

Another World 441

Chapter 441 - The New Swamp

But Zhao Hai also found out that these 9th ranks from the Carrion Swamp had a special habit. They had to absorb the Seven-colored poisonous mist in their bodies in order to practice. They would slowly circulate the mist within their body and make it part of their attack.

However, even if the Space didn't have a poisonous fog, Cai'er's main body was here. And with the addition of the Space's pesticide, Cai'er's poison was still sufficient for them, this made it possible for the 9th ranks to continue practicing inside the Space.

When the Space became a World, it didn't worsen, conversely, it instead became better.

When Zhao Hai was on earth, he heard someone saying that there was one thing that Humans can be described as, Viruses. Viruses don't have any purpose other than to destroy the place they live in. It was the same with Humans, every place they settle in would most definitely be destroyed. For Earth, Humans acted like what viruses do to bodies they stay in.

On the other hand, even if the Space had a lot of animals, it had no man-made destructions inside. One could say that this was a completely closed up world, everything all goes according to nature. Although the Space can digitize, which was an exception, it still can't do any large effect on the Space.

Now, Zhao Hai was considered to have subdued the entire Carrion Swamp. He didn't know in the beginning, but upon checking, he found out that there were thirty-six 9th rank Magic Beasts in the Swamp. Adding Cai'er, Little Jin, and Mu'er, Zhao Hai now had thirty-nine 9th ranks. With this amount of 9th rank experts, Zhao Hai can now be considered to be one of the most powerful forces in the continent.

However, Zhao Hai was not planning on using these 9th ranks. Even if this amount of power was terrifying, Zhao Hai had no plan of world domination. What he only wanted to do was protect the Black Wasteland as well as the Carrion Swamp. He really didn't want to do any other things.

To be honest, Zhao Hai knew that this was quite selfish. Back on earth, because of the different times, people pursue material things. If you ask them if they have any great ideals, then they wouldn't have anything. People generally aren't very nationalistic since they all wanted to think of their income, to

have an easy life. Zhao Hai knew that there was something wrong with this. He also knew understood that he needs to be one thing, which was being responsible.

A man who knows his own responsibility and was responsible is a real man. Although Zhao Hai has some shortcomings, he recognizes his responsibilities and is trying to be more responsible. For him, this was his biggest merit.

Zhao Hai didn't want to kill people just because he wants to, he didn't want to start wars either. Therefore, even if he's very powerful right now, he only yearns to protect this little part of the continent that he calls home. He doesn't want to bully others, he doesn't want to dominate the world. Doing such things can only evoke war, and during wars, it was the commoners who suffer the greatest. Zhao Hai didn't want this outcome.

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Now that he has increased his 9th ranks, the Space's level has become level 45, which was the Farm's level before the transformation.

Zhao Hai was quite unsatisfied with this, but he knew that there was nothing he could do. With the Farm and the Ranch becoming one, levelling up became even harder, especially in higher levels.

Level 45 was already very good, but this has no substantial effect on the Farm. At most, Zhao Hai can now plant level 45 plants, not much improvement.

But even if the Ranch also had no good improvements, Zhao Hai was content with. After all he only needs 5 levels until level 50, when he reaches that level he can then breed Divine Beasts.

However, Zhao Hai also knew that reaching these 5 levels will be very difficult. More than 30 9th ranks allowed the Space to reach level 45, and all of them didn't even advance the Space's level by 10. Zhao Hai didn't know how many more 9th ranks he needs to subdue in order to fulfill the requirements for these 5 levels.

In the end, Zhao Hai placed this worry on the back of his mind. He prepared to finish up in Carrion Swamp so that he can return to Sky Water City.

God's Grace Day was less than 10 days away, so he wants to return to Sky Water City and take a look. Not only does he want to go back to Sky Water City, he also wants to take a look at Jade Water City.

Also, it has been a long time since Megan joined Zhao Hai. At this point, the Calci Family should have been quite worried. Moreover, it wouldn't be good for Calci Family's little princess to be absent during God's Grace Day. The family dotes heavily on Megan, because of this, Zhao Hai must give the family some face.

There wasn't much problems left in the Carrion Swamp. What Zhao Hai needs to solve at this point was the matter about the swamp's poison. For those inhabitants who hadn't become strong Magic Beasts yet, they needed to expel the toxin from their bodies. In the past, what they did was to run towards the Black Wasteland and expel it there.

Zhao Hai also thought about this problem in the past. The place between Iron Mountain Fort and Carrion Swamp had a small river. The water from that small river was from the lake inside the mountain. That water has been upgraded by the Space and can be used to detoxify the beasts.

But there were a lot of beasts inside the Carrion Swamp, and some of them wouldn't be able to make it to the Black Wasteland. Because of this, they had no choice but find other places inside the swamp to expel the poison. This caused the poisonous mist inside the swamp to become stronger and stronger, making the time between expelling poison for the beasts even shorter as time goes by.

It would be great if this poison was removed, however, at the same time, it wouldn't be good. If the poison inside the swamp were to vanish, the Magic Beasts inside would be disadvantaged. If those Magic Beasts loses their poison, their overall attack strength would be seriously affected.

