch here."

After saying that he stood up and left. Seeing his father leave, Fernand relaxed. Normally, Robert was very strict to him, always giving him lessons, this made Fernand develop a habit of being nervous whenever his father was around.

Ruyen looked at Fernando's appearance, her heart couldn't help but despise him. Before, if she saw someone like Fernand, she would be in the mood to tease him. But after meeting Zhao Hai, she didn't have that feeling anymore.

Ruyen also clearly saw the fire inside Fernand's eyes. So she deliberately boasted Zhao Hai's qualities in front of him. He wanted to annoy Fernand and at the same time bring some small trouble to Zhao Hai.

Ruyen had eaten a few losses by Zhao Hai's hands, and Zhao Hai also hadn't given her enough face, so her heart felt very annoyed. And now looking at Fernand's actions, she was sure that if she always talked favorably of Zhao Hai, this playboy Fernand would certainly look for trouble, wanting to flex his masculinity. Ruyen wanted to see how Zhao Hai would deal with this matter.

Fernand invited Ruyen to explore the mansion and to take a good look at Sarte City. However, while on the road, Ruyen didn't stop giving praises to Zhao Hai. This made Fernand very mad.

For a playboy like Fernand, it was very unbearable to have a woman he fancied continue to praise another man, let alone in front of him. As time passed by, Fernand's face got even more ugly.

When noon came, Fernand led Ruyen back to the mansion to have their lunch. The two were told to head to the dining room where Robert was already waiting for them.

The meal was a very pleasant experience, Robert had been the patriarch for 20 years, so he had met countless amounts of people. So naturally, he would know how to make the table's atmosphere very enjoyable. In addition to Robert's efforts, the dishes presented were also very good, Ruyen was very pleased with the meal.

After having their lunch, Robert left again to deal with his busy schedule. Ruyen wanted to go explore the city with Fernand, but instead Fernand said that he wanted to see the Viscount that Ruyen was travelling together with.

Hearing what Fernand said, Ruyen couldn't help but laugh inside. At the same time, she brought Fernand to the hotel where they were staying at.

Since Zhao Hai chose this hotel to stay in, naturally it wouldn't be bad. Since he was currently acting as a young master, it was natural that he wouldn't go to low quality hotels, thus he chose to live in luxury.

When the two arrived at the hotel, except for her guards, Ruyen saw that there was only Blockhead. Since Blockhead was supposed to be Zhao Hai's supply carriage driver, he didn't have the status to come with him to see Bell. Ruyen led Fernand to her room and immediately sent someone to get Blockhead.

Although Blockhead didn't know what was happening, he still came. He went to Ruyen's room and gave a salute, "This one had seen the young lady, what does the young lady need me for?"

Without waiting for Ruyen to speak, Fernand stood up and gave Blockhead's face a slap. Blockhead touched his face and gave a puzzled look at Fernand, "Who are you? And why did you hit me?"

Fernand looked at Blockhead's expression and proudly said, "It was your own undertaking. Seeing the princess but not kneeling? And seeing the Marquis' successor and didn't salute? So why shouldn't I hit you? What kind of lord has such a subordinate, looking at you tells me that your lord is not that good."

Ruyen didn't expect Fernand to use his title for such petty matter. It was the lowest thing that a Nobleman could do. Ruyen couldn't help but look down on Fernand even more.

However, to cause Zhao Hai trouble, Ruyen held back and only looked at Blockhead. Blockhead was very angered right now, he wished that he could draw his sword and kill Fernand immediately, but for Zhai Hai's sake, he held back.

He endured, but Zhao Hai didn't need to. As Blockhead was about to give Ruyen and Fernand a salute, a voice could suddenly be heard, "Marquis' successor, such great power and prestige. But what is your actual title right now?"

When seeing Zhao Hai coming through the door, Ruyen didn't get frightened. This was the effect that she was waiting for, she wanted to know how Zhao Hai would solve this matter.

Fernand also looked at Zhao Hai. What he saw was an ordinarily dressed man that had a very ordinary appearance. When he heard Zhao Hai, Fernand knew that he was Blockhead's lord, thus he couldn't help but snort and said coldly, "So you're saying that the heir of a Marquis can't scold you?"

Zhao Hai looked at Fernand, even though he had no idea what happened, when he saw Blockhead being hit, he became enraged. One must know that Blockhead was already in the Buda Clan even before their tragedy struck, Zhao Hai already considered him as his brother, and now that his brother had been hit, he just couldn't let this matter slip.

Hearing what Fernand said, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile, "A Marquis' title is very high, but I do know that his successor's title wouldn't be at same level, so what right do you have to teach my servant?"

Fernand's expression changed, although his father was a Marquis, his title wasn't that high up, only a Viscount, the same as Zhao Hai. Him wanting to teach Zhao Hai's servant was indeed too excessive. It was a manner of, before beating the dog, find out about the owner. When he berated Blockhead, he also hit Zhao Hai's face. This was a taboo for Nobles.

