

Another World 371

Chapter 371 - I'll Give You A Sleeping Pill

The reason why these Mages from the Radiant Church had a different thought than Lionheart was because they recognize the appearance of Zhao Hai!

Who were the Radiant Church's enemies? Naturally it was the Dark Mages, and who was the most recent Dark Mage that came into the Church's radar? There was no need to think for a long time, since it was of course Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai had disrupted a number of their affairs, he had also killed their personnel. Therefore, Zhao Hai was already one of the most recognized person among the people from the Church. His appearance had already been spread out, as well as the items that he generally equips. This was the reason why these Mages could instantly recognize him as soon as they saw his profile.

The Earth element Mage that seems like the leader of the group looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Zhao Hai, you actually appeared. Say, are you following us?"

Zhao Hai looked at the group and smiled, "Well yes, not only did I follow you, I also listed every single person that you came in contact with while on the road. I listed their identities one by one."

The Earth element Mage's eyes flashed a cold light. He was very clear about what those people meant for the Radiant Church. They were the church's eyes and ears in the empire, they were also the ember of influence that the Church had planted. If these people were to be revealed, the power of the Radiant Church inside the Rosen Empire would be effectively wiped clean, years of planning would go down the drain.

The other Mages also looked at Zhao Hai with cold gazes. They knew what Zhao Hai's words represented. At the same time, Lionheart froze, he didn't think that the man in front of him was Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai's grievance with the Radiant Church started at Aksu Empire's Purcell Duchy. With Lionheart's status as a Lord of Treasury of the Rosen Empire that was even higher than Evan, how could he possibly take note of such an event on such a place. Naturally he didn't recognize who Zhao Hai was.

Now it was clear that Zhao Hai wasn't sent by the Calci Family. If he was with them, then the family wouldn't have waited for the ship to depart before attacking.

The Earth element Mage didn't say anything more, he just shouted a command, "Capture him!"

Hearing the Mage's words, Zhao Hai couldn't help but laugh, "You want to capture me? Too laughable, first see whether you are able to deal with these." Then he waved his hand as a large number of Undead appeared on the ship.

Among the Undead that Zhao Hai released, there was also a number of Mages mixed in with them. The attacking power of these undead mages weren't low. Most infuriating of them all were the Light element Mages that Zhao Hai summoned and was made to attack the Church's Mages with Light element spells.

Although these Mages that Zhao Hai summoned were only equivalent to 7th rank Mages, they number no less than 20. Twenty 7th rank Mages were enough to completely deal with these six 8th rank Mages.

Zhao Hai didn't just summon these Mages, he also released a lot of Warriors as well as Beastmen. In a blink of an eye, the undead that Zhao Hai let out were fighting with the crew of the Poseidon. There were no places inside the ship for the crewmen to run to.

After summoning everything, Zhao Hai's figure suddenly disappeared from the ship, making it impossible for the enemy Mages to find him. The Earth element Mage immediately took out several Magic Scrolls from his body and ripped them before throwing them outwards.

All of these scrolls contained Light element Spells, they were to be used to deal with Dark Mages. They knew that their main obstacle in saving Lionheart was the Calci Family, which was a family of Dark Mages. In order to increase their chances of success, they brought these Light Magic Scrolls. But in the end, they didn't expect to use those scrolls when they already boarded the ship.

Unfortunately, to their surprise, the scrolls were useless when it came to the undead that Zhao Hai just summoned. The undead seemed to not be affected, in fact, they even attacked more frantically.

A saving grace for their side was the fact that although the ship was a freighter, due to the waters of the Ocean Waves Dynasty, these crewmen could also become pirates. Therefore, their combat ability wasn't low and they still can fight for some time.

But unfortunately for them, the crew couldn't hold out for too long. They didn't expect that the Undead that Zhao Hai brought in would have a very high fighting capability. Each of them were equivalent to 7th rank warriors, moreover, each and every one of them weren't afraid of getting injured nor getting killed. They didn't feel fear even if they meet a 9th rank expert, let alone these 8th rank mages.

The time of the battle wasn't long, after about an hour, there weren't any other living being left on the ship. Even though Lionheart was killed, Zhao Hai didn't turn him into an undead, instead he chopped up the head of the Grand Duke along with his son.

Grand Duke Lionheart's son held great reputation inside Rosen Empire. He was even called a once in a generation martial genius. He was just over 20 years old but he was already a 7th rank warrior, he was truly fierce, a pity that he was dead now.

Zhao Hai wasn't polite to his enemies, after he killed every person on the vessel, he immediately turned the crew into undead before receiving the ship. Naturally, he didn't forget to take Lionheart's ring off.

Inside that spatial ring was Grand Duke Lionheart's entire wealth which added to a total of tens of millions of gold coins. Adding on to his other possessions, his net worth would certainly reach a terrifying hundred million gold coins.

Zhao Hai was shocked by the number, but it also made him extremely happy. With this amount of money, funding for the development of the Black Wasteland will certainly not be a problem.

After taking care of everything, Zhao Hai immediately returned to the Space and prepared the list of all the people who helped Lionheart.

The names of 10 thousand people were not easy to write, it was fortunate that Zhao Hai had already been writing these past few days, so he only had a few names left to jot down. Just after the curtain of darkness fell, Zhao Hai had completed the list. He let out a long breath, the big show has finally arrived.

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Smith had been very bothered these past few days, he had not yet captured Lionheart. Without Lionheart on their hands meant that their operation was a failure. He didn't care about Lionheart's belongings, the main reason for their action was Lionheart offending the Calci Family. If they couldn't deal with the Grand Duke, then the face of the Calci family would be smeared. If they couldn't uphold the prestige that they had for so long protected, they might very well become a laughingstock among the Great Noble Families on the continent.

At this time, Phil's voice suddenly came, "Sir, Mister Zhao Hai came for an audience."

Hearing Phil's words made Smith stare blankly. This was because Zhao Hai hadn't made any appearance these past few days. He was just inside Sweet Plum Courtyard everyday. Smith didn't know why he came here today, but he still said, "Invite him in."

Just after he talked, Zhao Hai pushed the door open and came inside. Upon entering the room, Zhao Hai bowed to Smith and said, "Brother Smith, are you ok? What are you doing?"

Smith forced a smile and said, "Brother, why are you too polite? I could be busy with anything else right now, but Lionheart's capture made me unable to eat and sleep."

Zhao Hai showed a faint smile and said, "Brother, I have good news, I've come to give you your sleeping pill. I believe that if you take a look at these things, your appetite and desire to sleep will return." Then he waved his hand as a bag appeared on the ground, the bag was made of leather and smells heavily of blood. Next, Zhao Hai took out a book and placed it on the table.

Smith looked at the bag. From the contours seen on the leather, the bag's contents were most likely heads. Smith turned to Phil and nodded. Phil immediately went forwards and opened the bag.

Inside the bag were two heads, Phil recognized that they belonged to Lionheart and his son. Smith, who also saw the bag's contents, turned to look at Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai calmly said, "This time, Grand Duke Lionheart managed to escape because of somebody's help, fortunately I was present, they've already been dealt with. In this book is a list of all the people who

helped Lionheart along the way. I'll hand the identities of those people to you, however, I need to keep all of Lionheart's money. My land is currently in need of these coins, I won't be polite."

Smith looked at Zhao Hai and laughed, "Good! Brother, your Big Brother has certainly underestimated you, good! Rest assured, that money is all yours, nobody would dare take it away from you. Brother, I must thank you. Without you, my Calci Family would certainly lose massive face. I'll have to tell the Shelley Family about this, after all, this was also a matter of their enmity."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, "Those are for you to do, it's none of my business. You'll have to deal with the aftermath of this event, I'll head back."

Smith nodded and said, "No problem, you go back and rest. Leave the remaining matters to me."

Zhao Hai nodded, and turned away slowly. Without even waiting for Zhao Hai to exit the house, Phil asked Smith, "Master, do you think that Mister Zhao Hai was actually able to kill Lionheart? Didn't he stay inside the courtyard all these days?"

Smith showed a faint smile and said, "You don't need to worry about that. Anyway, the matter had already been solved. Phil, you need to remember that you must never pry open the secrets of people like Zhao Hai. Otherwise, he wouldn't treat you very well. Go and deliver the heads to the family. Along the way, go and inform the Shelley Family." Phil nodded as he took the bag and turned away.

Smith picked up the book that Zhao Hai left on the table. He turned it open and looked at its contents. At first he was just carelessly reading the characters, but what he realized afterwards made him more and more surprised.

Listed in this book were all the people who aided Lionheart, their names, their age, where they work, their families, they were all written very clearly. And the most important thing was their identity, Radiant Church spies!!

Seeing the number of characters written, Smith couldn't help but feel his scalp go numb and his head exploding. He never thought that this incident actually involved the Radiant Church, this fact made him very surprised.

Just after looking at two pages, Smith couldn't sit still, he immediately shouted loudly, "Someone, come here!"

Phil immediately walked in from the outside, the matter with the heads didn't have to be accomplished by his own hands. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to accomplish much. So he would just delegate those tasks to other people and just followed on Smith's side.

Hearing Smith shout, Phil immediately came, he bowed to Smith and said, "Master, what are your instructions?"

Smith said loudly, "Quick, quick, go invite Little Hai back here." Phil didn't know what Smith's intentions were, but he still immediately complied and turned around.

At this time, Zhao Hai just arrived at Sweet Plum Courtyard. Surprisingly, Laura and the others didn't go out and play today. The women were having a small tea party in the living room of the courtyard. There was a pile of snacks on the table, each one of them held a wine glass and sipped on it lightly. Most of the time they were chatting while eating some snacks from time to time.

Zhao Hai naturally wouldn't disturb them. While he was heading to his own room, Phil arrived. Phil immediately came forward to call Zhao Hai and say, "Mister Zhao Hai, the City Lord asked for you."

Zhao Hai stared blankly, but he instantly understood why Smith made him return. He nodded and said, "Very well, let's go." Then him and Phil returned to Smith's office.

Upon entering the room, Zhao Hai saw Smith walking in circles. Seeing Zhao Hai arrive, Smith's flushed face turned to him and said, "Brother, are those characters that I saw real?"

Zhao Hai stared for a moment before he nodded, "Of course they are real, I'll never deceive you in this matter. When they saw my clothes, those guys immediately recognized me. I also took them back, nobody escaped." Then Zhao Hai summoned the undead Earth element Mage. Zhao Hai made the Mage introduce himself, he was a product of the Radiant Church's Ultimate Weapon program, but since he was an 8th rank mage, he was a failure.

However, Smith noticed Zhao Hai's words. When he took away the Mage, Smith looked at Zhao Hai, "Brother, did you personally go and slay Lionheart?"

Zhao Hai nodded, he showed a faint smile and said, "Actually, I'm not just a Dark Mage, I can also use, Light, Water, Fire, Earth, Wind, and also Space Magic. Didn't you receive word from Bell? I cannot be considered as a Dark Mage, it was more appropriate to call me a Divergent Mage. Among my Divergent Abilities is something related to Space, but it cannot be used to attack a person, only to store some things inside. Moreover, I also have flying Phantasmal Beasts. They're very formidable, they can carry a person when they fly. I used these Phantasmal Beasts to chase down Lionheart."

Smith believed Zhao Hai's words. Compared to Dark Mages, Divergent Mages were more mysterious and rare. So when Zhao Hai said that he was a Divergent Mage, Smith chose to believe him.

As for the Phantasmal Beasts, Bell already informed him about those, so he was not particularly surprised about them.

Chapter 372 - Shock

Regarding Zhao Hai being a Divergent Mage, Smith had also heard of it from Bell, so he wasn't very surprised. Smith nodded and said, "Brother, no need to worry, no matter what you are, as long as you join the League of Dark Mages you will always be one of us. After all, not all of our members are Dark Mages. If you have a grudge with the Radiant Church, you're on our side. Brother, rest assured, I will go and deliver this information. This intel is very important not only to the League, but also to the Rosen Empire."

Zhao Hai was confused with what Smith just said, although the Rosen Empire wasn't very warm towards the Radiant Church, they also didn't go and actively suppress it. So why was this information very important to the Empire?