So if Zhao Hai doesn't think about this carefully, he would be hurting the swamp's Magic Beasts. Upon hearing from the other 9th ranks, Zhao Hai found out that other than Zhao Wen, there hadn't been any new 9th rank Magic Beast appearing in the Carrion Swamp lately. And this has been for a long time. This was because at this point, most Magic Beasts inside the swamp cannot survive the swamp's poison anymore. Since the toxicity of the mist got stronger, the expelled poison returned to their bodies. Because of this, most Magic Beast would die, they simply cannot survive long enough for them to reach 9th rank.

After discussing with the 9th ranks, they had reached an agreement that Zhao Hai would set up several springs inside the swamp. These springs would contain the Space's water. After setting the springs up, the 9th ranks would lead the other beasts to drink from the spring, this way the problem about the toxin would be solved.

Now that Zhao Hai's Monitor had recorded the entirety of the Swamp, this wasn't a big of a problem. From Zhao Hai's calculation, the area of the Carrion Swamp and the Black Wasteland is not smaller than Aksu Empire. Instead, it was actually much larger.

One must know that when the Buda Clan obtained this territory, it was already their permanent domain. This bestowment was recognized by the Radiant Church as well as the other empires. Even if Empires change from one ruler to another, the Buda Clan would forever hold this territory. Because of this Zhao Hai hoped to increase their lands.

In the past, Zhao Hai didn't dare improve both the Black Wasteland as well as the Carrion Swamp since he didn't have the strength to protect these two places.

But now, it was different. Zhao Hai currently has enough strength to defend these two places. Even if other people becomes envious of his property, they can just try and face his numerous undead.

However, Zhao Hai had no plans of revealing the state of the Black Wasteland at this time. After all, he still needs to construct more infrastructure here and he needs to acquire a lot of resources in order to do so. If the other powers were to find out, they would certainly impose limitations for Zhao Hai, and this wouldn't be good for him.

Zhao Hai wanted to slowly accumulate his wealth, therefore, after receiving the 9th ranks, he immediately went and established those detoxification springs. In the future, the 9th ranks can just lead the other beasts on order to help them remove their accumulated poisons.

After doing this, the problem with the black soil was finally solved. Later on, they wouldn't worry any longer and Zhao Hai be assured that he could open his lands to the outside world in the near future.

Solving the matters inside the Carrion Swamp took them almost one month, now, God's Grace Day was only 5 days away. The Calci Family has also sent a letter to Zhao Hai, asking him to return to Sky Water City as soon as possible.

It was not only the Calci Family, Charlie sent a letter as well, inviting him to check Jade Water City. Naturally, Charlie was not in Jade Water City, so he asked Zhao Hai to visit his place back on Carson City.

Zhao Hai didn't decline, not matter where he was, he can still return to Iron Mountain Fort in a flash. Regardless of where he stayed, it was still like he's in Iron Mountain Fort, so there was no reason for him to not accept the invitation.

After making his decision, Zhao Hai immediately prepared himself to head towards Sky Water City. Megan was also missing her home. Although she didn't tell Zhao Hai about it, one could clearly see it from her expression.

Zhao Hai told Green about their plan to leave, to which Green didn't oppose. Green and the others knew that since the Buda Clan has revealed their banner, Zhao Hai's responsibilities became even more. Moreover, the eyes of the continent were now staring at them. At this time, Zhao Hai should maintain his good relationship with the Calci Family as well as the Third Prince Charlie.

Although it can be said that the current strength of the Buda Clan wasn't any less than those at the top of the continent, and they didn't even need to fear the might of the entire Human race, Green and Zhao Hai didn't think about this. This was because Zhao Hai didn't like war, and Green loved the Human Race.

Chapter 442 - Grandly Opening the Main Entrance

Zhao Hai and the others appeared outside Sky Water City. This time, they weren't in a tight schedule so they first looked for a remote place before Zhao Hai released his bull-pulled carriage and slowly headed to the city.

The giant horned bull-pulled carriage, the Wild Dragon War Banner, and Alien, were the three things that identified Zhao Hai. No matter which three were present, people would know that it was Zhao Hai who arrived.

It was because of this that when Zhao Hai's bull-pulled carriage entered Sky Water City, he was immediately escorted by the city's garrison troops as it headed toward the City Lord's Mansion. Even if these garrison troops didn't give Zhao Hai face, they still had to give respect to Megan. They were very clear about how Smith loved Megan.

After nearly a month of constant exchanges of information, Zhao Hai's reputation had spread throughout the continent. People on the continent now knew about this Dark Mage as well as the Buda Clan.

Major powers in the continent didn't think that the Buda Clan, who vanished for one year, would actually return stronger than ever.

If one really counted, the time before the Buda Clan regained its power wasn't long. Shortly after they were reassigned to the Black Wasteland, Zhao Hai appeared on the continent and then continued to slowly spread his reputation, attracting the interest of major forces. It was just that people didn't realize that Zhao Hai was actually the head of the Buda Clan, the famous crippled child from the Aksu Empire.