Although it was a taboo, Fernand didn't care. In Sarte City, he could afford to be domineering, he wouldn't care about a small Viscount.

Chapter 327 - Escalating Conflict

Fernand looked coldly at Zhao Hai, "I'm still a Viscount, so are you saying that a Viscount can't scold a servant?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "Of course a viscount can discipline a servant, but to scold my servant? You are a bit unqualified. And since you hit my servant, then it wouldn't be excessive for me to hit yours too, right?" Then he waved his hand and sent a Wind Blade towards Fernand's servant who was standing behind.

Fernand didn't think that Zhao Hai would actually deal a heavy hand. The servant's reaction wasn't slow. When he saw Zhao Hai attack, he immediately circulated his Battle Qi throughout his body.

However, Fernand's servant was just a 5th rank warrior, so his Battle Qi's defensive properties were very limited. Additionally, the Wind Blade that Zhao Hai sent had a force equivalent to 7th rank. Therefore, although the servant's was quick in circulating his Battle Qi, he couldn't block Zhao Hai's wind blade. Along with a pitiful yell, the servant's arm fell to the ground.

Fernand saw his servant's pitiful condition and his face couldn't help but whiten, he said, "Good, such boldness, daring to act unruly inside Iksa Domain. You must be tired of living."

Zhao Hai smiled coldly, "For me to be tired of living isn't for you to say. Blockhead, let's go." Blockhead nodded, then followed Zhao Hai to leave Ruyen's room.

Ruyen was frightened, she didn't think that Zhao was that ruthless and would chop a servant's arm off. Moreover, at this point, Zhao Hai had developed a hatred for Fernand, she expected this matter to not end well.

Ruyen also didn't expect Fernand to be that crude and taunt Zhao Hai further even after seeing the latter's ability.

Fernand's face was pale, he didn't expect Zhao Hai to not give him any face. This made him very embarrassed. Even since he was born, there was nobody inside Iksa domain who dared to neglect his face.

Even though he couldn't bear it, he didn't bring enough guards. Even if he went to find Zhao Hai, he wouldn't be able to deal with him, he already lost too much face. Fernand can only snort, then he lifted his foot and walked out. The servant followed Fernand, he suppressed the pain in his arm by sealing the wound with his battle qi, stopping the blood from flowing out.

Ruyen didn't think that things would reach this point. Looking at the severed arm on the ground, Ruyen couldn't help but sense fear. She suddenly thought of that time back in the Purcell Duchy when he threatened Zhao Hai and was almost killed by his follower. She knew that Zhao Hai didn't care about status, he wasn't afraid back in Purcell Duchy, so why should he be afraid in Iksa Domain?

Thinking of this, Ruyen felt regret. The matter had gone out of control. It may even lead to Zhao Hai and Iksa Domain having a full-blown conflict.

Although she wanted to teach Zhao Hai a lesson, she didn't want him dead. The current situation between Zhao Hai and Fernand wasn't the thing that was on her mind.

While Ruyen was secretly regretting, Shun appeared outside Ruyen's door, he said, "Your Highness Ruyen, Sir Viscount has invited you to discuss about something."

Ruyen froze, then she quickly nodded and replied, "Alright, I'll go." Then she stood up and followed Shun towards Zhao Hai's room.

Zhao Hai was sitting in the living room while waiting for Ruyen. As soon as he saw her, he nodded and said, "Young lady, please take a seat."

Ruyen looked at Zhao Hai, then she said, "Mister, you're being too reckless this time. We are in the Iksa Family Domain, being in conflict with Fernand isn't a good idea. Although Fernand isn't that favored in the Iksa Family, they still wouldn't let you off if you continue to be in a fight with him."

Zhao Hai only calmly looked at Ruyen, "Princess Ruyen, I just wanted to know why Fernand hit Blockhead? Is it really because he didn't give an appropriate greeting?"

Ruyen's heart was beating fast when she heard Zhao Hai, she clearly knew the true reason why but she just can't say it. She lowered her gaze and said, "What does mister mean? Is mister suspicious of me? You can call your servant over and have him testify to what happened."

Zhao Hai looked at Ruyen then calmly replied, "If young lady Ruyen says so, then naturally it is so. But the young lady also saw that I've been embroiled in a great trouble. Thus, young lady will not be safe travelling with me anymore. It would be better for our two groups to separate. I will send word to the Grand Duke later. Shun, please lead the young lady out." Then Zhao Hai closed his eyes and ignored Ruyen.

Ruyen froze for a moment, she didn't think that Zhao Hai would use this method to get rid of her. She quickly argued, "You can't do that. My father asked you to take care of me. How dare you leave me! Do you think my father wouldn't dare confiscate your title?"

Zhao Hai opened one eye and looked at Ruyen, "I don't care, if he takes it back, then take it back. I didn't ask your father for the title anyway, he was the one who willingly gave it to me. If he wants to confiscate it then him confiscate it." Then he started ignoring Ruyen again.

