

Another World 391

Chapter 391 - Two Days

Zhao Hai dealt with the matters inside the Space while also handling the matters back at Iron Mountain Fort. Naturally, the information about the Space's upgrades as well as the fact about detoxification was told to Green and the others.

Green was very excited that tears streamed down from his face. For him, there was no better news than this. As long as Zhao Hai recovers, they wouldn't need to fear for the scenario where the Space would suddenly vanish. Green and the others were extremely glad, nothing was more important than Zhao Hai recovering.

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Time passed as the Haven continued on travelling. It was already the tenth day after they met the Shrimp tribesmen. The things back in Iron Mountain Fort were almost taken care of, and some of the medicinal herbs were already collected. However, the quantity needed was still not enough, so they need wait for three days for the herbs to become fully collected. Zhao Hai could start processing the antidote by then.

At this time, the Fruit Trees as well as the Bread Trees were already planted. But they didn't yield any fruit yet since their growth rate was the same as outside. So there wasn't anything to see from them right now.

The Processing Factories also weren't idling. They had already processed all of the rice and wheat. Now they were currently processing the fruit oil.

This time, a large number of animals could now be raised inside the Ranch so Zhao Hai placed his argalis inside the Space. At this time, Zhao Hai understood that the Ranch didn't need to have feed anymore. This was because the animals could now graze from the ground as well as hunt other animals for meat. Herbivores would eat grass while carnivores would eat the herbivores.

Because of the recent upgrades, all the grass present in the Ranch could now be eaten. This also made the animals undergo migration from time to time. Because of this, Zhao Hai wasn't worried that the Ranch would get destroyed. Additionally, Mu'er was also present, so Zhao Hai didn't need to worry about the animals.

Zhao Hai also noticed that the grasses inside the Ranch grew much faster than those outside. Although it was not as fast as the Farm, it was not that much slower either.

The reason why Zhao Hai allowed the carnivores to hunt the herbivores was so that the population of herbivores would be controlled. The small world needed to be balanced. If the herbivores were left to their own, they would incessantly multiply, eating all of the grasses in the world and destroying it in the process. Zhao Hai didn't want this to happen, so he established a food chain inside the Ranch.

Obviously, this process certainly made Zhao Hai lose a lot of money. After all, these carnivores must eat meat. But Zhao Hai didn't worry, as long as a stable food chain was created, the Ranch wouldn't be destroyed.

The Ranch had enough food for the numerous herbivores that Zhao Hai released, but the carnivores present weren't a lot; this made it an incomplete food chain. With the number of prey vastly outnumbering the predators, it was an inevitability that the Ranch would run out of food. However, this was Zhao Hai's Ranch, not nature. Those herbivores would still be killed for meat, not many would be left.

Suddenly, Zhao Hai remembered that all of these considerations were of no importance. The Ranch indeed became a small world, but the situation still remained unchanged. Like before, the animals present here were all either digitally generated, or digitally raised, it was just the way they were raised that was different.

Zhao Hai regarded this situation as a serious matter, if he continues with the current model, sooner or later the number of beasts that he would raise could match those that were herded by the Beastmen. This was a terrifying thing, when this time comes, he wouldn't be able to sell those beasts outside. Because if he does, the continent's economy will certainly collapse, causing chaos all over the place.

But it was fortunate that he already had Mu'er to manage the Ranch. Zhao Hai could just give an order to control the number of beasts inside the Space so that they wouldn't increase too quickly as well as decrease too quickly. All of these responsibilities were handed over to Mu'er.

Although the Ranch had all of those shortcomings, Zhao Hai still thought that it was very useful. With those carnivores constantly hunting inside the Space, their natural instincts would get sharper and sharper as time passed by. This made them true to their wild nature while inside the Space.

Their fighting strengths would be more formidable, moreover they were all completely obedient to Zhao Hai. If Zhao Hai needed them to fight later on, he could just release them for battle.

At this moment, the beasts with the most population were the bulls, argali, and horses. Next in line were blood hawks, and moonlight lions. Bulls and argali were raised for their meat, horses for transportation, while the blood hawks and moonlight lions were for fighting strength.

Aside from these land magic beasts, the Ranch was also raising massive amounts of aquatic magic beasts. Also, the aquatic food chain was more complete than the land food chain. After all, Zhao Hai fully absorbed seawater into the Space, so naturally, he would be absorbing complete food chains along with it.

Zhao Hai now understood why it was still called a small world, it wasn't a mature world since there were still some flaws here and there, thus the title small world.

But generally speaking, Zhao Hai was very satisfied regarding this small world of his. So long as he continues to upgrade the Space, then one day it will completely evolve into a complete world.

With the matters of the Space being good overall, Zhao Hai didn't have much worries. He could just give instructions whenever he felt like changing something.

Looking at the Space's changes day by day, Zhao Hai became very satisfied. After all, this place was his own personal domain.

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Three days went by quickly, Rising Water City was already in sight. As long as they travel for half a day, Zhao Hai and the others would be able to enter Rising Water City's harbor.

However, Zhao Hai wasn't paying any attention to the city right now. He was currently in the Space, in front of the Multipurpose Processing Machine. By his side was a pile of medicinal herbs.

Laura and the others were also right by his side, anxiously looking at the machine and waiting for Zhao Hai to press the button. Zhao Hai didn't delay, he immediately pressed the button meant for depositing the materials.

When the button was pressed, a flash of white light came, then the pile of herbs by Zhao Hai's side disappeared completely. Zhao Hai pressed the 'Process' button and selected the item that he wanted, the Detoxification Potion. Then finally he pressed the 'Begin' button. The Space deducted his balance by 10 thousand gold coins as the machine sprang into action. A projection popped up, showing Zhao Hai digits that were very important to him. The figure showed 48 hours.

Zhao Hai couldn't help but be relieved, in two day's time, he would be forever be cured of his affliction that was caused by the "Water of Nothingness". He can finally go back to being an ordinary person.

Laura and the others looked at the numbers that were projected above. They also understood what those number represented. Laura sighed with relief as she said, "Brother Hai, in two days, two days! You can finally get rid of your poison."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he excitedly looked at Laura and Meg as he smiled, "Yes, in two days, I can finally restore my body to what it originally was."

Meg shed tears as she hugged Zhao Hai. She didn't realize that she was crying, she was too happy. Zhao Hai's poison was always a heavy stone in their hearts. As long as Zhao Hai's poison went unsolved, they wouldn't be able to sleep comfortably. Now that in two days, Zhao Hai would be cured, the dark clouds plaguing the Buda Family would finally dissipate.

Zhao Hai patted Meg's back gently as he smiled and said, "It's okay, don't cry. Everything will be alright after two days. Your young master can finally learn martial arts, we should be happy. We'll show those people who looked down on us the fully revived Buda Clan."

Meg was still tearing up while she nodded, she believed that Zhao Hai could achieve anything. From the beginning, she had unconditional trust towards Zhao Hai, this was because Zhao Hai was her world.

Laura's tears were also flowing, she loved Zhao Hai. But his poison was a very big deal to her. This was because Zhao Hai's poison could be inherited, if they had a child in the future, their children would also have this poison inside of them, making them unable to study martial arts as well as magic.

In Ark Continent, someone who couldn't practice martial arts or magic was considered a waste. Laura was somewhat of an prideful person, how could she allow her children to be such wastes?

But she loved Zhao Hai very much, and she decided to marry him in the future. So she just hoped that Zhao Hai could cure his affliction. Now that the day had come, she was extremely happy.

Looking at Laura's appearance, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile. He lifted his arm to create an empty space, Laura looked at Zhao Hai and immediately threw herself into Zhao Hai's arms, still with tears flowing down her cheeks.

Green and the others weren't with them today, so the only other people present were Shue and Shun. Regarding Zhao Hai's development, the two of them were also quite happy. They had made a Blood Oath with Zhao Hai, so naturally they would hope that their master would have a bright future. After they knew Zhao Hai's real identity, they also knew that he drank the Water of Nothingness, this was the matter that they worried very much about.

Ever since the two followed Zhao Hai, their lives had been very comfortable. Zhao Hai put their lives in order, provided them with delicious food, while at the same time taking the two of them away from their previous lives that were full of dangers. This made the two extremely grateful to their young master, so they regarded the matter of his poison very highly.

Now that the matter was close to being solved, with Zhao Hai being healthy again, they thought that things couldn't get any better. The return of the Buda Clan was getting closer and closer.

After some time, the group calmed their emotions down and went out of the Space. The Haven was now entering the harbor, they had no choice but disembark from the ship.

Chapter 392 - Call Them

Standing in front of the ship, Zhao Hai gazed at the distant Rising Water City. The size of the city wasn't as large as Sky Water City, but the traffic of ships present were quite the same.

Zhao Hai smiled faintly as he turned his head, "Looking at the size of Rising Water City, it seems like it is worse than Sky Water City. But it looks like it is just as bustling here. It'll be a good idea to have a shop at this place. Right, is there a Shelley Hotel here? Perhaps we can work together with them."

Laura smiled, "It has, how could there be no Shelley Hotel in a city such as this? We should find them and get into contact, I believe that they would be happy. Brother Hai, how about we reduce the supply of fire fish and milk wine that we are giving to Brother Smith, to give the Calci Family a warning."

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "Consider that finished, I will still take into account Brother Smith's face on this matter. But if the Calci Family continues to push me, then I will end my cooperation with them. Let's see what they're going to do about that."

Laura nodded and said, "Very well, let's give Brother Smith some face and have him speak to the family in our behalf. Let's see Calci Family's response, if they still go too far, hmph, then don't blame me."

Zhao Hai looked at Laura's appearance and showed a faint smile and said, "This is the Laura that I know, looking like a very capable woman. Haha. Good, if they still dare try to deal with us, then we won't be polite anymore."

While they were talking, the ship slowly approached Rising Water City. The harbor of the city was much worse than Sky Water City. The dock looked very messy, ships could hardly find any place to dock in.

Zhao Hai knew that this should be the public pier. There was no need to pay in order to dock here, thus the numerous ships. But this was also the smallest and most chaotic ship terminal in the city.

There were other docks nearby. They were quite large, and they had good security as well. There were even porters present, but one needs to pay money in order to dock on those places.

This was Rosen Empire's method, they would lower taxes on some areas to attract people. Upon arriving, one would get exempted from tax, but there were even more places to spend some money. In the end, if you calculate all of your expenses, they would come out to be even greater than what would be if you just paid your tax.

Zhao Hai looked at the public harbor and knew that there was no way that they could find their place there. So he had Jinan maneuver the ship towards those paid docks.

Paid docks were certainly a lot better, the water were very spacious, the pier was also very clean. There were even specialized people tasked in maintaining public security. All matters on these docks appeared to be in pristine order.

When Zhao Hai saw these docks, he couldn't help but smile bitterly. He thought about those big companies back on Earth. The companies would willingly slash their product's prices to the point of suffering losses just to make profits on the extra services. He didn't expect that someone on the Ark Continent would actually think of the same method.

Zhao Hai's group stopped on a place in the dock. They paid the supervisor for the fee and then got on the carriage to head towards the city.

Upon entering Rising Water City, Zhao Hai and the others couldn't help but stare. They couldn't say that the streets of the city were greater than those of Sky Water City, on the contrary, they were quite awful. However, the shops on both sides of the street were very numerous, they had the same liveliness as Sky Water City.

This was a port city, so businesses should be doing very well, Zhao Hai was already used to this fact. He looked at the shops on both sides of the street and turned his head to Shun, "Shun, go to those shops and see if there are any products worth noting, also, take note of the prices of the goods here. Shue, let's go to the hotel and take a rest."

The two complied, Shue ushered the carriage to head towards the direction of the Shelley Hotel while Shun went out to get some information. Back at the pier, Zhao Hai had already asked for the directions of the hotel, so they didn't need to worry about getting lost.