What was even more noteworthy was the fact that Zhao Hai had managed to get his hands on the cure for the Water of Nothingness. This made him the center of attention of the entire continent.

The Water of Nothingness have been pressuring the powerful experts of the continent. They were afraid of being plotted against and unknowingly drinking the Water of Nothingness. If they reach this point, then no matter how loud the complain, nobody would listen to them.

But now that Zhao Hai appeared, it was like having a huge obstacle being removed out of their way. For him to be able to solve the toxin of the Water of Nothingness meant the others who were affected could get cured as well. For the various experts, this was certainly good news.

It can be said that Zhao Hai's status on the continent became something that wasn't much worse than a Patriarch from a Great Family. This was because he has the capability.

People knew that during the war in Casa City, not only did Zhao Hai obtain near 100 thousand new undead, he also managed to exterminate several 9th rank experts of the opposing party.

The 9th rank experts weren't only attacked, they were exterminated. What did this mean? It meant that Zhao Hai himself also had 9th rank experts up his sleeve, and their numbers should be quite large.

When they heard about this, the people of the continent were startled. They didn't think that Zhao Hai would have such method. They knew about the Buda Clan's demise, this was mainly because they didn't

have any 9th rank experts. But the Buda Clan surprisingly acquired several of them this time, can 9th ranks be this easily obtained?

But while the others were surprised about this information, the Calci Family, on the other hand, were rejoicing. In the past, Zhao Hai told them that as long as they don't send four 9th rank experts after him, then those they send wouldn't be able to return. But neither Smith nor Randolph actually believed this. The only reason the Calci Family let go of their grudge with Zhao Hai was because the situation had gotten a lot more complicated.

Ever since they received word that Zhao Hai eliminated several 9th rank experts in Casa City, Smith and Randolph both felt a wave of fear after their initial surprise. Although they knew that the Purcell Family had a powerful 9th rank expert, Origin Sword Saint, the other part had four 9th rank experts, as well as two Advanced Divergent Ability Users. For Zhao Hai and Origin Sword Saint to destroy that lineup meant that Zhao Hai wasn't lying to the Calci Family before.

Under such circumstances, Smith and Randolph had formally accepted Zhao Hai. They knew that even if it was the Calci Family, the four 9th ranks wouldn't be killed that easily. If they were to be attacked by four 9th rank experts, they would still win, however, it would be a bitter victory.

And from the looks of it, Zhao Hai seemed to not have lost that much even after killing those experts, this made Smith very startled.

In the past, they always interacted with Zhao Hai as though they had the higher position. If it weren't for Megan marrying Zhao Hai, it would be hard to say where the family's relationship with him would end up.

Even if Megan still wasn't married to Zhao Hai, Randolph was still planning on renouncing their engagement. In his opinion, Zhao Hai's identity was in no way comparable to Megan.

But now it was different, Randolph and Smith now regarded Zhao Hai as someone of equal status. They currently weren't thinking that Zhao Hai was not worth Megan, they also placed Zhao Hai in a special position in their minds. They decided that the way they interact with Zhao Hai must be changed.

Zhao Hai wasn't thinking about any of these. The reason why he participated in the Purcell Duchy war was to reveal to the continent the strength of the Buda Clan. He wanted to let the continent think twice about underestimating his clan.

Zhao Hai and the others quickly arrived at the City Lord's Mansion. When they arrived, the group couldn't help but stare, this was because the direction that they were led to was the main entrance of the mansion.

No average person can walk through the mansion's main entrance. If your status wasn't up to par, then you don't have the right to pass through here. Therefore, Zhao Hai only passed through the side entrance in the past. Because of his good relationship with Smith, as well as his engagement to Megan later on, he was allowed passage to the side entrance, otherwise he wouldn't even be able to pass through.

But when Zhao Hai returned this time, Smith actually gave the command to receive them through the main entrance, and more importantly, Smith was there waiting for them.

Zhao Hai came down from his carriage and immediately walked towards Smith before giving a bow, "Uncle Smith, why did you come personally? Right, why did you open the main entrance this time? I'm not familiar with this arrangement.'

Smith looks at Zhao Hai, he saw that there seems to be no changes to the young man's demeanor, he couldn't help but feel happy, he smiled and said, "This is my father's orders, in his own words he said that you have the qualifications to walk through the mansion's main entrance. We, the Calci Family, recognize your status in behalf of the continent."

Zhao hai nodded, then walked together with Smith towards the Mansion with a smile. Zhao Hai knew what Smith meant.

When a Clan becomes a Great Clan, they need to have the recognition of some other Great Clan. The Calci Family greeting Zhao Hai with the opening of their Main Entrance meant that they recognize the status of the Buda Clan, for Zhao Hai and his clan, this was a very important matter.

The influence of the Calci Family on the continent was very huge. Although they were suppressed by the Radiant Church, Great Nobles aren't that easily pressured. Even if the suppression from the Church did have an effect to the Family, the impact was not that great overall.

For a high profile Family like the Calci Family to recognize the Buda Clan, this would certainly affect how the continent views the Buda Clan in the future.