Before Ruyen said anything, Shun went to her and gestured his hand, "Princess, please." Ruyen glared, then she snorted and turned away.

Looking at Ruyen going out, Laura couldn't stop herself from asking, "Brother Hai, do you really want to drive her out and let her go on her own?"

Zhao Hai opened his eyes and looked at Laura, "Take care of her? How would I do that? Staying with her would only give us more trouble. I don't want to spend entire days managing her life, she's a walking disaster."

Laura didn't have anything to say, Ruyen was really like what Zhao Hai said, a catastrophe. It was clear that Fernand was looking for trouble. But he wouldn't be looking for trouble for no reason. It was very certain that the cause was Ruyen, anyone but a fool could notice it.

Meg was worried, “Young Master, can Bell really talk with the Iksa Family? If he couldn’t, then what do we do? Do we really have to fight it out with them?”

Zhao Hai can only smile faintly, “I think Bell should be able to talk to them. He had been in Sarte City for many years. His business is also big, and it wouldn’t reach its heights if he had no backing from the Iksa Family. If he really can’t solve our problem, then it’s better to fight it out with the Iksa Family. We’re not afraid of them anyway, if we really put our resources into it, how could they stop us?”

Laura smiled and said, “Maybe we can also use this matter to make contact with the Iksa Family. This would make it better for us later.”

Zhao Hai smiled, “That would be good. Let’s wait first and see how Bell handles it.” As he said that, the sound of hooves could be heard outside. Zhao Hai waved his hand and the monitor appeared in front of him. The screen showed a group of cavalymen heading towards them and surrounding the hotel.

Zhao Hai smiled and said, “He’s really a spoiled young master. He even brought an army, it seems that I’m still far behind compared to the real one.” Laura and the others laughed, they weren’t frightened whatsoever.

What’s surprising was that the hotel’s response was beyond Zhao Hai’s expectations. The hotel Zhao Hai and the others were staying in was the Shelley Hotel. All medium and large cities in the continent had branches of Shelley Hotels in them. Since their service quality was top-notch, Zhao Hai decided to stay here as soon as he arrived at Sarte. What Zhao Hai knew for sure was that this hotel didn’t have any relation to Bell nor the Iksa Family.

Ordinary hotels, when they become surrounded by cavalry, would naturally be cowering in fear. Shelley Hotel, on the other hand, did the opposite, which Zhao Hai didn’t expect. They didn’t come up and capture the person responsible, but instead just opened their doors like normal, the attendants acted as though they didn’t see the cavalry outside. Only the person in charge of the whole hotel came and acknowledged the presence of the cavalry.

There was a carriage containing Fernand next to the cavalry. The long and slender manager with an astute face came forward. Zhao Hai had seen him before, he was always smiling when he spoke, but now he wore a calm face as he approached Fernand’s carriage, “This one has seen the Eldest Young Master, what did young master come here to do?”

Fernand looked at the manager and angrily said, "Illin, you are wasting your breath, no need for more words. I'm here for Wales. It's best if you get out of the way. Otherwise, you can't blame me for my next action."

Illin just looked at Fernand calmly. Fernand had the feeling that he was stared at by a serpent. This made him very uncomfortable.

Illin looked at Fernand and said calmly, "Eldest Young Master, since the day we started opening our business, we made sure to never chase our guests away. I don't know what the young master's grievance with Mister Wales is, but as long as Mister Wales stays within the premises of the hotel, he will be our guest. We're not the kind of hotel that couldn't guarantee a guest's safety. I suggest the young master to go back, if the young master wishes to cause trouble for Mister Wales, then he'd have to wait until Mister Wales leaves the hotel. When that time happens, no matter what young master plans to do, our Shelley hotel certainly wouldn't interfere, but that time isn't now."

When these words were heard by Zhao Hai, he couldn't help but applaud. He didn't think that inside the Iksa Domain, the hotel would actually dare to publicly cross horns with Fernand.

Chapter 328 - Power and Prestige

Fernand didn't expect that Illin would disregard his face, his expression changed and he said, "Illin, you're just a servant, what gave you the balls to oppose me? Are tired of living? Get out of the way or else I'll wreck your entire hotel."

Illin's eyes flashed a cold light, he replied, "Since our Shelley Hotel opened our shops in the entire continent, there wasn't anyone who dared to say that they would wreck our place. If the young master really plans to demolish our hotel, then I, Illin, wouldn't stop you. But you'll have to know that the Marquis would have to provide substantial reasons when this matter reaches the ears of the family."

Fernand calmed down, Although he was a spoiled young master, he wasn't dumb. His father told him about certain groups inside the domain he couldn't offend. The Shelley Hotel was one of them.