Zhao Hai and the others quickly arrived at the Shelley Hotel. Although Rising Water City's storefronts didn't look very nice, the Shelley Hotel in this city was not the same. The outside of the hotel was extremely clean along with its front facade. There were also people dedicated to maintaining public security outside, fully exhibiting the quality of the hotel.

Just as Zhao Hai's bull-pulled carriage stopped in front of the hotel, a person wearing silk clothes immediately went out to greet them. The man looked over 50 years old with a long and skinny body. With his face full of smiles, one would be able to feel a very kind atmosphere around him.

When Zhao Hai disembarked from the carriage, the man went to Zhao Hai and greeted him, "This one is Ronaldo, the manager of Rising Water City's Shelley Hotel. This one welcomes Mister Zhao Hai."

Zhao Hai stared at Ronaldo and said, "You know me?"

Ronaldo smiled faintly and said, "I do. There is no Shelley Hotel Manager in the continent that doesn't recognize Mister Zhao Hai. Mister, please come in, you're always a distinguished guest in our hotels."

Zhao Hai laughed and said, "I won't be polite then." Seeing the two talking and walking towards the hotel, the guests became quite alarmed. One should know that the hotel was not only for the rich, it was also quite expensive. Adding on to the fact that the Shelley Hotel had recently ousted Grand Duke Lionheart's business, the managers of their hotels had become quite the personalities. They wouldn't generally greet any ordinary person.

When the people saw that Ronaldo was extremely courteous towards Zhao Hai, they felt confused. This was because they didn't know if Zhao Hai actually had any status.

During that time, when a noble looking person just went out of the hotel, he actually heard the exchange of dialog between Ronaldo and Zhao Hai. Upon hearing their words, the person's eyes lit up, he immediately went toward his own carriage and rushed towards the direction of the City Lord's Mansion.

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After Zhao Hai entered the hotel's reception hall, some people immediately went and served them some tea. Ronaldo and Zhao Hai drank a mouthful as the former said, "When I heard that mister came, I initially wanted to come greet mister at the pier. But I didn't think that mister would actually arrive at the hotel too quickly, this is quite embarrassing."

Zhao hai smiled and said, "Manager Ronaldo is too polite. I'm not an influential person, coming to greet me personally is too much. I wouldn't dare, I wouldn't dare..."

Ronaldo smiled and said, "Mister is also too polite, mister offered quite a huge helping hand to the Shelley Family. It should be appropriate for me to personally greet mister. Anyway, why did mister come to Rising Water City? Is there anything we could help you with?"

Zhao Hai gave a smiled and replied, "There is actually a reason why I came. I want to set up a shop inside Rising Water City. The bigger the shop, the better. I hope the manager could help me with this."

Ronaldo returned the smile and nodded, "Mister is too polite, this matter is no big deal. I'll personally have someone inquire around. What price would be alright for mister?"

Zhao Hai replied, "The price isn't an issue. I just want a shop right now and open as soon as possible. It'll handle both wholesale and retail goods. Therefore, the shop's location should be good, it also needed to be able to store goods. Transportation should also be convenient."

Ronaldo nodded and said, "Very well, these things are quite easy to do, mister can be relieved. I'll certainly go and find the best location as soon as possible. Right, if mister plans to set up shop here, you still have some formalities to do. I don't know if mister is already prepared for this? If mister isn't, the hotel could lend you a hand."

Zhao Hai laughed and said, "Thank you, Manager Ronaldo. To be honest, I really don't understand about any of the matters inside Rising Water City. I'll really have to rely on the manager here. How about this, I'll give an additional 5,000 fire fishes to the Shelley Family each month. What does Manager think about this?"

Ronaldo stared, he was pleasantly surprised as he said, "Mister is too generous. Even if mister didn't reward the hotel, we would still help you with this matter. Also, mister, these fire fire fishes wouldn't be taken away from the Calci Family's share right? Won't mister feel awkward?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Not awkward. I reckon you have already heard about the Calci Family. Now I'm just waiting for the family's next move, if they become too overbearing, then I can only find other people to cooperate with."

Ronaldo's eyes lit up brightly, just like what Zhao Hai said, he already knew about the matter between Zhao Hai and the Calci Family. Because of this, he acted very enthusiastic towards Zhao Hai. Since if the Calci Family manages to make the wrong move, there would be some excess of fire fishes on Zhao Hai's hands. If the Shelley Family could get their hands on these fishes, the family could surely make a ton of money.

The Shelley Family didn't fear the Calci Family. Although the Calci Family was fierce, it was impossible for them to fully uproot the Shelley Family. After all, outside of Rosen Empire, the Shelley Family had more influence than the Calci family.

However, merchant clans always wanted to hold onto wealth. So if they could prevent falling out with the Calci Family, they would. After all, compared to the entire business of the Shelley Family, the fire fishes were still a small business.

But Ronaldo also understood what Zhao Hai was implying. It was just like what Marriott reported, this Zhao Hai wasn't a simple person.

At the thought of this, Ronaldo stood up and bowed to Zhao Hai, "Well then, this one will have to busy himself, mister. Your rooms have already been prepared as well as your meals. Mister can rest first while I handle the matters that you requested."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I thank the manager for his troubles." Then he walked with Ronaldo outside as the latter arranged someone to lead Zhao Hai's group to their accommodations.

Ronaldo had arranged for Zhao Hai's group to have the best rooms of the hotel. He also instructed the attendants to give Zhao Hai the highest level of hospitality. If somebody dared to cause problems, Ronaldo wouldn't express mercy.

Just after Zhao Hai and the others were settled inside their room, a knock was suddenly heard on the door. Shue immediately went to the door and opened it, revealing the meal that Ronaldo had prepared for them. The dishes looked very delicious and appetizing, it clearly showed how well regarded they were by the hotel.

Zhao Hai and the others didn't become polite, they immediately went and enjoyed the dishes that the hotel prepared for them. At this time, another knock was heard, when Shue went and opened it to take a look, what he saw was Shun.

After passing through the door, Shun gave Zhao Hai a bow and said, "Young Master, I have asked around, there are quite a lot of goods here. But compared to Sky Water City, there are more low-quality goods present. Because of this, the goods sold in this city are much cheaper than those at Sky Water City."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Good, let's eat first. After the meal, we'll go around and scout for good shop locations as well as products that the Merpeople wanted. Then we'll go back out at sea as soon as possible to trade with them."

Shun gave a nod, then joined the others in the table to eat a meal. Laura who was sitting gave a frown and asked, "Brother Hai, did you think about the people that we'll have to hand the shop's management to? The slaves back at Iron Mountain Fort wouldn't do, we can manage them back at the fort but not here. I think we need to recruit a few trustworthy people."

Hearing what Laura just said. Zhao Hai couldn't help but smiled and say, "What? Didn't you have some good people we can make use of? This is also good since we don't need to worry about their loyalty. Those people you have back at the Purcell Duchy aren't doing anything anyway, we should call them over."

Laura's face lit up, "Right, if we don't get in contact with them for quite some time, they would certainly feel strange. Since we cannot return to Purcell Duchy and happen to open a shop, we should bring them over here."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "After our meal, you should write a letter for them and have it sent via blood hawks from Stony Mountain. Go make them head outside Casa City to gather and I'll go and meet them."

Laura nodded and said, "Brother Hai, I think you should also send a letter to Uncle Evan and tell him about this matter and have him prepare."

Zhao Hai smiled, "Be relieved, I'll go arrange it. I think Uncle Evan couldn't wait to get rid of your people. This way, Magic Lily Store would be completely under his control."

Hearing this, Laura sighed. Magic Lily Store was something she established. It was just a pity that she had to hand it over to someone else.

Looking at her appearance, Zhao Hai gave a smile, "Don't be sad, the Magic Lily stores that you built aren't your largest assets anyway, it was those people who were nurtured under your influence. Those people are good resources, we must provide them with a stage to exhibit their talents to the limit. By the way, don't forget to tell them to bring their entire families."

Laura gave a smile and replied, "Don't worry, I'll tell them. I shall also inform them that this wouldn't be the only store that we'll open. If the matter back at Sky Water City gets resolved, we would need people to manage our shop there as well. Right, Brother Hai, don't you think that Iron Mountain Fort needs a bit more managing staff? How about we send some of my people over there as well?"

Zhao Hai nodded, but at this time, another knock was heard on the door.

Chapter 393 - Charlie

Zhao Hai stared blankly when he heard the knock. It was because he already told the hotel attendants to not disturb him if there's nothing important going on. He believed that the hotel attendants wouldn't dare disregard his instructions.

When someone knocked on the door the first time, Zhao Hai expected it to be Shun, and it turned out to be him. But who would knock on the door this time? Zhao Hai waved his hand as the monitor appeared. The group immediately saw a man dressed in gorgeous clothes standing outside. What was bizarre about this man was the fact that even though he wore good quality and well-made clothes, the appearance of his garments seem to be those worn by servants.

The clothes of a servant were actually more magnificent than most nobles? When Zhao Hai and the others analyzed the man's clothes, they couldn't help but feel confused.

However, Zhao Hai knew that for a servant to be able to dress like this, his master should be anything but simple. Zhao Hai gestured to Shun, Shun gave a nod as he opened the door.

Right outside the door was the servant. Although he had magnificent clothes, the servant still acted very humble. When he saw Shun open the door, the man politely gave a small bow and said, "Hello, this one seeks an audience with Mister Zhao Hai."

Looking at the man's very polite attitude, Shun didn't decrease his vigilance even by a bit, he looked at the man and said, "Can I ask why you are here? Why do you need to meet the young master?"

The servant showed a faint smile and said, "This one is just a servant, here to convey a message from my master. It's just that the identity of my master is quite special, so this servant was the only one that came to see mister Zhao Hai."

Just as Shun was facing a dilemma, Zhao Hai's voice came, "Shun, make him enter."

After listening to Zhao Hai's instruction, Shun immediately complied then turned and gave a gesture towards the man. Then the well-dressed servant entered the room.

Zhao Hai was now sitting inside the living room. Naturally, the servant recognized Zhao Hai, so he immediately went towards him and gave a bow, "Little Liru has seen Mister Zhao Hai. My master is currently at his accommodation and is inviting mister Zhao Hai over."

Although his tone of voice was very polite, the atmosphere around the servant revealed a sort of pressure that seems to don't accept refusal. This made Zhao Hai quite confused, he didn't know what this servant was planning to do.

However, Zhao Hai wasn't affected too much. He just looked at the servant and said, "Can you tell me the identity of your master? You should know that I have a lot of enemies in the continent, I wouldn't just accept casual invitations."

Liru froze for a moment, but he still continued to look at Zhao Hai and said, "Mister Zhao Hai, I really can't just say the name of my master. Just know that my master is very sincere this time. I ask you to please accept his invitation."

Zhao Hai frowned as he stared at the servant, "The people in this room can certainly be trusted, I'll vouch for it. If you really don't intend to tell me, then I'm sorry, I don't like meeting with people who likes to hide things from me."

After listening to Zhao Hai, Liru's expression couldn't help but sink. He looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, since you really wanted to know. My master who wanted to meet you is His Highness Rosen Empire's Third Prince."

Zhao Hai stared blankly, with a puzzled look he asked, "If His Highness the Third Prince wanted to meet me, then why does he have to be quite mysterious? Is something wrong?"

Looking that Zhao Hai seemed to be confused, the servant said with a light tone, "I didn't realize that mister wasn't informed, I have misunderstood mister. Rising Water City is under the control of the Second Prince while Jade Water City belonged to the Third Prince. His highness' trip this time is a secret matter. He couldn't just go out into the city since he is afraid of alerting the Second Prince. So this time when His Highness wanted to meet Mister Zhao Hai, he could only request for a secret meeting."