Smith didn't become polite with Zhao Hai and invited him directly into the living room. Inside, Randolph was waiting. The living room wasn't a place where anybody can just enter. Since Zhao Hai was engaged to Megan, him and his people were allowed entrance, the others were invited out of the room.

Randolph didn't keep appearances this time, he stood inside the living room while waiting for Zhao Hai and the others. When he saw Zhao Hai arrive, Randolph showed a smile, and went forward to greet Zhao Hai himself. Although Randolph didn't say anything warm, compared to how he interacted with Zhao Hai in the past, this time was much better.

After the group entered the living room and sat down, Randolph looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Good, Little Hai, what you did was really fantastic. You've shown the power and prestige of a Dark Mage, good job. Let's see if those other fellows in the continent dare underestimate us Dark Mages again."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "It was also time to let them know. There were no major wars in the continent for these past years, and they had forgotten what Dark Mages can do. This greatly contributed to the success of the Radiant Church's suppression in addition to the bribes that the church sent. With what I revealed this time, those Nobles would know that the battlefield is a Dark Mage's domain. The Radiant Church may have given them benefits, but they would still have to use these benefits to build their army. And since they needed to carefully manage their armies, they would now consider adding Dark Mages to their roster knowing how effective the profession is during wars. I believe that a lot of people would change their views of Dark Mages after this."

Randolph nodded and said, "Right, these years, those who wanted Dark Mages become fewer and fewer. Some nobles think that raising Dark Mages wasn't worth it. This time, you made them understand that Dark Mages are worth the resources."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "God's Grace Day would arrive in a few days. I'm afraid that we only have today to spend time here. Tomorrow, we have to head towards Jade Water City. Does Grandfather have things he wishes to request?"

Randolph shook his head and said, "I don't have any. Tomorrow, I must also prepare to head towards Carson City, Smith will also be there. Little Hai, time is tight, will you be able to catch up to the capital if you go to Jade Water City?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "The Third Prince wanted me to go to Carson City, I'm also preparing to give him a visit. When I arrive at Jade Water City, I will immediately head towards the capital after taking care of a few things."

Randolph nodded, then he looked at Zhao Hai and asked, "Little Hai, recently the Third Prince seem to have acquired a lot of marine products. Does this have anything to do with you?"

Zhao Hai didn't hide the truth from him, he smiled and said, "A couple of days ago, I went to the deep seas and had my undead scour the waters. You should know about the properties of the undead, so I had no qualms about having them get marine resources for me."

Randolph nodded and didn't talk anymore, he knew that these marine products weren't something that he could get his hands on. This was because those had already become the Third Prince's business. If he meddles, he might offend the Third Prince, and that would be too disadvantageous to the family.

Chapter 443 - Important Matter

Randolph didn't want to offend Charlie not because he was afraid of the Third Prince. It was just that he didn't want to offend Charlie right now. The struggle for the throne was still going on. Randolph didn't want to support any of the Princes as well as offend any of them. This was a matter that Randolph didn't want to get involved in.

Zhao Hai didn't tell Randolph about the beer and rice wine. This was because they still hadn't made a method to mass produce them, also, Zhao Hai didn't want to reveal them too soon.

The beer and the rice wine was a unique product in this continent. Zhao Hai wasn't planning on cooperating with another person, he already has Charlie and the Calci Family.

Zhao Hai turned to Randolph and said, "Grandpa Randolph, does me supporting the Third Prince have any effect on you? If I stop supporting him now, then I would be offending him. This wouldn't be good for us."

Randolph nodded and said, "It won't affect us. You cooperating with Charlie wouldn't have a great impact to the Calci Family, rest assured. In fact, in the continent, Great Clans also participate in succession battles, however, they do it indirectly. This way, if they fail, there won't be any repercussions. But if they succeed, the benefits they get would be substantial. When you joined the Third Prince's side, you and our family were still enemies. We only reconciled after you got engaged to Megan. You supporting the Prince before that was already known by the people. This would assure that the Calci Family wouldn't be affected."

Zhao Hai nodded, "But even if doesn't affect you, I'm still engaged to Megan in the end. From here on out, I need to consider the Calci Family in my decisions. This time, I revealed our Buda Clan because I wanted to show the continent what kind of clan Megan is getting wed to. I want them to know that that I have the strength to do so. I don't want Megan to be made into a joke."

Megan sat beside Randolph, when she heard Zhao Hai, her eyes couldn't help but redden. She didn't think that Zhao Hai also had that reason.

Randolph nodded, "Very good, Little Hai, you did very good. Megan didn't make a mistake. You will certainly be a one of my Calci Family in the future. Right, no need to eat at another place, I've already prepared a meal for you. Let me show you my hospitality."

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After eating their meal, Zhao Hai and the others rested inside Sweet Plum Courtyard while Megan returned to her own place. She actually wanted to stay in Sweet Plum Courtyard, however, the madam asked her to stay with them. She had no other choice but to comply.

When Zhao Hai arrived at Sweet Plum Courtyard, he immediately went to the Space along with Laura and the others. More recently, they have been staying in the Space more. If they don't have any special thing to do, then they would stay inside the Space.