Smith looked at Zhao Hai's appearance and knew what the other party was thinking. After he invited Zhao Hai to sit down, Smith smiled slightly and said, "The most fearful aspect of the Radiant Church is their religious power, then can use this influence to brainwash people and make them completely subject to their whims. They could make people believe the Radiant God, making them perform sacrifices in the name of their belief, this was a terrifying thing. Imagine an entire country full of these devout believers, what influence would the Church have in that entire nation?"

Zhao Hai nodded, he had also heard of these kinds of things back on Earth. Some religious cults would use methods to brainwash their believers. Moreover, religion was a very sensitive matter in society, it was very hard to be on guard against it. What's more terrifying was the fact that this type of influence was very hard to eradicate, they would continue to resurge time and time again.

Seeing Zhao Hai nod, Smith continued, "Thus, the Radiant Church is the most disliked organization by the Emperor. Although the Rosen Empire isn't blatantly attacking the Radiant Church, whenever a person sent by the Radiant Church was tracked down, the Emperor would send his doomed soldiers to kill them secretly. Because of this, we all thought that the Radiant Church didn't have much influence inside the empire. But it seems that we were wrong, if all of these 10,000 personnel were to secretly preach, they could amass followers that would number in the thousands. If these followers were to bring in more potential followers, the Radiant Church would become a huge problem in the Empire before long."

Zhao Hai understood what Smith was talking about, he smiled and said, "My thoughts didn't reach to that point, what I know is that the Radiant Church is our League of Dark Mages' enemy, I only wanted to deal them a blow. Rest assured, that list is completely true, those were all of the people who aided Lionheart in reaching the Eugene Clan's Domain. Lionheart rode on a small boat to transfer to a large ship further out at sea. The boat held the Ocean Waves Dynasty's flag as well as having the name of Poseidon. It was a ship with five masts. It was actually very fortunate for me since I badly needed a ship to transport Fire Fishes to Sky Water City. Naturally I would have to be impolite, I couldn't give this ship to you."

Smith laughed, "Brother, with this information, not only would I not covet your ship, I would even gift you two more. As long as we get to eliminate these Radiant Church fellows, I am willing to pay any price."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "You don't need to give me more ships, but I need to ask you a favor. This time I acquired the Poseidon, I also have the Swordfish that Lionheart used to attack me before, these two ships were very well made. However, these two ships are easily recognized, I'll have to ask you to help me modify them. Otherwise, people would know that it was me on board whenever I travel. What do you think?"

Smith waved his hand to Phil and told him, "Uncle Phil, I'll have you arrange this matter. Go prepare our best shipyard to help Little Hai modify his ships." Phil nodded, but he didn't leave, this wasn't something that needed to be done right now. It was already sufficient for him to write it down.

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Good, as long as you help me arrange these ships, the grains, vegetables, milk wine and rations would be able to reach here faster than inland transportation. Also, I'll leave you with that list, that's none of my business, however, don't disclose that I had a hand in it."

Smith laughed and said, "Very well. Haha. Brother come and share a drink with me. I'm very happy today." Upon hearing that, Zhao Hai had no chance to decline. The group headed towards the dining hall.

While Zhao Hai and Smith drank, Phil went and did his own tasks. First was to deal with Lionheart and his son's heads, then there was the list and lastly Zhao Hai's ships. All of these were for him to arrange.

For Great Nobles, the position of housekeeper held great power. It was closely equal to being the right-hand man of his lord. In fact, there were a lot of times that a great housekeeper made a family shine.

Phil was a housekeeper that the Calci Family trained, so he had no problem with regards to his loyalty. Moreover, he held strong management ability, this made Smith place a great trust on him, hence why he always called the old housekeeper Uncle Phil.

That night, Zhao Hai drunk a lot of liquor, so he slept early when he returned to Sweet Plum Courtyard. Smith also drank a lot, he was very happy, not only because Lionheart's matter was resolved, but also because of the list and Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai's demonstration of his capabilities made Smith really glad. For such a talent to join the League of Dark Mages was a great boon for the organization. This was definitely a good thing.

The next day, when the people from the Rosen Empire came to know that Lionheart was slain by the Calci family and even had his severed head displayed in public, the masses went into an uproar.

The other nobles inside Rosen Empire couldn't help but get startled. Although they didn't concern themselves in pursuing Lionheart, this didn't mean that they didn't make a move at all.

They also sent people to look for Lionheart's whereabouts. Although they gave up later on, they were still curious. The strength of these nobles were not weak, but they still couldn't find Lionheart. And now

that the Calci Family killed Lionheart, didn't this mean that the Calci Family was much stronger than them?

Thinking of this, the Nobles were naturally startled. The Calci Family had been acting low-key these past years. Although nobody dared underestimate them, there was also nobody who thought that Calci Family would be this formidable, they just regarded them as an ancient noble clan, someone not to provoke.

On the continent, it was sometimes more appealing to offend a Royal Clan than an Ancient Noble Family. This was because there were some Ancient Families that existed longer than Royal Clans.

Since these nobles regarded the Calci Family as an ordinary Ancient Family, they didn't offend them. They knew that these kinds of families were very protective of their dignity. If these families' dignity were to be touched, they would without hesitation retaliate, they would even resort to fighting to the death.

This time, the nobles weren't able to find Lionheart, but this was also the same situation for the Calci and Shelley Family. This made the Nobles feel quite good for themselves, they wanted to see how ugly Claci Family's face would become.

But they didn't expect that the Calci Family would suddenly put out Lionheart's head. There was no need to even ask about the fate of the rest of his family, they were truly dead as well.

Lionheart was killed, although the nobles were surprised, they weren't too surprised. In their opinion, Lionheart would die sooner or later. What made them surprised was the fact that the Calci Family was able to track and kill Grand Duke Lionheart.

The other nobles guessed that Lionheart's disappearance was certainly due to some people helping him. This was not strange, if nobody helped him, then it was impossible for Lionheart to escape the joint forces of the Calci and Shelley Family. In a situation where Lionheart was lent a helping hand, it was extremely surprising for the nobles that the Calci Family was still able to kill the Grand Duke.

Compared to these nobles, the Emperor of Rosen Empire, Louis Rosen, was even more surprised. But it wasn't because of Lionheart's death, he didn't care about that guy's life. He was even the person who wanted Lionheart to be killed the most.

Louis was clear that the moment he gave up on Lionheart, there would be enmity between the two of them. If Lionheart survives, he would certainly do his best to get his revenge. By that time, Lionheart would be the serpent in the shadows while he would be the elephant in the sun.

The entire Rosen Empire was his. If Lionheart wanted to take his revenge and find trouble with him, it would be too easy. Even if Lionheart couldn't shake the foundations of the empire, he could still cause them no small amount of annoyance.

Now that Lionheart was dead, Louis was naturally happy. But the fact that the Calci Family was able to slay the Grand Duke didn't make the Emperor happy. Not only was he unhappy, he also felt his back go cold, the family's capabilities made him terrified.

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The Radiant Church had become famous this past few years. Ordinary people liked them because the Church's Light element Mages would cure their illnesses quite regularly, they also looked very kind, such a person would naturally resonate with the masses.

However, to rulers like Louis, they were very afraid of the Radiant Church. They could use religion to take control of the people. Think about a scenario where the Church completely influences the whole nation, what would happen if the Church suddenly stages a rebellion? Even a formidable Empire couldn't survive a massive internal dispute.

This was the reason why even though the Rosen Empire didn't tear apart the Church's face, it still paid close attention to the Church's movements. All the personnel sent by the Radiant Church to the Rosen Empire who wanted to establish a hideout were secretly killed off by the Emperor.

Louis thought that he did good in defending the empire against the Radiant Church. But when Calci Family gave him the list, Louis couldn't help but be shocked.

Louis didn't doubt the authenticity of the list, he was clear that the one who hated the Radiant Church the most wasn't them, the royals, but instead it was the Calci Family.

The Calci Family was a family of Dark Mages, and they also had a rich history with Dark element Magic. One of the Radiant Church's goals was to eliminate Dark Mages in the continent, if the church were to fully commit on this goal, the very first ones to suffer misfortune would be the Calci Family.

Louis also didn't think that the Calci Family gave him this list just to grab up some land. This was because there were not that many noble clans in the list that were of notable status, most of them were all small nobles. So even if the Emperor did kill these people, the Calci Family wouldn't benefit from it, so Louis reckoned that the list must be real.

The more Louis trusted the list, the more surprised he became. Louis knew about the brainwashing abilities of the Radiant Church, he knew that these 10,000 people weren't the only ones who were faithful to the Radiant God inside his empire. Who knew how much more people were part of the Radiant Church aside from these 10,000.

After seeing the list, Louis immediately had his doomed soldiers go and monitor the actions of these people.

Louis didn't know how long these people were inside Rosen Empire, he also didn't know the exact number of believers that the church had amassed. So what he needed to do first was track these followers and even if he couldn't deal with all of them, he should at least eliminate the leaders of each group to stop the religion from spreading.

At the same time, these people may have possibly known that they had been exposed, so they must have been preparing to escape the empire. But it was fortunate that Louis acted swiftly, this plan would have to be trashed.

They didn't have time to create another plan since Louis already went to arrest and interrogate the people in the list. He checked for who came in contact with the spies and see whether they were Radiant Church followers or not.

In the end, the investigation found Radiant Church believers belonging to these hideouts that numbered to about a hundred thousand people. Some of them have just entered while some have already been a

believer for many years. There were even some who helped those who were arrested, which ended up with them also being arrested.

Louis' actions alerted other nobles. The Radiant Church had always been polite to them, but they were still on guard with regards to the religion. So when they heard the massive amount of arrests and investigations happening all across the Rosen Empire due to these uncovered spies, all the nobles conducted their own investigations about their subordinates who may also be an agent of the Church.

And their investigations bore fruit, in their territories, followers of the Radiant Church were indeed found, in some there were a lot while in others just a few. The only territory who didn't have an ounce of Radiant Church influence was the Calci Family's territory. The Radiant Church had always been wary of this family of Dark Mages, so they didn't dare send some agents to their land.

Finally, when counting all of the church believers that the nobles were able to find, it surprisingly reached no less than two million people. This number was beyond anyone's imagination.

This made the entire Rosen Empire anxious. They carefully scrutinized all of the captured believers. They killed the devout followers and spared those who just joined, only giving them a light punishment before having them released.

Naturally, when they went to capture and interrogate the people on the list, they didn't blatantly announce that the people were captured because they were believers of the Radiant Church. The empire had to come up with other reasons, such as being a spy, committing a crime, and so on.

After this matter, the nobles of the Empire became even more terrified of the Radiant Church. Normally, they didn't want to offend the Radiant Church, they didn't want to wound that tiger. But unexpectedly, this tiger actually wanted to harm them! The Church sent some missionaries to their lands, moreover, without even notifying them. This made the Nobles indignant, so the entire Rosen Empire started to resist against the Radiant Church's teachings. Naturally, all of these suppression were made while in the shadows. This made the Calci Family very relevant, the nobles wanted to ask the family for advice as to how to handle the Radiant Church since they saw that the Family's territory didn't have a trace of the church's influence.

The Nobles weren't afraid that the Calci Family wouldn't provide any help. This was because they knew that the Calci Family was the vanguard of all those who were against the Radiant Church. So it was correct for them to ask the Calci Family about this matter.

The Calci Family was also very happy with the situation. For these many Nobles to resist the Radiant Church, it would truly be impossible for the church to revive their forces inside Rosen Empire. This was a great thing for the family.

However, the family actually didn't have a concrete advice for the other nobles. The family regarded the Radiant Church very seriously, also, Dark Mages were very sensitive towards the aura of Light Mages. So the method that worked for the family was to make Dark Mages patrol the territory and feel out any light element aura. This was to ensure that there weren't any Light Mages who were hiding.

But this method wouldn't work for the other nobles since there weren't a lot of Dark Mages in their territories. This matter made the Calci Family a bit embarrassed.

In the end, the higher ups of the family informed their members to help solve this dilemma. So long as they complete this task, the other nobles would feel indebted to the Calci Family. This was very important to the family's future.

