

Another World 381

Chapter 381 - Arriving at the Port

Although Little Jin's rampage caused Zhao Hai to lose one three-masted ship, he didn't mind it. After all, all of those ships were free. The most important thing about the recent event was that he finally knew about Little Jin's strength. Now, Zhao Hai understood why those apes made him their leader, Little Jin was truly the strongest ape of the tribe.

While carrying Little Jin, Zhao Hai laughed and said, "Good job Little Jin, but please do remember to refrain from being angry all the time. You're way too terrifying."

Little Jin looked at Zhao Hai with doubt, he issued two small shrieks, probably asking Zhao Hai why he was not allowed to get angry. Zhao Hai couldn't help but laugh at the sight of Little Jin's cute expression.

Laura and the others also recovered and looked at the appearance of Little Jin. They couldn't help but feel that something was funny. The current Little Jin with its pair of innocent eyes couldn't be any more contrasting to the hulking behemoth of rage earlier, it was quite amusing.

At this time, the three ships were now under Zhao Hai's complete control and thus belonged to Zhao Hai. He immediately removed the pirate flags on the ships and received the three vessels to the Space.

Currently, he didn't want people to know that he had these many ships. It would be very unfavorable for his future expeditions if his other ships were to attract other people's attention.

One shouldn't look at Zhao Hai's smooth progression. The Calci Family only cooperated with Zhao Hai because they didn't see him as a threat. If at present the Calci family were to know that Zhao Hai had the strength to go against them, would they still cooperate with Zhao Hai? Zhao Hai was skeptical about that.

China had a nice saying that said, 'We should not be harmful to other people, but we should be alert to getting harmed'. It encourages people to be both kind and mindful. This was especially true when facing a family as large as the Calci Family. Zhao Hai couldn't help but defend himself, otherwise, he may be bringing himself into disaster.

Great Families never believed in sentiment, so you need to place your benefits right beside theirs. Only in this way could the two of you work together. Otherwise, you wouldn't get any support, any sentiment, and would only be used for benefit.

Thus, Zhao Hai didn't want to show his entire hand. If he wanted Smith to know about the Space, he wouldn't have spent all this time looking for a suitable island for a base. He would have just released the fire fishes then and there.

However, Zhao Hai didn't do so, he just spent a bit of time to make the other people unaware of his hand. Only in this way could Zhao Hai ensure his own security.

Also, it was very lucky for him that he had done so, otherwise he wouldn't have met Little Jin, he wouldn't have seen the Goldmetal Tree. For him, this loss would be too great.

The pirate incident had closed its curtains. When Zhao Hai turned all of the pirates into advanced level undead, he immediately knew the ins and outs of the attack.

The pirates belonged to a pirate group called the Snakehead Pirate Group. The group was composed of the four three-masted ships. This time, they attacked Zhao Hai because they saw him go to Ape Island.

Although Ape Island wasn't a place that seafarers were willing to go to, the island still had its attractive points. The pirates saw Zhao Hai head towards Ape Island and left completely unscathed. Naturally, they wanted to see what Zhao Hai managed to get from the island.

One had to know that sometimes, treasures weren't the most valuable thing in the continent. Sometimes, it would be unique and strange Magic Beasts. The value on those creatures made the risk extremely worth it.

Another important point to the attack was the same as what Laura said, they wanted the Haven. An ironclad five-masted ship was extremely important to a pirate fleet.

However, the pirates didn't think that they would annoy a terrifying magic beast especially Little Jin. When they saw the raging ape, they wanted to offer their surrender, it was just a pity that Zhao Hai didn't give them the opportunity to do so.

After dealing with the pirates, the group resumed their sailing, this time without any other attacks. When common pirates saw the pair of a three-masted ship and an ironclad five-masted ship, they would instantly take their distance and avoid taking the risk.

After a few days of sailing, Zhao Hai's group finally returned to Sky Water City. Once they arrived at the city, Zhao Hai immediately sent someone to inform both Smith and Marriott about getting the supplies. Of those supplies, the most precious were of course the fire fishes and the liquor.

Smith and Marriott were already waiting for this moment for a long time. So they immediately sent their own people to fetch the products. In order to ensure the safety of the fire fishes, they used a carriage fitted with a furnace underneath. The carriage was designed to ensure the optimum temperature of water for the fire fishes to thrive in.

When Smith got on the ship and saw the little fishes swimming around, he reacted as though he saw gold coins were piled in front of him. For the people on the continent, these fire fishes were indeed akin to gold coins.

The continent's output of fire fishes wasn't very high, this was because the environments that allowed these fishes to survive were quite rare, their food expenses were also quite high. Smith didn't know what Zhao Hai had been feeding these fire fish.

After unloading the products from the ships, Zhao Hai returned to the City Lord's Mansion. Smith warmly received Zhao Hai. This time, when Zhao Hai went to the sea, he didn't send anyone to follow him since it would be useless. The sea was so big, but it's surface was quite even. If he had sent someone to follow Zhao Hai from afar, it would only raise the other party's vigilance against Smith, this would make both sides unhappy with each other.

Because Smith didn't send anyone to track Zhao Hai, this gave Zhao Hai sufficient freedom. This also made Zhao Hai feel that their relationship was quite good.

This time, Zhao Hai delivered 50 thousand jin of milk wine, 50 thousand jin of fire fishes, 100 thousand jin of vegetables, 50 thousand jin of grain, and some number of rations.

When these products reached the harbor, it entered the Calci Family's storehouses immediately. Afterwards, Marriott would only need to take his share from the family's storehouse.

What's more important was the fact that aside from Zhao Hai and those directly involved, nobody knew of the products' arrival. The supplies were unloaded on the Calci Family's personal dock, so no common person would be able to see the transport of the goods.

Naturally, there were no impenetrable walls in this world. Soon enough, various powers came to know what were held inside Zhao Hai's ships. Amongst other things, the most intriguing thing for them were the fire fishes, it definitely attracted the other groups' attention.

The fire fishes attracted their attention since the continent's output of fire fishes wouldn't reach 100 thousand jin in one year. But this time, Zhao Hai actually delivered 50,000 jin, which was half of the the continent's output. This caused the powers to cause a commotion.

However, their commotion didn't do anything, they still didn't manage to get a share. The Calci Family and the Shelley family already swallowed the entire supply of fire fish.

The big families still wanted to find Zhao Hai to see whether they could get a slice of the profitable cake. But when they came to it, they realized how hard it was to meet Zhao Hai. Firstly, Zhao Hai was currently inside the Sky Water City, in Calci Family Territory, furthermore he was staying inside the City Lord's Mansion, making meeting him much more difficult. Lastly, Zhao Hai was extremely low key, he rarely went out. Looking for Zhao Hai for a meeting was not an easy thing to do for these powers.

Moreover, they needed to be discreet in wanting to meet Zhao Hai as to not incur the Calci Family's suspicion. If the Calci Family were to know, they will certainly not let them off lightly.

These days, the Calci Family was thriving, mainly because of the fact that they had dealt with Grand Duke Lionheart. This made the common people recognize how formidable the Calci Family was, while the nobles were made aware of other fierce means of the Calci Family.

The propaganda methods that the Calci Family gave them were very easy to use. Although they couldn't see any difference at first, they slowly found out that things became quite different. In the past, when people talked about the Radiant Church, they would describe them in a good, kind, and warm manner.

But now it was not the same. When people mentioned the Radiant Church, their expression would change along with their tone of voice.

The nobles were very sensitive about this point, so they immediately knew that the propaganda was working. Upon knowing that it works, the nobles immediately intensified their efforts, they also set-up anti-Radiant Church subjects in their schools. A tide of anti-church sentiment spread out to the entire Rosen Empire.

At this time, the Calci Family suddenly sent Dark Mages to cure people in their territory as well as establishing a Dark Mage history subject on their schools. This was done for the purpose of educating their citizens about Dark Mages.

But the other nobles didn't buy into this method of the Calci Family, they wouldn't just promote Dark Mages for free. However, they learned from Calci Family's action, so they immediately made their own history lessons, but it was not about Dark Mages, instead, they made curriculums for the Mages of other departments such as the fire, wind, water and earth elements. In any case, these Mages also had their own faith, so they made use of this opportunity to compete with the Radiant Church.

After the Calci Family were made aware of this situation, not only were they not angry, they were instead extremely delighted. The nobles were pushing the Mages of other departments to oppose the Radiant Church. If the Radiant Church were to begin suppressing those Mages, it would be equal to making all of the Mages in the continent their enemy, and this would put an extreme amount of pressure on the church.

In fact, the church was already creating pressure for the other Mages. These recent years, the most attractive occupation in the continent was being a Light Mage. So when the children went to school, they would strive to learn Light element magic. But this event on Rosen Empire made the children adore the other Mage departments, this was very good for the other Mages.

Chapter 382 - 5th Successor Enters the Stage

The Radiant Church was ill-prepared for the recent actions of the Rosen Empire. Because of this, they didn't know how to make a turnaround. These years they had been sitting comfortably, they didn't think that the empire would raise their hand against the church.

In the beginning, they didn't realize how terrifying the empire's actions were, but it was too late when they did. Adding on to the fact that they didn't have a great relationship with the Rosen Empire, the time frame for acting against the empire has already passed.

However, the Radiant Church still made its counterattack in the nations aside Rosen Empire. They exerted their influence inside the nations' territories, of course they didn't act against other Mages aside from those who practiced Dark Magic.

But they were destined to be disappointed. The Calci family already took into account the retaliation of the church, so they issued a warning to everyone inside the League of Dark Mages. They instructed their members to immediately escape because the Radiant Church may surround and capture Dark Mages this time.

This time, the Radiant Church conducted some operations against Dark Mages, but their results weren't ideal. They had already tracked the Dark Mages, but those who weren't captured immediately all ran away. It was too late to capture them right now.

Naturally, all of these matters didn't have anything to do with Zhao Hai. This time, the total profit that he gained from his delivery to Sky Water City was about 200 thousand gold coins. This number wasn't small, one should know that a delivery made by an ordinary five-masted ship, even if it was delivered to the Beastmen Prairie, wouldn't reach this much value.

At this point, nobody has quite any idea about the total value of the goods that Zhao Hai brought. But the great nobles already had a ballpark figure, just by judging from the 50 thousand jin of fire fishes that were supplied, 100 thousand gold coins would suffice. This profit made the other nobles feel giddy.

But nobody could really know the exact price that Zhao Hai placed on the fire fishes. But this didn't curb the other nobles' speculation. In their minds, even if it was worth 50 thousand, not 100 thousand, gold coins, the value was still not a small number. It was necessary to know that a noble family's annual income came to about 100 thousand gold coins, and this was already for large noble families. Small Noble families would find it impossible to gain such an amount of money. For the profits gained from the fire fishes to reach half of a large noble family's annual income was something that the nobles were extremely startled about.

It was not only the Nobles who were surprised by this, even the Calci Family weren't expecting such outcome. It was known that the Calci Family were quite lax in managing their assets. For example, all of the matters in Sky Water city were mostly placed on Smith's hands. Only when a major situation happens would the family step in and make the decisions.

Smith already reported the Fire Fish business to the family, but they didn't believe that 40 thousand Fire Fishes would be supplied each month. This was because, in their opinion, this undertaking was impossible. The continent didn't have a hot spring large enough to satisfy this demand. If hot springs weren't used, the only alternative was to artificially set the temperature where the Fire Fishes were thriving, and this in itself was also impossible since the cost would be too high.

One should know that rearing fire fishes using hot springs would take a very long time. Generally, fire fishes would take two to three years to mature. If immature Fire Fishes were served, the taste would be very subpar.