His earlier words were only caused by his momentary rage. Now that Fernand heard Illin's words, he calmed down. What Illin said wasn't a lie, there were numerous Shelley Hotels spread out in the

continent, being able to handle such a huge business, how could the Shelley Family's influence be small? Not to say about Iksa Family, even the Aksu Empire's Imperial Clan would still have to think twice before offending Shelley Hotel.

Thinking about this, Fernand couldn't do anything other than suppressing the rage in his heart. Then he said, "If don't want me to cause trouble, just go call Wales out. We'll settle our own dispute."

Illin shook his head and said, "The young master has to forgive me, we need to follow the rules of the hotel. Unless the guest informs us beforehand, we cannot just disturb their rest."

The anger that Fernand suppressed erupted, he shouted, "Illin! I have already given your Shelley Family enough face and didn't care about your rudeness. But now you're being completely unreasonable! Men, charge!"

Just as the cavalry was about to rush in, ten stone golems appeared, blocking the hotel's entrance like a wall. Afterwards, Zhao Hai's words could be heard, "Young Master Fernand, if you want to see me, just wait for me to come out. Why are you too impatient?"

After saying that, Zhao Hai walked out of the hotel. He first performed a salute to Illin and said, "I thank Mr. Illin's protection, I will never forget this favor until I die."

Illin showed a faint smile, then he said, "As long as mister continues being a customer at our hotel, then we'll always guarantee your safety."

Zhao Hai smiled, then didn't say anything more. He remembered Illin's gesture in his heart. At this time, Zhao Hai turned to Ferdinand whose face was red with anger, "Young Master Fernand, aren't you being too serious about our conflict? You hit my servant, I hit your servant, we're now even. I don't know why young master dragged these people here, what are you planning to do?"

Fernand sneered, "What? You want to admit defeat now? Too late, you knew this was our domain and yet still dare to offend me. You're courting death!"

Zhao Hai looked at Fernand and faintly smiled, "Does the young master really think that I'm afraid of you? To tell you the truth, I don't want to make this conflict bigger than it already is in consideration of

the Marquis. Somebody wouldn't have a happy end if this continues, I hope the young master thinks twice."

Fernand sneered, "Saying these words is already too late, men, capture him!" The cavalry resumed their charge.

At this time, a voice was heard, "Stop! Quickly stop!"

When Zhao Hai heard the voice, he couldn't help but smile. This was Bell's voice, he finally came. If he was late, then Zhao Hai feared that he may actually have to make a move."

Fernand turned to look at Bell. He couldn't help but frown, he wasn't willing to annoy this man. Bell was the largest merchant in the domain as well as a very close friend of his father. Although he looked down on merchants, he still needed to give Bell face.

Seeing that Bell had suddenly arrived, Fernand frowned a bit. With Bell present, the situation became more complex.

At this time, he also remembered Ruyen's words. Ruyen told him that Zhao Hai came to Iksa Domain to meet with Bell to discuss some partnership. Now, it seems that the partnership has gone through.

Bell was very anxious, he didn't ride his carriage this time but rode a horse instead. Shue was right behind, also riding a horse.

Bell quickly arrived at the hotel, he looked at Zhao Hai and nodded. Then he turned to Fernand and said, "Eldest Young Master, how did my friend offend you? Please consider this little one's face and quell your anger."

Bell was a merchant, so when he apologized, he put on a smile, with this, people would generally be too embarrassed to get angry.

Fernand looked at Bell and listened to what he said. Fernand didn't want to be in conflict with Bell, he knew that he couldn't offend him. At this time, Ruyen came out of the hotel, and looked at Fernand.

When Fernand saw Ruyen appear, he became delighted. Ruyen looked at him with despise, then turned her head to Zhao Hai and made a face of admiration. Fernand anger flared up again, he looked at Bell and sneered, "Bell, you're just a merchant, why would I give you face? You became an honored guest at our house, became father's friend, and had me call you uncle, and now you think that you're someone great? Get out of the way, or else I'll have to capture you along with Wales."

When Bell heard Fernand, his complexion paled. He clearly saw Fernand's rage reduce, but suddenly it came back. Bell knew Fernand, so he turned around and see the reason for his change.

He turned his head and saw Ruyen. Looking at Ruyen's appearance as well as her looks, Bell immediately knew that she was Purcell Duchy's young lady who was travelling with Zhao Hai. He also understood the current situation.

Bell took a deep breath, then turned to Fernand. He couldn't help but sigh inside, Robert was a perceptive person, so how could he sire a son be as idiotic as Fernand. Such clear motives but still couldn't see through it, he was too stupid.

Bell didn't know what to do. If the eldest young master really made this mistake, Bell wouldn't have anything to say. No matter what, this man was the Iksa Family's successor.

Then a voice came, "Such power and prestige, why don't you also capture me then." The voice wasn't loud, it was just ordinary, you almost couldn't hear it. But when Fernand heard this voice, his expression changed.

Bell and Illin became relieved upon hearing this voice, Zhao Hai also turned to look at the source. There was a carriage that had just arrived. The carriage was large and majestic, but a kind of majesty that was low-key, a humble type of majesty.