Zhao Hai understood, so he didn't have any more worried. He turned to the servant and said, "Good, lead the way." He stood as he said that.

Seeing that Zhao Hai accepted to come with him, Liru finally relaxed. He feared that Zhao Hai would change his mind, so Liru immediately led him out.

Zhao Hai and Liru went to the back of the hotel where a carriage was already waiting for them, inside one of the courtyards. Without being polite, Zhao Hai immediately sat inside the vehicle.

The carriage looked extremely ordinary, it lacked even a smidgen of special quality material. It was only quite big, can fit about five or six people. Zhao Hai took Shun and Shue with him, Liru was driving the carriage at front.

Zhao Hai initially thought that Liru was just having unnecessary caution. What was the point in being too serious? However, he changed his mind when he thought more deeply about Liru's words and actions. Liru might be afraid because the battle between the princes may have reached quite a heated period. If this was so, there was enough reason for the Third Prince to be very careful.

But Zhao Hai was even more confused when he recalled that the Rosen Empire's King was still quite healthy. Under such circumstance, it was quite confusing for the princes to be this vigorous in their battle.

The carriage went out of the hotel and into the busy street outside. They went around quite a few times before stopping at a house. Although this was the back side of the house, the light coming from the door made it look quite unordinary. The look on the door was more intricate than what most people would use.

The carriage didn't stop and directly entered the house before completely stopping on a parking space. Liru asked Zhao Hai to disembark, Zhao Hai became curious, he wanted to know why the Third Prince called him over.

Under Liru's guidance, the group passed through several courtyards before arriving at a small courtyard. This courtyard wasn't that large, about the same size as Sweet Plum Courtyard. However, this place didn't have any plum blossoms, instead, it had some ornamental trees. Zhao Hai couldn't name them, but this made this place even more distinctive.

When the group arrived at the courtyard, there were two people already standing at the front door. One looked about 50 years old and wore a magnificent merchant's garment on his fatty body. The fellow looked very big, just like a meat mountain that was standing there. What made Zhao Hai surprised was that even though the man was a literal meatball, he didn't look like he was exerting any effort in staying up. This certainly showed that the man had quite the strength.

The other person wore a very ordinary noble's clothing, not looking very magnificent. He was about 30 years old and had a very gentle look. The person was very well groomed, although he was just standing there, the atmosphere around him commanded respect and superiority.

Liru went towards the 30-year old man and said, "Your Highness, this is Mister Zhao Hai." The man nodded and smiled at Zhao Hai, "Please forgive Charlie for the disrespect, mister. The situation didn't leave me with enough choices."

Zhao Hai showed a faint smile and said, "This one has seen Prince Charlie. His highness is too polite, it is my honor to be invited by Your Highness."

Charlie smiled faintly and said, 'Mister is too courteous. Let me introduce mister to Rising Water City's famous sea merchant, Aonas.'

Zhao Hai bowed and said, "Zhao Hai pays his respects to Mister Aonas."

Aona's flabby face rippled as he smiled, "Mister is too kind. Your Highness, Mister, please." Then he led the two men inside the living room of the house.

After settling in the living room, Liru immediately served the group with a cup of tea. When the group already had a few sips of the tea, Charlie opened his mouth, "This time when I came to handle some matters in Rising Water City, I came to hear about mister's arrival. So I took the liberty of inviting mister over, I hope you could forgive my disrespect."

Zhao Hai gave a smile and said, "You're highness is too polite. Let's forget about being disrespectful, what did Your Highness look for me for?"

Charlie stared, he didn't think that Zhao Hai would be so direct. He could only show a faint smile as he replied, "Mister is really a straightforward person, not beating around the bush. This time, I asked mister to come to discuss whether I could have the honor of having a partnership with mister or not."

Zhao Hai had already expected this point. Except for the products that he had, there were no other qualities of him that other people could remember. So when Charlie got to the point, Zhao Hai wasn't surprised. He just looked at Charlie and said, "May I know which business Your Highness wanted to cooperate with me?"

Charlie looked at Zhao Hai and smiled, "I know that mister is currently working with the Shelley Family and the Calci Family for some business. I'm also interested about your fire fishes and milk wine. I just don't know if mister can also cooperate with me?"

Zhao Hai looked at Charlie and said, "Your Highness, to tell you the truth, it isn't impossible to work with you. The products that I supply the Calci Family and the Shelley Family which were 55 thousand jin of fire fish and 50 thousand jin of milk wine aren't my limit. I can provide you with 45 thousand jin of fire fishes as well as 50 thousand jin of milk wine per month. Is Your Highness satisfied with this?"

Zhao Hai's words were actually a probe towards Charlie. He wanted to see whether the prince wanted to snatch both the Calci's and the Shelley's share of milk wine and fire fish. If he did, then that meant that he didn't care about offending the two families. Zhao Hai also wanted to see whether he would acquiesce if there was a way of avoiding to offend the families. If Charlie really wanted the shares of the two families, then Zhao Hai would have to think twice about their cooperation. This was because it meant that the prince most likely held a grievance towards the two families.

When he heard what Zhao Hai just said, Charlie was dumbfounded, he wore a happy expression as he said, "Mister is really telling the truth?"

Zhao Hai nodded and replied, "I won't dare deceive Your Highness, of course it is real." Seeing Charlie's reaction, Zhao Hai had found his answer.

Sure enough, Charlie smiled and said, "Good, good, that is good. Mister can rest assured that I'll also accept the same price that you give the Calci and Shelley Families. I certainly wouldn't let mister suffer a loss."

Chapter 394 - Sincerity

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I don't have to worry about that, but where does your highness want the stuff delivered? I think you won't find it comfortable in Sky Water City?"

Charlie smiled and said, "Naturally not in Sky Water City. I'd want mister to deliver to my domain, Jade Water City, I wonder if that is possible?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "Of course it's possible. I'll supply you starting next month and pay me whenever the products arrive. How does your highness think about this?"

Charlie gave a smile and said, "Thanks for understanding, I really still have a lot to prepare. Does mister have any other products? I see that you have milk wine, so I reckoned mister should have a good relationship with the Beastmen."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "It's just like what your highness said, I actually have a good relationship with the Bull-Headed Race. Currently, I have some wool products on hand, is your highness interested in those?"

When Charlie heard Zhao Hai's response, he secretly nodded to himself. He commended Zhao Hai for being tactful. He knew what Zhao Hai was getting at, Charlie smiled and responded, "A bit interested, how many blankets does mister have right now?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Counting both my blankets and carpets, there should be 10 thousand. This isn't my max production, come spring they should increase."

Charlie nodded, "Good, I'll have those as well. Is mister okay with selling those in market price?"

Zhao Hai replied, "Of course. Next month when I deliver the fire fishes, I'll have those blankets and carpets delivered as well. Is your highness satisfied with this?"

Charlie smiled, "Then we're settled. And mister, if I may ask, what matter did you come to Rising Water City for? If you need any help, Aonas can lend you a hand."

Aonas quickly added, "Yes, I could definitely provide mister with help inside Rising Water City. I have a bit of influence here."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Nothing big, I just want to buy some things as well as try to open up a shop in this city."

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, Charlie's eyes lit up then he said, "How about mister open a shop at my Jade Water City? The goods and services in Jade Water City are about the same as Rising Water City. Additionally, I could give mister an exemption on taxes. What does mister think?"

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't think that Charlie would be surprisingly enthusiastic. He knew that he might offend Charlie if he refuses. He didn't know what kind of person Charlie was, if the prince was a petty person, he might retaliate in the future.

Also, if he agrees and opened up a shop in Jade Water City, he may suffer some problems if Charlie hates him in the future. It would be a risk to his people if he chooses this option.

Looking at Zhao Hai who stayed quiet, Charlie didn't want to be misunderstood so he immediately added, "Mister, please don't misunderstand, I don't mean to force you. If mister wants to go then its good, but if he disagrees then that's fine as well. This matter wouldn't affect our cooperation."

Zhao Hai looked at Charlie and smiled, "Your highness has also misunderstood, you have given me such a good benefits, so of course I'll have to head towards Jade Water City. This time, I only came to Rising Water City because it was closer. Tomorrow I'll head to Jade Water City, I wonder when your highness will return to Jade Water City?"

Charlie looked at Zhao Hai and said, "I also happen to return to Jade Water City tomorrow. I wonder if mister can give this one a ride in your ship?"

Zhao Hai stared for a moment before he gave a smile and nodded, "Having your highness as my guest would certainly be an honor. Then we're good, tomorrow me and my group will be waiting for your highness in my ship. Just head to the docks of the city and look for my ship. It's named Haven."

Charlie smiled, "Alright. Then I won't be bothering mister anymore. Mister should rest when you head back. Tomorrow, we still need to leave the city unnoticed."

Zhao Hai stood up while he gave a faint smile, "Then Zhao Hai will ask to be excused, your highness." Then he bowed to Charlie before being led away from the living room by Liru.

Charlie also accompanied Zhao Hai to the entrance. Then left Liru to guide Zhao Hai to the carriage. Charlie then returned to the living room.

Aonas looked at Charlie and said, "Your Highness, why were you too polite to him? Also, why exempt him from tax? Is it because of the fire fish and milk wine?"

Charlie gave a smile and shook his head, "No, Aonas, you must understand. When I first heard about Zhao Hai, I didn't think much of him. But after seeing him just now, I suddenly had the inkling to pull this person to my side. This is because this person is terrifying, not because of his schemes nor his

temptations. Everything he does is all straightforward, you can clearly see what he is thinking about. This is why I value him too much, for him to refrain from using schemes means that he is confident in his own strength, he disdains beating around the bush. You can also see from his actions and expressions the look of sincerity, something that I rarely see in other people.”

Aonas looked at Charlie, still confused. Charlie smiled as he added, “There are all sorts of plots and schemes in this world that it is very hard to see a sincere person. Why did I cooperate with him? This is because for people like Zhao Hai, if you are good to him and not betray him, he will never ever betray you for the sake of higher benefits.”

Aonas was still not convinced, he looked at Charlie and said, “How did your highness deduce this? How come I am unable to see it?”

Charlie gave a smile and said, “Remember when I offered him a partnership? Most people would immediately agree, after all, as a third prince I have a much higher position than either the Calci Family or the Shelley Family. But instead, he implicitly told me the shares of the two families as he revealed how much supply he can provide. This is a probe, he wanted to see my attitude towards this matter. If I wanted the shares of the two families, then he would definitely not cooperate with me. Aonas, you should know about the recent matter of the Calci Family, yes? That waste of a fifth child of the family had his eyes on Zhao Hai, and may have even suffered a loss in Zhao Hai’s hands. Despite this, Zhao Hai still didn’t give me the share of the Calci Family. This showed that he is a man of sentiment, if such a person were to join my side, then it would be a great boon for me.”

Aonas finally understood after hearing Charlie’s explanation, he gave a nod and said, “Your highness, when you invited him to Jade Water city, why did he seem to be hesitant?”

Charlie smiled and said, “This is another point that made me like him. Do you think that if he establishes a shop in Jade Water City, he will stay there for a long time? Of course not, he would send his people there. I gave him tax exemptions, average people will definitely agree, the reason why he hesitated was because if he does send his men to Jade Water City and we happen to fight in the future, he fears that I would act against his men. For someone who cares deeply about his own subordinates, that is a very desirable trait.”

Aonas looked at Charlie with an admiring look, “Your Highness, your eyes are really like blazing torches. But if Zhao Hai is really a person of sentiment, then why didn’t he give the Calci Family all of the shares? I remember that the Calci Family had helped him a lot.”