When Smith received the request from the family, he couldn't find a solution as well. So he went to Zhao Hai and discuss this matter with him. Smith knew that Zhao Hai had an endless amount of wicked schemes and ideas running around his mind. Zhao Hai should have the solution to the Calci Family's problem.

Hearing Smith explain about the family's problem, Zhao Hai smiled and said, "This is an opportunity to make the citizens of the continent change their views on Dark Mages. In fact, if we want to stop the Radiant Church's influence from affecting the empire, then we should first promote our own propaganda."

Smith looked at Zhao Hai with a puzzled expression, he certainly wasn't be able to understand the kind of propaganda war that happens on Earth. Looking at the other's appearance, Zhao Hai just smiled and continued, "Propaganda is important, in fact, this is the main reason why the Radiant Church was able to spread its influence this far. To look attractive to the outside world, they dressed in a bright white color and always wore a gentle smile; this is a kind of propaganda. So what we need the nobles to do is to continually promote all the bad things that the Radiant Church did all these years. Moreover, this propaganda should get more and more frequent. This is to drill into the citizen's subconscious the fact that the Radiant Church is a terrible organization. This would naturally make them unable to trust the church."

Smith's eyes lit up. To spread its influence throughout the continent, the misdemeanors that the church had done certainly wasn't a low number, and they weren't able to hide it. The actions that Zhao Hai suggested would certainly deal a huge blow to the Radiant Church. This negative propaganda could even be used as a teaching material.

Zhao Hai added, "Now that almost all of the schools in the empire are under the hands of the nobles to be used for scouting talents, why don't we set up a curriculum in those schools to teach the negative aspects of the Radiant Church? Children tended to believe things they learn from school more than what their parents taught them at home. As long as the schools educate the children about our view of the Radiant Church, the children will believe that the church is bad for their entire life. So when they grow up, they wouldn't be able to believe all the preaches that the church would do. It was even possible for the children to influence their parents. Bit by bit, they would influence everyone around them. Given enough time, the Radiant Church would certainly look repulsive to the empire's residents."

Smith's eyes lit up brighter, he nodded, Zhao Hai's idea was very good and feasible, it was worth a try.

Zhao Hai added more, "We can also use this opportunity to promote the image of the Dark Mages to the populace. Brother Smith, you should know yourself that Dark Magic also has abilities that could be used to treat illnesses. Moreover, the Dark Mage's knowledge of the human body far outclassed those of the Light Mages. This would certainly allow Dark Mages to cure more illnesses in a given time. It could even be said that Dark Mages aren't that worse in curing ailments when compared to the Light Mages. The only problem was just that Dark Mages have been, for a long time, portrayed as a bit strange sort of people. Making the populace unable to really understand what they really are. But with the destruction of the Radiant Church's influence in the empire, there are naturally no more negative words towards Dark Mages."

Smith agreed, he understood what Zhao Hai meant since he himself was a Dark Mage.

Zhao Hai then said, "The income of the commoners in the continent aren't high. So when they couldn't meet a well intentioned Light Mage, they would go find an apothecary and even then, the prices for the medicine are quite high. The reason that the Radiant Church has been regarded as good was because they would make their Light Mages provide healing for free. So why couldn't we do the same? We can also have some Dark Mages go out and heal some illnesses of the people, not only those who couldn't afford to see a doctor but also ordinary people who wanted to be healed. This will surely reverse the image that the Radiant Church pegged to the Dark Mages. So when the Radiant Church decides to suppress the Dark Mages again, it would then be very difficult to do so."

These means were common in Zhao Hai's view. Back on Earth, which reached the information age, people were very practical when it came to religion. But even then, religious faith still survived. This showed the formidability of belief. There were even cults that still survived because they used rotten methods of propaganda, with this, one would recognize how easy propaganda can be used to influence people.

Chapter 374 - Off To The Sea

But these methods were new and innovative in Ark Continent. The Ark Continent still didn't reach the level of civilization to have newspapers. Napoleon even said before that newspapers are equivalent to 100 thousand soldiers. So it was natural for Zhao Hai to use propaganda to deal the Radiant Church a huge blow. In the future, the Radiant Church may even be regarded as a cult within the League of Dark Mages' territory.

Smith paced around the room slowly, he knew that if Zhao Hai's methods worked, then the Radiant Church would surely be eliminated inside the Rosen Empire while at the same time the status of the League would be elevated.

This elevation of the Dark Mage's status was very important to the profession. The reason why Dark Mages had a hard time finding successors was because their public image was not very good. The population viewed Dark Mages as wicked folk, so how could they be willing to learn Dark element magic?

But this method was also very difficult to implement, there may even be nobles who wouldn't agree, but it was still worth a try. If it succeeds, then it would certainly be very good for the Dark Mage profession.

Smith stopped pacing, then he turned to look at Zhao Hai, "Brother, your method is very good. I'll have to represent all Dark Mages in expressing our gratitude."

Zhao Hai replied with a smile, "This method is actually very difficult to do, I only provided the idea. But there is another thing that I hope Brother Smith would do."

Smith looked puzzled at Zhao Hai, "Brother, tell me."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I hope that Brother can persuade the league that if the plan became successful, they should create a disciplinary team to deal with those people who do evil using Dark Magic. Only then would the image of the Dark Mages be changed in the eyes of the continent."

Smith stared blankly as he pondered about the Dark Magic disciplinary team, this wasn't something he thought of before. To increase their strength, some Dark Mages would perform massacres of the common people. Some would kill others to turn them into undead. These things were quite common among Dark Mages. If Zhao Hai's disciplinary team were to be established, then these people wouldn't be allowed to do these deeds anymore. In this case, the overall strength of the Dark Mages would certainly drop. This was not something that was good for the profession.

Zhao Hai looked at Smith and knew what he was thinking about. Zhao Hai had already been in the Ark Continent for quite some time, so he knew what Dark Mages were really like. He could even confidently say that the current image of the Dark Mages were 50% caused by the Radiant Church, while the other 50% were caused by the Dark Mages themselves.

A Dark Mage's offensive methods were way worse than the other departments, while also having a slow rate of progression. This made the Dark Mages in the continent resort to evil methods to quickly improve their strength. They would turn people into undead for a quick boost in their fighting capabilities. This fact was used to degrade the image of Dark Mages, causing even more people to be unwilling to embark on the profession.

In Zhao Hai's mind, these deeds were a path of no return. The Dark Mages could certainly increase their strength in a short period of time, but in exchange their mental states would become unstable. This would make the progress in their rank quite hard in the future, forcing them to perform evil deeds once more.

A Mage's essence is Magic, your qualitative strength would only increase if you reach a higher rank. But Dark Mages actually focused on making more undead, placing the importance of ranking up behind, this was not the correct way.

This would not only make them fail to reach another level, they also killed innocent people which caused the populace to view them even lower, causing the profession's reputation to plummet.

Therefore, establishing this disciplinary team was a necessity. Zhao Hai looked at Smith and said seriously, "Brother Smith, if our plan succeeds, there is no other way to make the success continue other than to establish this disciplinary team. We may help people in their problems, but if another Dark Mage goes on and kill innocent people, our efforts would certainly go down the drain."

Smith took a deep breath and replied, "Good, then I will promise you that if our operation succeeds, we will establish this disciplinary team. But on the condition that you will join said team."

Zhao Hai stared blankly, he didn't expect Smith to pull him over to the disciplinary team. He laughed and said, "Very well, but you should know that our plan wouldn't reach completion in a short period of time. We still have to wait a while before creating the group."

Smith nodded, "Now I'll have to send your idea over to the family, after all, they still have the final say in everything." Speaking of this, Smith couldn't help but sigh. Although he was Sky Water City's Lord, he was only one of the successors of the Calci Family, not the Family Head itself. Although he thought that Zhao Hai's ideas were very good, he couldn't be sure about what the other people in the family would think.

Zhai Hai smiled faintly, "I only offered advice, there's no need to follow it. Anyway, using it would bring us no harm, only benefits. Right then, I'll head back now. Also, how are my ships going, have they been modified?"

Smith nodded, "They have been remodeled. You can get some people to drive them away tomorrow. How long will the Fire Fishes take to arrive?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "They should only take a few days, I just need to have the ships ready." Then he stood up and prepared to leave. Smith escorted Zhao Hai out the door.

After Zhao Hai left, Smith immediately had all of Zhao Hai's ideas written down and sent to the family. He feared that if he delayed in writing it, he would miss one or two key points.

When the people from the family received Smith's letter, they were shocked to see the contents in it. Even the more-experienced members have not heard of such method before. Upon looking on the ideas in the letter, the family knew without even implementing them that these methods would produce very substantial effects.

The family immediately told the nobles about the means to prevent the Radiant Church from establishing its influence on their territories. Also, the family knew that Zhao Hai's methods needed to be done gradually. If they just send in Dark Mages to cure the nobles' citizens, they certainly would think that there was something odd going on. Even if there was nothing bad going on, the nobles were certainly not stupid.

So what they needed to do right now was to first start their propaganda of promoting the negative aspects of the Radiant Church, spreading the word to as many citizens as possible. They also planned the anti-Radiant Church lectures on schools. With this, the nobles wouldn't need to worry about the church seeping into their territory.

The nobles agreed with the Calci Family's methods, they weren't dumb, they knew how useful these methods could be.

At the same time, the Calci Family immediately implemented Zhao Hai's methods in their territory. They didn't worry about suspicions since there were already a lot of Dark Mages roaming around their territory in the first place. The citizens also knew that they were under the rule of Dark Mages, so they weren't very displeased with their presence. This gave the Calci Family a reason to instantly implement Zhao Hai's idea of having Dark Mages cure ordinary people.

Moreover, they expanded upon the proposed methods. Zhao Hai suggested to have a Dark Mage occasionally visit the sick in order to cure them, but the family instead scheduled a fixed schedule for a Dark Mage to visit a certain place. Not only did they give anti-Radiant Church lessons, they also gave a lesson about Dark Mage History among other things.

After hearing these movements, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile. He thought that he really did underestimate the people inside the Ark Continent, they certainly aren't stupid, he only gave an idea, but they surprisingly added new novel ideas on top of it.

But these didn't have anything to do with Zhao Hai right now. Currently, Zhao Hai, Laura and the others were onboard the Poseidon. The Poseidon was now completely transformed, its symbol was removed as well as having its name changed to Haven.

It was Laura wanted to change the ship's name and Zhao Hai didn't oppose to it. This time, he was the one to profited the most, he got tens of millions in gold coins in addition to the other items that he had

looted. Most of all, he actually gained two ships! Also, he didn't need to get commodities for the Haven since it was already filled with supplies from the very beginning.

When Zhao Hai looked at the commodities present, he saw that they were also some items that the Beastmen needed. Although some of them weren't of any value, Zhao Hai didn't care. Come next spring, they could just sell these things to the Beastmen in the prairie. This time, he just wanted to use his two ships.

Manning the ship were the undead sailors who didn't need rest. This made it possible for Zhao Hai to transform the crowded cabin into a luxurious place for living. He changed some storage places as well as some of the living quarters into what he thought would be a good place to live on. This made the Haven the most luxurious ship present in the Ark Continent.

This time's voyage wasn't just to stock up some fire fishes onto the ship, the group also had another important matter that they would like to accomplish. They wanted to head towards the deep parts of the sea and absorb a portion of it to see if the Space would get some upgrades.

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Zhao Hai placed some chairs on the deck of the ship while he sipped on some tea as he looked at the sea. Because the Haven was a ship which had five masts, it moved very steadily on the water. So the group didn't worry so much and just enjoyed cruising on the water.

Also, while heading towards the deep parts of the sea, they also wanted to find an uninhabited island to establish a base in. Zhao Hai planned to leave some undead on this island to guard it. This would make their future sea travels much more convenient.

Other forces couldn't easily establish bases on islands on the sea. This was because they needed to consider the weather, the food for their personnel as well as their drinking water. Zhao Hai didn't need to worry about these stuff since he will only let undead guard the island. As for the storms, the undead were durable enough to endure them.

Even when they themselves were to stay on the island, they still didn't need to worry since they still had the Space. Also, even if they travel for years in the sea, they still wouldn't have any problems.