A middle aged man stood in front the carriage. Although he was a noble's robe, he wore clear glasses. His noble's robe looked very refined, and paired with his eyeglasses, it gave him a scholarly aura.

Seeing the man, Zhao Hai couldn't help but feel a favorable impression towards him. Back on Earth, Zhao Hai was an author, so his body naturally would express a scholarly tone. This made Zhao Hai form a connection with the man, giving Zhao Hai a good impression of him.

The man was naturally Robert. Although Robert had a calm face, everyone who knew him understood that he was angry. Seeing Robert arrive, Bell greeted him, "Marquis Robert unexpectedly came. How dare we make the Marquis work hard. Wales, quickly greet the Marquis."

Zhao Hai hastily bowed and said, "Wales had seen Marquis Robert."

Robert nodded as he looked at Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai was dressed like a dandy, but when Robert looked a bit more, he felt something was not right. Although Zhao Hai wore clothes that might make him flamboyant, and also wore pink eyeglasses, something that he didn't understand, Robert was very sure that him and Zhao Hai were the same. Robert also noticed Zhao Hai's aura.

Because of his occupation as a novel writer back on Earth, as well as his fondness for ancient literature, and also the relative calmness of Earth's society compared to Ark Continent's, Zhao Hai's aura exhibited a calm and tempered attribute, a strange temperament that didn't belong in the Ark Continent.

Robert was a perceptive man, when he saw Zhao Hai's temperament as well as how he was dressed, he immediately understood. He couldn't help but smile, but he didn't reveal it, he nodded to Zhao Hai and said, "Young man, very good, hehe, what a pity that you have such temper."

Hearing this, Zhao Hai knew that he was found out. His face couldn't help but redden, he really was quite impulsive, he replied, "Marquis was right, I had been impulsive."

Robert chuckled, then he turned to Fernand. Now, Fernand's face was pale ever since Robert arrived. Fernand knew that he was in deep trouble, but he didn't dare to run away. Robert didn't teach him that power and influence came with time. Robert was very lenient with him, making Fernand act unreasonably in their Domain.

Chapter 329 - How did I get a stupid son?

Robert just glanced at Fernand without saying anything. He turned to the cavalymen and asked, "Who is in command today?"

A man in a horse went to Robert and bowed, "Third Battalion Commander Nicholas has seen Marquis Robert." It was a rule that only in the presence of the Emperor would cavalry men dismount when giving a salute, therefore even though the cavalry were Robert's subordinates, they didn't dismount when giving him a salute.

Robert looked at Nicholas and nodded, "Head back and receive 50 canes, go on." Nicholas immediately bowed and said, "Yes". Then he waved and led the cavalry away.

Nicholas knew why he was punished. He was part of the Sarte city's defense force, so even though they were subordinates of the Iksa Family, they couldn't just be ordered around. It would need Robert's command token to make them move. But this time, because of Fernand's words, they went out, this was enough justification for Robert to punish them.

Looking at Nicholas' cavalry leaving, Robert turned his head to Fernand and said, "Go home. Mister Wales and Bell will go to the mansion with me."

Then Robert turned to Illin and apologized, "Manager Illin, the young one had been impolite. Please don't take it to heart, one of these days I'll come visit and formally apologize."

Illin smiled faintly, "Sir Marquis is too polite. This one wouldn't dare make the Marquis apologize. Marquis had already taken good care of the hotel."

Robert laughed and said, "Mister Illin is also very polite, pulling the business' merit to my head. Hahaha, good, I'll certainly find time to come. But not today."

Illin quickly said, "Sir Marquis can come anytime." Robert nodded, then he gave a signal to the carriage as he drove off.

Zhao Hai hastily went to Bell and rode his other horse. Then the both of them followed the Marquis towards his mansion. Fernand was also inside his carriage heading back to his home.

At the mansion, Robert invited Zhao Hai and Bell to the living room while Fernand followed them. When they entered the living room, the maidservants immediately prepared tea, then were driven out by Robert.

After the maidservants left, Robert's face immediately changed. He slapped the table and looked at Fernand, "You fool! How did I manage to get such a stupid son. You know what kind of place Shelley Hotel is? Even when I eat there, I still need to pay full. But now you just lead some people and want to barge in? Do you want to die?"

Fernand lowered his head and didn't dare to make any noise. Robert looked at Fernand and continued, "Just because our family had such a large domain doesn't mean that we're someone great. The reason we managed to get this territory was because the other Great Noble families didn't take a liking to it. And now you regard yourself as someone powerful? If you add up all of the branches of the Shelley Hotel chain, they would reach up to ten thousand. They're considered as one of the most powerful families in the continent. And you dared provoke them? Do you want to take the entire Iksa family down with you?"

Fernand was still quiet, still lowering his head, but deep in his heart he was not convinced. In his opinion, Robert was exaggerating. He didn't believe that a hotel could have such power.