Charlie replied, "This is because he is cautious and wants to leave a leeway for himself. I think that Zhao Hai has a lot of subordinates that are counting on him for resources. If he gave all of his products to the Calci Family, he would certainly suffer big if the Family decides to stop cooperating with him. This is understandable, its basic human nature. I even believe that this overall supply of about 100 thousand fire fishes and 100 thousand jin of milk wine that he revealed isn't his maximum supply. He will always give himself a way out."

Aonas nodded, this point of having a back up plan is how things should be. Even he has prepared an escape route for himself, this isn't a strange thing.

Charlie looked at Aonas and smiled faintly, "This Zhao Hai isn't simple. Earlier, he had an enmity with Grand Duke Lionheart, but he still managed to be unscathed. Moreover, I heard that back in Aksu Empire, he had offended the Radiant Church as well as Southern King Boris, making him escape towards the Beastman Prairie. Then he used a false identity to escape to Rosen Empire. After which he lead the Empire's anti-Radiant Church tide. He is too fierce, this is the most important point, he gave the Calci Family advice that would hit the Radiant Church in their most vital points. This made me decide to settle in recruiting him."

Aonas frowned as he asked, "Your Highness, isn't that idea from the Calci Family? What made you think that it was given by Zhao Hai?"

Charlie made a disdainful expression, "Hmph, if the Calci Family already had an idea that great, then they should have already used it a long time ago. They had been pressured by the Radiant Church all these years, and the idea only came out just as Zhao Hai arrived at Sky Water City, isn't this too coincidental? Therefore, I judged that this should be Zhao Hai's doing. Those antiques back at the Calci Family, hehe, it would be impossible for them to come up with this idea. It was good that Smith and his brothers are really talented, and they had good eyes. It was only that fifth child Juwan that is a complete waste. If you have the chance, try getting Smith's favor, if we can get their support, then the throne wouldn't be able to escape my grasp, haha."

Aonas didn't expect that Charlie would have such high view of Smith. But he didn't get angry, he knew his capabilities, and he was also a merchant. When thinking about Charlie snatching the throne, these few tricks could also be considered good.

Charlie turned to Aonas, this man is very important to him. Aonas' capabilities were formidable, and is loyal to him. It was this point that made Aonas incomparable to the other people. Thinking about this, Charlie faintly smiled and said, "Aonas, go help me prepare to leave with Zhao Hai's ship tomorrow in returning to Jade Water City. The matters in Rising Water City will be handed over to you. Don't forget,

you are now a merchant, except for extremely important matters, don't contact me. Just go and do your merchant duties."

Aonas nodded.

Chapter 395 - Buda Family's Opportunity to Recover

Zhao Hai returned to the hotel. After saying goodbye to Liru, he immediately found Ronaldo and told him that opening the store would have to wait.

Ronaldo knew that Zhao Hai had went out earlier, but he didn't know where he went. He also couldn't ask Zhao Hai, in any case he already got the family an additional 5,000 fire fishes per month. So he didn't probe further, he just accepted the decision fully.

Ronaldo had already been given orders by the family to not be greedy in cooperating with Zhao Hai. Otherwise, they would lose everything. This was the reason why Ronaldo didn't request anything from Zhao Hai and just helped him with everything. He believed that Zhao Hai wouldn't leave him unrewarded and sure enough, he was rewarded with an additional 5,000 fire fishes per month. Although not that much, the Shelley Family still regarded it as quite a bit of income.

And now that Zhao Hai wanted to leave, Ronaldo didn't stop him. He also didn't inquire Zhao Hai as to why. He knew that further inquiry would only make the other party dislike him.

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Zhao Hai entered the room and then reiterated what happened with Charlie to Laura and the others. Laura didn't oppose to the cooperation since she trusted the Space. If they have a falling out with Charlie in the future, they could just receive the staff and save them.

Seeing that Laura didn't oppose to the partnership, Zhao Hai sighed in relief. Truthfully, he still held Laura's opinion in high regards when it comes to business decisions. After all, Laura was a true Merchant in the past, this lovely girl's reputation even reached Rosen Empire, she isn't playing around.

Zhao Hai looked at Laura and asked, "Why do you think Charlie wanted to go with us to Jade Water City? Is it to recruit me? I don't think that I have any worth for him to be considering me."

Laura gave a smile and said, "Who told you that you don't have any worth? You're very exceptional, it is normal for him to be pulling over to his side."

Zhao Hai just smiled faintly and said, "In any case, let's prepare ourselves. We'll be leaving Rising Water City tomorrow. Also, Charlie will be coming along with us for cover. I initially didn't want to involve myself in their matters since looking at Charlie's actions today, it seems like the battle for the throne is more intense than I thought. Taking part in their struggle isn't a good idea."

Laura forced a smile and said, "We're already involved ever since you met Charlie, it's too late to say anything at this point. From what I can see, we might as well lend Charlie a hand. Brother Hai, if we can help Charlie get the imperial throne, the Buda Family might see itself reemerging in the future."

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly, "I'm afraid that meeting him is the wrong decision. I'm also afraid that if we relocate the clan to Rosen Empire, the Aksu Empire would take away the Black Wasteland from us. In the end, that place is where we decided to take root."

Laura smiled and said, "You think too much, Elder Brother Hai. No matter who wanted to take the Black Wasteland away, they still need to deal with the poisonous fog. Nobody would dare settle there. Rest assured, that place will still be our roots. Also, nobody would think that we stayed there anyway, they might have already thought that we had escaped to the sea or something."

Zhao Hai forced a smile, he knew that what Laura said was the truth, there was nobody that would dare settle in the black wasteland aside from them. Zhao Hai thought for a moment and said, "I think it would be better for us to discuss this matter with Grandpa Green."

Laura agreed, "I think that's a good idea. We should tell Grandpa Green about this, but I think he wouldn't agree."

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "I don't think so, Granpa Green would certainly agree, he wanted to revive the Buda Clan more than I do."

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"Agree! Of course I agree. Young Master, what are you afraid of? As long as the Black Wasteland is in our hands, we will have a place to return to. If an accident happens outside, the Buda Clan could still return here."

Green immediately expressed his thoughts when Zhao Hai told him about the matter. Green continued, "Young master, all great families must start from the bottom and build themselves bit by bit. In the past, the Buda Clan fell into this situation since we didn't have the Space, it was impossible for us to retreat immediately back then. But young master, you currently have the Space, we don't need to fear about anything, you should grasp this opportunity."

Zhao Hai didn't think that Green would say this, but seeing that Green agreed to his plan, Zhao Hai didn't say anything and just nodded as he said, "Alright, when I get to the ship tomorrow, I'll go and see Charlie's attitude. If I like his bearing, then I'll go help him."

Green nodded, he looked at Zhao Hai with his eyes shining and said, "Young Master, tomorrow your poison will get cured. But what would happen in the ship?"

Zhao Hai smiles and said, "It doesn't matter. When the time to detoxify comes tomorrow, I'll just go to the Space, not a huge trouble."

Green nodded, "You should be careful with the procedure. This is too important for us, as well as to the future of the Buda Clan."

Zhao Hai faintly smiled and said, "Grandpa Green, rest assured, there will be no problems. The Space has never failed me before, there's no reason for it to fail this time." Green nodded.

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Next morning, Zhao Hai and the others went out of the hotel early. Then they headed straight to the Haven. The Haven was just moored to the dock without interference. It looks like the fee that they paid was quite worth it.

Zhao Hai paid the supervisor before boarding the boat and wait for Charlie. When they docked the ship here, they already paid, now that they wanted to depart, they need to pay again, this dock is really too black hearted.

However, Zhao Hai didn't care, it was just a small charge. Currently, he wanted to know when Charlie would arrive. And just as he was thinking about this, a very ordinary carriage arrived and went right beside the Haven, then Liru came out of it.

When Zhao Hai saw this, he immediately gave the command to bring the carriage straight into the ship. Liru drove the carriage to the ship then Zhao Hai immediately set sail.

Only after they left the dock and entered the sea did Charlie get out of the carriage and smiled to Zhao Hai as he said, "I don't have any choice in my actions this time, I hope mister can forgive me."

Zhao Hai smiles and replied, "Not a problem. Your Highness, please." Then he led Charlie to the cabin. After the Haven got modified, the cabin of the Haven wasn't like those on the other ships anymore. Installed inside was a living room as well as a dining room.

When Charlie saw this part of the ship, he was startled, he didn't think that such a scene was possible inside a ship. When he sat down, Meg immediately gave him a cup of tea. After drinking a mouthful, he smiled and said, "Mister's ship is very nice. I have been on many ships before, it was only this time that I felt very comfortable."

Zhao Hai replied as he gave a smile, "Your Highness praises too much. The ship was only modified like this because I have some undead crew on board. They don't need to rest so there's no need to have cabins for their use. With that, I had so much free space."

Charlie stared blankly, he didn't notice that those crew were unexpectedly undead. After hearing Zhao Hai, he couldn't help but be surprised and asked, "It seems like Mister's Dark Magic has reached a high level. I actually thought that the crew on board were ordinary people."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "The undead on the ship are previously the original crew of the ship. In fact, I only had this ship recently, back when Grand Duke Lionheart was still alive. It was because of him that I had acquired this ship."

Charlie was puzzled, he asked, "Grand Duke Lionheart? But why do I see that this ship seems to have the workmanship of the Ocean Waves Dynasty? Did Lionheart have some relation to the dynasty?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "A little bit. When Lionheart ran away from his territory, he wanted to board this ship to run away. In the end, I caught up to him and he couldn't escape anymore. I killed him and his group, naturally, the ship was turned over to me."

Charlie's eyes flashed, "Grand Duke's demise was because of you? I thought that the Calci Family were the ones responsible for his execution. As it turns out, it was actually mister. May I know what rank Mister is right now?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, "8th rank. I'm just an 8th rank Mage, hehe, I hope that your highness wouldn't laugh at me."

Charlie actually laughed, "Mister is too polite. I think that the continent hasn't heard of a person as young as mister that has reached 8th rank before. Mister really brings a lot of surprises."

Zhao Hai replied, "I'm not counting on that. At least I know of some people in the Radiant Church who had reached that level who aren't older than me."

Charlie stared blankly, this was the first time that he had heard of this matter. He couldn't help but change his expression as he asked, "Can mister tell me about it in detail? Mister should know that because of the current matter, my Rosen Empire and the Radiant Church is not very happy with each other. I'm afraid that something will happen soon."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Your highness should have heard that I came from Aksu Empire. When I offended the Radiant Church and was forced to run to the Beastman Prairie. I didn't expect that the Radiant Church would send someone to hunt me down, and it was surprisingly a 9th rank expert. Fortunately for me, they violated a beastman taboo, so the 9th rank was killed by another 9th rank beastman. After he died, I turned him into an Advanced Level Undead. From his own mouth, I heard of a thing called the Ultimate Weapon plan that the Radiant Church had been operating these past years."

Charlie sternly listened to Zhao Hai's words. Upon hearing Zhao Hai mention the Ultimate Weapon plan, his expression changed. He looked straight at Zhao Hai and said, "Ultimate Weapon Plan?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "Right, the Ultimate Weapon plan. This plan selects innately talented children from the entire continent. They train these children as well as had the church's potion masters and artisans experiment on them. They plan to develop way to mass produce 9th rank experts. Those who failed would be at least 7th or 8th rank. Majority of those who failed would end up as crippled, some would even die from the process."

Charlie's expression continued to worsen, he asked further, "Mister, are you really talking about the Radiant Church? Haven't they always said that they are the servants of the Radiant God and thus would save people? Why would they do such a thing?"