Because of all of these reasons, output of Fire Fishes couldn't be consistently measured. But now, someone claimed that they could supply 50 thousand fire fishes per month, this matter was simply too unbelievable.

In any case, this matter wouldn't impact the family negatively. The money would only be paid when the fire fishes arrive, and the equipment built to house the fire fishes could also be used to hold other types of fish. Thus, the family didn't stop the cooperation.

When Zhao Hai finally delivered the fire fishes to Sky Water City, the Calci Family was unable to sit still. They couldn't understand how Zhao Hai could produce such numbers of fire fishes, this matter was too strange.

Naturally, Smith was adamant on not asking about Zhao Hai's methods. He knew that it would be impossible for Zhao Hai to tell him. But the Family actually pressured him to get the methods of fire fish production from Zhao Hai.

This action from the family was extremely disliked by Smith. He thought that the family was acting in bad faith, Zhao Hai was willing to supply the family, but getting the methods from him was already going too far; it was his personal trade secret. In this case, wasn't asking for Zhao Hai's methods the same as digging for his secrets? This was something you do to enemies, not friends. This made Smith strongly oppose the family's decision.

Of the Calci Family, it was Smith who made contact with Zhao Hai the longest. He was very clear about Zhao Hai's disposition. He knew that Zhao Hai would rather die than face humiliation. If the family were really adamant on acquiring Zhao Hai's methods of raising fire fishes, it may even turn Zhao Hai into the family's enemy.

Smith knew how formidable Zhao Hai was. Zhao Hai becoming the family's enemy is no laughing matter. The Calci Family's power was inferior to the Radiant Church. For Zhao Hai who offended the Church to roam around this freely was testament to Zhao Hai's personal might.

Smith felt that the higher-ups in the family were sometimes quite short-sighted. People like Zhao Hai were more suitable to be befriended, not to be used. If they really were to place pressure on Zhao Hai, then someone would certainly suffer.

At the same time, this matter made Smith feel strange. Although the family was short-sighted, they were very tolerant towards Dark Mages. The interests of Dark Mages were generally left alone by the higher-ups. So what happened this time?

Zhao Hai is a member of the League of Dark Mages. Although he wasn't an elder or someone influential, he still provided substantial help to the League. If someone from the family actually went and pressured Zhao Hai, the consequences would certainly be inconceivable.

Smith had thought of one possible reason, this may have been something that his 5th brother concocted in order to gain more benefits.

Calci Family, like all other great families, also had a competition for the the position of Patriarch. Currently, there were four suitable candidates for the position inside Calci Family; The Eldest child Peter, Second child Smith, Fourth child Mike, and the Fifth child Juwan.

Peter was the first-in-line successor of the Family. He's continuously present inside the Family's headquarters helping the Family with their matters. He is also an important member of the League of Dark Mages. One could even say that almost all of the matters regarding the league was handled by him.

The Second Child Smith governs the Family's purse, Sky Water City. Although he hasn't been contributing to the matters at the headquarters, he still did a great job managing Sky Water City. He had brought tons of gold coins to the family, making his position in the family quite high.

The third child Dillan was an abnormality, he was a cultivation freak. Although he was indeed very formidable, he didn't have the qualities to be a good Patriarch since strength wasn't important in such a position.

The fourth child, Mike, is the diplomat of the Family. He was always present when it came to the Family's social obligations. The fact that the Calci Family didn't have enemies inside the Rosen Empire as well as the fact that the Radiant Church had a hard time entering the territory was all due to him. His contributions to the family were quite large, and his network of contacts outside was also extremely wide.

The fifth child Juwan was an attractive strawbag, devoid of wisdom. He only takes into consideration his own personal being. Seeks small benefits while forgetting righteousness. But his mouth was quite flowery, gaining his father's favor. Also, he always wanted to be the Patriarch. Along with his gang of sleazy villains, they were quite the formidable power inside the Family.

Smith knew that although Peter was struggling to take the position of Patriarch, he would never think of harming the family. He was already managing the family for all these years, he certainly valued it dearly. The only candidate that would force Zhao Hai could only be Juwan.

Smith was quite annoyed at Juwan. He was a typical black sheep. If he wanted to play around, then that's fine, but he always wanted to scramble for power as well as getting in between things. He didn't contribute anything useful to the family, only harm.

Smith also knew that this wasn't just about the successorship. It was certain that some people in the family were quite envious. A supply of 50 thousand fire fishes could net them at least 200 thousand gold coins after further processing. And this was pure profit, all other expenses were already deducted.

A minimum of 200 thousand per month was about 2 million gold coins in a year. Even if someone chooses to ignore this profit, they wouldn't be able to hold themselves for too long. The elders of the family should've been stunned by such figures, and it was certainly Juwan's doing that the family was currently heading the wrong direction.

Not only did Smith decline the family's command, he also wrote a strongly worded letter back. He stated that Zhao Hai was better off left alone, otherwise the family would certainly suffer and lose big.

However, he didn't feel assured. He knew that the elders back at the headquarters were very stubborn and arrogant. Although they were pressured by the Radiant Church all these years, their old bones didn't give in. To the elders, everyone should clear the way when the Calci Family name gets mentioned.

In reality, Smith also held the pride of an old noble family inside himself, but he wasn't excessive like the family elders. He knew that reputation wasn't enough, the family needed strength. Only strength could decide a Clan's future.

Pressuring other people with the status of a Clan wasn't the right way. The family should be collecting talents, they should find and recruit strong and talented individuals and make them belong to the family. Also, there were people who might fight back when faced with pressure, Zhao Hai was one of those examples.

Chapter 383 - Learning to Brew from the Apes

Zhao Hai actually knew of these matters. Although he had been staying inside Sweet Plum Courtyard for these past few days while never going out, he still knew what happens inside the City Lord's office. Of course he would know, he has the monitor.

Although he had been quite low-key, he was very informed about the happenings in the continent. He knew that Smith couldn't be uninformed about the matters of the continent, and when Smith were to know about them, he would discuss it with other people. As long as he talked about it inside the City Lord's Mansion, Zhao Hai would find about it at the earliest possible time.

Zhao Hai was extremely satisfied with Smith's actions but not with the Calci Family. He didn't think that the family would want to get his methods, this made Zhao Hai quite angry.

But hearing from Smith and Phil's conversations, he knew that even though the decision was from the family, not everyone was responsible for this. This made Zhao Hai quite relieved.

He was also clear about internal disputes inside these great clans, so the Calci Family certainly wouldn't be an exception. It was impossible for such a family to not have their own internal power struggle.

This made Zhao Hai quite annoyed, he didn't want to get involved in these things, but these matters actually came to find him.

Currently, Laura and Megan had been very close these past few days. Lately they had been going around Sky Water City to play. On the contrary, since Zhao Hai knew that there were a lot of people who were looking for him, he just stayed inside the City Lord's Mansion.

Laura and the others were walking around the city not just to play, but also to look at the city's situation as well as look for a suitable place to establish their shop.

Zhao Hai wanted to look for a good place for a shop inside Sky Water City. Although Smith told him that this matter would be taken care of, Zhao Hai didn't place his hopes on it. After all, he couldn't just depend on Smith for everything. He was their partner, if they cannot be in the same position, their partnership wouldn't be solid.

The premise of a cooperation was the equality of both sides. If the two parties' standing in the partnership wasn't equal, one of them could only be considered as being hired. Now that Zhao Hai was staying inside the City Lord's Mansion, he felt that he was hiring himself to the Calci Family, this made Zhao Hai uncomfortable deep inside.

One could say that Zhao Hai was a proud person. The more proud a person was about themselves, the less likely they would want to depend on other people.

It was even more so when Zhao Hai learned the ins and outs of the situation. He wanted to find a house outside to stay in even more. He didn't want the Calci Family to think that he owed them a favor since he was made to stay in the mansion.

While he was thinking about this, Smith's door being opened was seen on the monitor. When Smith saw Phil came in he immediately said, "Uncle Phil, what's the matter?"

Phil looked at Smith and forced a smile, "5th young master is coming in two days. I think that he didn't come with good intentions. It would be best to tell Mister Zhao Hai about the situation."

Hearing Phil's report, Smith couldn't help but frown. He didn't think that Juwan would personally come and meet Zhao Hai. Although Smith didn't fear Juwan, it wasn't good if Juwan offends Zhao Hai.

Thinking of this, Smith immediately stood up and said, "Come, let's go see Little Hai." Then he led Phil to walk towards Sweet Plum Courtyard.

Seeing the situation, Zhao Hai immediately turned the monitor off. He began to brew a pot of tea and got a book, pretending to have been reading all this time.

Although he was pretending, the book that he read was about Battle Qi. Now that the farm has reached level 25, it only needed 5 levels to reach level 30. When that time arrives, he could both learn Magic or Battle Qi. Zhao Hai was more inclined to learn Battle Qi since the space already had its own magic system. He could already use magic, but he was clueless about Battle Qi, thus, he began educating himself.

As long as he learns Battle Qi, he could effectively become a Magic and Martial Dual cultivation practitioner. This was quite important to him, so he wanted to closely understand Battle Qi.

Just after he had read a single page, Smith arrived. Smith wasn't polite and directly came in, he didn't want anyone to know that he came here. Upon entering and seeing Zhao Hai reading inside, Smith couldn't help but laugh and said, "I must say, Little Hai, you're quite free and unfettered. Hiding here and drinking tea, you look quite comfortable."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and replied, "It's quite nice, what's the matter? Why did Big Brother Smith come here today?"

Smith nodded then smiled stiffly, "Then I'll leave you to it. But there's something bad, Little Hai. I have something to tell you, please don't get offended."

Zhao Hai nodded, then Smith continued, "Some elders of the family had been incited by my younger brother to make you hand over the method of raising fire fishes. I refused their decision, but my fifth

brother unexpectedly came personally. My brother is quite a conceited person, and sometimes I'm unable to control him. I don't want him to force you, Little Hai. So can you go out and hide for quite some time? Big Brother would certainly find ways to save you."

Zhao Hai was surprised, he didn't think Smith would actually say this. He turned to Smith and said, "Brother Smith, what do you mean? Will we not cooperate anymore? If we do, your younger brother can still disrupt our operations later. I can't always be in hiding, am I?"

Smith smiled bitterly as he shook his head, "Of course not, I'll solve this matter as soon as possible. But you need to give me some time. What do you think? You Big Brother is begging you."

Zhao Hai looked at Smith as he calmly nodded, "Very well, I'll leave Sky Water City tomorrow. But I hope that Brother Smith could fix this matter as soon as possible. I will leave my Phantasmal Beast Hawk to you so that you can use it to deliver me a letter when the matter is taken care of. Don't worry, as long as you give the letter to the hawk, it will certainly find me."

Smith nodded, then forced a smile at Zhao Hai, "Little Hai, this time Big Brother has been unfair to you. I hope that you don't get offended by this."

Zhao Hai returned the smile and said, "It don't mind. Everyone has something they can't solve easily, rest assured."

Smith nodded then said, "That's good, in a while I will have people prepare the money so that you can bring it with you when you leave. I'll also have the Shelley Family notified along the way."

Zhao Hai smiled, "Good, also, you can tell them that if they have any unique plants and animals, I could take those instead of money, I'll pay a high price."

Smith already knew of this custom of Zhao Hai. So he wasn't surprised and just nodded, "Very well, feel relieved, I'll take care of it. Little Hai, you should tidy up, I won't be disturbing you. Have a drink with me in the evening since I won't be able to send you off tomorrow."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "You don't have to be polite, Brother Smith. Right, I want to buy slaves, it would be best if they have craftsmanship skills. I don't care about how expensive they are. If they

cannot be prepared today, then giving them to me when I return is also good. No matter what kind of craftsmanship skill they have, I'll have them as long as they have the skill."