Looking at Fernand, Robert knew that his words didn't reach his son's heart. Robert couldn't help but sigh, "Also, can't you see that Ruyen was deliberately instigating the conflict? You became too blinded and became stupid. Me, Robert, had been smart my entire life, how did I manage to sire a stupid son? Aside from women, don't you have anything else inside your head? Also, I wouldn't even have any problems if you were playing around with a good woman, but Ruyen is different. Didn't you know that she was quite infamous inside Purcell Duchy? It even made Evan decide to send her away to study in Rosen Empire. For such a woman, you are willing to drag a lot of people in trouble?"

It wouldn't be proper for Zhao Hai to open his mouth at this time. Since Bell was in close terms with Robert, he quickly said, "Sir Marquis, you really cannot blame this matter to the young master but instead to princess Ruyen. It's too easy for her to pretend and fool men. If I were to meet the young lady when I was younger, I also wouldn't be able to stop myself."

Robert stared at him and said, "Can't stop? Then how can Wales stop himself? I can see it, Wales didn't have any reaction towards the young lady. Wales, what's this about? Care to explain why you don't harbor any favor towards her?"

It wasn't a mystery why Robert was puzzled. He sees that Zhao Hai was given the Viscount title by Evan. So naturally it would be correct if Zhao Hai were to be more attentive to Ruyen. But why did Zhao Hai dislike her instead?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, then he prepared a reponse, "Young lady Ruyen is beautiful, but her reputation in the Purcell Duchy isn't likeable, I won't dare marry her. The title was willingly given by Duke Evan, I didn't want it. He just saw my capabilities and decided to give me this title."

Robert chuckled and said, "It looks like I didn't misread you. Your current appearance is just a disguise, no? What's the matter? "

Hearing this, Zhao Hai showed a faint smile, "Nothing, isn't it just nice to wear this attire? It even excuses me if I do something outrageous, hehe, it's extremely convenient."

Robert laughed, then he turned to Fernand, "It seem like I also need to prepare you for studying at Rosen Empire."

When Fernand heard Robert, he immediately begged Robert, "Father, I'll promise to be obedient from now on. Please don't send me to Rosen Empire, it's too far, I don't want to go there."

Looking at his son's appearance, Robert helplessly smiled and said, "Forget it, you go back first. Don't forget to come back in a while and accompany Wales and Bell for dinner."

Fernand looked at Bell and Zhao Hai then nodded and went away. Looking at Fernand's unwilling face, Robert couldn't help but sigh and said, "His mother had spoiled him too much. He's already a big man, but still acting like a child."

Bell smiled and changed the topic, "Yesterday, I didn't manage to visit you and tell this. This is the league's new member Zhao Hai, you should have heard of him."

Both Robert and Zhao Hai were surprised at Bell's words. Bell's message told both Robert and Zhao Hai that they were on the same side.

Zhao Hai and Robert stared at each other then back at Bell. At this point, Bell was chuckling. Robert couldn't help but smile, "So it's true that the two of you were in a partnership. I didn't know that you had another secret."

Zhao Hai also couldn't help but smile, he didn't expect that the Iksa family's patriarch would be a member of the League of Dark Mages.

However, he changed his thoughts and saw that something was not right. He heard the Robert was a 7th rank Wind element Mage. How could he be a member of the league?

Looking at Zhao Hai expression, Bell smiled and said, "Don't assume that the League of Dark Mages' members are all Dark element Mages. There are also quite a few number of people of different backgrounds that are members of the league, like me and Robert. We became too tired of the Radiant Church's antics. Seeing that we had a common hatred with the league, we decided to join."

Zhao Hai nodded. Robert looked curiously at Zhao Hai and said, "You're also in the league? Are you a Dark Mage?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "When I joined the league back then, I was a Dark Mage. But a fire, earth and wind tri-element mage's status is much more convenient in the continent at this time."

Robert and Bell both stared at Zhao Hai. Looking at the two people, he smiled and added, "Don't stare at me like that, I don't actually know magic. I have a Divergent ability, it can imitate magic spells. Presently, I could imitate earth, wind, fire, dark, and light element mages. This is how I can pretend to be a three element mage."

Zhao Hai's words further surprised Robert and Bell. But Zhao Hai couldn't blame them, Divergent abilities were very rare and mysterious. Therefore, when they heard that Zhao Hai had a Divergent ability, they were very surprised.

On the other hand, the reason why nobody was surprised about Shue is because he was already quite well known early on his life. Everyone knew his ability and were not surprised. But now that Zhao Hai also said that he had such ability, Bell and Robert almost didn't believe him.

Zhao Hai looked at the two and smiled bitterly. Then he didn't talk anymore, he knew that the more he talked the more mistakes he would make, so he decided to settle for less.

Bell and Robert saw that Zhao Hai didn't want to divulge more information so they didn't push him further. The league was quite a loose organization and everyone had their secrets, so they didn't inquire anymore.