What Zhao Hai was worried about was the distance of the island to the Ark Continent. He wanted an island that couldn't be easily seen but was still at a short distance from the continent. Moreover, the island shouldn't have strong Magic Beasts, otherwise, the undead would always get assaulted by these Magic Beasts.

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To be honest, observing the sea while cruising was really a pleasant thing to do. Laura who hadn't done this before was very curious.

When they went out, Megan actually wanted to join them. But Smith didn't agree, this was also the reason why Megan had been very mad at her father these past few days.

Zhao Hai also didn't want Megan to come with them, he didn't want to expose his greatest secret which was the Space. If Megan joined Zhao Hai's group, they wouldn't be able to hide inside the Space when a huge problem came. They couldn't just leave Megan outside wouldn't they? Megan not able to join was in line with Zhao Hai's intentions.

Laura placed her cup down and sighed, "The sea is really beautiful when it is this calm. But it's very scary when it storms. Fortunately we have the Space, otherwise we wouldn't be able to escape unscathed a few days ago.

The group were already at sea for seven days. A few days ago, they were suddenly buffeted by a huge storm. Even though the Haven could withstand most troubles because of its build, the might of nature was not one of them. With a storm that huge, if Zhao Hai didn't have the Space, the Haven would certainly be shredded to pieces. They just waited out the storm inside the Space.

After the storm had passed, Zhao Hai released the Haven again as they travelled onward. Although they didn't experience the storm firsthand, they were still terrified of it just by the seeing its projection on the monitor.

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, "The sea is like a moody god. If she was calm, she will warmly welcome us into her bosom as we swim on it. But if she was angry, she would certainly rip you to pieces. But this is the charm of the sea."

Laura agreed, although they were terrified of the storm a few days ago, they couldn't deny the fact that the calm sea was very beautiful.

Laura looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, when will you absorb some seawater into the Space? I want to see what the sea looked like inside the Space."

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1. The matter of getting undead could actually be solved with Zhao Hai's method, albeit quite slowly. If Dark Mages help people, there certainly would be some of them who would be willing to serve the Mages after death as paying a debt of gratitude. This may even make creating advanced level undead easier if there's some soul aspect in it since the owner of the body is willing to be turned into undead. I don't know, food for thought. Comment your ideas below, let's discuss. XD

Chapter 375 - Ape Island

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Don't worry, there should be a lot of new creatures that we could discover when we reach the deep parts of the sea. The Space should level up quite substantially."

Laura nodded, right now, the most important goal that they have was increasing the level of the Farm, this way Zhao Hai affliction could be cured as soon as possible.

At this time, Meg turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Big Brother Hai, what do you think is happening back at Sky Water City? I reckon that by now, the nobles should have started suppressing the Radiant Church. Do you think that they will succeed?"

Zhao Hai shook his head, "It's hard to say whether they really can do it. It's even harder to say whether the Radiant Church could establish their influence inside the Rosen Empire again. But I think the Royal Clan and the nobles would still try and do their best, after all having the church increase its influence is very detrimental to their control of their territory. At the same time, I think that the Calci Family would certainly implement my methods in their territory since the benefits that they'll achieve should be very huge."

Laura nods as she added, "The one who worries the most about the potential of Dark Mages in the continent were certainly the Calci Family. The Calci Family was built up by Dark Magic, and they also had the highest status with regards to all of the Dark Mages. If the Dark Mages' status gets elevated, the family's status would also be elevated. If the Dark Mages' reputation plummeted, the family would certainly follow it downward. Thus, the family should be doing what Brother Hai had proposed since it would change the people's perception of Dark Mages. This solution is what the Dark Mages always wanted."

Then Laura turned to look at Zhao Hai, "I didn't think that Brother Hai would actually be able to think of such a method. To use another kind of brainwashing to deal with the Radiant Church was the best way to go about it. This was also the simplest way to shake the foundations of the church."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, "This is a propaganda war. This is a kind of battle where swords and spears couldn't be seen. Sometimes, this kind of war would even be more difficult to defend against than the normal open-air battles we see since it is generally very effective."

Laura nodded then said, "Will our schools have the same subject? Even though we have a small population right now, it will certainly inflate in the near future. Having those matters taught to the children will be good for our cause."

Zhao Hai showed a faint smile then said, "We could open such a subject, but we have to change the way we educate it. We can't just talk badly about the Radiant Church, instead, we should teach the students about loyalty. We should let them understand who gave them their current life and who they should be loyal to. If the children have us in their hearts while they are little, it was certain that we'll have their loyalty in the future. This way, we would not be afraid of any kind of enemy."

Laura's eyes lit up, in fact, this method was also used by some nobles, but they were using it on their slaves. Although Zhao Hai would also do this to his slaves, Laura knew that Zhao Hai intended to change his slaves' status to commoners. This would mean that Zhao Hai would technically use this method for commoners, something which Laura didn't understand.

Although Laura was confused about this, Zhao Hai wasn't. He knew that a leader needed to develop some sort of cohesion with this subjects. Only when this cohesion reaches a certain point would a leader be invincible.

Currently, Zhao Hai's territory only had a few people, which made it somewhat easy to manage. But when spring comes, a hundred thousand slaves would arrive. With this amount of people suddenly arriving, managing them would certainly be a bit troublesome.

It was impossible to count on the slaves to have this cohesion, so Zhao Hai planned to release their slave status bit by bit, showing his graciousness while also erecting a school which would educate the slaves. After educating them, it wouldn't matter if they were released from their slavery since they were already taught about loyalty. This was what Zhao Hai planned to do to slowly develop cohesion with his slaves.

Naturally, the best way for people to have cohesion was to have them develop a sort of collective pride. Only when they were proud about their group would they people be able to work with each other properly.

But this method wasn't very good when it comes to slaves. Slaves didn't have anything, even dignity, so how could they possibly have pride.

Therefore, the method that Zhao Hai could only use was this slave education. Of course, he wouldn't treat his slaves like how they were treated before. He wanted to make them understand that they would be far worse off if they decided to leave his territory. If they leave they will only stay as slaves, but inside the Black Wastelands they were complete people.

But all of these things were only inside Zhao Hai's head, he still needs to wait for the new slaves to arrive before proving his ideas. After all, he wasn't afraid of them revolting. These hundred thousand slaves were nothing, even a million slaves wouldn't be able to threaten Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai was so deep into his thoughts that he didn't notice Laura's gaze of awe towards him. Zhao Hai thinks about ideas that Laura had never heard of before. Additionally, these ideas of Zhao Hai were very orderly, it made people confident that they would actually work.

After quite some time, Zhao Hai recovered. He looked at Laura's eyes and smiled, "Right now, we still need to find a good island. We should also determine if the island's environment is acceptable, and most importantly, safe. It was a pity that the map that Big Brother Smith provided us only depicted the sea, it is of no use at this time."

Laura smiled and replied, "It was not only Big Brother Smith who didn't have a complete map of the seas, nobody in the continent did. The land could be said to be the domain of the human race, but the sea belonged to the sea-dwellers. Sea-dwellers are very mysterious, there were only a few humans who was lucky enough to spot some of them. But they truly exist, they compose of both Magic Beasts of the sea as well as Merpeople. They are very formidable in water and treated humans coming to their territories as invaders. They wouldn't think twice of hunting humans down, not even 9th ranks were spared."

Zhao Hai stared at Laura before he said, "So it was this, no wonder Brother Smith prohibited us from going to the deeper parts of the sea. But we still reached here, why didn't you say anything?"

Laura faintly smiled, "We have the Space, if we are in danger, even if we are inside sea-dweller domain, we could still escape. How could they possible harm us?"

Zhao Hai stared blankly for a moment before he laughed, "No wonder you didn't remind me, it was actually because of this. You are right, nobody would be able to capture us, even those formidable sea-dwellers. Hahaha. But we still need to avoid their territories. I don't want to be enemies with them."

Laura nodded, "It is truly a great idea to avoid becoming enemies with the sea-dwellers while we are at sea. I don't know how they do it, but almost all of the beings at sea could be used by these sea-dwellers to become their scouts. If we offend them, our ships would certainly be unable to sail anymore. This was even more so if we aren't the ones manning it, our ships would certainly be sunk. This is also why we need to have an island base."

Zhao Hai knit his brows and said, "It would be nice to find a good island, but if it was also easily discovered, then there would be no point for us to make it our own base."

Laura shook her head and replied, "We don't need to worry about finding an island, there are plenty of them out at sea. People who often travel here wouldn't choose islands for supply points if it has a supply of freshwater as well as have a lack of fierce magic beasts. We don't actually need those criteria to choose our island. The only thing we care about is the topography and terrain of the island. Brother Hai, how about we ask the original captain of this ship. He should know a thing or two about the islands around these parts."

The Haven ship that they were currently on board was originally the Poseidon. Its previous crew were all killed and turned into undead to help Zhao Hai sail the ship. In fear of losing their skills, Zhao Hai decided

to turn all of the ship's crew into advanced level undead. This was the reason why Laura suggested to ask the ship captain since he should have kept his memories when he was still alive.

Zhao Hai nodded and immediately called the captain over. The captain looked very ordinary and wasn't that tall. Probably because he had been sailing on the sea for years, the captain's skin looked very tough. Even after being converted into an undead, the skin quality of the ship's captain remained still the same.

The captain was named Jinan. When Jinan arrived, he immediately gave a bow to Zhao Hai and said, "This one has seen the Young Master."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Jinan, I want to look for an island to become my base. It doesn't need to have a good environment, but it's topography should be very good. Ordinary ships shouldn't be able to pass it. Do you know of any places like this?"

Jinan immediately replied, "I do, there are a lot of these islands around here, the most famous one is Ape Island. It's shape looks like the head of a giant ape, it was very feared because of the large amounts of reefs that surrounded the island, ships simply couldn't approach it. But there exists a route towards it. Some people once followed that route and went to the island along with a Water Mage. But upon arriving, they immediately discovered that the island was filled with fierce Magic Beasts, mostly 6th and 7th ranks, their leaders even reached 8th rank. The group decided to retreat, but when they came back to their ship, they were surprisingly attacked by marine magic beasts. Their ship was almost destroyed, fortunately they had a Water Mage to assist them so they were able to survive. The island is a good place with lush forests and a freshwater source. Because of the fierce magic beasts as well as the difficult route toward the island, it was possible that nobody had visited it for years."

Zhao Hai nodded, he didn't fear the magic beasts of the island. There was only one route towards the island, if he manages to block it off, then the island would effectively be his own. When hearing Jinan say that the island had a good environment, Zhao Hai decided that this was the kind of island that he was looking for.

Chapter 376 - Blade Scale Whale

Zhao Hai turned to Jinan, "We'll be heading to Ape Island, do you know the way?"

Jinan nodded, "I know, the Young Master need not worry. But Young Master, there a lot of powerful magic beasts on Ape Island and they are very difficult to deal with. I hear that it is dominated by ape-type magic beasts. They are tall, defensively and offensively strong, as well as movement style abilities. Because they have been living on the island, they also know how to swim, very difficult to cope with. Although they are mostly 6th and 7th ranks, they are already comparable to 8th rank beasts. Moreover, they have an 8th rank leader who could very well match a 9th rank; just without the ability to fly. Young Master, I suggest that we should change to another island."

Zhao Hai smiled as he declined, "No need, we'll go head towards Ape Island. I happen to need a lot of Magic Beasts right now, the more of them there are, the better. How many days will it take before we reach Ape Island?"

Jinan replied, "About 5 days, the island is just a day away from sea-dweller territory. This made a rare destination for most ships."

Zhao Hai nodded, "That's even better, just in line with what we want. Let's head there immediately." Jinan complied, then turned around to change the ship's direction.

Laura turned to Zhao Hai, "Brother Hai, why did you choose that place? It's too close to sea-dweller territory. If they decide to attack, we'll get hit immediately."

Zhao Hai just showed a faint smile and said, "No special reason, it's just that it is a good place and fairly close to the deep sea. There may even be some creatures that go close to that place often, that would make it easier for us to upgrade the Space. Moreover, the island's topography is very good for a base, as long as we control the route towards the island then we would be able to claim it for ourselves. Also, after we get the Space upgraded, we could try to get in contact with the sea-dwellers. Didn't you say that they couldn't deal with us since we could just run?"