Smith nodded, "Alright, don't worry. They'll be waiting for you when you return. How many do you want?"

Zhao Hai replied, "The more the better, except for craftsmanship, it would be better if you could also find me some slaves that are literate. I don't want Battle slaves who don't know how to read. I want those who know how to craft and those who know how to read."

Although he didn't know why Zhao Hai was so specific about the slaves, Smith didn't ask any further and just nodded, "Okay, the next time you come, I'll promise you that you'll be able to get these slaves."

Zhao Hai nodded, "That's good. Then Big Brother, you still need to be busy. You don't have to worry about me anymore." Then Smith stood up and went away.

Looking at Smith's departing back, Zhao Hai smiled bitterly to himself, "I just arrived for two days, now I need to leave. Well, I happen to need to learn beer brewing from Little Jin. Hai, I didn't think that I would actually need to learn beer-making from a monkey. If I tell this to someone, they would certainly laugh at me."

After ridiculing himself, Zhao Hai returned his attention to the Battle Qi Fundamentals book. The book's contents were very simple, it teaches you to exercise and steadily improve your body's strength. Time will come when you feel a tingling sensation, and this sensation would be Battle Qi. It is a mysterious force present in the human body.

This theory wasn't new to Zhao Hai. There were various descriptions of Qi present in Chinese Martial arts. Zhao Hai used to be a nerd, so he read a ton of novels, it wasn't strange for him so have some sort of dream of being a martial artist. He tried to learn some martial arts from the television, but since he didn't have the proper guidance of a master, he didn't have any positive results, so he finally gave up.

Although this book has some aspects that were quite different to what he knew, there were common ways in them that would help a person get stronger.

In Chinese Martial Arts, the main points were giving priority to the body's health, paying more attention to breathing and exhalation. Battle Qi was more like external martial arts in Chinese terms. They give main emphasis on the body's strength, circulating external qi rather than internal. Not only did it emphasize having a strong body, it also highlights having strong fighting strength.

But this kind of practice method could easily cause internal injuries. When it came to Warriors, internal injuries were very difficult to cure. If you were unable to completely heal your internal injuries, they might affect you when you reach old age. This was what most warriors fear.

This made Zhao Hai's feelings quite convoluted, he didn't know whether he should practice Battle Qi or the Martial Arts that he had tried to learn before.

Without knowing, afternoon came, Laura and the others also came back with Megan. When they arrived at Sweet Plum Courtyard, Megan chatted with Laura and the others for while before leaving. After seeing Megan leave, Laura and the others immediately went to Zhao Hai's room.

Seeing that the group had come back, Zhao Hai gave a nod and smiled, "How was it? Did you have fun?"

Laura sat down and poured herself a cup of tea, "Quite fun, but there weren't any more things that we find amusing. How about Brother Hai? Aren't you getting bored with staying with the same people at home all the time?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "There's no other people present here right now. You need to tidy up, we'll head back to Ape Island."

Laura stared at Zhao Hai and asked, "Brother Hai, is there a problem?"

Zhao Hai nodded, then he told Laura and the others about the Calci Family's matter. Laura listened then calmly said, "Right then, let's leave for a while. This way, we won't be worrying about the Calci Family's internal matters. At least brother Smith still cares for us."

Zhao Hai agreed, "Of course he would take care of us. Otherwise he wouldn't have us leave. If we stay, we'll get embroiled with Juwan's schemes. We could have stood right by brother Smith's side, but he didn't let us do so; this expresses his sincerity towards us. I think it is also good that we head towards

Ape Island, it would be best if we learn how to brew those beer made by Little Jin's tribe. This may allow us to add this as one of our products, increasing our income."

The little monkey was currently being hugged by Meg. When he heard Zhao Hai mention him, he gave a few happy shrieks as he expressed a proud appearance.

Laura smiled towards Little Jin, "What are you so proud for? That thing that you brew is very sour, it would be strange if people actually like it. I actually like the bread tree fruit. Brother Hai, you said that you aren't planting any bamboo rice this time, how about planting some Bread Trees?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I actually had the same idea, it seems like the Bread Tree has more output compared to Bamboo rice. But there are also advantages in planting Bamboo rice. We have no other choice but continue planting them. How about this, I'll have Cai'er leave a piece of land for the Bread tree. What do you think?"

Meg nodded this time, "It's good. The fruit of the tree can be eaten directly, it also tastes good. Furthermore, a fruit is enough for a beastman to eat. If we save the fruits we harvest, we could sell them to Brother Wales come spring. It will certainly be a huge hit, right Little Jin?"

Little Jin shrieked excitedly, he moved his limbs around while in Meg's arms which made the women smile tenderly. With Little Jin present, they seem to be laughing a lot more.

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Meg's idea is very good. Moreover, the Bread fruit could be retained for a long time. Also, we seem to underestimate Little Jin's liquor. Although it seemed to be sour, it was because Little Jin had fermented it for too long, otherwise the flavor should be very good. Haven't you experienced the liquor's sweet smell? Believe me, that liquor will certainly be the continent's best seller in the future."

The reason behind Zhao Hai's confidence stems from the sales volume of beer back on Earth. No matter male or female, almost everybody would drink a few glasses of beer. Of all the liquor sold, beer was considered to be the one with the most volume consumed. If Zhao Hai manages to generate beer, it will surely sell very well in the continent.

Also, the reason why Zhao Hai wanted to continue planting Bamboo rice was because he wanted to make rice wine. When he manages to make rice wine, it would certainly be popular as well. With these products, they could earn a lot of money.

Because Laura and the others didn't like the taste of beer, they didn't drink much when they were still at Ape Island. They just took a little sip and didn't consume much. So when Zhao Hai expressed his thoughts, they didn't believe it. Laura frowned and said, "Really? Is brother Hai really confident about this?"

Zhao Hai nodded, while Little Jin shrieked proudly at the side. This brought another round of laughter from the group.

1. Haven Brewery company coming through!

Chapter 384 - I'm Afraid That You Can't Handle It

Zhao Hai sat in the Haven while it left Sky Water City. Right now, they were already offshore. Although this part of the sea was still under Rosen Empire's region, there weren't a lot of Rosen Empire warships that could be seen.

Rosen Empire's sea defense wasn't very strong. Their warships were generally used to keep their maritime territory in order. Those who the empire sends outwards to pillage and plunder were generally their privateers.

It may sound absurd, for the empire to send some pillagers out at sea. But this was the truth, those privateers wouldn't act inside Rosen Empire waters, moreover, they won't fly the banner of the empire.

Actually, this matter of nations sending forth privateers was a public secret. Almost all nations in the continent had their own privateers who move on different parts of the sea, flaunting different banners from their host nation. But they were still under some sort of control by the state.

However, these privateers generally wouldn't live great lives. If they do a bad job, their host country would deal with them. If they do a good job, the plundered nation would be the ones hunting them

down. Since there was still need to control these privateers, an official member of the nation would act at its true core, the other members were generally mercenaries.

Take the Rosen Empire's privateer fleet for example, their fleet commander is a member of the Rosen Imperial Family, but all other people were mostly mercenaries. When they turn into privateers, their identity would be criminals, pirates. But if they do arrive in Rosen Empire, they would be granted asylum by the Rosen Empire navy.

Zhao Hai and the others were now out at sea, although they still weren't out of the Rosen Empire's waters, the control of the empire around these parts were quite lax.

These parts were the most attractive places for merchants. Although they could travel along the empire's coastline for safety, they would need to pay taxes. But if they travel along these waters, although they could meet some pirates, there was still the possibility of travelling safely. This way, they didn't need to pay taxes, since taxes for nautical cargo were very high.

Zhao Hai didn't care about any of these since, right now, he was carrying the Calci Family's badge. Having this badge meant that he was exempted from Rosen Empire's taxation, it was the family's privilege.

With this privilege, there was no way that Zhao Hai wouldn't make use of it. He didn't want his money to be used for paying Rosen Empire's tax.

At this time, Zhao Hai wasn't sitting on the deck of his ship while watching the sea. Several small islands pass by leisurely, the scene was quite tranquil and peaceful.

Zhao Hai liked the peacefulness of the sea. He thought that the sea is just like a person. Sometimes she would be in a good mood, sometimes in a bad mood. Although both aspects have their own charm, Zhao Hai believes that when the sea is tranquil, that was when it was the most beautiful. It looked and felt like a sleeping beauty.

At this moment, a fleet of ships could be seen approaching from the distance. Zhao Hai couldn't help but stare at the group of ships, since the ships weren't any ordinary vessels, they were flying the banner of the Rosen Empire. The fleet was led by three five-masted ironclad battleships followed by seven three-masted battleships. A total of 10 ships were heading towards Zhao Hai's location.

Zhao Hai stared, it wasn't normal for these ships to reach this part of the sea. The only reason for their appearance here should be Zhao Hai's group.

Zhao Hai frowned, then he opened the monitor. The ships weren't that far from them, he should be able to see the opposite party at this distance.

He knew that the leader of such a show of power should be at one of those three ironclad battleships, so he focused his attention to the three ships and scoured for possible suspects.

Laura and the others were standing on Zhao Hai's side so they knew what was going on. They were also paying attention to the monitor and wanted to see who was there to block them. Their ship was sporting the Calci Family's badge, no ordinary ship would dare approach it.

Zhao Hai eyes suddenly shrank, this was because he saw a person, a young person about less than 30 years old wearing Noble clothing. He looked very charming while carrying his Magic staff.

Naturally, Zhao Hai didn't notice the young man because of how good looking he was. On the contrary, he disliked these kinds of men. To Zhao Hai, they looked just like a well polished egg.

The main reason that Zhao Hai was surprised was because the young man looked just like a younger version of Smith, but more charming.

Seeing the young man made Zhao Hai think that this man should be Smith's fifth brother, Juwan.

Zhao Hai couldn't help but frown, he didn't understand why Juwan would appear at this time. Moreover, they seem to be planning on blocking their ship. Didn't Smith say that this guy will arrive tomorrow at Sky Water City? And that he would arrive by Law River? Why would he be here?

While thinking of these things, the ten ships had already surrounded Zhao Hai's group. Juwan's ship went to Zhao Hai's ship's side, then while using a springboard, the two ships were connected. At this time, Juwan came over.

Zhao Hai didn't stop him, he knew that there was no use to preventing him from coming. Juwan came so in any case, Zhao Hai had to come and meet him. He wanted to know what kind of person this Juwan is, what he wanted, as well as how he will threaten him.

Juwan arrived onboard the Haven and then swept a glance at Zhao Hai. His expression showed that he seemed to see a beggar on the street.

But when he saw Laura with Meg and Nier, his eyes lit up. This made Zhao Hai's expression sink, he immediately disliked this person. It didn't matter that he was Smith's brother nor that he was a member of Calci Family, Zhao Hai came to despise him.

Zhao Hai didn't say anything, he just looked at Juwan as Juwan also looked at him. Juwan was waiting for Zhao Hai to speak first, but Zhao Hai didn't do so. It was a competition of silence.

Zhao Hai looked at Juwan's face, then he suddenly smiled. He waved his hand and had his undead prepare chairs and tables as well as tea.

When Zhao Hai waved his hand, Laura and the others understood what he wanted to do. So they immediately sat on the chairs and poured themselves a cup of tea, ignoring the presence of Juwan.

Juwan was at first dumbfounded about what happened, then a boundless anger came. He didn't think that Zhao Hai would choose to ignore him this way, he completely disregarded his face.