Zhao Hai gave a bitter smile and answered, "This is only a pretense that they use. The talk about being the servant of the Radiant God and saving people is all nonsense. The bad things that they did are no less than what the Dark Mages did. I'll be open to your highness, a lot of those notorious Dark Mages in the continent are all cultivated by the Radiant Church. They trained those Dark Mages and made them go out into the continent and perform heinous acts to dirty and corrupt the reputation of the other Dark Mages. With this, not only did they make the populace hate the Dark Mages, they also slowly reduced their numbers, and hoping to eventually reach their goal of fully exterminating them."

Charlie's eyes couldn't help but shrink, he asked with a deep voice, "Are mister's words serious?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "No statement from them is true. Your highness, do you know why I left the prairie and went straight to Rosen Empire?"

Charlie replied, "Isn't it because of the Calci Family?"

Zhao Hai faintly smiled and said, "That is one reason, the other reason is because compared to all the nations in the continent, the influence of the Radiant Church on the Rosen Empire is the weakest. Rosen Empire is the most powerful nation in the continent, their own nobles had their own pride, therefore there would only be a few of them that would join the Radiant Church. Not like other nations where their highest officials are all members of the Radiant Church. Southern King of Aksu Empire is one of the members of the Church's Knight's Congregation. He held a high status in the church and thus in other nations. It was because of this that I came to Rosen Empire."

Charlie stood up and paced around the room as he muttered, "How could this be? This way, the Church would control the entire continent sooner or later. What fierce move by the Radiant Church."

The empire's anti-Radiant Church movement wasn't taken seriously by Charlie previously. In his view, the Radiant Church can only do so much inside Rosen Empire. But now, it seems like it was a completely different matter. Luckily, they had been suppressing the Church. This thought brought a cold sweat to Charlie's back.

Although it can be said that the empire had been suppressing the Church for many years, they didn't investigate them thoroughly. They were so sure that the church wouldn't be a threat. Charlie never imagined that the church had this hidden agenda going on.

After walking a few more paces, Charlie turned his head to Zhao Hai, "Mister, who else knows of this information?"

Zhao Hai gave a smile, "Your Highness, who do you think hates the Church the most inside the Rosen Empire ? Of course it is the Calci Family. Some of these matters were only known to them quite recently, but some was already known by the family for a long time."

Chapter 396 - Business

Charlie looked at Zhao Hai, he knew that Zhao Hai should have just acquired this information recently. He stared and asked, "Why are you telling me this?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and replied, "I have an enmity with the Radiant Church, they wanted me gone as soon as possible. In order to preserve my life, I have to pull more people into going against the Church. I'm telling these information to your highness in the hopes that you would also help me deal with the church."

Charlie stared at Zhao Hai for a moment, then he gave a laugh and said, "Alright, haha, no big deal. Mister can rest assured, if the church is really as overbearing as what you just described, then it is naturally my duty to deal with them. But mister should know that I'm just a prince, the things that I can do are quite limited."

Zhao Hai looked at Charlie while Charlie also looked at him, Zhao Hai showed a faint smile and said, "Your highness, if you need my abilities, I'll try my best to help."

When two wise people talk to each other, less words were required to convey a message. Charlie knew what Zhao Hai meant, he looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Charlie thanks mister. Mister, you should know that I need quite a bit of money right now. Do you have any business opportunities that you could provide me?"

Zhao Hai laughed and said, "Your highness is too polite. Haha, but I like your personality, direct and with no false pretenses. What business does your highness want? I'm thinking about cooperating on Merfolk products such as magic beasts, pearls and so on. What do you think about this?"

Charlie stared blankly before his eyes lit up. One could even see his eyes turn into gold coins. Nobody could blame him, merfolk products are too valuable in the continent.

The continent is very big, making its coastline quite long. However, one could easily forget that there were mages who could use their spells to harvest these marine products by the tons. This made these products as cheap as the price of cabbage.

But as time passed, those marine resources were all overfished to depletion. The only place that they were available belonged to the sea-dwellers, and humans wouldn't dare to approach that part of the sea. Since nobody wanted to go, the scarcity of these marine products made their prices skyrocket. Presently, there were almost no cities in the continent that had a market for these products, people were too reluctant to sell their share.

Now that he heard Zhao Hai propose a partnership regarding these products, Charlie immediately understood the amount of wealth involved. But he quickly sobered up, he looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, these merfolk are not fond of playing jokes, you say you got it from the deep seas? You'll scour them yourself? Sir, doing that isn't wise, if you anger those merfolk, huge troubles will arise."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, "It'll be alright, be relieved, all of these are legit. You forgot that I'm a Dark Mage. Since my crew didn't need to eat food, my food stockpile could last me for about a year and a half. In that time I can go to the deep seas and make my undead dive down for those resources. There's no need for me to find them myself."

When heard Zhao Hai, Charlie didn't add more. In the past, those who were willing to scour the coastline for marine products were those weak mages or apprentices. Since they couldn't do anything great with their magic, they would just go to the sea and make some money.

But for truly strong mages, they didn't stoop so low. These mages were already invited by nobles to sponsor them.

Also, those weak mages would only get cheap products from the sea that weren't that valuable, so they generally won't go into the deep sea, their ships also couldn't go there. After all, they could still earn some change with the fishes in the coastlines.

After a brief pause, Charlie opened his mouth, "Very well, I can cooperate with mister in this venture. How do you want our cooperation to be? Will you sell me the products? Or would we distribute them together? I think it's better if you give me your supply while I sell it, then we divide the profits. What do you think?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Alright, let's go with the latter, I'll give you my supply then you sell it. How do we divide the profits, half?"

Charlie replied, "I thinks that's no good. You are the one who got them, doing all the hard work. Me having half the profits wouldn't be appropriate."

Zhao Hai gave a faint smile and said, "It doesn't matter, then we're all set. Also, you highness, I wouldn't be able to give you a lot of fire fishes, otherwise their value in the continent would drop. I suggest that you place this business on other people's hands, I have a good deal for you in return."

Charlie asked, "Other business? What?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "Right now I have a lot of grains and vegetables on hand. If you want these, I can supply you. Of course, I'll sell it in market price, and I swear that their quality is the highest in the continent."

Charlie couldn't help but smile faintly, "Mister, my business is mostly wholesale selling. Good quality wouldn't make any difference, if I add my markup price, those merchants wouldn't purchase it."

Zhao Hai slapped his head, he actually forgot that the reputation of his high quality goods could only be used in Purcell Duchy. For the other people in the continent, they might not have heard of his Haven products. If he wanted to use his brand in Rosen Empire, it obviously wouldn't work.

Zhao Hai could only smile bitterly and say, "Your highness, how about we brand my products with my Haven trademark? This way, the populace would know about my products."

Charlie nodded, "I heard about mister's Haven products when you are still in Purcell Duchy. If we start making the brand known, it would be good for both of us."

Zhao Hai agreed, "Then I have no other good business at the moment. Although I have some rations, they are low-end products. They wouldn't be able to make much money."

Charlie smiled and said, "That's fine. I heard that rations are quite popular with the mercenaries. How about giving me some?"

Zhao Hai looked at Charlie. Seeing the enthusiastic man in front of him, Zhao Hai could only give a forced smile and said, "Your Highness, you've got to be kidding. Rations are very easily produced, soon the continent would have loads of suppliers, we wouldn't be able to make much profits in them. You won't be able to have good benefits. Don't worry, I won't hide from you the fact that I'm currently developing a new type of liquor. If the development succeeds, then it will definitely be huge, all hotels in the continent would have it. The price isn't very expensive, it is also very suitable for everyone. When that time comes, I'll have this as an exclusive business with you, what do you think?"

Charlie's eyes widened as he said, "Really? You have this kind of liquor?"

Zhao Hai smiles, "Of course I do. This liquor is just as fragrant as Milk Wine, but has a higher yield; this makes it quite cheap. If we make this, it would certainly be popular. Laura, please get a glass of beer for his highness."

Laura calmly nodded as she prepared a glass of beer for Charlie. Charlie looked at the glass in front of him, the color was so bizarre that he had the thought of not drinking it. But to show that he trusts Zhao Hai, he could only lift the glass and took a sip with his eyes closed.

When the beer reached his mouth, Charlie felt a strange sour taste. He didn't want to swallow it, but for the sake of politeness, he gulped the liquid down.

After the beer was drank, Charlie noticed a strange smell. The smell was quite peculiar, it wasn't a good smell, but it definitely made you want to take a second drink.

Without thinking about it, Charlie took another sip, then the smell came again. Charlie could only stop himself as he placed the glass down and said, "It really has a special taste, but I'm afraid that common people wouldn't like it."

Zhao Hai only smiles and said, "This is because it is still in development, the acidic flavor is still there. Upon completion, that flavor would not be there anymore."

When Charlie heard Zhao Hai's assurance, he became more interested, "If that is so, then this business would definitely be very good. But I seem to feel that this liquor wouldn't survive long times in storage."

Zhao Hai shook his head, "Your majesty is half wrong. Preserving this liquor is both easy and difficult. If this is stored in a tightly sealed container, then it could be preserved for a long time. If the seal is faulty, then the flavor wouldn't be good."

Charlie nodded, "So that's how it is. Then that's good. Sealing a container isn't a difficult thing. Then I will be anticipating mister's good news."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Alright, if the research succeeds, I will immediately supply you."

Charlie smiled, "I'll have to thank mister for today. All these money making businesses will be very helpful to me."

Zhao Hai gave a slight chuckle and said, "It's no big deal, after all, I still have to sell them somewhere right? Haha."

Charlie returned the smile and said, "No matter what, mister has my gratitude."

Zhao Hai laughed as he said, "I could also supply your highness with some bulls and argali, but those still have to wait until spring."

Charlie smiled, "Good. Although bulls and argali aren't in very high demand, their sales are still very good. As long as we have supply, we won't worry about selling them."

Zhao Hai nodded, "These businesses are enough for some people to be green with envy. I advise your highness to be careful. Make sure that people wouldn't group up against you, or else you'll going to be in deep trouble."

Charlie frowned, but he couldn't help but agree to Zhao Hai's suggestion. That situation can be very easily reached. .

Chapter 397 - Second Prince

What Zhao Hai said was true, all of those businesses that he proposed were indeed subject to envy. At present, all of the candidates for the throne had the same strengths and position. Nobody was particularly superior to the others. But if Charlie were to start these businesses, his position would certainly surpass his other brothers. This may force the others to group up to keep him in check, it would be troublesome.

However, Zhao Hai's businesses were really lucrative. Letting these benefits go would truly be a waste, this placed Charlie in a dilemma.

Zhao Hai looked at Charlie and smiled, "Your highness doesn't need to think about it too much. In the end, the final result isn't up to you, you should just go about your own matters."

Charlie nodded then sighed, he understood what Zhao Hai meant. The outcome of the struggle for the throne was indeed not up to the candidates. His father was still not old, he could still continue to become emperor for 20 years. In 20 years, nobody can really know what will happen, so there's no particular forecast that can be made.

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Your highness, when we reach Jade Water City, I might need your help in opening my shop."

Charlie smiled, "Mister can rest assured, I got you covered."

As he said this, an alarm could be heard outside. Zhao Hai turned his head to his side as Shun immediately ran out.

Charlie just calmly sat there. After a short while Shun came back and reported, "Young Master, there are several ships from the harbor approaching us. They look to be pursuing our ship, possibly wanting to surround it."

Zhao Hai nodded, "So the alarm was for us. Let's go see who it is."

After he stood up, Charlie followed suit and also stood up. Zhao Hai turned his head and said, "Your Highness, you should stay in the cabin this time. This may not be necessarily because of you. You will get exposed if you show yourself."

Charlie nodded as he sat back down. Then Zhao Hai led Laura and the others outside, leaving Charlie behind.

Liru frowned and asked, "Your Highness, do you think we're in danger?"

Charlie shook his head, "I'm not sure, we could only know later. I believe that mister's strength is enough to ensure our safety."