Laura smiled and said, "Then it's good, if we cannot handle them, then we'll run. But from what I heard from Brother Hai, do you intend to capture the Magic Beasts from the island?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "You really understand me, I indeed want those Magic Beasts. Although we already have a lot of magic beasts inside the Space, those beasts' fighting strength aren't that strong. Those ape magic beasts that Jinan described seem to have strong fighting potential, just what I need right now."

Laura nodded, "That's also very good, I hope that those magic beasts could upgrade the Space as soon as possible. As long as Brother Hai's toxin gets cured, then everything will be fine."

Zhao Hai agreed, "As long as the toxin is dealt with, my last worry will finally disappear. Now that I have you two, I don't want to die an early death."

Laura and Meg's face went red, but their hearts were very happy. They know that Zhao hai doesn't want to talk nonsense, this was why they were glad.

When Zhao Hai saw their faces, he gave a small grin and said, "The heavens really does love me, to deliver the two of you to my side. Hehe. It seems like I had done great deeds, I have actually been very blessed."

After hearing Zhao Hai, Meg laughed and said, "Oh, young master, you certainly have done good. Back in the capital, if someone saw you on the street they would actually take the other direction. You have certainly done good things."

Laura laughed, she had also heard about Adam's debauchery back at the capital of Aksu Empire. Now that she heard Meg tease Zhao Hai, she really found it funny.

The group continued to laugh and talk until meal time arrived. Naturally, what they ate was fish. Although Zhao Hai had a lot of things on hand, they rarely eat fish, this was unjustified for them to do. So Zhao Hai released some swordfishes to get them some fishes from the sea.

With this, not only could they eat fish, they could also increase the number of magic beasts inside the Space. Zhao hai didn't know anything about these swordfishes so he went to Jinan and asked. Jinan told Zhao Hai that these swordfishes are magic beasts from the sea, usually they only surface to these parts when they wanted to lay their eggs, otherwise they would be swimming deep in the sea. Zhao Hai was glad that he was able to capture these swordfishes at the right time.

Because of this, the Space had been steadily increasing its number of magic beasts. But since the general level of these beasts were quite low, the Ranch didn't level up.

Zhao Hai also noticed that the Ranch Had been harder to upgrade compared to before. After crossing level 10, the Ranch's rate of levelling up went the same as when the Farm also crossed level 10.

Zhao Hai tried to absorb some seawater these past few days, but came with nothing to show. It was obvious that getting some life forms from the shallow seas was a useless venture. It was best to get a lot of organisms at one time from the deep seas.

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The following days of travelling at sea came uneventfully. This was mostly because of Jinan who travelled on the seas for 20 years; starting from his youth. He understood the sea more than anyone, as long as there wasn't a huge storm, he could handle most problems by himself.

It was now that Zhao Hai realized the value of the undead that he got from the Poseidon. With Jinan, they wouldn't need to worry much when travelling at sea.

Although the Swordfish was a warship, the Haven still came ahead when it comes to practicality. Not only did the Haven have a thick hull, it also had defensive armaments as well as substantial living quarters. More importantly, it was a Merchant cargo ship, meant for travelling the sea all year round. The Swordfish, on the other hand, was a warship that was mainly used to defend the Rosen Empire's coastline; not exactly designed for far sea travel. So if we speak about navigation experience and quality, the Swordfish's crew couldn't compare to the Haven's.

Just three days after Zhao Hai changed their ship's heading, other ships couldn't be commonly seen anymore. It was just like what Jinan said before, there weren't a lot of ships that would venture these parts. Maybe only ships that carry contraband or pirates would come and sail these waters.

But these Pirates wouldn't dare attack the Haven, even though the Haven was clearly a merchant ship. Just by looking at the ship's thick hull and armaments, the pirates knew that this ship was a hard bone to chew. Even if they were to come and attack, the pirates wouldn't be able to do anything to the ship.

Since they were currently nearing the deep sea, the probability of getting attacked by sea-dwellers increased. This made it so that common navies wouldn't venture this far. It also made this part of the sea a pirate's heaven.

The route that Jinan picked had less pirates wandering on it. Pirates also needed to take a rest, so they generally choose places close to their bases to perform their piracy. Their bases needed to be close to open sea, have acceptable environment while at the same time having little to no aggressive magic beasts.

But it was obvious that Ape Island wasn't one of their choices. Moreover, the waters near the island had more likely cases of marine beast attacks; targeting ships that dared come close. Thus, there were a small amount of ships present here.

Zhao Hai didn't care about these dangers, if there were beasts that attack, he would just release some arrow turtles to drive them away. If arrow turtles aren't enough, he would just directly capture the beast using the Space.

Just as he was thinking of this, the Haven suddenly shook. Zhao Hai stared blankly, then he immediately opened the monitor. Currently, there was a huge magic beast underneath the Haven, attacking.

The beast was very enormous, almost as large as the Swordfish. Its body was filled with scales, with a full set of canine teeth on its mouth. One could understand at a glance that this was a formidable magic beast.

Seeing the ship attack the Haven, Zhao Hai immediately called Jinan. Jinan saw the beast's shape and immediately exclaimed, "Young master, that is a Blade Scale Whale, a literal headache swimming in the sea. It's water element beast, about 6th rank, with a strong attacking capability. If he were to directly attack, a ship like the Swordfish would certainly get breached. Moreover, even if its magic attacks cannot penetrate the Haven's thick hull. It still had saw-like scales that could rip it easily. It was an easy task for this beast to rip apart a ship's iron armor. It has a nickname, Iron Armor Assassin."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he said, "Can arrow turtles deal with it?"

Jinan shook his head and said, "I don't know, my understanding regarding marine magic beasts is not much. Like how I have no idea about the weakness of this Blade Scale Whale."

Zhao Hai nodded and didn't say more. He just released large quantity of arrow turtles and ordered them to attack the whale.

Although the Blade Scale Whale was very strong, it couldn't maneuver easily because of its large build. Compared to its size, the arrow turtles were a lot smaller, but they also had a strong defense. More importantly, attacks from Arrow Turtles aren't that weak.

Zhao Hai released about 200 arrow turtles. When these turtles reached the water, they immediately swarmed toward the Blade Scale Whale and attacked it with the horns on their shells.

The whale obviously dreaded the arrow turtles, so it stopped its attacks on the Haven and went to retreat. The arrow turtles wouldn't allow this to happen, so they immediately surrounded the whale and collectively attacked it.

Zhao Hai saw that these arrow turtles seem to be the whale's weakness. When the horns of the turtles pierced the whale's armor, blood spurted out. The whale thrashed about repeatedly, but it couldn't do anything amidst the attacks of the turtles.

Zhao Hai looked blankly at what was happening, he didn't think that these arrow turtles would actually best a large beast like this Blade Scale Whale.

Laura and the others were also surprised upon seeing this. Before long, the whale succumbed to the attacks and stopped moving, its body sank towards the seabed.

Seeing this, Zhao Hai immediately opened the Space and absorbed both the arrow turtles and the whale's body inside.

After the seawater entered the space, a prompt could be suddenly heard, "Wounded whale-type variation beast detected. Unable to decide on the level, requesting the host to treat the beast as soon as possible."

Zhao Hai immediately had the Blade Scaled Whale healed. But he didn't expect that the cost of healing the whale actually took up 200 thousand gold coins, it made Zhao Hai grieve. Fortunately, he managed to loot tens of millions of coins from Grand Duke Lionheart before, otherwise, he would have to give up on the whale.

Chapter 377 - Little Monkey

Just after the Blade Scale Whale was cured, the Space immediately issued a prompt, "Whale-type variation Magic Beast Detected. Strong attack strength, level 30, currently cannot raise inside the Space. Digitizing... can now be purchased in Spatial Shop."

This change in the prompt was caused by the fact that the Ranch now turns animals into magic beasts. This was why the prompt said 'magic beast' instead of 'beast'.

However, the Space was currently unable to raise Blade Scale Whale, it may be because of the lack of a saltwater pool. This aspect was something Zhao Hai didn't understand, he had already absorbed quite a lot of seawater into the Space, so why didn't it have a saltwater pool?

Zhao Hai wasn't that excited anymore. Since the whale couldn't be bred inside the Ranch, there was no point in just storing it inside the Space, so Zhao Hai released the whale and had it escort the Haven while they headed towards their destination. This time, the whale didn't attack the Haven, it just guarded the ship like a submarine as it followed.

Zhao Hai was finally relieved and had Jinan continue on towards Ape Island. Although the Blade Scale Whale couldn't deal with the Arrow Turtles, it was still formidable. The whale was still a tyrant at sea, it was just unfortunate for the creature that its weakness was the Arrow Turtles. While it was helpless against the turtles, the other marine magic beasts generally wouldn't dare attack it. With the whale guarding the Haven, there were no other attacks that came afterwards.

Two days later, Zhao Hai could already see Ape Island from the horizon. It was just like how it was described, you could clearly see from the island's silhouette the shape of a lifelike giant ape with its mouth open and covered with green fur.

Zhao Hai made the whale as well as the turtles scout the surroundings, he wanted to know where the route to enter the island was.

Although they were still at some distance away from the island, the group was still careful because of the large number of reefs on the seabed as well as rocks that were stretching out. If they didn't choose their route properly, the ship would hit some obstructions and sink.

After two days of scouting, Zhao Hai finally located the route heading towards the island. However, Jinan's information was incorrect; the route towards Ape Island was not one, but three. The first route was relatively wide compared to the other two which were quite narrow.

A five-masted ship like Haven could head towards the island using the wide route. Of the other two narrow routes, one could accommodate the Swordfish, while the other one could only allow smaller boats to pass.

At the same time, these routes weren't straight, they were all meandering. Now Zhao Hai understood why Jinan's story told about needing to have a Water Mage in order to navigate the route. At that time, it was necessary to have a Water Mage to help turn the bow of the ship, otherwise the ship would certainly hit a reef.

Zhao Hai didn't care about any of these, after determining the routes, Zhao Hai immediately commanded Jinan to set sail towards the widest one. While the ship was travelling, Zhao Hai was also paying close attention to his monitor, using water element spells whenever necessary.

Along with the ship, the Blade Scale Whale was also closely following behind. If there was an attack, the whale would guard the ship, making the route a lot safer.

Although the route was not long, Zhao Hai's group still spent a full day travelling before arriving at the shores of Ape Island. What surprised Zhao Hai was the fact that there was already a dock present here. Moreover, the dock wasn't small, it could accommodate ten ships just like the Haven simultaneously.

Between the dock and Ape Island, the reefs weren't present anymore. The reef outside seemed to be like a planet's meteorite belt. After passing through that belt, you could then travel safely all around the island. Thinking about those reefs, Zhao Hai felt something very odd.

After the Haven stopped, Zhao Hai disembarked from the ship and went to the dock. Zhao Hai examined the dock carefully and saw that the dock was actually formed naturally, there were no traces of artificial construction. This astonishing natural dock seemed to be a structure that was only unique to Ape Island.

Around a hundred meters away from the dock was a forest. The trees on the forest were very big, not only are they big, their trunks also looked very solid. On each of the trees hang watermelon sized fruits. With the green leaves and fruits, the scenery looked quite nice.

Laura liked the scenery that she just saw, she turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Elder Brother Hai, it's quite beautiful here, I like it. This place would be a very good location for a base. We also need to make a house, I'd love to stay here."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Good, we'll settle here. But first, we need to go and take a look around. Didn't they say that this island had formidable ape-type magic beasts?"

Laura nodded, then Zhao Hai led the group towards the island. Upon reaching the trees, Zhao Hai picked a fruit up using a wind blade before sending it to the Space. There were a lot of fauna that could be seen in the island, so Zhao Hai wanted to go around and absorb them into the Space hoping they'll be enough to upgrade it.

After the fruit entered the Space, a prompt was immediately transmitted. Although the fruit's origin was unique, the Farm still needed a lot more plants to level up. Therefore, the fruit wasn't able to upgrade the Space.