When he saw Zhao Hai take an apple to tease the little monkey in his arms, Juwan couldn't help it anymore as he roared towards Zhao Hai, "Zhao Hai, you dare ignore me?! Do you know who I am? You dared act like this to me?"

Zhao Hai looks at Juwan and showed a faint smile, "Why don't you ask yourself who you are, why are asking me? Why would it be ridiculous for me to treat you like this? This is my ship, my private property. It was you guys who actually dared to come aboard my ship without permission. Now what? You want me to invite you for dinner?"

Juwan pointed his finger at Zhao Hai, unable to utter a word. At this time, the person beside Juwan yelled and rushed towards Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai was already wary of these people. Juwan brought some

Warrior dressed people with him, these people's strengths weren't great, they have the same standard as dogs.

The person who charged towards Zhao Hai obviously wanted to make Zhao Hai look ugly hoping for Juwan to reward him later. However, Zhao Hai didn't mind him. The warrior had the strength of a 5th rank. On this ship, any undead could cut this man in half in a matter of seconds.

Zhao Hai didn't bat an eyelid and just gave a look at Shun who was beside him. Shun immediately appeared at the warrior's side, pointing his dagger at the warrior's neck in a backhand grip. At this point, Zhao Hai calmly said, "That's enough, Shun. I don't want to see blood this day."

Shun complied, although the dagger didn't continue on its path, Shun didn't withdraw it. He just watched the warrior with cold eyes. The man, on the other hand, didn't dare more even a single finger. He saw from Shun's eyes that if he were to even move a little, the other party wouldn't hesitate to pierce his throat.

The other people who came on the ship were stunned, Juwan didn't think that Zhao Hai would dare to act. The other warriors around Juwan immediately went to protect him.

Zhao Hai stood up, then he looked at Juwan and said, "You should be Juwan, yes? Don't worry, I won't kill you for Brother Smith's sake. So, what do you want?"

Juwan looked at Zhao Hai then waved his hand. The warrior immediately returned to his side. Although the warrior was unsuccessful, Juwan made sure to remember him. No matter what, this man dared to make the first move.

Juwan looked at Zhao Hai and calmed his face down, at least on the surface. Then he said with a serious voice, "You really don't know why I came?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, "To be honest, I do know why you came. But I want to know what you'll do if I decline. Will you make these battleships attack me?"

Juwan coldly snorted, "Perhaps, but I urge you to think carefully. If you refuse, what do you think the family would think of you? I will also make the people from the Family refrain from sheltering you."

Zhao Hai looked at Juwan and smiled faintly, "I'm fine with that. But you also have to think about the consequences if that would happen. Did you already do that?"

Juwan gazed at Zhao Hai coldly, "There's no use in frightening me. This will be up to you alone. You won't be able to cause a ruckus since nobody will listen to you."

Zhao Hai remained smiling then said, "That's not necessary. I'm not a soft persimmon that you could just pinch. I will resist, and I will be fierce. I'm afraid that you won't be able to handle it."

Chapter 385 - I'll Accept These Ships.

Juwan didn't believe Zhao Hai's words. In his opinion, Zhao Hai was a Dark Mage who offended the Radiant Church and was forced to leave his home, he didn't have any other way of surviving. Thus, Juwan didn't fear Zhao Hai's threats, instead he showed a cold smile and said, "No need to frighten me, there's no use in talking big words. You came to seek refuge with our family, but refuses to pay a price. Aren't you being shameful in taking my family's money?"

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't think that this was what Juwan thought of him. But he didn't mind it, he only looked at Juwan and said, "Not at all, and why would I be shameless? If I wasn't a Dark Mage when I came to do business in Sky Water City, wouldn't you still settle me? If I came to Sky Water City, wouldn't your family still protect me? When I came to Sky Water City, I didn't ask your family to guard my well-being. I didn't ask to stay at the City Lord's Mansion either, it was Smith who made me stay there. It was never in my intention to be there. And now you want to take this into account? You cannot be any more wrong."

Juwan was brought to silence by Zhao Hai. He was right, even if he wasn't a Dark Mage, the family would still protect him inside Sky Water City. This was one of the reasons why Sky Water City thrived, if they didn't do this, the city wouldn't have reached its present degree.

Juwan was speechless for quite some time, he didn't know how to reply. He looked at Zhao Hai's face and couldn't help but feel his anger rising up. Then he said loudly, "You're saying that you won't give me the thing that I want? If you don't hand it over, then I'm going to be impolite."

Zhao Hai looked interestingly at Juwan and said, "Impolite? You want to attack me? Do you have the strength?"

Juwan looked at Zhao Hai's eyes and couldn't help but feel coldness in his heart. He knew that he went too far in asking and even did it in Zhao Hai's ship. If Zhao Hai wanted to deal with him, it would be very easy. He heard that Zhao Hai's strength wasn't weak.

However, Juwan gave a look to the person standing behind him and calmed his heart down. This person was someone that was sent by the family to support him and was placed as his housekeeper. Even though this man always said 'we cannot do this', 'we cannot do that', his strength was actually quite formidable, a 7th rank Dark Mage.

When Juwan saw this man, he felt relief. He turned his head to Zhao Hai and said, "If you really have the ability to deal with me, then show me."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Witness this". Then he waved his hand, covering the skies above the ten ships with an uncountable number of undead. Soon, the ships were overwhelmed by Zhao Hai's summons. Nobody expected Zhao Hai to deal with the ships instead of Juwan. Before long, there were no living persons left on the vessels.

Then Zhao Hai waved his hand for a second time, making ten clumps of black mists head towards the ships. After the mists vanished, all the original crew from those ten ships were turned into undead.

Zhao Hai looked at the dumbfounded Juwan and said, "I'll accept these ten ships while preparing a boat for you, you don't have that much people left anyway. There should be ships that pass by this place so you should be able to reach Sky Water in a few days." Then he waved his hands as the ten ships were led away by Zhao Hai's newly acquired undead crews.

Juwan was frozen while all of these happened. He didn't think Zhao Hai would do this, this was completely out of his expectations.

The person sent by the family just stood there and sighed in his heart. Zhao Hai's move was very beautiful, only embarrassing Juwan while taking into account the Calci Family's face. With Zhao Hai's strength they wouldn't be able to do anything.

The housekeeper looked at the ten ships that they initially brought and saw that all the crew had become advanced level undead. Turning thousands of people into advanced level undead was not something that was easily done, not even himself could do this feat. Even if he did so, his lifespan would drastically decrease. This made him have a new understanding of Zhao Hai's strength. At the same time, he also noticed that Zhao Hai's ships were also filled with these advanced level undead. This meant that there were even more Advanced undead on Zhao Hai's pockets.

Seeing the ships being driven away, Juwan was frightened. He got angry as his pale expression turned to Zhao Hai. Then he shouted wildly, "Kill him! Kill him for me!"

Just as he said this, a pair of powerful hands held him. Juwan turned to look and saw the housekeeper that the family sent. The housekeeper calmly looked at him and said, "Young master, this is no joking matter. Let's leave."

Then the housekeeper turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Mister Zhao Hai, I'll have to ask you to prepare a boat for us. Also, please prepare enough water and food."

Zhao Hai looked at the housekeeper and faintly smiled, "No problem. I will also send a letter to Brother Smith so that he would send people to fetch you as soon as possible. Mister, I must also add that no matter how the Calci Family deals with this later on, my stance remains the same. I just want you to tell the family to think carefully next time. Tell them to not deceive their minds with the benefits in front of their eyes." Then he waved his hand towards his undead to prepare the things for Juwan.

Zhao Hai gave a whistle as a Blood Hawk fell from the Space. He wrote a few words as he sent a letter to Smith via the Hawk.

He didn't ignore Juwan, Zhao Hai turned his head and said, "Well, Juwan, you can go now. The boat has food and water enough for seven days, I've placed some wine as well. Although this boat isn't big, it is enough for your group to sit comfortably inside. This is not a sailing ship, so you don't have to do anything. As long as nothing happens, Brother Smith's men should arrive in three days. You wouldn't be in any grave danger."

Juwan wanted to retort, but was instead pulled by his housekeeper. The housekeeper knew that there was no use in talking to Zhao Hai at this point. It would be better if they left early, they truly underestimated Zhao Hai's strength.

At the same time, the housekeeper thought about making the family change its approach regarding Zhao Hai. The other party was a man they cannot mess with, his strength is too great.

The manager remembered that all of the undead sent by Zhao Hai to attack the ten ships were all Advanced level undead. There were tens of thousands of them, almost equal to the strength of three legions. One person controlling three legions of those undead who weren't afraid of death. How can anyone mess with this person?

This man wasn't just a housekeeper, he was also someone sent by the family to act as surveillance. The Calci Family sent these housekeepers to each of the successors in order to monitor and evaluate their performance. They were sent to appraise the person as to whether or not they were fit to hold the position of Patriarch, they were very essential for the process of selection.

Naturally, this matter wasn't made known to the candidates. They only thought that the Family was taking good care of them, that's why they sent those housekeepers to help their day to day lives.

Zhao Hai didn't mind them anymore. He wanted the Calci Family to learn something from this encounter. He wanted to make them know that he wasn't afraid while at the same time wanting to find out how the family would continue on with this matter. If they handled it well, then all is good. If they didn't then Zhao Hai would look at other directions since the Calci Family wasn't worthy of his cooperation.

Looking at Juwan's boat that was slowly turning into a black spot, Laura expressed her worries, "Brother Hai, is this good enough? Are we giving Brother Smith enough face?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Don't worry, I had a Blood Hawk carry the ghost staff. Also I had a few of them patrol the surrounding skies for a few days. As long as a situation happens, we would be there to save them. After all, he is still Smith's younger brother. We can't have him face any trouble, we only want to teach him a lesson. Otherwise, we won't be seen highly by the Calci Family, they will only treat us as servants. I don't want that."

Laura nodded as she sighed, "I didn't think that someone like that existed inside Calci Family, it was surprising. I hope Brother Smith could find a solution as soon as possible."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "It doesn't matter if he takes a long time. We could just stay at Little Jin's island and continue to learn how to make his liquor." At this time, the little monkey expressed his delight, making Zhao Hai and the others laugh.

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At this time, on the boat, Juwan was angry while looking at his housekeeper, "Zach, what are you doing?! Why do we have to listen to his words? Why don't we deal with him? Didn't the clan say that you are strong? Why do I see that you're good for nothing right now?"

Zach looked at Juwan and calmly responded, "Young Master, it will be impossible for us to beat Zhao Hai. Didn't you see? He just released tens of thousands of advanced level undead, tens of thousands! If we fight him, then we're just courting death. Even if he cannot kill us, it would be simple to capture us. This was why I didn't resist."

Although Juwan was very angry, he was not a fool. After recollecting the situation of Zhao Hai blotting the skies with undead, he couldn't help but feel startled. He knew that what Zach said was right, but he couldn't just swallow this humiliation. From his childhood years to the present, it was only Zhao Hai who treated him like this.

Juwan gritted his teeth as he sat down. At the same time, he gave an oath in his heart that he would certainly tell this matter to his father. He must return Zhao Hai's actions and wash away this shame.

Chapter 386 - It's Not Impossible, It is a Certainty

Smith was currently in his own study, writing a letter to his elder brother. He wanted to explain Zhao Hai's situation in detail, he wanted the family to change its ways in approaching Zhao Hai.

Smith knew that the most important thing for the family was Zhao Hai, those fire fishes only came second. Money cannot compare to what Zhao Hai could bring. Smith wouldn't even hesitate to exchange the entire Sky Water City for Zhao Hai's loyalty, but this was naturally impossible.