When the madam and Megan arrived at her room and sat down, the madam looked at Megan and said, "Megan, how was this time's journey with Zhao Hai? Were you in danger during the battle?"

Megan shook her head and said, "No, mother, how could I possibly be in danger? I didn't even get to go somewhere, we've just stayed inside a safe area inside Casa City. I didn't even get to see the battlefield."

The madam nodded and then asked more, "Did four 9th ranks really attack Casa City? Are there two Divergent Ability users present as well?"

Megan nodded, "Yes, four 9th rank experts, one Light Mage, three Warriors. The other two were Divergent Ability Users and should be quite famous in the continent. I asked Elder Brother Hai and he said that the two of them were known as the Wealthy Twin Stars. Did you hear about them, mother?"

The madam stared, then she nodded, "I did. These two were Metal element Divergent Ability Users. They're highly skilled. Moreover, they hadn't been caught even after several years."

Megan nodded, "I also heard about that from Elder Brother Hai. But those two people were already turned into Advanced Level Undead. Brother Hai also said that those two should have accumulated a lot of coins. If we get to have them, then we shall acquire quite a fortune."

The madam smiled, "Little Hai really knows how to get money. Indeed, it would be quite a fortune. Those two have been desperately acquiring money all these years. And they only want gold coins, nothing else. This time. Little Hai would surely get a lot of gold coins."

Megan smiled and said, "But we haven't gotten it yet. These days we had a lot of things to take care of after the war. It hasn't been very easy."

The madam looked at Megan's face and smiled, "Really? Right, Little Hai's marine products, did he really acquire them himself? Where does he get them?"

Megan already thought about the excuse along with Zhao Hai. So when the madam asked her a question, Megan immediately replied, "Naturally, there's no use in deceiving people. He got those items from the area around Ape Island. There were almost no people there, so there are a lot of good

products to be harvested. But for the magic beasts, Brother Hai didn't want to get a lot of them. He didn't want to have the area be like the coastlines, where there aren't any good items left."

The madam nodded then asked Megan, "Where did you go after the sea? Did you go to the Buda Clan's place? Where is it?"

Megan looked at the madam and said, "We did go to the Buda Clan's place, but mother, I cannot tell you the location right now. Brother Hai trusted me and told me that I can't reveal the location of the Buda Clan. So I cannot tell anyone, so please don't ask."

While looking at Megan, the madam couldn't help but sigh. She knew that it would be like this. She understood Megan's character, if she didn't want to open her mouth, then there was no use in further asking.

The madam sighed and said, "Alright, I won't ask anymore. Has Zhao Hai been kind to you these past few days? Was he good to you? Are you treated the same as Laura?"

Megan smiled and said, "Elder Brother Hai has been good to me, and he treats me the same as Sister Laura. We are usually very free, and when we do, we always spend time and talk together. Brother Hai said there's still a lot that they could do in the sea. I also want to contribute to the family, so I also find things that we can cooperate with. Right, since we talked about this, I remembered something that I have to tell Grandpa." Then she got up and left.

When the madam looked at her daughter leaving, she pulled her over and said, "What happened? Why do you have to talk to your Grandfather? Can you tell me?"

Megan smiled, "Telling this to you would be no good, it would be useless, you can't do anything with it. Only Grandfather can find this useful, come, mother, let's go quickly." Said Megan as she pulled her mother and walked out the room.

Randolph and Smith were in the study, they still didn't go rest. In truth, when they met Zhao Hai today, they were quite happy. Not only did Zhao Hai's attitude toward them remain unchanged, but also because of his attitude towards Megan.

Zhao Hai's manner towards Megan was very good, he looks after Megan very well. This was what they always wanted to see. If Zhao Hai's feelings towards Megan were very good, then their princess would have a good home to return to. And with Zhao Hai's good relationship with Megan, this also meant that he would be closer to the Calci Family and will give them enough face. This was definitely a good thing for the family.

Now, all the large forces in the continent knew that Zhao Hai's strength wasn't that much less from an established noble clan. He was even stronger than old nobles like the Purcell Family. The only weak point to the Buda Clan were their connections.

But Zhao Hai's personal connections cannot be said to be weak. His relationship with the Purcell Family was quite substantial. The Purcell Family wasn't among the oldest nobles, but their connections to the continent cannot be underestimated. Now that Zhao Hai had helped them deal with their recent matter, they would certainly give him help. This wasn't a small matter for Zhao Hai.

Moreover, Zhao Hai was also the Calci Family's son-in-law. If Zhao Hai needs something, they cannot just ignore him. He also had strong connections with others, like the Third Prince Charle, as well as the Shelley Family. At this point, Zhao Hai was an existence that cannot be ignored by all the great powers in the continent.

Facing with this Zhao Hai, the Calci Family was unable to pick out his flaws. At this point, Randolph had truly treated Zhao Hai as one of them. This was also a Great Nobles' way of doing things. If you consider someone to be one of you, you should support them fully and protect their well-being. On through this way could they be rewarded in the future.