Zhao Hai already expected this to happen, so he wasn't particularly disappointed. He continued on while picking out some local plants. It was not only Zhao Hai who went and grabbed something, everybody was doing it.

At this time, Laura suddenly noticed a small golden figure at a tree in front of her. She looked at it carefully before seeing that it was actually a little ape. The monkey was not tall, it may not even reach a meter in height if it fully stood. With its golden fur, the little ape looked very cute.

Laura liked how the little monkey looked, so she quickly pulled Zhao Hai, who was still looking for plants, over and said, "Brother Hai, look, that little monkey is so cute."

As the little ape looked at Laura, it revealed a curious look. The ape didn't express fear, but instead a genuine interest. This struck Laura's heart a second time.

Zhao Hai looked at the little monkey and couldn't help but feel that this small ape wasn't simple. In the end, he placed that thought to the back of his mind, after all, the little monkey wasn't showing any hostility.

Still, because of those feelings, Zhao Hai didn't attempt to capture the monkey but instead he took out a fruit from the Space and threw it towards the creature.

Shue was too late to stop Zhao Hai's action. He immediately stood guard in front of Zhao Hai as he said, "Young Master, you should be careful. If you just throw things like that, he will think that you are attacking him. He might attack back." But Zhao Hai didn't think that this was the case.

And true to Zhao Hai's thoughts, the little monkey understood Zhao Hai's intentions. The monkey seemed to feel that Zhao Hai wasn't hostile, so he caught the fruit and opened its mouth to take a bite.

The fruit was an apple gotten from the tree Zhao Hai used to plant in the Space. The apples weren't very large, but they taste very good.

So after the little monkey took a bite of the apple, he immediately shrieked with excitement. He quickly finished the apple in his hands and stared at Zhao Hai with eyes full of expectation, it came out really cute.

Zhao Hai couldn't stand the look on the little monkey's eyes, so he immediately took out a few more apples and threw them towards the monkey one by one. The monkey surprisingly knew how to handle those apples. As it catches an apple, it placed it on a branch before proceeding to catch another one. This cleverness and wit gave Zhao Hai a new understanding towards the monkey.

Laura and the other two women saw that the monkey was so smart and became quite happy. So they took some apples from Zhao Hai and threw them nonstop towards the monkey. Soon there were more than 20 apples all around the small ape.

Zhao Hai stopped taking the fruits out and looked at the little monkey, he wanted to see what the small ape wanted to do next. Seeing that Zhao Hai and the others weren't throwing any more apples, the monkey gave two shrieks before picking up the apples and eating them quickly. Zhao Hai looked at the little animal and couldn't help but laugh, the pile of apples were bigger than its figure, how could it be possible for the little monkey to finish all of it.

However, the little monkey made Zhao Hai's group dumbfounded. More than 20 apples were consumed by the monkey in a blink of an eye. The small ape didn't care about Zhao Hai and the others' expression, it just shouted while on top of the tree as if wanting Zhao Hai to throw more fruits upward.

Zhao Hai looked at the petite figure of the little monkey. When he thought about the 20 plus apples piled together, he couldn't help but stay stunned; not only him, but Laura and the others as well. They didn't think that this small monkey could eat so much.

After a short while, Laura recovered as she turned her head to Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, am I hallucinating or did that little monkey just eat all those apples by himself?"

Zhao Hai gave a dull nod and replied, "You're not hallucinating, all of those apples were truly eaten. But it is strange, did it really eat those apples? Or was it a strange ability. How could it possibly eat all of those apples."

When the little monkey saw that Zhao Hai and the others didn't respond and just stood there while speaking with each other, it became anxious. It gave a shriek as it jumped repeatedly. Seeing the monkey's behaviour, Zhao Hai had no choice but to take out even more apples. But this time, he didn't throw them up into the tree. Zhao Hai just held the apple in his hand and said, "You want to eat? Come and get it."

The monkey apparently understood Zhao Hai's words, but it also knew that this was an obvious setup. At the same time, it couldn't bear giving up the apple, so it just held its ear and cheek against the tree's surface anxiously.

Seeing the monkey's appearance, Zhao Hai couldn't help but laugh. Still, he wanted to see if the little monkey was willing to jump down and take the apple. Just as Zhao Hai laughed, a golden shadow was suddenly seen coming straight down from the tree. When Zhao Hai came to his senses, he immediately went to grab the apple in his hand. However, what met Zhao Hai was empty air. This entire event just took place in a blink of an eye.

The group was stunned, especially Shun. He had the skills of an assassin, and was also famous for his abilities. But seeing that he was much slower than the little monkey, he couldn't help but feel a bit of fear. If the little monkey didn't go for the apple but instead went for Zhao Hai, the young master would surely be in grave danger.

Zhao Hai stared at his own hand, then he looked up at the proud looking monkey who was holding the apple as he muttered, "This guy's thieving skills are very good."

The little monkey immediately caught Zhao Hai's interest, he immediately took out another apple and held it towards the monkey.

Possibly because of its earlier success, the monkey looked more confident this time. After eating the apple that it just grabbed earlier, the monkey stared at the apple on Zhao Hai's hand and prepared itself to snatch the fruit.

Laura and the others turned quiet as they stood still and carefully observed the small monkey. This time, another golden light flashed before the apple on Zhao Hai's hand vanished and as the monkey returned to the tree. Zhao Hai and the others simply couldn't follow the monkey's movements with their eyes.

The little monkey shrieked proudly twice while it ate the apple. Afterwards, it gave Zhao Hai another shriek, obviously wanting to have more apples. It seemed like it also liked to play this kind of game.

Zhao Hai looked at the little creature and smiled, once again, he took out another apple and raised his hand towards the monkey.

As Zhao Hai held the apple, there was a flash of excitement on his eyes. Just as expected, the little monkey's confidence became bigger and bigger. So just as the monkey was about to snatch the apple Zhao Hai took out, a spatial rift suddenly appeared as it covered both Zhao Hai and the little monkey, both of them disappeared.

When Zhao Hai entered the Space with the little monkey, the Space immediately gave a prompt, "Monkey-type variation magic beast detected. Level 40. Can raise inside the space, consumes two feed per hour. Time of Maturation: 20 hours. Can produce ten times, five offspring each time, taking eight hours of pregnancy. Digitizing... can now be purchased on the Spatial Shop."

"Space Ranch reached the requirements for level up. Ranch upgraded to level 16. Congratulations to the host for the effort."

Surprise, this was an absolute surprise for Zhao Hai. He didn't expect that when he lead the monkey to the Space, the Ranch would unexpectedly get upgraded. Moreover, the little monkey was actually higher levelled than the Blade Scale Whale. It really did seem like the apes in the island weren't that simple.

When the little monkey reached this strange place, it felt quite confused. But because of the Space's ability, the little monkey immediately recognized Zhao Hai as a friend. It hopped onto Zhao Hai's shoulder and squeaked, it also took the apple that Zhao Hai was holding before and presented it back to him.

Zhao Hai liked this clever little guy. He didn't expect that the monkey would be this adorable, even giving him an apple. This made Zhao Hai surprised, this little guy understood human thoughts too well. Zhao Hai laughed as he carried the little guy and gave him a specially large apple to eat.

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Chapter 378 - Little Jin

The little creature understood Zhao Hai, so it just stayed there on Zhao Hai's bosom while munching on the apple on its hand.

At this time, Zhao Hai called Laura and the others in. When Laura and the others saw Zhao Hai carrying the little monkey like a child, they became excited and immediately came and surrounded the two. Zhao Hai smiled and gave the little monkey to Laura. Laura became excited and hugged the little creature snugly, the monkey knew about Zhao Hai's relationship with Laura and the others, so he didn't show any hostility, it just lied down peacefully on Laura's bosom while eating his apple.

Then Cai'er came in while flying, she went towards the monkey and gave it a curious look. As the monkey was returning Cai'er's curious gaze, Cai'er suddenly extended a vine and snatched the apple that was on the little monkey's hand.

The monkey stared blankly, then it became quite angry, it shrieked as it came down from Laura's arms. It pursued Cai'er while the other party ran off with a face full of smiles.

This event made the Space quite lively, Cai'er laughing, the little monkey shrieking, Zhao Wen also joined the fun. The Space expressed a good vitality, this was something Zhao Hai and the others didn't experience before.

After a while, Zhao Hai stopped the group and led them back outside. Naturally, the little monkey also came while carrying a big apple on its hand. Zhao Hai also gave the little ape a name, he called it Little Jin.

Once they were out of the Space, Little Jin looked at his surroundings then shouted twice and seemed to get excited. He jumped down from Zhao Hai's shoulder and pointed his other hand which didn't hold an apple. Little Jin pointed forward, Zhao Hai and the others didn't know what the little monkey wanted to do.

Seeing that the group didn't move, Little Jin kept shrieking and pointing towards a certain direction. Zhao Hai could only proceed towards the direction Little Jin pointed to. The little monkey quieted down and resumed munching on the apple.

At this moment, a 'bang' could be heard in some place that the group couldn't see. Zhao Hai and the others stopped their footsteps and looked forward.

They remembered that Jinan had told them that this island had fierce magic beasts, hearing this sound made them think of those magic beasts.

When they stopped, Little Jin acted up again and began squeaking. Zhao Hai had no choice but proceed onward.

This made Zhao Hai unable to go out to collect some unique fauna since the little monkey would call him over and over if he stopped. This made Zhao Hai and the others quite speechless.

But when Zhao Hai felt that Little Jin was leading them to a certain place, he was both anxious and interested. He wanted to see where Little Jin wanted to take them.

Even after walking about three li(1.5km), they didn't encounter any other magic beasts, which surprised Zhao Hai. At the same time, Zhao Hai didn't expect that there were no other type of tree other than the tall and sturdy Bread trees that they had been passing along. This was quite strange for the group.

At this moment, a rustling sound could be heard in front of them. Zhao Hai and the other couldn't help but stop, then they saw several giant shadows approaching from the forest in front of them.

When the figures became clear, Zhao Hai saw that they were actually a huge number of apes. They were crawling on all fours, just like ordinary apes. They had shorter hind legs compared to their foreleg. This made look like they were bowing as they moved forward. But they still towered at about 7 to 8 meters high, might even reach 10 meters if they stood up straight.

Zhao Hai and the others all stood still, they knew that they had met those magic beasts that Jinan had informed them about. Looking at the apes in front of him, Zhao Hai knew that they should have formidable fighting strength. They looked very much like 'King Kong' that was often seen in movies back on Earth.

Looking at their towering bodies as well as their bulging muscles, Zhao Hai didn't doubt even for the moment the formidability of these magic beasts. The gorillas back on Earth weren't as big but they were still hailed for their strength. So how powerful would these hulking apes in front of them be?

Seeing these big fellows, Zhao Hai became alert. While holding onto Little Jin, he held his Ghost Staff. Shue and Shun also stood at Zhao Hai side while Laura and the other women stood behind them.

When the apes saw Zhao Hai and the others stunned, they screamed out while beating their chests. Like how gorillas normally express their fighting stance.

At this time, while Zhao Hai and the others were anxious, a golden light suddenly jumped towards the head of an ape. Zhao Hai was surprised, he knew that the golden streak was certainly Little Jin.

Sure enough, Little Jin was sitting on the shoulder of another ape; his entire body not even as big as the ape's head. When Zhao Hai saw this, his expression changed as he shouted, "Little Jin, come back here."

Little Jin didn't listen to him, he reached out his small hand and tapped the head of the ape who was beating its chest.

What happened next shocked Zhao Hai's group. When Little Jin tapped the head of the ape, it immediately calmed down and expressed a sad look, like how it looks when an elder disciplines a child.

Zhao Hai and the others stared blankly at what was happening, they couldn't make any sense of it. Little Jin was a small golden monkey while the other was a hulking gorilla. Why did a gorilla get obedient when its head was pat by a golden monkey? Are they doing a play?

At this time, Zhao Hai noticed that it was not only the gorilla that behaved themselves, all the other apes also calmed down and looked at Little Jin obediently.