Although Liru was worried, he didn't talk anymore and just nodded. He didn't know that because of the upgrades in the Space, a lot of Zhao Hai's undead already had the strength of 8th rank. Also, Zhao Hai still had Cai'er and Zhao Wen. With all of these added together, there weren't a lot of people that could deal with Zhao Hai in this world.

When Zhao Hai came out of the living room, he calmly stared at the ships that had encircled the Haven. The ships weren't battleships, just five-masted ironclad cargo ships, like Zhao Hai's Haven. For someone to be able to mobilize this number of ships made Zhao Hai quite surprised.

However, Zhao Hai wasn't afraid, even if these ships were armed, they were useless. Zhao Hai's undead had already reached 9th rank because of the Space, with these undead on hand, Zhao Hai could even destroy a small kingdom, not to say these ships.

Zhao Hai didn't move, he waited the other party to approach him. He just stood calmly as he had the Haven's sails taken down.

Before long, the closest ship in the encirclement went towards the Haven. Zhao Hai observed the vessel. On its deck were a group of people, the most noticeable person was 30-year old man with a face closely resembling Charlie. Their figures were very similar with each other, he had ordinary clothes on but feels very different when he wore it. And most importantly, the commanding aura that this person had wasn't any less than Charlie's.

Upon seeing this person, Zhao Hai knew that the man didn't come for them, but instead for Charlie. This man was possibly Charlie's second brother, the Rosen Empire's Second Prince.

Zhao Hai took a deep breath and bowed towards the man who he suspected to be the second prince, "May I know who mister is? Why did you surround my ship? Didn't you know that this is Rosen Empire's waters?"

The supposedly second prince revealed a curious look when he heard Zhao Hai, after some time, he replied, "Are you Zhao Hai? You're quite brave, nobody asks me for explanations while inside Rosen Empire. But feel relieved, I did not come for you today."

When Zhao Hai heard the other party's words, his suspicions were confirmed. He couldn't help but smile faintly and say, "I really don't know why I need to be relieved, I'm just an ordinary merchant doing proper business. I didn't skip on taxes, nor have I become a spy, I didn't kill people and burn places. I really don't understand what merits me to be afraid."

The Second Prince looked at Zhao Hai's eyes and said seriously, "Boy, I'm not here to find you today. Go and make Little Three come out immediately. He came to my Rising Water city without meeting me, isn't he being impolite?"

Just as Zhao Hai was about to reply, Charlie walked out from the ship. He showed a faint smile and bowed, "I've seen second brother, I just went for a short visit in the city. I didn't want to disturb you.

The Second Prince looked at Charlie and laughed, "Is it really just a short visit and nothing else? Then why did mister Zhao Hai immediately leave Rising Water City and head towards Jade Water City?"

Charlie gave a smile and said, "I just unintentionally met mister Zhao Hai and invited him to do business in my Jade Water City. For convenience, I rode on his ship. What's wrong about that? Is it worth second brother dragging all of these people here?"

The Second Prince coldly snorted and retorted, "Little Three, your words are useless. Without even looking into mister Zhao Hai, I could tell at a glance that you just took him from me. This seems very insincere."

Upon hearing this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but force a smile and said, "Mister should be the Second Prince right? Your highness, I am a merchant, and isn't it up to me where I do my business? By your words, it seems like if I go to Rising Water city, then I am obligated to do business there, and not head to other places. With this logic, since I came to Sky Water City first, then should I do business there forever? Where did the second prince get the fact that I was stolen?"

The Second Prince looked at Zhao Hai, "Zhao Hai, there's no use to keep speaking. Behave yourself and stay in Rising Water City, I promise to not take action then. Otherwise, you wouldn't be able to do business in the Rosen Empire anymore, believe me."

Zhao Hai just smiled slightly and replied, "I don't believe you." Very simple words, but they made the Second Highness' heart explode with rage, he looked at Zhao Hai with a reddened face.

Charlie didn't think that Zhao Hai would actually go against the second prince, this moved him a bit. At the same time, he was scared. He knew that he wanted to get Zhao Hai's support, he didn't want him to suffer an accident.

Charlie immediately inserted, "Second Brother, speak straight, why did you come today? This matter had nothing to do with Zhao Hai, what do you really want from me?"

The Second Prince coldly replied, "Little Three, don't be too complacent, I know that you're the favorite. I won't touch you, since if you let father know, I'm finished. But no matter what, Zhao Hai must go back to Rising Water City with me."

Charlie replied, "Impossible. I don't have a deep influence on mister Zhao Hai. Going with me is his own decision, I didn't pressure him."

The Second Prince snorted, "Hmph, if you're not pressuring Zhao Hai, then why are you riding his ship towards Jade Water City? Why did he leave Rising Water City when he had just arrived there? Who doesn't know that he just had a falling out with the Calci Family. This time, when he came to Rising Water City, it was definitely to establish business. But now you're pulling him towards Jade Water City, who wouldn't see that you're in the wrong?"

Charlie just showed a faint smile, "There are a lot of people doing business between Rising Water City and Jade Water City. Can't you think that this is the situation this time, second brother? Also, you're talking about being wrong? I don't know why Mister Zhao Hai wanted to leave Rising Water City, but you stopping him is something that you shouldn't be doing."

The Second Prince looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Zhao Hai, do you really want to side with Little Three?"

Zhao Hai looked at the Second Prince and smiled, "Your highness, I'm just a merchant. Chasing benefits is my job. When I looked at Rising Water City's atmosphere, I decided that it isn't suitable for my business, therefore I want to head towards Jade Water City to take a look. Why am I unable to do this? Also, what's wrong with the Third Prince riding my ship?"

The Second Prince clenched his teeth when he heard Zhao Hai, "Good, Zhao Hai, good. You actually said that my Rising Water City isn't suitable for business? What benefits did Little Three give you? I can give you the same conditions."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but shake his head secretly, the second prince is much worse than Charlie. He just knew about Charlie when he embarked on the ship, only then did he give chase. This meant that he wasn't Charlie's match, such person wasn't an opponent for Charlie.

Zhao Hai bowed to the Second Prince and said, "Your Highness Second Prince, I just want to look at Jade Water City. Just like you said, me and the Calci Family currently have problems with each other. Thus, I want to choose another place to do business. However, I have not been to both Rising Water City and Jade Water City. This time, I only came to Rising Water City because it was the closest location, I didn't intend to do business there. There was no need for the Second Highness so amass such show of force."

The Second Prince looked at Zhao Hai while having a pale expression. "Good, good. I'll let you go Zhao Hai. But just know who's territory Rosen Empire belongs to." Then he waved his hand as he departed to his ship.

Seeing the Second Prince leave, Zhao Hai gave a sigh. He was utterly disappointed with the Second Prince.

Chapter 398 - Attitude

After Zhao Hai and Charlie returned to the ship's living room, Charlie smiled apologetically to Zhao Hai, "Mister, what you just did placed you on the opposite side of my second brother. Second brother isn't that broad minded, you need to watch out in the future."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "This is how people are. Some of them you become friends with, while some become your enemies. A truly friendly person only exists in stories."

Hearing Zhao Hai, Charlie understood that Zhao Hai was showing his faith on him. Although Zhao Hai promised to help him, he wouldn't be the same as his other people. Zhao Hai wants to have a degree of freedom in his actions as well as weight to his words. He wanted to be treated like equals.

Charlie also knew that people with Zhao Hai's capabilities have their own pride. They will not accept being slaves that will be on other people's beck and call. It was precisely because of this that Zhao Hai said those words.

Charlie nodded, "Mister can feel relieved. I will guarantee mister's safety. My second brother has underestimated by strength, mister can rest assured."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I'm not that worried, to be honest. With the second prince's current strength, he wouldn't be able to do anything that could harm me. Your highness need not worry himself over my well-being

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, Charlie couldn't help but knit his brows, "Mister, you need to be careful in not underestimating my second brother too much. The cards on his hand aren't weak, he isn't any weaker than Grand Duke Lionheart."

Zhao Hai showed a faint smile and said, "It doesn't matter. As long as he doesn't send a 9th rank expert to deal with me, then there's no problem. Your highness shouldn't worry."

When Charlie heard Zhao Hai, he nodded. In truth, it wasn't easy to request something from a 9th rank expert. When Grand Duke Lionheart was being hunted, the Calci and Shelley Families sent four 9th rank experts to kill Lionheart's two 9th rank experts. Naturally, the two families paid a huge price.

Seeing Zhao Hai's confidence, Charlie didn't say anything more, he could see Zhao Hai's strength with this point. Actually, by looking at the undead on the ship, Charlie wanted to gauge Zhao Hai's strength. Unfortunately, the undead didn't have any chance to exhibit their capabilities. But judging by their outer appearance, Charlie decided to not underestimate Zhao Hai.

Looking at the skies, it seems like lunchtime has arrived, so Zhao Hai invited Charlie to the dining area for a meal. Naturally, what they ate were nice meals; beef, mutton, fire fishes and various vegetables.

Charlie looked at the table and saw some dishes that he hadn't eaten before, this made him curious. Rosen Empire was the largest nation in the continent, so there were a lot of dishes that was served at the capital. But now, seeing that there were unique dishes in front of him, it touched the third prince's curiosity.

Of course, there were also fruit wine and milk wine served. On the other hand, the staple food was replaced with bread fruit. Zhao Hai wanted Charlie to taste food he hadn't tasted before.

Charlie was very curious of the bread fruit. When he started eating the delicacies, he was very startled since they were actually quite delicious.

It was especially so for the bread fruit. Charlie saw that this was from a fruit tree, but for the specific tree, Charlie didn't know.

After eating some fruit, Charlie placed it down and looked at Zhao Hai, "Mister, what is this fruit? Why does it change like this?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "This thing is called a Bread Fruit, I named it myself, hehe. Currently, only I have these on hand. However, I don't have enough output for now so I cannot sell these wholesale. What is more important about the fruit is that it is the main component for the beer that I am fermenting. This is also the reason why I am not preparing to push this product on the continent."

Charlie didn't expect that the bread fruit was actually a component for brewing beer. He nodded and said, "It really can't be sold, it would be more valuable if made into beer."

Zhao Hai faintly smiled, "Actually, the tree's yield is very high, not slightly inferior to bamboo rice. But the tree is very demanding in regards to climate. It couldn't just be grown anywhere, this makes its output very hard to increase."

Charlie gave a nod then frowned, "Mister, wouldn't this affect the beer's output?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and replied, "It shouldn't. I'm also researching about alternative materials to replace the bread fruit. And if we manage to do so, the bread fruit wouldn't be wasted, we could just sell it since it is also quite a good product."

Charlie nodded, "Truly a pity, this thing would be a fantastic thing to be made into army provisions. Not only could it increase the marching pace, it also tastes good."

Zhai Hai smiled but didn't agree, people's mindsets are truly quite different. He didn't think of using the bread fruit as army provision, and thinking of its advantages to the army, but Charlie did.

After finishing their lunch, Zhao Hai returned to his own room. Naturally, he gave Charlie a good room, one of the best rooms in the ship.

Upon entering his room, Zhao Hai immediately returned to the Space and went to the Processing Factory. He surveyed the situation and felt good, in a dozen or so hours, the Detoxification potion would finally be done.

Zhao Hai sat in the villa's living room with Laura and the others by his side. When Zhao Hai took a sip from his cup of tea, Laura looked at him and said, "Brother Hai, we have already sided ourselves with Charlie, wouldn't he be angry with your actions today?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I just did that to judge his attitude. I want to see what would make him angry. If he became angry because of my intentions, then it meant that he isn't that broad minded. Even if I volunteered to help him, I would only do so sparingly. But if he was fine by it, then I'll fully support him in ascending the throne.