After Randolph and Smith discussed for a while, Randolph sighed and said, "Smith, I've been very hard on you lately. I'm now old, I only stay at the headquarters everyday. My judgement about the matters of the continent aren't as good as you. Your big brother and your fourth brother are quite good, but they actually lacked the vision to be the Patriarch of our big family. We cannot count on little three as well, he was fully concentrated on cultivation, let's just hope that he can reach 9th rank one day. Then there is little five, oh!"

Randolph sighed, he was not a fool. As a Patriarch of a Great Noble Family, how could he not understand? He just liked Juwan too much that he made a mistake in his judgements. But now, he knew what he needed to do.

To be honest, Randolph was very disappointed in Juwan. Juwan's vision was absolutely low, he was very short sighted. If Randolph hands the family over to him, then the fall of the Calci Family wouldn't be far off. So how could Randolph just allow this to happen?

Smith looked at Randolph and didn't know what to say. He was bent on wanting the best for the Calci Family. But to say that he didn't strive for the position of Patriarch was impossible. On the contrary, he really wanted to be the Patriarch. He believed that as long as he had the position, then he could certainly make the Calci Family greater than it is now.

At the same time, this was also the first time that Smith saw this side of Randolph. This was the first time he saw his father admit his mistake in front of him. This was really strange for Smith, but it dawned on him that his father was now very old, he will only get weaker with time.

Smith sighed lightly and comforted Randolph, "Father, it's alright, it's not as serious as you think. Although little five looks useless, but you have to recognize that he has his uses. Look, if the Calci Family were without flaws, then the troubles that he's caused wouldn't have reached this far."

Randolph smiled and sighed, "My vision is not as good as little Megan, haha. Alright enough talking about this, Little Hai is very good. At this time, he revealed his clan in a way that the continent wouldn't dare make a move on him while startling them with his might at the same time. He did things orderly, and wasn't very anxious. He is soft when he can, and be ruthless when needed to. And from what I saw earlier, he seems to like Megan. This made me relieved. We must treat him very well as a part of our family. I understandd that he's a very sentimental person, let's support him fully and our Calci Family would surely obtain benefits."

Smith smiled and said, "Father, rest assured, I already seen this part of Little Hai. Otherwise, why would I wed Megan to him?"

Randolph nodded and said, "With the support of Zhao Hai, the Third Prince's chances for the throne would surely increase. This is also good for the family. I think, if necessary, we must give our full support towards Charlie. After all, Little Hai is now one of us. If he fails, there wouldn't be any benefits for us."

Smith nodded. At this time, Phil's voice was suddenly heard. "Madam, Young Lady, why did you come? Old Master and the Young Master are discussing inside."

When Randolph heard that Megan and the madam has come, he quickly said, “Megan and Gemma? Let them in.” Gemma was the name of the madam, but the people prefer to call her madam.

Megan couldn’t wait for too long and directly pushed the door open. When she saw Randolph. She immediately ran over to his side and said, “Grandpa, I remembered something, so I came to you.”

Randolph looked favorably at Megan and said, “Little Megan, you’re already getting married. You shouldn’t keep acting like a child.”

When Megan heard Randolph, she pouted and said, “Grandpa, you must listen to me. This matter is related to the future our Calci Family. If you won’t listen, then I won’t tell you.”

When he heard his granddaughter’s words, Randolph and the others couldn’t help but give a smile. Megan hadn’t been like this before. But now, she seems to be thinking about the future of the family. Naturally, they would find this amusing.

Randolph smiled and said, “Alright, I’ll listen to what little Megan has to say. For it to surprisingly affect our Calci Family’s future. Hahaha. This isn’t the same as being engaged, your words seem to be very big.”

Chapter 444 - Running Water

Megan looked at Randolph and snorted, “If it really wasn’t important for our Calci Family, then I wouldn’t be telling you. Grandpa, I know that the family has a lot of factories. But I can say that the output of any of our factory wouldn’t hold up to one of Brother Hai’s. Producing the same product, even if Brother Hai’s factory had 100 people, it can still beat the output of our Calci Family’s factory with 300 people. It’s output wouldn’t be able to beat Brother Hai’s factory.”

When Randolph heard Megan, he couldn’t help but stare. Then he immediately understood what Megan was getting at. With a straight face, he said, “Little Megan, do you mean to say that Little Hai has a way to increase production? And that you know about this method?”

Megan looked at Randolph, and with a proud expression, she said, “I know Brother Hai’s method. Hehe, I must say that Elder Brother Hai is really intelligent. We haven’t thought of this method.”

Randolph looked at Megan and said, "What method? Megan, tell me quickly, you know how much Grandpa gets anxious."

Megan smiled and said, "Elder Brother Hai called it the Assembly Line Production. Let's take our family's ceramic factory as an example. Right now, if a potter wants to make a piece of ceramic, the time it takes from taking the soil to making the ceramic would take several days. But Grandpa have you ever thought about it? How about we divide the acquisition of the soil, separating the clay, making blanks ceramics, and then the drawing of the flowers into their own separate tasks. Someone would dig the soil, then pass it over to the one who separates the clay, then to another worker who will make the blanks, and lastly onto the person who will draw the designs. This way, the work would flow smoothly from worker to worker like running water. With this, their degree of efficiency would be increased."