Zhao Hai just stood there dumbfoundedly looking at the group of apes in front of him. He couldn't believe what he just saw, this made the group's mind quite dizzy.

At this time, more apes came out of the forest. Zhao Hai noticed a peculiarity on these apes. They could be currently classified into different types. There were orange gorillas that were giants much like King Kong. Another were those whose fur turned silvery white, with a bit shorter figure, about five or six meters tall. There were also apes with fur that was entirely silver, with bodies that were even shorter; about three or four meters. Then there was the last type where the fur was both silver and gold that was even much smaller, about a meter in height; there were two of them.

The strange part came from the fact that the smaller the ape was, the higher their status seemed to be. When the apes saw Little Jin, they all put out an obedient appearance. It seems like Little Jin held the highest status among the apes present here.

This made Zhao Hai surprised, he didn't understand their current power structure. Why did these apes made it this way? Weren't magic beasts supposed to place their strongest member at the top of its hierarchy? Then why was this present scene happening?

At this time, Little Jin jumped back to Zhao Hai's shoulder and shrieked as it pointed its finger forward. The other apes immediately gave way to Zhao Hai and the others. Little Jin kept a smug look while standing at Zhao Hai shoulder, looking quite aloof.

Zhao Hai and the others were stumped as they looked at each other. Even though they didn't understand what was going on, they knew that Little Jin wouldn't think of harming them. So since these apes listened to the little monkey, it would be fair to say that they would also refrain from hurting humans. In the end, the group just followed the direction that Little Jin pointed towards.

Slowly, the surroundings got higher and higher. Zhao Hai and the others were also putting forth more effort in walking. At this time, Little Jin called over some apes as he tugged on Zhao Hai's clothes and pointed towards the gorillas. Zhao Hai didn't know what his new friend was planning.

Seeing that Zhao Hai and the others weren't comprehending, Little Jin jumped on the back of a gorilla and gestured towards Zhao Hai. The other gorillas understood Little Jin's intention and immediately grabbed the humans and effortlessly placed them on their backs. Zhao Hai and the others didn't resist, they knew that they weren't in any danger.

The apes' backs were very large, about 2 meters wide and 4 meters long, all in all about 8 square meters. Zhao Hai and the others didn't find it hard to find a place to either sit or stand.

Although the gorillas were crawling, their backs were extremely steady. Adding on the wool on their backs, the ride was very comfortable.

At this time, Laura and the others were also on other apes' backs. Shun and Shue shared an orange furred ape, and while there were two of them on the back of an ape, it wasn't crowded at all. The ape didn't seem to mind some extra weight on its back, it just resumed walking without any indication of slowing down. This gave Zhao Hai a new understanding with regards to the strength of these apes.

One must know that the group was currently heading up a mountain, the bodies of Zhao Hai and the others effectively added around 300 jin to the apes' backs. Even 3rd rank horse magic beasts wouldn't be able to make this kind of trip, but these apes were actually doing it effortlessly, they were quite strong.

Their altitude got higher and higher as they quickly approached the summit. What Zhao Hai saw on the top of the mountain was actually a single tree, an especially gargantuan Bread tree.

The Bread tree was so tall that Zhao Hai couldn't see its crown. It was also very thick, Zhao Hai felt that this tree's diameter shouldn't be any smaller than 100 meters. Zhao Hai only saw this kind of tree back

at Earth, and it was on the movie 'Avatar'. But this tree was a bit different, it was something that Zhao Hai hadn't seen yet.

At the base of the tree was a huge hole, about thirty meters tall and ten meters wide. The apes carried Zhao Hai's group to enter the hole.

After entering the tree hole, Zhao Hai and the others were stunned. They didn't expect to see such a scene upon entering.

Chapter 379 - Strange Tree

Inside the tree hole were compartments filled with hay. And it was obvious that it wasn't just there naturally, it looks like an ape's bedroom. Moreover, the compartment wasn't unsightly; it was very clean.

This compartment might not be very big, maybe only 20 square meters. But all around the tree hole were numerous compartments that belonged to apes. Inside some of those compartments were some small black monkeys as well as female ones.

The place looked like an upscaled ant's nest, it was just that ants weren't the ones living in it but instead apes. Zhao Hai calculated that inside this tree hole alone, there should be around a thousand apes. It was a very terrifying magic beast tribe.

Zhao Hai looked upwards and was shocked about the sheer space inside the tree hole. It was about a hundred meters high with compartments all around it, the scene was extremely spectacular.

Laura saw the scene and couldn't help but be in awe, "This is really quite breathtaking. Brother Hai, couldn't you see? This place looks like a small city."

This statement wasn't an exaggeration that Laura just threw out. The place was truly magnificent, the tree could be considered as the capital of Little Jin's kingdom. His constituents should be these apes while the entire island might be their territory.

Little Jin gave a few shrieks, then some apes came to take away the hay on the ground. The revealed surface was very clean, Zhao Hai could even faintly see the wood grains on the floor.

Little Jin jumped down from Zhao Hai's body, then it gave another few shrieks to have the gorillas carrying Zhao Hai's group place them on the ground. Then the apes walked out of the hole while leaving some small apes on the ground, some were even crawling all over the place.

To be honest, these small apes weren't as cute as Little Jin, but they're still quite attractive. This made Laura's, Meg's, and Nier's eyes shine. Women generally have little tolerance towards adorable creatures.

Little Jin didn't care about those small apes, he just left those young ones to their own. Zhao Hai didn't understand what Little Jin was intending to do.

At this time, some silver apes came while holding some breadfruit in their hands. When they arrived, they presented those fruits in front of Zhao Hai. There were also some apes that held shells with some sort of liquid inside of them. What surprised Zhao Hai was that the liquid in those shells gave off a scent of liquor.

Little Jin gave a few shrieks as he took a breadfruit and gave it directly to Zhao Hai who understood what the little monkey meant. Little Jin wanted Zhao Hai to eat the fruit.

Zhao Hai received the basketball sized fruit. Currently, the skin of the fruit was very hard, so he made an effort to knock it down on the ground before peeling the fruit and revealing the white pulp inside.

What surprised Zhao Hai was when the pulp came in contact with the air, it quickly expanded and exhibited the scent of bread.

Zhao Hai stared for a moment before placing the fruit near his mouth and took a single bite. The fruit's flesh was very fluffy and it tasted just like bread. This surprised Zhao Hai even more.

Zhao Hai had heard of the monkey bread tree on earth, he heard that it was a type of tree with high yield. For their fruits to be eaten, they needed to be roasted. But this bread fruit that he just ate

unexpectedly didn't need roasting. It just inflated itself and gave the appearance of bread, and a big one at that. Zhao Hai feared the he would need to eat for an entire day before he could finish the entire fruit.

Laura and the others looked at Zhao Hai's actions. It was the first time that they had seen such a fruit. At this time, Little Jin also shrieked a few times while pointing towards the shells on the ground.

Zhao Hai curiously took the shell and drunk the liquid it held inside. Upon entering his stomach, Zhao Hai felt an acidic taste, what made it strange was that the liquor inside those shells had the same flavor as beer.

Zhao Hai didn't make beer, nobody in the continent did. Originally, Zhao Hai thought that he would be able to get the process of fermenting beer after a lot of experiments. But who would've thought that on such an isolated island, a few apes took out a beer-tasting liquid for him to drink. This gave Zhao Hai a surprise.

He curiously looked at the liquid, the liquid truly did have a beer's flavor, although it was not very pure, it was genuinely beer. Zhao Hai couldn't help himself and took another drink.

Looking at Zhao Hai's expression, Laura and the others became curious. They also opened a fruit and ate some before drinking the beer, they felt very good.

Zhao Hai placed the shell down and turned to look at Little Jin. He couldn't help but laugh and said, "Little Jin, Little Jin, you really are my lucky star. Hahaha. Fantastic, this thing is fantastic."

Seeing Zhao Hai getting excited about the beer, Little Jin also gave a few excited shrieks. On the other hand, Laura and the others were more interested in the bread, not quite so on the beer.

Zhao Hai and the others were still hungry, so they continued to eat bread and sip some beer. At the same time, Zhao Hai took out a lot of apples for Little Jin. The small ape was very excited as he distributed the apples to the other apes.

However, it became apparent that even though Zhao Hai's apples were quite big, they were insufficient for the hulking apes. When the gorillas opened their mouths and tossed an apple inside, the fruit immediately vanished after only a few chews.

Zhao Hai shook his head and felt helpless, then he gave Little Jin more apples. This time, he took out a lot more apples, about ten thousand jins worth. Little Jin became incomparably excited as he continued to distribute the apples to the apes.

Before long, the ten thousand jins of apples disappeared into the mouths of the apes. With an excited face, each and every one of those apes looked at Zhao Hai, clearly expecting more food.

Zhao Hai shook his head and smiled bitterly. He turned his head to Little Jin and said, "Little Jin, we'll have to eat later. I want to take a look at the entire island." Little Jin probably understood Zhao Hai's words since he gave a set of shrieks to make the group of apes disperse, only leaving a several few.

Zhao Hai and the others climbed to the back of the gorillas. Then Little Jin lead the group all around the island. When they were coming down from the mountain, Little Jin pointed at some bread trees and gave a few shrieks as the apes climbed the trees.

At this time, Zhao Hai could faintly smell the scent of beer coming from those trees. He couldn't believe that there was actually beer inside those bread trees.

The apes took Zhao Hai and the others to climb one of the trees. The tree had a hole in it that was blocked tightly by a piece of bark that seemed like cork. The gorilla that Zhao Hai was riding on went forward and turned the wooden cork that was blocking the hole to reveal that there was indeed beer inside.

After seeing this, Zhao Hai nodded, then they continued on to their journey. About halfway down the mountain, they saw a small pool with a spring acting as its source. Obviously this was a place where the apes would get some drinking water.

Zhao Hai and the others walked towards other places. The island wasn't that large, only about ten thousand mu. The most common tree present were those bread trees while other types of fauna were quite few.

When Zhao Hai thought that there weren't any more interesting places to visit, Little Jin suddenly brought them to a root cavern. This cavern was blocked by a bread tree. If not for Little Jin guiding the group, Zhao Hai wouldn't have been able to find this place easily.

As soon as the group entered the cavern, they were shocked. This was because the cavern was not in line with their expectations of a moist and narrow cave. This one was unexpectedly quite dry, moreover it was very big, about a football field's worth of floor area. The space inside was also about 20 meters high. There was also the passage in front which was 6 meters wide and 20 meters high, which seemed to become higher and higher as they go through.

Zhao Hai was curious as he made Little Jin lead the group inside. After crossing the passage, they were met with an even bigger cavern. The cavern was very big and also quite dark, even though light couldn't reach this part of the cave, the surface of the cave wasn't cold; it instead was very warm. The most important thing about this cavern was the tree growing at the very center, the tree gave off a faint golden radiance.

The reason why this cavern was quite dark with only a little bit of light inside was this tree. Although this tree looked like a normal bread tree, it was very short and wasn't very stout. There were also fruits present that were like breadfruit, but these fruits were smaller and were gold colored; it also seem to exude a faint light.

While Zhao Hai curiously examined the tree, Little Jin jumped down and went directly to the plant. He examined the fruits before picking some from the center of the tree and handed the fruits to Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai received the fruit and carefully looked at it. The fruit looks like a miniaturized version of the breadfruit, it didn't have any other redeeming quality. The fruit was only the same size as Zhao Hai's fist, with the familiar hard skin surrounding it. When Zhao Hai was about to bite into the fruit, Little Jin screamed and seized Zhao Hai's hand with enough strength that Zhao Hai couldn't get it loose

Zhao Hai looked confused at Little Jin, he didn't know why the little monkey gave him the fruit only to prohibit him from eating it. Little Jin looks at Zhao Hai and quickly made some movements, the little ape held its hand and made a blossoming action.

Zhao Hai understood the signal, it was possible that Little Jin wasn't describing blossoming but was instead referring to an explosion. Zhao Hai held the fruit and said, "You're saying that this fruit can explode?"

Little Jin shook its head, he pointed to the fruit and then to his mouth, then made an explosive expression. Zhao Hai said, "You're saying that the human who eats this fruit will explode?"