Smith also knew that Zhao Hai wasn't the type of person that could be lured in with money. Although it seems like Zhao Hai loved money, every single coin he got was rightfully gained. Even when he robbed Grand Duke Lionheart of all his belongings, Zhao Hai did it with his own ability.

Smith also knows that Zhao Hai took sentiment heavily into account, this was why Smith has been taking care of Ruyen all this time. Although Ruyen's family hadn't sent someone to pick her up yet, she was very safe inside Sky Water City. She can go around and play without worrying about her own safety.

Although Zhao Hai rarely visited Ruyen, Smith took care of her very well. He wanted Zhao Hai to know that he had been helping him secretly. This was so that Zhao Hai could develop even a small trace of gratitude towards Calci Family, which may be taken into account if ever the family would need his skills in the future.

But Smith's painstaking efforts were destroyed in this one move by the family. Smith understood that if this matter wasn't handled properly, Zhao Hai wouldn't work with the family anymore. This loss is too great.

Smith didn't believe that Zhao Hai was afraid of the Radiant Church. With his attitude towards the church, how could he be afraid of it? In addition, Zhao Hai was a crown prince back at the Beastman Prairie where the Radiant Church couldn't reach their hands. So even if the family didn't place any importance to Zhao Hai, he could still hide inside the Prairie. At that time, there would be no way for the Church to deal with him.

At this moment, Phil came in. Only Phil was able to enter Smith's study without notification. When Smith saw his Phil, he looked at the paper on the other's hand and asked, "Uncle Phil, what's the matter?"

Phil calmly gave Smith the paper. Seeing Phil's expression, Smith knew that something must have happened. He immediately received the paper and read its contents, then his face turned very ugly in an instant.

Bang!! Smith slapped the surface of his table, then stood up. He walked around the room as he mumbled, "This doesn't make sense, why would he do this? Why is he making things very difficult for me?"

Phil knew that Smith wasn't talking about Zhao Hai, but Juwan. Juwan almost pushed Zhao Hai to the opposing side. Fortunately, Zhao Hai was patient, and just taught Juwan a lesson. Otherwise, things would have been very bad for the Calci Family.

Smith wasn't angry about how Zhao Hai treated Juwan. On the contrary, he felt relieved. These past few years, Juwan had been extremely annoying. But because he needed to consider his father's face, Smith didn't say anything. Juwan was getting more and more excessive, it was about time that someone taught him a lesson.

At this point, Phil's serious voice can be heard, "I already arranged the people who will meet the fifth young master. Young Master, you must prepare and solve this matter as soon as possible. Or else, the fifth young master might create more troubles when he comes back."

Smith nodded, "It's not a just a possibility, it is certain. With Little Hai giving him a lesson, I think that he will certainly incite the clan to deal with Zhao Hai when he gets back. This matter should be taken care of, otherwise the family would certainly suffer. I always have this feeling that Zhao Hai had a lot of secrets and what he showed us was just the tip of the iceberg. We cannot push him to become our enemy."

Phil was in approval with Smith's view. He had a quite a lot of interactions with Zhao Hai so he had made some sort of understanding about their visitor. Just like what Smith said, Phil also thought that there were too many secrets that Zhao Hai has not yet revealed. It was certainly unwise for the family to turn him into an enemy before they knew everything about Zhao Hai.

Phil nodded and said, "We still have a few days time. But I'm currently worried about the fifth young master's safety. Now that the young master had been thrown out at sea by Zhao Hai, there may be some people who'll develop thoughts of attacking him. Don't forget, we have a lot of enemies."

Smith shook his head and smiled, "No need to be worried, Little Hai already had that covered. It can be seen that he still didn't want to have a falling out with us. I'm sure that he should have sent someone to guard Juwan's safety."

Phil nodded, then Smith sighed and said, "Uncle Phil, make sure to get him back safely. There's no other acceptable outcome."

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At this time, Zhao Hai was sitting on the deck while observing Juwan's situation. He couldn't have Juwan suffer an accident, otherwise, he wouldn't have anything to say to Smith. He also wouldn't be able to cooperate with the Calci Family anymore.

Thus, he could only insure Juwan's safety. He also wanted to see how the family reacts to this scenario. But he really didn't worry too much. This area was still under Sky Water City's domain, the Calci Family's influence here should still be quite strong.

And just like what he expected, a Calci Family ship came to pick Juwan up after three days of sending the letter. Zhao Hai felt relieved, currently, they were now approaching Ape Island.

When Zhao Hai returned to Sky Water City, he didn't go and see Ruyen. He knew that she didn't want to meet him, and from Laura's inquiry, Ruyen was already living happily in the city. Zhao Hai didn't want to disturb her.

Naturally, he knew what Smith was secretly doing. Zhao Hai really put to heart what Smith just did, this proved that Smith truthfully regarded him very high deep in his heart.

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This time, Zhao Hai obtained 10 additional ships. Adding on to the three he obtained earlier, the Swordfish, and the Haven, he now had a total of 15 ships.

Fifteen ships wasn't a small number, most clans wouldn't necessarily have this many ships. Although these ships' ability to store cargo wasn't as good as freighters, Zhao Hai still thought that these ships were still useful.

In five days time, they finally arrived at Ape Island. They could actually arrive at an earlier time, but Zhao Hai didn't want to be suspicious, so he just went with the normal voyage towards the island.

Zhao Hai's purpose in returning to the island was mostly for studying Little Jin's way of brewing beer. For this matter, he brought over a few beastmen. Since these beastmen had a bit of experience in making liquor, they should be able to learn quite easily.

Ape Island was still the same, when Zhao Hai and the others came down from the ship, Little Jin's tribemates were already waiting for them. Zhao Hai and the others weren't polite and immediately rode on the backs of some gorillas as they headed back to the lair.

This was the first time that the beastmen came to the island, so they were frozen at the sight of the huge trees. They didn't imagine that there were such huge trees that existed in this world.

Then, Zhao Hai introduced them to the Bread fruit. He just planted the trees in the space, so there hasn't been any fruits that were produced yet.

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After staying at Little Jin's place for a while, Zhao Hai took some Bread Fruit and Beer before going back to Iron Mountain Fort.

Even though they hadn't returned for quite some time, there were no major changes that occurred on the fort other than the fact that Blockhead and Rockhead recently retired for some time. They were striving hard, hoping to break through their bottleneck.

To be honest, Blockhead and Rockhead's aptitudes weren't that great. But they were willing to work hard, which was rarely seen in some people. Zhao Hai adored this quality,

When Zhao Hai's group arrived at the fort's living room, Green, Merine and Kun were present. When he saw the group appear, Green smiled and said, "Oh?! Got bored of playing and decided to come home?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "A bit. Sky Water City is very nice, I also went to find us some slaves. I figured that it was time to increase the number of people we have here. Right, Grandpa Green, I have some good things here." Then he took out a Bread fruit and a bottle of beer.

Green looked curiously at the bread fruit. Zhao Hai smiled faintly as he opened it. When the fruit was opened, the flesh inside immediately inflated. Green was startled when he tasted the fruit, although it looked strange, it was quite interesting, it is also very good.

Then Zhao Hai made him taste the beer. Although Zhao Hai informed him that he would be taking away some liquor makers, Green wasn't informed about what liquor they would be making. Now that Zhao Hai brought some samples back, Green was curious and tasted it.

However, the taste was quite disappointing. And it's true, the state of the beer was very sour because of the current method of fermentation. It was not a very good thing to drink at the moment. Green didn't understand why Zhao Hai wanted to brew this stuff.

Green placed the glass down and turned to Zhao Hai as he said, "Young master, do we really need to make this time? To be honest, this is not tasty."

Zhao Hai smiled and replied, "It is certainly not tasty at present, this is because Little Jin didn't take good care of it. If we ferment it properly, the flavor will certainly very different, im sure. Also, I'm preparing to start growing some bread trees here. Although it is a tree, it has a higher yield that bamboo rice. What do you think?"

Green nodded and said, "This thing is truly good. It might even change the continent's staple food. It is a good thing to plant these. But young master, this tree grows on an island, its climate is very different compared to here. I don't think we need to plant them large scale, we should do so in small batches and see if they can survive in this environment. If it can't then we have no choice than to forget about it."

Zhao Hai thought for a moment before nodding. Because of the Space, he had forgotten about the effects of the climate. It seems like the situation here was the same as back on Earth. There were some southern fruits that couldn't be planted on northern soil because of the differing climate.

But Zhao Hai had already decided to plant some Bread Trees inside the Space. The yield of this tree is too high. If the Space grew them, a Bread Tree's one season of harvest could beat three seasons of Bamboo Rice.

When this Bread tree produces fruit, he could sell it to the beastmen. Zhao Hai believed that the beastmen would certainly love it very much. The fruit was very convenient to carry and can be instantly

eaten after being opened, moreover, it can be stored for a long time. For beastmen, this was the type of fruit that they wanted to obtain.

Merine happily laughed and said, “Young Master, it would certainly be good to plant this tree. It can be prepared very easily. If we plant a large number of it inside the Space, we can sell it to the continent as well. You mentioned that the bread fruit can be substituted with grain to sell to the beastmen. But you don’t know how popular this food will be when also sold to humans. This fruit is just like grain, since it could be easily eaten and prepared.”

Zhao Hai stared, then he scratched his head, “I actually forgot about this point. You’re right, Grandma Merine. Come take a few of these fruits and try cooking with them.”

Merine nodded, “Very well, I’ll give it a try.”

Green looked at Zhao Hai and said, “Young Master, it’s currently winter. You can’t do anything here right now, we can’t go to the mountains and scour for stones either. How about you go find some islands and see whether you can take some stones there and bring it here? Otherwise, we will have to wait for spring before continuing with our plans, and I think that it would be too late at that point. What do you think?”

Zhao Hai thought about Green’s words then said, “Good, I’ll go find some small uninhabited islands and bring its stones right here. Also, this way, we wouldn’t have to destroy the Back Wasteland in the future.”

Green nodded then asked, “How is the situation at Sky Water City?”

Zhao Hai told Green and the others about the happenings back at Sky Water City. He didn’t hide anything from them. This time, the matter with the Calci Family has two sides, one is good while the other is bad. The good one involves them being able to continue cooperating with the family. The bad thing involves them retreating, and making their position on the continent require more firmness. Zhao Hai hopes that Green would prepare for both scenarios.

After listening to Zhao Hai’s recollection, Kun sighed and said, “No matter where, struggle for power exists. This time, Little Hai did a good job. We should let the Calci Family know that we are not pushovers, only then will they respect our standing.

Chapter 387 - Level Up

Telling Green and the others about those matters made Zhao Hai completely relieved. He believed that Green and the others would certainly make appropriate preparations. Actually, they really didn't need to rush those preparations right now, they could wait until the Calci Family makes its move. As long as the family took a side, no matter good or bad, Zhao Hai would need to act accordingly.

Zhao Hai and the others returned to Ape Island, this time with Green, Merine, and Kun. When they first saw the island, they thought that it would be fantastic if they could build a base on top of it.

However, Zhao Hai didn't want to destroy anything on the island. This place was Little Jin's domain. They lived for generations here, if Zhao Hai destroys this island, Little Jin's tribe might not be able to cope with it.

What they needed to do right now was learn how to brew beer from Little Jin first. Then they would return to Iron Mountain fort to make their experimentation. Maybe in the future, the group would be able to drink delicious beer.

Zhao Hai also had another thing to do, which was to find small islands that they could mine some stones from. This was so that they could prepare some houses for this coming spring.

Zhao Hai knew that Little Jin was quite clever, no matter what Zhao Hai says, the little monkey would understand. This would make things extremely easier for Zhao Hai.

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The liquor that Little Jin made actually had a simple process. They would place the ripe bread fruit to the tree hole, pour in some water, then make the natural yeast ferment the liquid until it had this sort of fragrance.