Zhao Hai placed his teacup and sighed, "A superior person who isn't broad-minded is no good, this also applies for those who always strive for control. I could only gauge him because of this."

Laura nodded and didn't say anything. What Zhao Hai said was reasonable, if Charlie as a higher up didn't have a broad mind, like the Second Prince, then supporting him was not a good idea.

At this time, Meg stared towards the Processing Factory and sighed, "It is too slow, still more than 10 hours left. Why does time seem to flow too slowly, a minute feels like 10 years."

Zhao Hai can only smile faintly as he said, "You're over exaggerating, it's fine. We have the afternoon, then dinner, then sleep. After waking up, the potion should be ready."

Meg pouted her mouth, "That's easy to say. Young master, go look at what the third prince is talking about." Zhao Hai smiled and opened the monitor. The screen immediately turned to the Third Prince's room. Charlie was sitting inside while drinking, Liru was beside him.

Charlie looked somewhat thirsty, at the same time, he relaxed himself. He didn't think that the Second Prince would be alerted to his presence in Rising Water City. This was not good news for him.

Looking at Charlie's appearance, Liru knew what he was thinking, he couldn't help but whispered, "Your highness, now that the Second Prince has found out about us, we should inform Aonas, he may be in a dangerous situation."

Charlie placed his cup down and shook his head, "No, this time we went to the city to do about ten actions. Second brother shouldn't have known about Aonas."

Liru nodded then looked at Charlie, "Your Highness, wasn't Zhao Hai being too unreasonable today? He clearly expressed his intent to side with you, but his tone seems to be negotiating. He didn't put himself into a subordinate's position, it seems like he sees himself as your partner."

At this point, Charlie showed a faint smile, "Isn't this quite good? Liru, remember that people with ability would certainly hold a degree of pride. I couldn't do anything to mister Zhao hai's arrogance, he didn't need me to survive in the first place. Although he is currently in a sort of conflict with the Calci Family, I am quite sure that they wouldn't let go of him. the benefits that Zhao Hai brings are certainly too good. Also, even if he loses the Calci Family's backing, the Shelley Family is still extremely friendly with him. With such a continent spanning family in good relationship with him, why would Zhao Hai care about a nation's prince like me?"

Liru thought for a moment and had to agree with Charlie. The Shelley Family was a powerhouse whose influence has reached the entire continent. The family was quite formidable. If Zhao Hai maintains his friendly ties with the Shelley Family, even if he were to be ousted from the Rosen Empire, he wouldn't worry about surviving on other nations. So long as he has the Shelley family on his back, he wouldn't have any problems.

No matter how powerful the Radiant Church was, it would be impossible for them to exterminate all Dark Mages. Additionally, they were currently going after famous and notorious Dark Mages, they didn't have the time to deal with the mysterious Zhao Hai.

Charlie breathed out a sigh and leaned his body on the chair. "Having Zhao Hai help me should be the most correct decision I could make. Have you seen second brother's attitude? This meant that he has some people supporting his back. Poor brother, why couldn't you realize that father is still very much alive and kicking? You will only get farther and farther away from the throne."

After he said that, he slowly closed his eyes. Before long, a windy sound could be heard, Charlie surprisingly fell asleep. Liru immediately placed a blanket over the third prince's body.

After Zhao Hai saw the scene, he immediately turned off the monitor. He took a deep breath and turned to Laura, "I didn't think that Charlie would have such high view of me. But Laura, why did he say that that if the second prince had a faction behind him, the emperor would see him as a threat? Aren't they father and son?"

Laura gave a stiff smile and said, "So what if they are father and son? Fathers and sons killing each other is very common in royal clans. Not to mention royal clans, even noble houses have these situations happening all the time. People would go crazy for a high position. Even if the Rosen Emperor is a father, he wouldn't forgive those who threaten his position, no matter they be his brothers or sons, all of them would be dealt with."

Zhao Hai sighed, then nodded, "It really is very stressful when one is a ruler. I believe that there are a lot of monarchs that hadn't left their castle for their entire life. Their subordinates would just report about the happenings outside, not requiring them to check for it themselves. Who would've expected that the most pitiable people in the continent were actually the rulers?"

Laura smiled and said, "If others were to hear you, they would die laughing. Even if the king couldn't go out of his palace, don't forget that the entire kingdom belongs to him. Every single life inside it is in his hands. He gives life as well as takes it. Having the authority over a person's life would make anyone intoxicated. Otherwise, why do you think a lot of people wanted to be a monarch?"

Zhao Hai chuckled and said, "Who knows? I don't want to be like that anyway. I want my future situation to be just like now, free to walk around and wander about. We can just drink wine and sit while chatting. Isn't this a better situation?"

Laura smiles, "Only you would think about this kind of life. There are a lot of people in the continent that don't want that. But, this is also good, I used to be busy with my business everyday in the past, but now, I didn't need to worry about a lot of things."

Zhao Hai gave a forced smile and replied, "That may not be true for long, we already strive to have our own kingdom. My head couldn't help but ache when thinking about the day that will be realized. Sigh. Anyway, Laura, when can your subordinates gather so that we could fetch them?"

Laura thought for moment then said, "I have given them ten days to prepare. This time, I had almost all of them come. Some are very far while some are just nearby, they still need some time to gather. Right, how is Uncle Evan doing?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "He told me that he didn't want those people to leave. But he is still the Purcell Family's Patriarch, he needed to take the family into account. Thus, he had no choice but call the elder's assembly, and they agreed on letting your people go. I reckon Uncle Evan isn't very happy right now."

Laura could only smile, "Of course he is not happy, Uncle Evan's temperament is just like a warrior. He wanted to place loyalty first, but he is currently shackled by the family's interests which completely contradicts his character. It would be strange if he would be happy. On the other hand, when will he take Ruyen away?"

Zhao Hai forced a smile, "Ruyen is already on a ship. I really find Ruyen's situation quite funny. Back when I was Adam, she ruthlessly wanted to end her engagement with me. Now that I'm Zhao Hai, she did her best to avoid me. It really is interesting."

Chapter 399 - Waiting

Upon listening to Zhao Hai, Laura and the others laughed. They knew that Zhao Hai was just talking casually and didn't express that he had any interest in Ruyen. Just like what Zhao Hai told them before, Ruyen wasn't worth Zhao Hai's attention.

However, Laura asked, "Who did Uncle Evan send to get her? We still need to take care of her well-being, she should arrive in perfect condition. If anything happens to her, it wouldn't be good for us."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "It'll be fine. I will send some Blood Hawks to follow her. If there's anything wrong, we can immediately help."

Laura smiled, "I think there's no need for Elder Brother Hai to go, we can just send the Swordfish. Swordfish ships were even used to escort the emperor, I think there won't be any problems with it. This way we can sort of help with their situation. Having blood hawks carry your ghost staff around is very inconvenient for us. What do you think?"

Zhao Hai agreed, "This is a good idea. We have a lot of ships in our hands, and some of them would be rarely used. It should be a good idea to use them this time around."

Laura smiled and said, "If you send that many ships, the Aksu Empire would get nervous. They might think that a princess from Rosen Empire had come to visit Aksu Empire."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but laugh, they couldn't blame him. Currently, he has 11 three-masted ships and 4 five-masted ships on hand. This number is too astonishing.

Although the three-masted battleships were only the most common type, they were still battleships. Also, the five-masted ironclad merchant ships aren't easily bought and used by just anyone.

The cost of iron armor is too high, moreover they needed to be serviced every year. It was the same scenario if they underwent a battle, they would have to be serviced again. Because of this, no average person can take care of these ironclad ships. Even if you didn't use your ship, the maintenance cost of the ship was still very high.

Therefore, most five-masted ironclad ships are in the possessions of Great Families. Even Zhao Hai's Haven ship once belonged to a Great Family in Ocean Waves Dynasty before it changed hands.

If he sent all these ships to escort Ruyen, the Aksu Empire would certainly think that a princess had just come for a visit, and this is not an exaggeration.

After speaking of this, Zhao Hai immediately called over a blood hawk and released it to find Ruyen's ship. The hawk was very fast, they didn't need to wait for the evening to find Ruyen's vessel.

Although Ruyen rode on a ship, the vessel was just an ordinary three-masted cargo ship. It didn't have any special features. Aside from Ruyen, there were also some guards and servants that came along to meet her. When Zhao Hai looked closely, he could notice some Purcell Family elders that were 8th rank, all of them were warriors.

Such strength wasn't bad, 8th ranks were already considered to be experts on the continent. Only an anomaly like Zhao Hai would consider them as subpar.

Now that they spotted Ruyen, Zhao Hai didn't make his move immediately. He would wait until dark before he'll release the Swordfish to catch up to Ruyen's ship so nobody would notice.

Seeing that it was already late, Zhao Hai and the others came out of the Space. Not long after Zhao Hai went out, Charlie also came out of his room looking very well rested.

Zhao Hai immediately had the some chairs brought to the deck. The group sat on down and chatted with each other while enjoying the seascape. At the same time, they also ate dinner.

After having their dinner, Charlie returned to his room to rest. Zhao Hai also returned to his room, and since it was currently dark, he needed to find an appropriate time to release the Swordfish that would escort Ruyen.

Since the skies were still turning dark, Zhao Hai didn't hurry. He observed the situation on Ruyen's ship. It may have been because of her recent experiences, but Ruyen had become more mature. Her change was too noticeable that the servants who came for her immediately felt it. She is much quieter than before, she also became more considerate. She was very polite to the servants, which made them quite flattered.

But Zhao Hai didn't care about these changes, he only cared about Ruyen's security. As long as Ruyen didn't suffer an accident, then all is good.

After the skies turned pitch black, Zhao Hai looked for an area not too far from Ruyen's ship and released the Swordfish.

He also called out a blood hawk and sent it towards Purcell Duchy. In a few days, Laura's people would arrive and they needed to be transported using the ghost staff.

After doing all of these, Zhao Hai didn't know what else to do. Even if it was already dark, he didn't have the urge to sleep, this applied to Laura and the others as well. This was because they were waiting for the sun to rise in the morning, by then the detoxification potion would be finished.

While thinking of these, the group just sat on the living room and looked at each other. They couldn't help but laugh.

Zhao Hai opened his mouth, "We shouldn't be waiting for the result in here. Let's go to our rooms and rest. When we wake up tomorrow morning, the detoxification potion should be finished."

Laura nodded and stood up, "We cannot just sit here the entire evening, we need to rest. Also, Brother Hai, when you consume the potion tomorrow, you should call Grandpa Green's group over, otherwise they wouldn't forgive you."

Zhao Hai nodded, he knew that Laura was speaking the truth. If he didn't call Green and the others over, they would certainly complain to him for their entire lifetime.

The group returned to their respective rooms and the Space became peaceful. Zhao Hai was lying on his bed and thinking about all of what happened when he arrived at Ark Continent. Before long, he fell asleep.

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For who knows how long, Zhao Hai suddenly woke up. He looked out of the window and saw a bright sky.

Zhao Hai went out of his room and turned the monitor on. The outside sky was also bright, but not that much, it seems like it was still very early morning.

He immediately went outside and walked towards the Processing Factory. Surprisingly, Shun was already standing there, looking at the digits that were constantly changing. It was obvious that the potion was still not ready.

Seeing Zhao Hai arrive, Shun immediately bowed and said, "Young Master."

Zhao Hai showed a faint smile and asked, "You didn't rest?" He looked at the digits that showed 2 hours.

With an embarrassed face, Shun replied, "I couldn't fall asleep, so I came out to have a look. I hope I didn't disturb young masters rest."