Little Jin excitedly nodded. He pointed to himself, grasping his fur, then pointed to the other apes' fur, then to the fruit, and lastly back to himself.

This made Zhao Hai stare for a while. Seeing Zhao Hai unable to understand, Little Jin gestured a few more times. Finally, Zhao Hai seemed to understand, he looked at Little Jin and said, "You're saying that if they eat this fruit, then eventually they are going to look like you?" He said as he pointed to the gorillas then to Little Jin.

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Chapter 380 - Pirates

Little Jin nodded, then shook his head. He pointed at the gorilla, then outside, then back to himself. Zhao Hai's current understanding was increased, he looked at Little Jin and said, "You're saying that those gorillas will slowly turn into silvery white then semi-gold, and when they eat the fruit, they would become like you? Otherwise, they will explode?"

Little Jin excitedly nodded, Zhao Hai's eyes lit up and with an intention moved the group to return to the Space along with several other apes.

The moment they entered the Space, a prompt was heard, "Special plant fruit detected. Contains Metal element energy. After consuming, may develop Metal element abilities. Each seed takes up ten mu of land, 8th rank plant. Ripening time, 36 hours, ten fruits each time. Interval between fruit production, 12 hours."

"Space has met upgrade requirements. Space levelled up to level 25. Congratulations for the host's effort."

Zhao Hai froze for a moment, then he looked at the small fruit on his hand with pleasant surprise. He didn't expect the little fruit to have such capabilities, it could actually provide people with abilities. Additionally, what made Zhao Hai even more happy was the fact that the Space had risen to level 25, a very huge surprise to Zhao Hai.

After a while, Zhao Hai recovered as he laughed and held Little Jin. He felt that the little ape was his lucky star. Not only did it show Zhao Hai beer, he even gave him this kind of fruit. The fruit unexpectedly upgraded the Space by three levels. Three levels! How long ago did the Space experience this kind of upgrade? This event was extremely beautiful.

Laura and the others expressed excitement, they also didn't expect the Space to increase by three levels. Now they were even close to the goal of level 30.

Although Little Jin didn't know why Zhao Hai was very happy, he also expressed his glee when he saw that Zhao Hai was ecstatic. He kept giving happy shrieks while in Zhao Hai's arms.

Zhao Hai went out of the Space and looked at the tree. He gazed at a tree again and reckoned that it shouldn't have a name, nobody in the continent should have been able to see this tree. Zhao Hai didn't think of moving the tree, the Space can already plant the tree by itself so there was no need to uproot it. Zhao Hai just gave the tree a name, he called it the Goldmetal Tree while the fruit of the tree was named Goldmetal Fruit.

As they walked out of the cavern, Little Jin took them to yet another part of the island. After a short while, they arrived at a cave located at the opposite side of the island, the surroundings were filled with bread trees. Only the entrance to the cavern wasn't blocked by anything.

Arriving at the cavern, Zhao Hai and the others stared blankly. It was because this cavern was also a natural harbor, different to the dock outside. The entire cavern was the harbor but the only kinds of ships that could reach here were three-masted ships, five-masted ships were simply unable to enter.

This was a harbor, not a dock, Zhao Hai looked at the surroundings with an investigative gaze. It was good that there were no ships here since this small island was a natural base.

The group came out of the cavern and returned to Little Jin's home, the huge bread tree. Zhao Hai put out another huge pile of apples for Little Jin's companions, this was Zhao Hai's way of thanking them. His

harvest in this island was simply too big, not only did the Ranch level up twice, the Farm also rose by three. He also found out about the bread tree as well as a possibility to learn how to ferment beer later. These harvests were extremely important to Zhao Hai.

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After coming out of Little Jin's nest, Zhao Hai and the others returned to the shore. Naturally, Little Jin also came with them. Zhao Hai already decided to use this place as his base, but he scrapped his plan of building some structures here. When he saw Little Jin, he thought that he would be acting in bad faith if he started to cut some bread trees to accommodate some buildings. Those bread trees were the food source of Little Jin's tribe. So instead of constructing some structures at this place, Zhao Hai placed his fifth transmission point on the island.

Then he continued on to load his two ships with Fire Fishes, vegetables, grains and other things. The changed Swordfish was outfitted and modified to solely transport Fire Fishes.

Fire Fishes were very fragile, they needed to have a certain temperature of water to thrive in. This condition fully reflected on how Zhao Hai's Swordfish was modified. Firstly, the cabin was changed to accommodate freshwater. The freshwater pool was separated into two compartments, enabling the application with fire magic to be used separately. While the fire fishes were staying in one compartment, the other one would be heated up so when the other pool's temperature gets low, the fire fishes could simply get transferred to maintain the optimum temperature of their surroundings. This method would be used repeatedly to keep the fishes alive.

Naturally, this method was just an excuse. Zhao Hai wouldn't actually raise his fire fishes inside those cabins. He just made that to deceive people, only when he arrives at Sky Water City will Zhao Hai place the fishes inside the ship.

The modification on his five-masted ship was more relaxed. The storage for vegetables, grains, fruit oil and other products were already present inside the Haven, so they only installed a few additions on the ship. Zhao Hai loaded the ship with 100 thousand jins of vegetables, another 50 thousand jin of grain, and a varying amount of other products.

After taking care of these things, Zhao Hai and the others were ready to leave Ape Island. Originally Zhao Hai wanted to leave Little Jin here, after all he was the leader of the tribe and also, Zhao Hai thought that Little Jin would not follow him.

However Little Jin didn't think the same. He confronted Zhao Hai and relayed that he would not stay, so Zhao Hai didn't oppose the little monkey. The transmission point that Zhao Hai placed was directly inside Little Jin's nest. Therefore, if Little Jin wants to return to the island, he could do so anytime. Moreover, there were also some tribesmen that were able to take his place in taking care of the island. Zhao Hai could also monitor the island via the monitor, so he would just send Little Jin back if something happened.

After a short day inside Ape Island, Zhao Hai's group left. But before he left, he made the Blade Scale Whale look after the wide route while he had the arrow turtles take care of the other two narrower routes.

After arranging everything, Zhao Hai's ships departed Ape Island. Zhao Hai was afraid that Little Jin wasn't used to travelling by boat. But contrary to his thoughts, the little monkey was running crazily in all directions, it didn't express any feeling of discomfort at all.

Thus, Zhao Hai didn't specially take care of him, but he still made sure that the little monkey was able to eat everyday as well as return to his tribe to take care of things. Two days later, when they are fairly at a distance from Ape Island, the ships went on and headed towards Sky Water City.

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On this day, while Zhao Hai and the others were sitting on the deck and having lunch, a voice said loudly, "Forty-five degrees on the starboard side, around 20 nautical miles, pirate ship spotted, heading for us. Unclear intentions, stay alert!"

After hearing the shouts, the undead on the ship moved. They positioned themselves to the ship's weapons and prepared for battle.

Zhao Hai received the food that they were eating and looked at the direction that the sentry described. Little Jin was quite annoyed, he wasn't able to stuff himself full.

Zhao Hai can now understand Little Jin's appetite. Thinking about the size of those gorillas, if they couldn't eat that much, then Zhao Hai would be surprised.

At this time, the sentry shouted loudly again, "20 miles, 45 degrees from the starboard of the Starfish, another pirate ship spotted. The two ships may be part of a fleet. We're possibly the targets."

Zhao Hai and the others could now see the two ships, they were three-masted battleships. Although the ships looked quite old, they were well maintained and were still very fast. The ships were heading towards them, it looks like they are trying to rob Zhao Hai's group, or maybe occupy their ships.

Zhao Hai didn't have any worries, they had two ships, but Zhao Hai also had two ships. Moreover, there were also some undead. This should be a very easy confrontation.

At this time, the sentry also reported about two ships that came from behind. It was clear that the ships were part of a single fleet. Zhao Hai and the others readied themselves for the battle.

When the four ships came within firing distance, they immediately went to attack Zhao Hai. The undead on Zhao Hai's two ships also immediately launched their counterattack. Loud booms could be heard on the sea, columns of fire were seen, the scene looked just like it was seen in the movies.

Zhao Hai and the others just stayed on the ship and looked at the pirate ships. Simultaneously, Zhao Hai went to observe the might of the magic cannons. To be honest, the magic cannons disappointed Zhao Hai, they weren't that strong. If a sixth rank warrior were to be hit by the cannon at a certain distance, it was possible for him/her to get away unscathed.

Zhao Hai turned his head to Laura and asked, "Laura, do you think that these pirates have gone mad? What advantage will they get by attacking us? We have an five-masted ironclad ship."

Laura smiled and said, "Then isn't that a big incentive? A five masted ironclad battleship is very formidable, even if these pirates were to lose their four ships, it would be worth it in the end if they manage to occupy the Haven. The ship is extremely valuable. Look, now that they see that their ballistas and magic cannons were useless, they are preparing themselves to board the ship."

It was just like what Laura said, the pirates were already making their ships go closer so that they could board the ships.

Before long, the Haven and the Swordfish was flanked by the four ships. The pirates brought their hooks and girder plates on the sides of their ships and went all out while boarding the ship.

The undead on the Haven and the Swordfish immediately brandished their weapons to defend. Shouts were now heard on the decks of the two ships.

The people on Zhao Hai's group didn't attack. Shue and Shun just stayed by Zhao Hai's side and guarded him while Laura and the other stood behind. They didn't exert any effort in fighting.

Zhao Hai was holding Little Jin on his arms as he calmly looked at the pirates. The pirates' appearance that Zhao Hai had seen on the television was quite similar to the pirates in front of him. They looked very dirty and stank so hard, their beards were also very unkempt. Each and every one of their faces were fierce, certainly not something a good person would show.

But Zhao Hai wasn't afraid of them. He saw that the pirates' present strengths were not very strong. Most of them were about 5th rank with a few 6th ranks mixed in between. It was impossible for the pirates to defeat the undead.

At this time, the peacefully sitting Little Jin on Zhao Hai's arms suddenly jumped down. Zhao Hai froze for a moment before his expression changed, "Little Jin, come back!" He wasn't afraid that the little monkey would get injured, it would be very difficult for those pirates to deal a blow to Little Jin. It was just that Little Jin was too small, Zhao Hai was afraid that the small ape would lose his footing and would fall to the sea.

But at this moment, everybody present froze. Little Jin who jumped down from Zhao Hai's arms gave two shrieks before his body expanded. After a short while, Little Jin became a 20 meter tall giant golden gorilla.

Afterwards, they saw him stretch his claw towards the pirates. As soon as his arm reached the pirates, their bones immediately issued a cracking sound. Then Little Jin gave out a roar and jumped on top of a ship. He grabbed a main mast and then yelped and jerked while slamming it. Surprisingly, the mast that was almost as thick as his body was pulled out. The giant gorilla waved the removed mast around, breaking the other two masts first before slamming itself on the other pirates. The pirates didn't have any time to run, all of them were swept off the ship.

Finally, Little Jin used the mast to smash the ship. With a loud crunch, the ship divided into two under Little Jin's ruthless pounding.

At this time, Little Jin threw away the mast and jumped towards another ship. But Zhao Hai couldn't let that happen as he hastily yelled, "Little Jin, come back, quickly come back."

When Little Jin heard Zhao Hai, he stared for a moment before returning to the Haven. But after he returned to the ship, he stood in front of Zhao Hai and complained like a child while pointing on the other pirate ships, he roared a lot.

Zhao Hai quickly said, "We're fine, don't worry. I'll immediately deal with them, all right, I also need those ships for myself." Then he moved his hand as massive numbers of undead came out and stormed the three pirate ships. The pirates onboard weren't able to run and were killed before Zhao Hai turned them into undead, the battle immediately ended.

When Little Jin saw this, he gave two roars then shrank his body down and returned to his small monkey form. Then he jumped onto Zhao Hai's arms.

Zhao Hai looked at Little Jin who was in his arms and was returning the gaze with its pair of big eyes. Zhao Hai didn't know what to say, this cute Little Jin was completely different from the massive gorilla from earlier.

Laura and the other were also blankly staring at Little Jin. They didn't think that the cute and clever kid that they met would unexpectedly be terrifying when angry.