Naturally, there were some points that they needed to pay attention in. First was the sealing, second was the degree of ripeness of the fruit, and third was placing the bread fruit along with its shell.

This didn't mean that only the shell was used in making the beer, on the contrary, it was the flesh of the fruit that was necessary. However, the shell also played an important role in the brewing process. It provides that beer flavor that Zhao Hai recognized. Without the shell, you would only get a barrel of dirty water with green furs.

Zhao Hai didn't know why this happened, so he could only try to use this method at this time. He is hoping that the beastmen liquor makers can improve the process and make a more delicious beer.

These beastmen winemakers have been living their life comfortably in the recent times. Their main task was to make milk wine, they didn't need to go do grazing but they still have enough food to eat, have money to spend, and milk wine to drink. Every aspect of their current life was beautiful.

In reality, beastmen loved tranquility, so they deeply desired a peaceful life. However, they needed to survive inside the Prairie, so they would migrate all the time and roam to different places. It was very fortunate that right now they need not migrate anymore. They can just stay in one place and live peacefully. Their children were getting educated, they didn't need to worry about food, and the best thing was having enough vegetables to eat.

Before, for a group like the Giant-Horned Bull Clan, it was impossible for them to eat vegetables several times per year since vegetables were very expensive. Currently, in Iron Mountain Fort, vegetables were cheap so they wanted to eat it as frequently as possible. In addition, they also had Blue eyed rabbit meat, so they didn't lack on that department either. For them, their present life is extremely beautiful.

Because of this, the beastmen felt extremely grateful to Zhao Hai. Beastmen were simple minded beings, if you're good to them, then they will feel gratitude, they will do anything to pay you back. Otherwise, you are their enemies, it was a very simple philosophy.

So when Zhao Hai asked them to study the ape's way of making liquor, they didn't complain. On the contrary, they were very careful in learning, afraid of missing a crucial point in the process.

However, their worries were unnecessary. This was because the brewing of beer was very simple. Not only can they learn it quickly, even ordinary humans wouldn't find it hard to learn.

Regarding this situation, Zhao Hai was already expecting it. In all honesty, he didn't think that the process would be this simple.

After learning the process of making beer, Zhao Hai delivered the beastmen as well as Green's group back to Iron Mountain Fort. He wanted them to learn how to make beer, so that in the future they would have proper insights into making other kinds of liquor, like one made from rice.

Naturally, Zhao Hai made Green manage these matters. Currently, Zhao Hai was on his ship which was leaving Ape Island. He wanted to look for small island that contained some stone that they could use.

Actually, these few days, Zhao Hai was also waiting for Smith's letter to arrive. He wanted to find out whether the matter was finally solved. To his disappointment, the letter still hasn't arrived.

But Zhao Hai wasn't worried, he knew that after Juwan returns to the family, he would certainly find ways to deal with Zhao Hai. There are not many things that Smith could do about this.

After leaving Ape Island, Zhao Hai and the others were slowly approaching the deep sea. There are numerous islands at the sea, some of them had freshwater in them, becoming supply points for some people. It was on these islands that pirates and great powers built their bases in. The other islands were basically ignored.

But these ignored islands were very useful for Zhao Hai. If the island had any fauna, Zhao Hai could use it to hopefully upgrade the Space. If they cannot, then it was still fine.

It was the same case if there are Magic Beasts present. If the island didn't have any of those two, Zhao Hai could still mine the island for stone. In any case, Zhao Hai currently looked like a son of a poor household, making use of anything and everything.

Moreover, another reason that Zhao Hai sailed this time was to go and absorb massive amounts of seawater into the Space.

Zhao Hai always wanted to do this, but since they were conscious of the time back then, he wasn't able to do so.

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Three days after leaving Ape Island, when Zhao Hai and the others couldn't find a suitable small island. Zhao Hai thought that this was the correct time to move.

He immediately had Jinan stop the ship and drop the anchor. Then Zhao Hai opened a spatial rift to absorb massive amounts of seawater into the Space.

Seeing the sea water entering the Space, Zhao Hai became nervous. He finally understood why he was too hasty in absorbing water from the sea in the past. This was not because of the fact that they were hurrying at that time, but because he was too afraid that the seawater couldn't make his Space upgrade and disappointing him.

Because of the amount of seawater entering the Space, a whirlpool was created on the surface of the sea. Zhao Hai was afraid that the seawater was not enough to upgrade the Space, so he didn't stop. After half an hour or so, Zhao Hai stopped the spatial rift, making the water's surface normal again.

Looking at the whirlpool vanish, Zhao Hai and the others entered the Space. After they arrived, a prompt was given, "Space has absorbed enough seawater containing various microorganisms to upgrade the Farm to Level 30 and the Ranch to level 20. Congratulations to the host for the effort."

"Since the Ranch has reached level 20, Small World Function has been unlocked. The Ranch will have the properties of a small world, limits on animals raised removed, limits on animal type removed, added seawater, increasing the amount of freshwater, added hot spring mountain, unlocked the background."

"Since Farm has reached level 30, Processing Factory Function unlocked, background unlocked: can now use background as arable land, no limit in plant quantity planted."

"With this level up, prediction for what happens next: when host's Farm reaches level 40 and the Ranch reaches level 30, both functions will combine, becoming a true Small World. When host's Farm reaches level 50 and the Ranch reaches level 40, host can buy more backgrounds, can plant and rear additional plants and animals on those backgrounds. Other progression path still locked, host has insufficient level. Hoping the host to increase his efforts."

Zhao Hai was frozen in place, after listening to the prompt up until the end, Zhao Hai yelled in celebration; Laura and the others did the same. The Space had finally reached level 30, Zhao Hai can finally create an antidote to cure his toxin.

Moreover, Zhao Hai didn't think that things would go this smoothly. The most important things were the new functions that the Farm and the Ranch has unlocked. The Ranch can now raise animals as much as it can fit, there's no more limit.

The Farm can now use the background. It's land area has certainly been increased. They can now plant a lot more crops this time, this function was extremely fantastic.

Moreover, the upgrades had allowed the Space to predict what happens when the it gets upgraded further. It would actually turn into a Small World, as well as simultaneously being able to buy more backgrounds. This revelation was too wonderful.

At this time, a prompt from the Space could be heard again, "Detected amount of toxic material on Host's body. Space decided to reward the host, providing seeds for the antidote. Host may process medicine in the Processing Factory to create Detoxification Potion to remove toxicity. Seed placed in the inventory."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but laugh upon hearing the prompt. Now he really didn't need to worry about dealing with the toxins on his body, the Space had conveniently solved it for him.

He immediately opened the inventory and found the seeds that were rewarded by the Space. Zhao Hai knew why the Space rewarded them specifically, these seeds were more than level 40. These were currently out of Zhao Hai's reach.

Zhao Hai took a deep breath and turned to Cai'er, "Cai'er, after the crops mature, replace them with these seeds. Also, plant Bread trees massively on the background, transform the terrain into about 1,000 mu of planting space."

Cai'er complied, then went onwards to control the Space and got busy.

Chapter 388 - Multi-purpose Processing Machine

At this time, Laura and the others arrived right by Zhao Hai's side. Looking at their expressions, Zhao Hai couldn't help but laugh, "The Space has finally levelled up, our biggest worry has been solved. Hahaha. Now we don't need to upgrade the Space anymore, we've already got what we wanted."

Laura smiled as well and said, "No, we must still continue on upgrading the Space. If we do so, it will become a true separate world."

Zhao Hai laughed along with the others, Laura just said what he felt in his heart. Although Zhao Hai said that they didn't need to upgrade the Space anymore, he still actually wanted to find out what will happen when it reaches a high level. Now, he only knew what would happen when the Space reaches level 50, but what about 60? What about 70? Is there a limit to how many upgrades it could take? What will the Space become then?"

At this time, Zhao Hai suddenly remembered something. He immediately opened the Space's interface and saw a small processing factory icon.

Zhao Hai immediately selected the Processing Factory icon, a prompt was then heard that said, "Construction of Processing Factory selected, costs 100 thousand gold coins. Includes one free Multipurpose Processing Machine."

Zhao Hai immediately pressed confirm as he set an area not far away from the villa. Suddenly a white light shone before revealing a small workshop type place. The structure looked like a small house with very ordinary brick construction.

Zhao Hai and the others immediately went inside the workshop. Upon entering, what Zhao Hai saw was something that he didn't expect.

Inside the more or less 200 sq. meter workshop, a single machine was present. But this didn't mean that the shop was very spacious, this was because the machine took up almost all of the space inside.

The machine looked very simple, you could only see three buttons labelled; 'Material', 'Process', and 'Begin', nothing else. You cannot see any input nor output on the machine, it looks exactly like an iron block with pipes here and there.

Zhao Hai looked at the machine and pressed the button labelled as 'Process'. Instantly, a page popped in front of him. The page was divided into several tabs which were categorized as: 'Potions', 'Food', 'Items', and 'Specials'.

Zhao Hai went to the 'Potions' tab to take a look. What appeared was a dense and numerous pile of potion names. He selected one randomly as information was relayed, "Strong Injury Healing potion, apply on flesh wound, can stop bleeding in the shortest possible time. Material needed, 37 wild aconite, ..." it continued to list more medicinal names as well as the amount needed.

Seeing this, Zhao Hai understood the general way to use the machine. He went to the 'Food' tab and looked at the list. In the list were the same numerous amount of foods, from staple and non-staple dishes to condiments like jam, salad dressing and so on. It can also process liquor as well as providing the detailed formula.

He also looked at the 'Items' tab, and as expected, there were all kinds of tools present, as well as all kinds of weapons. This exhibition lit up a sense of anticipation inside Zhao Hai. Finally, he went to the 'Special' tab and saw varied selections. You could even process a Martial Arts manual inside, as well as Spatial Items and other mysterious things.

Of course, you also need to provide the materials if you want to acquire those special items. For example, if you want a Martial Arts Manual, you need to provide another manual as well as things like pen and ink.

Zhao Hai switched off the interface and sighed, "This Multi Purpose Processing Machine is definitely worth its price. This thing is really easy to use, hehe, this is an extremely good thing." At this time, information was presented inside his mind. The information was regarding the Processing Factory as well as the Multi Purpose Processing Machine.

Currently, the Processing Factory can be upgraded to Level 10. Levelling up will increase the number of machines that could be present. Since Zhao Hai could level up the Processing Factory to level 10, it meant that he could have 10 Multi-purpose Processing Machines.

And the machines can make almost anything. As long as you have the proper materials, you can process anything you want.

The Multi-Purpose Processing Machine's production is very formidable, if it was made to process continuously with enough materials, it would be able to make 100 thousand jin of flour per day. Processing rice would yield 500 thousand jin per day. For liquor, at least 10 thousand jin of fruit wine or white wine. Beer would be produced at a rate of 50 thousand jin per day.

If it was made to produce weapons, ordinary blades and swords produced per day would be 1000. If made to produce Spatial Equipment, it may only take a few days. However, the machine can only make one product at a time. If it was processing rice, it couldn't make flour and etc.

Without thinking, Zhao Hai immediately upgraded the Processing Factory to Level 10. White light flashed and 9 additional workshops appeared in the Space.

At this time, Zhao Hao remembered that he must have spent quite a bit of money, so he immediately checked his gold coin balance. To his surprise, he was actually deducted 10 million coins! He froze, he didn't know where this much money went.

Upon asking Cai'er, Zhao Hai knew that the Space charged him 10 million gold coins not just because of the Processing Factory, but also because of the upgrading of the Farm. It was necessary to know that expanding the Farm costs a lot of money.