Randolph and Smith were smart people, so they immediately understood Megan's words. They still need to try it, but they already imagined that this would be possible.

Randolph became excited as he stood up and repeatedly praised, "Good, fantastic, this is fantastic. Right, right, what Megan said could really increase the output of our ceramics. Hahaha. Little Megan, you really didn't lie, this will really affect the future of our Calci Family."

But suddenly, Randolph stopped, he turned to look at Megan and said, "Megan, did Little Hai agree to tell us about this matter? If he didn't, then this would affect your future relationship. You must know that this matter isn't something that could just be spread around."

Megan smiled and said, "Be relieved, Elder Brother Hai agreed."

Randolph gave a satisfied nod and smiled, "Does Little Hai really have factories? Who mans those factories?"

Megan smiled, "Some human slaves, he also brought over some slaves from the Beastman Prairie. Currently, there are over 1000 slaves working in his factories."

Randolph nodded, he didn't ask about the Buda Clan's location, he knew that they couldn't be inside the Black Wasteland, that place was already a forbidden place in the continent. Zhao Hai's home must have been in a secret place, and Zhao Hai would surely refrain from revealing it.

Seeing Randolph not asking about the Buda Clan's location, Megan relaxed, then she said, "Grandpa, Elder Brother Hai said that the Buda Clan's present location is a secret. He said that I cannot tell you for now, please don't get angry."

Randolph looked at Megan and smiled, "What? Just because he tells you not to tell Grandpa, then you won't tell Grandpa?"

Megan strenly replied, "Grandfather, Elder Brother hai trusted me, so how can I be unfair to him. Therefore, I will not tell you, I would have to be unfair to Grandpa."

Randolph laughs and patted Megan's head, "Silly thing, how can Grandfather get angry, this is something you decided to do. Little Hai has no obligation to tell the Calci Family about his clan's location. You are now engaged to Zhao Hai, him trusting you is a blessing. You are now a member of his Buda Clan. Naturally, you would be anxious for them, Grandpa wouldn't be angry because of this."

Megan held Randolph's gentle hand, her eyes were red and she didn't speak nor made any noise. Then after a moment, she said to Randolph in a soft voice. "Grandpa, Elder Brother Hai trusted me, he also treated me very well, just like how he treats Sister Laura and Sister Meg. Meg grew up with Brother Hai since she was little, so Brother Hai was her heaven. Laura gave up all of her property and had her family members transfer to Brother Hai's domain. It was no question that Brother Hai trusts them very much. But I belong to a Great Clan who stood among the top of the continent. For Brother Hai to trust me despite this fact is really huge to me. So I cannot tell Grandpa about their location. But I can say that Brother Hai's strength is leagues higher than what you imagine. You must know that what Elder Brother Hai showed at this point was but a small part of his strength. I hope that the Calci Family wouldn't get in conflict with the Buda Clan, because I'm very sure that the one who will suffer in the end would be the Calci Family."

Randolph stared with a surprised expression at Megan, "Megan, are you sure? Is Little Hai really that strong? You should know that the Calci Family didn't just have one or two 9th ranks, does he really have the strength to make our family suffer a loss?"

Megan smiled bitterly, Randolph will never think that Zhao Hai would possess a thing such as the Space. With only his 800 thousand 8th rank undead army, not to say the Calci Family, even the Rosen Empire would find it hard to stop him. And adding his close to 40 9th rank experts, let alone making the Calci Family suffer, Zhao Hai could completely exterminate it without a sweat.

Randolph looked at Megan's expression and didn't need her to say anything before he understood. He just nodded and said, "Alright, be relieved, Grandfather knows what to do. Right, Megan, will you come with me to Carson City tomorrow or will you join Zhao Hai to Jade Water City?"

Megan smiled, "I'll go to Jade Water City to take a look. Brother Hai also has a shop there, he wants to check it out. The Manager is Sister Laura's subordinate. And because of the previous urgent matter, Brother Hai had to delegate a task over to him. This time, Brother Hai wants to see how it is doing."

Randolph nodded, "Alright, you can go with Little Hai since he'll also be heading to the capital. Oh, I really hope that things go wrong. This way, the marine products would go our way, those bring huge profits, what a pity."

Megan smiled and said, "Don't worry Grandpa, we'll have our share of those marine products in the future. It's just that the supply is quite low, there was no way for us to get some."

Randolph smiled, "Little Hai really does have an innate skill for business. He already has Laura on his side, but it seems like the Buda Clan is having quite some difficulties in other aspects. No wonder little Megan wanted to learn so much about business, hahaha."

Megan became embarrassed as her face turned red, "Grandpa, don't talk nonsense. The Clan is doing very well. You didn't know what they were in the past, but they are much stronger now. There was also Elder Brother Hai's battles, he was really amazing."

Randolph smiled and said, "Come on, no need to touch up your Elder Brother Hai's face. Haha. Alright, you've been working hard these days, go and take a rest. Didn't Little Hai say that he would head to Jade Water City tomorrow? Go get some sleep so that you can wake up on time."