Robert shifted the topic, "Right, Zhao Hai, what did you see Bell for? This fellow is a sleazy businessman. Why would you want to do business with him?"

It was obvious that Robert and Bell's relationship was quite good, seeing how they tease each other. Zhao Hai quite admired these types of friendships.

Bell looked at Robert, "What? You're asking why Zhao Hai went to me for business? Did you forget what he did in the past?"

Robert froze, he remembered the Haven brand products in the Purcell Duchy some time ago. These products were all provided by Zhao Hai. Thinking about it, it wasn't surprising for Bell and Zhao Hai to team up.

Robert nodded then he turned to Zhao Hai, "So what business are you doing with Bell? Haven products?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "Not this time. I want to sell Milk wine at them moment. I'll give them to Bell and he'll be the exclusive seller for Aksu Empire."

Robert said, "Milk wine? Why sell that? Would people buy it?"

Bell smiled and said, "I'll make you try it later, and I promise you, you wouldn't want to drink any other liquor after then."

Looking at Bell's expression, Robert knew that the wine would surely be good. But he was also curious, his family's domain was bordered with the prairie, and also had some businesses with the beastmen. So naturally. he didn't drink a small amount of milk wine, but he still couldn't get used to it.

Chapter 330 - Illin

The group chatted in the living room unwary of the time that had passed. The topics they talked were mostly about the League of Dark Mages. Zhao Hai was a new recruit and he didn't know a lot about the league, so he used this opportunity to discuss with the other two.

The two didn't hide anything from him either. As it turns out, Robert was able to join the league thanks to Bell. The two's relationship was already good before Robert joined the league, and when one time Bell asked Robert about what he thought about Dark Mages, Robert was unexpectedly fine with them. In contrast, Robert was disgusted with the Radiant Church and its overbearing attitude. Finally, after multiple contacts, Bell finally invited Robert to the league.

Upon listening to Robert's words, Zhao Hai felt a bit anxious. From their discussions, it seems that they were already integrating Zhao Hai with the league, it was quite amusing.

But from the way things was, he had no other alternative than just make them believe that he was already a firm believer. The two also told him a lot about the league, giving Zhao Hai more understanding of the group.

When dinner time came, the group headed to the dining hall. Fernand also came to drink wine with them. At this time, Fernand's mind was already clear. He was very embarrassed, he was not stupid, when he calmed his mind down, he realized that Ruyen was just pushing him towards trouble earlier this morning.

Although he was manipulated, his heart didn't have any misgivings, making him suffer a loss, this made him feel very awkward. When dinner came, Robert sent someone to fetch him, so he went.

After the group sat down, Robert took out the fruit wine he prepared. But Bell quickly stopped him, he said, "Keep this wine, today, Wales will provide the liquor. Wales, you will right?"

Because Fernand was present, Robert didn't want Fernand to know Zhao Hai's true identity, so they decided to call him Wales. This didn't mean that Robert didn't want Fernand to get to know Zhao Hai. Knowing Zhao Hai was actually good for his son.

Zhao Hai's identity couldn't be revealed inside Aksu Empire, the less people who knew, the better. Although Fernand wasn't that stupid, he was quite impulsive from time to time. When Zhao Hai's status gets revealed, Evan, Bell, and Robert would be implicated. So Robert decided to make Fernand be in the dark regarding Zhao Hai's status.

Robert looked curiously at Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Right, let's have my wine. It could also be considered as my apology to brother Fernand." A liquor bag appeared as he waved his hand.

Seeing this, Fernand didn't dare to underestimate Zhao Hai anymore. From Zhao Hai's action, it was obvious that he had a spatial storage item, the Iksa Family didn't even have one, it was that rare. Such item was a symbol of status, now Fernand didn't have any doubt about Zhao Hai's background.

Zhao Hai didn't care about Fernand's expression. He poured himself a cup and also three more for the others. Then he lifted a glass and held it to Fernand and said, "Brother Fernand, I had been impulsive today and had offended brother. Please take this cup as a sign of my apology."

Fernand became embarrassed when he heard Zhao Hai, he quickly lifted his glass and said, "Brother is too kind, today's matter was my fault. It should be me who has to offer a glass." Then the two clinked their glasses and drank the wine.

Zhao Hai was used to the wine, so he didn't have any reaction. Fernand, on the other hand, had never drank such strong liquor. After he downed his glass, he choked repeatedly with his face red.

Zhao Hai smiled and poured himself another glass. He turned to Robert and said, "Sir Marquis, today's matter was my fault. I even troubled you, please have this glass."

Robert looked at Fernand's reaction and was surprised. He knew that Fernand was a good drinker. Even though Fernand was a no good son, when it came to liquor and women, he was better than Robert. For even Fernand to be like that after a glass, would he be able to take it?

Bell looked at Robert's expression, he smiled and said, "It's alright, the liquor is very fragrant, but it's also very strong. It is good to be careful and not drink it like it is Fruit Wine. When you drink it, take it sip by sip, then you'll know that it is a rare delicacy."