Although he initially grieved, Zhao Hai knew that upgrading the Space was an overall good thing. At this time, Cai'er also notified Zhao Hai that there weren't enough places inside the Farm that could accommodate an additional 1000 mu or land. Only by using the background would the area requirements be satisfied. However, planting in the background didn't have the Space's benefit of speeding up the rate of growth. All plants grown in the background would have the same growth time as those grown outside.

But fortunately, there was a slight advantage which was that all the fauna planted in the background wouldn't need to consider the climate. This was a good thing for Zhao Hai.

So this time, in addition to having Cai'er plant some bread trees, he also had her plant a large number of fruit trees, rice bamboo, oil fruit trees, and a large variety of vegetables.

After arranging the matters inside the Space, Zhao Hai and the others went outside. Currently it was dusk, and the surface of the sea has turned golden.

Zhao Hai stood on the deck and gazed at the golden ocean, then he suddenly laughed, "Starting today, I won't have to worry about the 'Water of Nothingness'. Between the Heaven and the Earth, I will now be unstoppable!!!"

Laura and the others looked at Zhao Hai and smiled faintly. They didn't say anything, they understood Zhao Hai's current mood. In fact, they were actually as excited as Zhao Hai.

After quite some time, Zhao Hai calmed down and turned to Laura and the others as he smiled, "The seas truly hold innumerable treasures. If we need to upgrade the Space in the future, we should just absorb some seawater. If we continue on upgrading the Space, a day would come where we wouldn't need to worry about getting a source of products, our own world will support us."

Laura smiled and said, "Brother Hai, what if we bring a lot of grain in the Prairie causing its price to drop. What would be your thoughts on that?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "That's not good, we can't do that. Otherwise, bankruptcy will be prevalent among the small businessmen in the Continent. Those people would be the most affected if we do what you just said. For large businesses, not so much."

Laura nodded, those small-scale merchants who trade in the continent only earn their money through arduous hard work. The ones who truly makes huge profits were those large merchant companies. What seems to be bad luck to small merchants would only be a small dent to these people.

Zhao Hai sighed, "What we needed to do now was not to decrease the price of grain. But instead, we should just provide enough food for the Beastmen so that not a lot of them would starve to death."

At this moment, a fluctuation happened on the sea. Zhao Hai felt that the Haven just shook. The group was quite familiar with this scenario, this meant that an aquatic Magic Beast had come to attack them.

Zhao Hai immediately opened the monitor. Upon seeing the screen, he couldn't help but stare. Currently, the monitor's range was increased from two kilometers to ten, a fivefold upgrade.

However, compared to the changes inside the Space, this wasn't that much. Zhao Hai didn't mind it too much and just analyzed the current situation.

After seeing the situation under the ship, Zhao Hai stared blankly. This was because what he saw underneath was a person, but he immediately noticed that this wasn't an ordinary person. This was a type of human-shaped aquatic beast.

Zhao Hai observed the human-shaped magic beast, its height was about three meters and on its head were two antennae. On its torso were eight tall and slender feet, looking like those limbs that shrimps have. Additionally, it had claws as his two hands. However, it didn't have any feet, but instead, it had a tail like a shrimp.

Along with the shrimp-shaped person were a group of giant shrimps. Their bodies were about five meters long, a pair of big claws, and thick shells on their backs. Those Magic Beasts looked extremely strong.

Seeing this scene, Zhao Hai's couldn't help but knit his brows. This was because he suddenly remembered a name, Merperson!

Zhao Hai didn't understand why the other party decided to attack him as though he was a pirate. But he didn't have any time to think about it. He could see that the power level of those giant shrimps were very high. If those attacked their ship, it wouldn't be able to last for a long time.

Zhao Hai waved his hand as waves of seawater came out. Then a rush of water came into the air. This water also revealed a shrimp-shaped person.

From Zhao Hai's present usage of magic, it seems like it had been improved considerably. Before, his attacks were only equivalent to 7th ranks but now it seems like it had reach the realm of 8th rank.

Chapter 389 - First Contact with Merpeople

It was an unexpected surprise as well as a shock for Zhao Hai that his attack actually didn't do anything but make the seawater rise. The Merperson didn't appear on the surface.

Zhao Hai stared, he hasn't encountered a situation like this before. His magic attack actually didn't have any effect. He looked at the monitor, and saw that the Shrimp-man seem to have noticed the situation. It looked at the Haven and poised to attack.

Zhao Hai snorted, he waved his hand as a white mist came in contact with the water. As soon as the mist and the water came in contact, the seawater immediately froze, enveloping the Shrimp-man and his entourage of shrimp magic beasts.

With a move from Zhao Hai, the group of sea-dwellers appeared on the ship, trapped by the frozen ice.

Zhao Hai instantly received the shrimps into the Space. The Space issued a prompt, saying that the shrimps were level 20 magic beasts, equivalent to 4th ranks outside. It can do simple water element attacks. Can be raised in sea water, takes 14 hours to mature. Can reproduce five times and produces 8 offsprings each time.

Zhao Hai didn't care about this, he already knew that the shrimps weren't enough to upgrade the Space. Now that the Ranch had reached level 20, it became very difficult to upgrade it.

He looked at the Shrimp-man, he waved his hand and shattered the ice that surrounded the man. The Shrimp-man fell into the deck.

But the sea-dweller didn't make a move, Zhao Hai knew that he had been frozen stiff. He didn't worry and just stood there. Before long, the Shrimp-man finally began to move, albeit breathing extremely faintly. He looked like he would die at any time.

Zhao Hai made a ball made of seawater and made it surround the man, making the Shrimp-man feel much better.

The man looked coldly at Zhao Hai and said, "Youngster, you best release me immediately. Otherwise, my tribesmen wouldn't let you off easily."

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't think that this Shrimp-man would actually speak human tongue. Although this language was very common in the continent, the other party was a merperson, how could a merperson speak the language?

Zhao Hai looked at him and curiously asked, "You can speak our language? Are you really a Merperson?"

The Shrimp-man looked at Zhao Hai and with said with disdain, "Hmph, speaking the same language isn't strange. Us merpeople have already been speaking like this even before humans ever did."

Zhao Hai looked at the Shrimp-man and said, "Really? Also, why did you attack my ship?"

The Shrimp-man said, "The entire deep sea is the domain of us, the sea-dwellers. And this part is my Shrimp Tribe's domain. So why couldn't I attack your ship?"

Zhao Hai frowned, "This is your Shrimp Tribe's domain? Then why didn't you attack us before? Why now?"

The Shrimp-man looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Ignorant human. Didn't you know that this area belongs entirely to our race? When are you allowed to just make a fuss here? In the past, your Human experts and our Merman Experts came into an agreement that you humans can only pass by these waters. But earlier, I sensed an unusual in this part of the water so I came. And when I did, I saw your ship, and now you captured me. Human, know that I've already sent word to my tribe as soon as you got me. They will certainly come and rescue me."

Zhao Hai frowned, he believed this member of the Shrimp Tribe. There certainly was an agreement between humans and merpeople, just like the agreement between humans and the experts inside the carrion swamp. But when he said that he already sent word back to his tribe, Zhao Hai was doubtful. He knew for sure that he captured every single one of the Shrimp-man's group. So how could he possible send word back to his people?

At this time, Cai'er came and informed Zhao Hai that there was a group of Shrimp Tribesmen heading towards here. Zhao Hai was stunned, he didn't think that the Shrimp-man actually said the truth. Since it was certain that the man's tribesmen were heading towards him, Zhao Hai observed the group. The

Shrimp-man looked at Zhao Hai's face without any care, he certainly knew that his tribesmen were indeed coming.

Zhao Hai didn't care about the man as well since he was paying attention towards the monitor. They really were Shrimp-people, they looked exactly like the man on board the heaven. The group consists of seven people and were approaching quite fast.

Accompanying the seven people, there were also groups of shrimp-type magic beasts. This matter actually made Zhao Hai embarrassed, he didn't think that he would actually come in conflict with the sea-dwellers while at sea.

Zhao Hai looked at the Shrimp-man on his ship and said, "You're tribesmen are coming. I'll go and release you, but you have to promise to not cause me any more trouble."

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, the Shrimp-man couldn't help but be smug as he said, "Youngster, no need to waste too much breath. I'll be taking away your ship and make it into my toy. Otherwise, don't ever think of going into the sea ever again."

Hearing the Shrim-person's words, Zhao Hai's complexion couldn't help but change, he coldly snorted and said, "If you don't want me to go to the sea, then why do I have to comply? Don't think that I am afraid of you and your tribe. Look at this."

Then he waved his hand as white mist appeared again and froze the waters surrounding those seven tribesmen. Upon catching them, Zhao Hai brought them to the ship and place each of them inside a ball of seawater. The Shrimp tribesmen were too cold to talk.

Seeing Zhao Hai easily capture his tribesmen, the Shrimp-man looked flustered as he gave a threat to Zhao Hai, "Youngster, know that if you dare to kill us, all of the sea-dwellers will wage war with you. You will certainly end up with a bad ending."

Zhao Hai replied with a serious tone, "I don't believe that I would actually suffer a bad ending, I could just stay in the continent and live safely. Even if you sent some 9th ranks after me, they wouldn't be able to threaten me."

Zhao Hai knew from Jinan that sea-dwellers couldn't survive for a long time when out of the water. Only their 9th ranks were able to survive for a long time out of the water. This was also the reason why the humans and the merpeople had stayed being at peace with each other. If this wasn't the case, the sea-dwellers might have already waged war with the humans long ago.

The Shrimp tribesman stared as his complexion changed. He knew that their experts wouldn't just be in conflict with the humans even though they vastly outnumber them. Humans weren't easy to deal with, moreover, they still had an agreement with each other about human activity in their domains. Finally, this small conflict wouldn't be enough to incite their 9th rank experts to make a move.

Thinking of this, the Shrimp-man couldn't do anything but accept defeat, "Human, I promise to not attack your boat anymore. But you have to let me and my tribemates go, otherwise a conflict would surely occur."

Seeing that the other party has admitted defeat, Zhao Hai also nodded, he didn't want to be in a fight with sea-dwellers either., "I don't have any enmity with you, so as long as you promise to not attack my ship, then I will immediately let you go. Right, perhaps you gentlemen may even want to make business with me. What do Merpeople need? I can buy them from the human domain and sell them to you. You can also exchange them with some of your special products."

The Shrimp-man stared, he didn't think that Zhao Hai would suddenly shift into doing business. At this time, he responded, "Human, are you sure about what you just said? Are you really willing to do business with us?"

Zhao Hai turned to look at the other Shrimp-men and saw that they had regained consciousness. Then he immediately returned his gaze to the Shrimp-man and said, "Absolutely."

The Shrimp-man's face elevated as he said, "That's fantastic! What do you want?"

Zhao Hai asked back, "What do you have?"

The man said, "Some aquatic magic beasts, some ores, pearls, corals, these things."

Zhao Hai nodded, "I want those, what do you want from me?"

The Shrimp-man said, "We want some land magic beasts, some ironworks, also some ceramics."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Not an issue, I can supply you with these things. I also have some grains, vegetables, and fruits. You just prepare those magic beasts, ores, pearls and corals."

The Shrimp-man nodded excitedly and said, "Good, by the way, my name is Crag. If you have your items, you can come straight back in this area. This is our tribe's domain, as soon as you arrive here, we'll immediately trade with you."

Zhao Hai agreed, "Good, then I'll head back and return in a few days. When that time comes, we'll trade." Then he waved his hand and returned the Shrimp tribesmen back to the sea.

When the group returned to the sea, Crag looked back at Zhao Hai and said, "Make sure to bring a lot of those items, we need a large number of them."