Zhao Hai shook his head with a smile. At this time, footsteps could be heard. Zhao Hai turned his head to see Laura and the others approaching. Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile upon looking at their appearance. Laura and Meg also smiled towards Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai chuckled and said, "Well, we still have two hours. Let's go to Iron Mountain Fort and wake up Grandpa Green and the others." The group nodded and with a thought, Zhao Hai moved them to Iron Mountain Fort.

Upon arriving at the fort's living room, Zhao Hai couldn't help but stare. Aside from Green and the two elders, Karen was also present. Seeing Zhao Hai and the others arrive, Karen stared before he opened his mouth, "Why did you just arrive now? We had been waiting for the whole evening."

Zhao Hai looked at the group and smiled, "It's nothing, I just went to bed. I just happen to wake up early today. Grandma Merine, please whip up something to eat. After breakfast, we'll head back to the Space."

Merine nodded with a smile on her face. Then she called Meg and Laura over to the kitchen. Laura was currently studying how to prepare food. Even though she had no talent, and the food that she made were mostly inedible, she still studied diligently.

Looking at Merine and the others preparing the food, Zhao Hai turned to Green and said, "Grandpa Green, how is the beer's progress doing?"

Green smiled and said, "The time is too short. The liquor needs to be fermented for a while. This time, we did a few experiments to find out which materials are useful. We tried bamboo rice, barley, bread fruit, spatial water, ordinary water, cold water, as well as warm water. I believe there should be at least one of those that will succeed.

Zhao Hai smiled, "That's good. As long as we succeed, then it's fine. Also, what container do you plan on storing the beer in? We should make sure to seal the beer properly, otherwise we would only be selling low quality beer."

Little Jin wasn't present at this time. Because of the transmission point on Ape Island, Zhao Hai would know what Little Jin was doing.

Green replied, "Rest assured, we will not have any issues with this. At first, we wanted to use a wooden barrel but there seems to be some issues with the lid. Now we're currently finding ways to improve it, you don't have to worry."

Zhao Hai nodded, then sighed,. "As long as we make this beer properly, it could certainly be our Buda Clan's biggest source of income . The future demand for this thing wouldn't be any less than that of grain."

Karen looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Are you really sure? I've tasted that thing, it is too acidic, not really tasty."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, "When the beer ferments properly, you'll be convinced. There are only a few people who could resist the temptation of beer."

After the group chatted for a while, Merine brought the dishes. Zhao Hia and the others immediately went to the dining hall. Upon finishing their breakfast, they went to the Space and gathered around the Processing Factory.

In the Multipurpose Processing Machine, the digits shown had become 20 minutes. The group couldn't sit well inside the villa, so they just stood inside the Processing Factory and waited, they waited for the countdown to reach zero.

1. Laura's father

Chapter 400 - Pleasantly Surprised

Ten. Nine. Eight. Seven. Six. Five. Four. Three. Two. One!

The heartbeat of all those present synchronized with the ticking down of the timer. When the number turned to zero, they even felt as though their hearts have stopped.

A white light flashed inside the Processing Factory, then a small bottle appeared on the ground. The bottle was quite small, about the size of a palm, it had a flat bottom. Seeing through its transparent body, one could see a blue liquid. At this time, a prompt was heard, "Special Purpose Detoxification Potion for the Water of Nothingness completed, administer orally, one time use. After ingestion, toxin shall be removed, impurities will be discharged. At the same time, Host's body will be strengthened, advised to take the potion along with a Goldmetal Fruit, the effects will be better."

Zhao Hai stared, but he immediately took the small bottle and gazed at the blue liquid inside it. Green and the others also stared at the liquid with bated breath, probably afraid that the bottle would disappear if they breathed strongly...

Zhao Hao turned his head to look at the others, he showed a faint smile, "I think that the Space wouldn't deceive me, I should go buy a Goldmetal Fruit. Then I will go consume the two of them together, what does Grandpa Green think?"

Green looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Young Master, what are you planning on practicing, Magic or Battle Qi?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, "Battle Qi, of course. Now that I can use 8th rank Magic by using the Space, it would be redundant to learn Magic. I seem to remember about you saying that our family has the Wild Dragon Battle Qi being passed down, I hear that it's very famous in the continent, I'll train hard using that."

Green's eyes became wet as he laughed and said, "Good, good! Young Master is certainly worthy to be a Buda Clan member. I can teach you the true version of the Wild Dragon Battle Qi that our Buda Family has been secretly passing on."

Zhao Hai stared for a moment before he asked Green, "Grandpa Green, what did you say? What do you mean true version of the Wild Dragon Battle Qi? You mean that there's another version that isn't genuine?"

Green smiled faintly, “Right, our Buda Clan’s Battle Qi technique can be said to be one of the most famous techniques in the continent. Not only is the way it is practiced different, the attack strength of our technique is leagues better than most. Because of this, a lot of people became jealous. Thus, our Clan’s Wild Dragon Battle Qi has been divided into two versions. The first version is the simplified one, it has a weaker attack strength as well as a slow rate of practice. That version couldn’t compare to the true version of our Wild Dragon Battle Qi manual.”

Zhao Hai smiled, “That’s good to hear, but we still need to wait until my toxin gets removed. Teaching me when that time arrives wouldn’t be too late.” Then he took the bottle and headed to the villa’s living room along with the others following behind him.

Inside the living room, Zhao Hai placed the small bottle on the table first before opening the Spatial Store and buying a Goldmetal Fruit.

Now that the Goldmetal Fruit has been digitized, it could now be bought in the shop. However, its price wasn’t that cheap. At this moment, it was the most expensive thing in the shop, costing 10 thousand gold coins per fruit.

But Zhao Hai didn’t care about the price, he immediately bought the fruit and placed it beside bottle. He took the bottle and removed the cork. He looked at the liquid inside before raising his head and downing the liquid into his mouth.

It wasn’t until the bottle was empty before he placed it down. He flapped his lips but couldn’t taste any residual flavor. Then he took the Goldmetal fruit and took several bites one after another.

Every single person in the room looked at Zhao Hai eating the Goldmetal fruit. They just stayed in their place and stared at him.

Zhao Hai licked his lip, the fruit’s flavor was extremely good. It had a cool feeling as well as a sweet and sour flavor. This made Zhao Hai secretly want to eat another one.

Zhao Hai looked at the others’ appearance and couldn’t help but laugh, “I didn’t expect that the taste of this fruit would actually be very pleasant.” After he finished talking, he suddenly felt a rumbling sensation in his belly. Zhao Hai’s face changed before he charged towards the toilet while holding on to his stomach.

Inside the toilet, Zhao Hai immediately unbuttoned his pants and sat down. The stench that emanated from the toilet almost made Zhao Hai faint.

After 'working hard' for about 10 minutes, Zhao Hai was about to collapse, this wasn't what he expected to happen. He immediately got some tissue paper from the Space and cleaned himself up. When he stared at what he just left behind, he felt very disgusted. What he saw was something black, akin to asphalt, it dispersed waves of gut retching odor. Zhao Hai could even swear that he just saw insects flying around the toilet.

Zhao Hai quickly covered the toilet and pressed the flush button. He also turned the exhaust fan on. When he felt that the air inside the restroom became better, he immediately walked out.

Although Zhao Hai felt that he was on the verge of collapsing, there was a sense of extreme relief that came about him. This weird feeling made him both uncomfortable and glad.

When he came out of the restroom, he saw Green and the others waiting for him. Seeing Zhao Hai come out, Green immediately inquired, "Young Master, how are you feeling? Are you alright?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "I'm fine, I feel good, but I'm feeling very weak." Meg immediately went forward to support Zhao Hai as they headed back to the living room. After Zhao Hai sat down, a glass of water was given to him.

After drinking the glass of water, Zhao Hai felt a bit better. Scratch that, it was a LOT better. He felt that he was full of strength, something he never felt before.

Green and the others stared at Zhao Hai. He placed his glass down and smiled, "I'm feeling so much better. That feeling earlier must have been the potion's side effect. Now I feel that my body is overflowing in strength."

Green's heart was moved, he immediately said to Zhao Hai, "Young Master, I think the things that the Space produces are all very special. How about I impart the Wild Dragon Battle Qi Technique to you right now. Let's see what results come up."

Zhao Hai nodded, then Green quickly told Zhao Hai the instructions to practice the Wild Dragon Battle Qi Technique. Upon hearing the instructions, Zhao Hai was surprised, this was because this technique was unexpectedly quite the same as Earth's Internal Strength techniques. Just like how it was described in martial arts novels, the technique practices the body through the various acupoints inside.

In Ark Continent, before one practices their Battle Qi through the acupoints, one needed to train their bodies first. Once their bodies have reached a certain rank, then they could train their Battle Qi. As long as they establish a minor cycle of qi within their bodies, then they would have reached minor mastery. This rank gives the person close to 5th rank in strength.

However, the Wild Dragon Battle Qi was different, this technique didn't need you to train your body first. Everybody was able to practice this technique, naturally, those who had innate talent in cultivation would have much faster progress than those who had worse.

Zhao Hai had read a lot of Battle Qi techniques these past few days, so one could say that he had a bit of understanding about Battle Qi. Simultaneously, he had already memorized all of the acupoints inside a human's body. This was because knowing those points were tantamount to cultivating Battle Qi.

Now that Green imparted the technique to him, he immediately understood it. He remembered the route according to the technique and started to try to probe for the sensation that one needed to feel.

In practicing Battle Qi, the most difficult part wasn't advancement, but this sensation that one must acquire so that they could embark on their cultivation journey. This sensation was nothing but ethereal, it relied completely on your internal senses. After many years of experimentation on the continent, they had found out that those who had good body strength were able to achieve this feeling easier. This was also the reason why most train their bodies before starting to train in Battle Qi.

Zhao Hai expected to have difficulties in feeling out the sensation, but he didn't think that when he just started the process, something like ants crawling in his meridians were immediately felt. It evolved into a torrential flow before completing the first rank of the Wild Dragon Battle Qi technique.

Then, the second rank was attained, then the third, the fourth, the fifth, and it stopped at the sixth rank. Zhao Hai felt that he was being excessive and stopped advancing, then he continued to operate the six ranks of the technique.

Every time the technique made a revolution, Zhao Hai felt that his body's battle qi increase by a point. He slowly felt the Battle Qi in his body becoming like a river that rushed along his meridians. The river was golden in color, with a few black, blue, cyan, and red colors mixed in.

The movement of this river became quicker and quicker, and when Zhao Hai felt that the river could break through his meridian's limitation, he immediately attacked the 7th rank. Looking as though the river had found an exit, it immediately rushed into the meridians and immediately broke through the 7th rank. When he broke through the 7th rank, the river began to calm down. However, Zhao Hai still felt that there was still enough power to go on. So he continued to circulate his Battle Qi along the 7th rank and slowly accumulated the quantity of qi inside his body.

Before long, when he felt like his limits were about to be broken through, Zhao Hai immediately started to attack the 8th rank.

The operation was very smooth as he quickly broke through to the 8th rank. Then the river of Battle Qi calmed down. Zhao Hai felt his own veins become sturdy, his skeleton hard, his muscles powerful, and his skin durable. However, this time, he felt that he could no longer continue on.

Zhao Hai was very confused, he didn't know why all of these happened. Then suddenly, he thought about the Magic brought by the Space. The Magic of the Space had already reached 8th rank. Now, his Battle Qi has also reached the 8th rank, it seems like all of these were linked to the Space.

Upon thinking about this, Zhao Hai stopped his cultivation. He slowly opened his eyes and saw Green and the group looking at him anxiously. Zhao Hai couldn't help but show a faint smile and said, "What happened? I'm fine, I just circulated by Battle Qi, everyone doesn't need to be so nervous."

Green forced a smile and asked, "Young Master, you didn't JUST practice Battle Qi. You've been doing it for a full day and night. Young master, what Battle Qi rank have you reached?"