Robert looked at Bell as though he didn't believe him, Bell just returned his gaze. He looked at the glass and gently took a small sip, then his face changed into delight.

Robert looked at the glass, and took another sip. He savored the wine's flavor, Robert couldn't help but get quiet and appreciate the wine. After some time, he opened his mouth and said, "Good wine, nice flavor."

Fernand also finished his glass at this time. Zhao Hai gave him another cup and said, "Brother Fernand, how was it? Was the wine good?"

Fernand didn't react, he looked at the clear wine in the glass and nodded repeatedly, "Good, it is really good. Comparing this to the other liquors I've drank before, it seems like I had been drinking water all along, this liquor is very good." Then he lifted his glass and took another sip.

Robert also continued to drink the liquor as the group ate the dishes on the table. It was said that the best way to make friends is through liquor. Before long, the group's relationships became better. Zhao Hai and Fernand now looked like intimate brothers.

The meal was very jolly, Fernand still didn't want to go and study, so Robert berated him, but looking at Fernand's expression, it seemed like he didn't take his father's words seriously.

After having eaten their meal, Zhao Hai returned to the hotel. This time, he didn't bring Laura and the others, so he wanted to tell them what just happened.

When he entered the hotel, Illin welcomed him. Zhao Hai quickly gave a salute and said, "Manager Illin, hello."

Illin smiled and said, "Mister Wales had been well. Mister Wales, I have something to discuss with you, can I borrow some of your time?"

Zhao Hai stared for a moment, but his impression of Illin was good so he said, "Alright, Mister Illin." Illin quickly reached his hand and said, "Please" Then the two went towards an office room in the first floor.

Illin's room was very stylish. Aside from the living room, there was also a bedroom inside, but the door was closed so Zhao Hai couldn't see in.

After Zhao Hai was invited to sit down, Illin began by serving Zhao Hai a cup of tea, then he proceeded, "Did mister experience some troubles when visiting the Marquis' mansion? If you have any troubles, you can come see me. There are only quite a few things that the hotel can't do in the city."

Zhao Hai gave a faint smile and said, "I thank the manager for his concern. But the Marquis had been very good to me while I was in his mansion." Although he expressed his thanks, Zhao Hao became vigilant. Illin looked too eager to get his favor, it wasn't an attitude you just show to a guest. Illin was being too suspicious.

Illin nodded and said, "That's good. This time, I had invited mister to ask about something. Last time, you drank some wine back at Casa City's Shelley hotel. I heard that the wine was very fragrant. Can I know where Mister got that wine from? Is it really from the prairie?"

When Zhao Hai heard him say so, he immediately understood the matter. Since the Milk wine was to be distributed anyway, he didn't hide it, "Although the wine was made using the regular milk wine method, I made some improvements to it, making its flavor better. Why did you ask?"

Illin smiled and said, "Mister doesn't need to be anxious, our Shelley family's intentions are good. It's like this, we want to buy a lot of wine from mister and sell it on our stores. I just don't know whether that would be possible?"

Zhao Hai stared for a moment then said, "It's possible, but I already had an agreement with Bell to have him be the sole supplier inside Aksu Empire. If I also supply you, it wouldn't be good. Also, the wine's output isn't high, to tell you the truth, each wine needed a lot of raw ingredients to make. So we cannot produce it large scale."

Illin nodded, he's also a businessman, so he knew about Zhao Hai's difficulty. He looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, how about this, the liquor you supply will only be served on our hotels. If a guest wanted to acquire some for himself, then mister Bell would handle it. Right, except for Mister Bell's supply, how much could you provide our hotel each month? And for how much?"

Zhao Hai thought for a moment and said, "Since the manager has decided on it, how about this, I'll provide your hotel 10,000 jin of wine each month. If the productions increases later, then we'll act accordingly, what do you think?"

Illin's eyes lit up, "10,000 jin, although it isn't a lot, it would be sufficient in the meantime. I hope that you could increase your production as soon as possible. Right, since the supply had been settled, for how much would you sell them?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "Two gold coins per jin. This is also my selling price for Bell. What does manager Illin think of this?"

Illin nodded, "Price isn't high, good, then we're settled. Can I know when mister can deliver? When does mister want to be paid?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "In a few days, I'll have Bell contact you. The money will be given to Bell and he'll pass it to me. Can you work with this?"

Illin nodded, "Alright, I'll do what mister said. Does mister need a written agreement?"

Zhao Hai smiled, then he replied, "No need, I believe that for the Shelley Family to handle such large business, they should be very honest in their deals. I don't have any problems here, manager could just wait for the wine to arrive and inspect them then. If manager can find faults in the product, you can just return them to me. What do you think?"

Illin nodded and said, "Right, let's go with that. Then, I won't disturb mister's rest anymore." Zhao Hai stood up and was lead by Illin out as he headed to his room.