Zhao Hai replied with a smile, "Okay, then that's settled. Everyone, goodbye!" The Shrimp tribesmen waved at Zhao Hai and then immediately disappeared into the sea.

Laura and the others were stunned while all of these was happening. Only when the Shrimp people vanished into the sea did Laura recover. She looked at Zhao Hai as though she had seen a monster, "Brother Hai, you're too good. You actually made a deal with Merpeople? This is the first time that I heard of this, you just made history!"

Hearing Laura, Zhao Hai couldn't help but laugh, "Communication, always communicate. Sometimes, the reason why two sides go into war is because they didn't have any proper talks with each other. Look, you can see that merpeople actually do need some human products while we could make use of theirs. With such two-sided benefits, why shouldn't we do it?"

Laura smiled, "We should. With this, not only could we get some valuable pearls and special products, we could also get some Magic Beasts that could upgrade the Space. Maybe we could make the Space upgrade quickly with this method."

Zhao Hai also smiled as he replied, "Moreover, there are too many good things in the deep sea. Cooperating with the sea-dwellers could only bring us benefits and no faults. Hehe. It seems like we should also go visit the Elven Forests and the Dwarven Fortresses. I'm interested in doing business with all of the different races in the continent."

Laura and the others smiled, if they could really do business with all of the races in the continent, then they would certainly be the richest people in the future.

Meg gave a smile and said, "Elder Brother Hai, today is really our lucky day. Not only did the Space explosively level up, we also got in contact with Merpeople. I think we should find a place to purchase all the their requests. The Ark Continent's day of annual celebration is close by. If we manage to bring these special products to the continent, they will certainly be popular."

Zhao Hai nodded, he knew that the this annual celebration was Ark Continent's largest day. It was equivalent to Earth's new year's celebration. It was a holiday of the entire continent. It represented the old year's turnover into the new year.

This holiday was extremely important to humans, they would buy new clothes and prepare delicious food in celebration for sending of the old year and welcoming the new year.

This was like when China celebrates its Spring Festival. Every great family and clan knew that this day would be where all of their expenses were the greatest. If Zhao Hai and the others reveal these rare Merpeople products into the continent at this time, they would certainly earn a fortune.

Laura thought for a moment and said, "Since we cannot return to Sky Water City, we should go and find some other place. Fortunately, Sky Water City isn't the only port city inside Rosen Empire. I believe that as long as we don't go to the ports of the other nations, we should be clear of Radiant Church's interference. The Rosen Empire is currently at its peak of anti-church movement, I think that the Radiant Church wouldn't dare come at this time."

Zhao Hai gave a nod and said, "Which city do you propose? I know absolutely nothing about the ports of Rosen Empire."

Laura shook her head and said, "I also have no idea. But I think Jinan should know. Jinan, do you know something about the other ports?"

Jinan who was standing nearby immediately responded, “Besides Sky Water City, there are two other famous cities present on the empire’s eastern coastline. They are Jade Water City and Rising Water City. Both of these cities are under the control of the Rosen Imperial Family. They are very prosperous, but not to the extent of rivalling Sky Water City. There are no other places like Sky Water City in the continent.”

Zhao Hai nodded and asked, “Which city is nearer?”

Jinan replied, “Rising Water City will take 13 days from our current location. If we go to Jade Water City, it would take us about 17 days.”

Zhao Hai gave a nod and said, “Very well then, let’s head to Rising Water City!”

Chapter 390 - Multipurpose Processing Machine’s Fee

Those who had not sailed the seas wouldn’t know how boring and at the same time, stressful it was to do so.

What seemed like a calm ocean was actually fraught with perils such as undercurrents and sudden storms. This was especially so in a time where radar didn’t exist. This made travelling at sea very risky for people in the Ark Continent.

Another bad thing was the fact that the ships built on the Ark Continent weren’t built with any auxiliary functions. Some of the ships were so boring that sailing on them for months on end would actually make you crazy.

Fortunately, Zhao Hai’s ships were manned by Undead. This made it so that navigating the seas wouldn’t actually affect these Advance Level undead who already lost their human emotions. They were actually closer to robots than humans.

This time, the group's destination was Rising Water City. Rising Water City and Jade Water City were quite quite famous port cities on Rosen Empire's eastern coastline. But for other nations, Sky Water City was the best port city, it had the best location and routes. Therefore, there were not a lot of people who went to Rising Water City and Jade Water City, making their revenues much less than Sky Water City.

Although the Rosen Imperial Clan was quite envious regarding this situation, they weren't able to do anything about it. This was because in the beginning, Sky Water City wasn't this prosperous. Only when the city was handed over to the Calci Family did it slowly turn to become like what it was in the present. This was mainly due to the successive efforts made by generations of the Calci Family.

Even if both the Rising Water City and Jade Water City were heavily invested upon by the Imperial Clan, its management clearly wasn't that good. This was because the Clan's internal struggles, compared to the Calci Family, were much more intense. Therefore, the two cities couldn't catch up to Sky Water City.

Yes, the surface revenue of Rising Water City and Jade Water City certainly seemed to be lower than Sky Water City, but when you really get into the hidden profits that the two cities produced, this was not the case. If you calculate the money moving around in the shadows, the revenue produced by each of the two cities were actually bigger than Sky Water City.

There was a reason for this. Sky Water City was the purse of the Calci Family, it provided all the funds that the family needed. On the other hand, Jade Water City and Rising Water City were places that the Rosen Imperial Clan uses to test their Princes. The Rosen Emperor would give these two cities, as well as other Imperial controlled cities, to pre-selected candidates for succession. Then he made them manage these cities and see who could create the most revenue. The one who won this competition would gain big points in the fight for the throne.

As you can imagine, the managing of these two parties were clearly very different. On one hand, a family depended on a city for their future expenses, thus, they would certainly take good care of it. On the other hand, the city was used as a test. After a few years or decades, the city wouldn't have the same owner. In these few years, one would do all that he could to make the most money out of the city.

This seemed like two different kinds of investments. One was the type where you invest in something and slowly turning it into a goose that lays golden eggs. And the other one was the type where you always fish for short term investments, making profits, and then walking away. Two totally different philosophies.

Although there was this reason, Zhao Hai and the others must still head to Rising Water City. Not only did they decide to go there because of the purchase of items, they also wanted to establish a storefront. It would also be best if they could get in contact with a businessman to make a partnership with. With this, they wouldn't need to depend too much on the Calci Family.

The action made by the Calci Family made Zhao Hai's heart sound an alarm. The majority of their operations were actually centered on the Calci Family, this wasn't a good thing. They should be looking for another cooperation. Otherwise, the people from the family would use this scenario to stick it to Zhao Hai. Although he didn't fear the Calci Family, the moves that the family could employ would certainly make Zhao Hai suffer some losses.

Because of this, Zhao Hai became more adamant on going to Rising Water City. He wanted to see the situation there and see if there was an opportunity to make another partnership. This would make the Calci Family understand that Zhao Hai would be able to survive without their help.

Although Zhao Hai was a member of the League of Dark Mages, he didn't have that huge sense of belonging to the organization. This was because he didn't actually practice magic.

The things that Smith did initially made him think of the League quite well. But with the Calci Family's actions, all of those thoughts were shattered.

Zhao Hai sympathizes with the Dark Mages, but he wasn't a saint. In the beginning, when everyone was out to get rid of him, nobody helped other than Grandpa Green and those others who were loyal and devoted to the Buda Clan. Without them, Adam would have already been dead, and Zhao Hai wouldn't exist.

At first, Zhao Hai joined the League of Dark Mages since he saw that it was quite free, with only a few rules. He also wanted to make use of the League to deal with the Radiant Church. But if the people of the organization decided to act like this to him, then there was no point in staying there.

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The ship continued to sail slowly. Today was the third day of their trip, this was also a special day for Zhao Hai. It was because Cai'er will finally plant the medicinal seeds that the Space had given to him. The seeds had very high levels, and would take several days to mature. With his calculations, Zhao Hai

reckoned that he must wait until they reached Rising Water City before he could make the Detoxification Potion.

Although the seeds were just being planted today, Zhao Hai and the others still stood by and observed. This was because this matter was extremely important for them.

Zhao Hai was very clear that these seeds represented hope, a hope that one day he could be normal again. Also, because of this hope, Zhao Hai had been investigating how the Multipurpose Processing Machine worked.

The Multipurpose Processing Machine was really very mysterious, as long as you have money, it could process everything for you. The amount of money needed depends on what you wanted to process. For example, if Zhao Hai wanted to process his antidote, the processing charge would be a thousand gold coins. If he wanted to make a Spatial Equipment, he needs to pay 10 thousand gold coins. And if you want Advanced Level Spatial Equipment, the charge would increase accordingly, about 1 million gold coins. Naturally, the processing time would also be equally high.

However, if you wanted to process unshelled Bamboo Rice into edible grains, you only need one gold coin per day; the same was true for white flour. The price for making liquor also wasn't too high, it wouldn't exceed 50 gold coins. The process was very cost-effective.

But this processing fee depended on the fact that you had enough materials to supply. If you don't have materials, like the additives to change the flavor of the liquor that you're making, this would not do. Of course, you can still make it, but you need to purchase those materials from the factory, and its price would certainly hurt your pockets.

Moreover, if the Space didn't have a kind of plant, the machine could make some seeds for you. You only need to provide some other plant, then some gold coins, and you could receive your seed. Naturally, the charge for this operation isn't cheap, after all, the Space hopes that you would provide these plants and upgrade the Space by procuring them from outside. Additionally, you shouldn't hope of using the Processing machine to upgrade the Space, since all of the seeds made by the machine couldn't provide any experience.

Because of these peculiarities, Zhao Hai decided to stop planting Bamboo Rice in Iron Mountain Fort, allowing people to do other things.

Also, Zhao Hai didn't use the Machine to make milk wine. Currently, he is using the machine to process his food and make fruit oils. Things like wool products and liquor were still made inside the workshops of Iron Mountain Fort. This was because Zhao Hai reckoned that compared to the costs of operating the Machine, manpower was still more efficient for those products.

Originally, the manpower inside Iron Mountain Fort was insufficient. Although they got several thousand people, there were those who wouldn't be able to handle heavy labor, like the elderly and the children. Only those young men and women were being busy doing a lot of things and their numbers were still not enough. Because of this, there were a lot of undeads doing jobs inside the fort.

But now it was good that Zhao Hai acquired the Processing Machine. The machine could do all the work, especially for wool products.

Zhao Hai tried using the machine to make blankets, and they were very good. You can also choose the style and decorations in them. However, the blankets produced by the machine were different from those produced outside. Also, the processing fee wasn't low, 50 gold coins. For this amount of money, the beastmen could produce 20 blankets. So Zhao Hai gave up on using the machine to produce wool products.

Zhao Hai also understood that this wasn't a mistake. The value of gold coins inside the Space was vastly different from its value outside. There was only one type of currency inside the Space, which was exactly the gold coin. A gold coin inside the Space was like a copper coin outside. But if you take the same gold coin outside the Space, its value would certainly be much higher.

The reason why the machine's processing charge for making edible rice and flour were low was because the bamboo rice and wheat value inside the Space weren't very high. If Zhao Hai decided to sell the rice and flour to the Space, it wouldn't be as profitable as selling it to the continent. This made Zhao Hai know that the values of the currency inside and outside the Space was very different.

Zhao Hai wasn't a person who was dead-set on making profits. If he were, he would've just employed his undead to do all of the jobs needed so that he didn't need to pay for labor. But if he did that, the slaves' standard of living will certainly drop. Zhao Hai didn't want to do that, he wanted his people to live a much better life.