Megan nodded, and said her goodbyes with a smile, "Alright Grandpa, then I would be taking my rest." The she stood up and went back to her own room."

After Megan left, Randolph turned his head to Smith and said, "Smith, do you think that what Megan said was true?"

Smith forced a smile and said, "I'm afraid it is true. Even if that girl had her heart taken by Zhao Hai, she still wouldn't joke around when it comes to our Calci Family. It seems like there are still many cards that Little Hai didn't reveal, this youngster isn't very simple."

Randolph nodded, "The most terrifying thing is the intelligence of this kid. He may have thought that people would come to find his place so he didn't say anything and just let those people go to the Black Wasteland. I already heard that the poisonous fog there has already reached the same level as the Carrion Swamp. Those who came in didn't manage to return. I heard that the Purcell Family's Buffy went to the Carrion Swamp and hasn't been heard from since. It is clear that he had met an unfortunate fate. Those Great Clans that sent people to the Black Wasteland in order to find Little Hai would surely find nothing while losing their people. It was clear that the young man has led them there."

This thought wasn't unique to Randolph, in fact, most of the people on the continent believed that Zhao Hai cannot be inside the Black Wasteland. His current action was only meant to distract the Great Clans from finding his true location.

This idea wasn't strange, after all the Carrion Swamp's poison mist already filled the entirety of the Black Wasteland. For the neighboring territory of the Carrion Swamp to be invaded by this mist wasn't a huge mystery. It was also known to everyone how lethal the Seven-colored poison mist was. For Zhao Hai to set up his home right inside that hazard was something that the people found to be absurd.

However, they clearly forgot about another thing about Zhao Hai. They forgot to recognize that the Water of Nothingness was in itself, a poison. If Zhao Hai managed to find a way to cure this poison, then there would be no reason for him to be unable to solve the Seven-colored poisonous mist.

Currently, the people of the continent cannot associate the Water of Nothingness and the Seven-colored poisonous mist together. For them the Water of Nothingness was something they see as great, while they see the Seven-colored mist as dreadful. Therefore, there was no way for them to connect the two together.

Randolph also shared that thought, in his mind, Zhao Hai must have known that the poison mist of the Carrion Swamp was going to engulf the Black Wasteland. So he left the place and found a secret location. He settled there and got the support of a powerful hidden power, otherwise he wouldn't be able to reach his current height.

But because Zhao Hai didn't want anybody to know about his present location, he didn't divulge the fact that he left the Black Wasteland. This gave the people the illusion that his clan was still inside.

Chapter 445 - I'll Hand it Over to You

Zhao Hai didn't know about any of these, he wasn't monitoring them, it wasn't necessary. After Megan returned to her room, Zhao Hai immediately took her in to the Space.

Megan liked staying inside the Space now, this was because the air inside the Space is very good. There were also a lot of animals that would accompany her, making her very happy.

Additionally, Megan had the lowest level among the group. So Zhao Hai wanted Megan to practice inside the Space. Megan was a Water Mage, and was found to be compatible with the Goldmetal Fruit. But her current level was too low, therefore, Zhao Hai had her work hard inside the Space to reach a high enough level to eat the Goldmetal Fruit. No matter what, she needs to reach 8th rank.

Megan entered the Space and told Zhao Hai about everything that happened. Looking at Megan's scared face, Zhao Hai smiled and said, "It's okay, I already agreed to it. You telling me this right now actually made me happy, after all they are your family. Right, do you really want to go with me to Jade Water City tomorrow?"

Megan nodded and said, "Of course, at this point I wouldn't be able to sleep outside the Space. I blame you for this."

Zhao Hai and Laura couldn't help but laugh, the environment inside the Space was truly fantastic. After someone spent a long time inside, they would find it awkward to go out again.

After they laughed, Laura turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, I expect to not have any troubles in Jade Water City, we can just go to the Capital afterwards. Also, after we reach Carson City, when will you plan to visit His Highness Charlie?"

Zhao Hai thought for a moment and said, "I'll head to Charlie after we arrive at Carson City, then to the Calci Family. We belong to the family, so they should give us some room to be polite. But Charlie on the other hand needs special attention, that's why I'll be visiting him first. Moreover, if we visit Charlie first, nobody would think that the Calci Family had any part in our partnership."

Megan just looked at Zhao Hai and didn't speak. Her current experience regarding these things was too low. There were a lot of things to consider in this matter, so at this time she can only listen.

Zhao Hai turned to Cai'er and said, "Cai'er, do we have anything to harvest? It's God's Grace Day, it's certain that those marine products will sell well in the capital. We also need to have some for the Clan."

Cai'er nodded and said, "Yes, we have some in the sea, river, and the hot springs. This time, we can take them all to Carson City."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he turned to Laura and said, "Laura, we should leave behind some good products for Mu'er, he's unfamiliar with Jade Water City. He needs to do great these days."

Laura smiled and said, "It's alright, no need to worry. Recently, their lives in Jade Water City is very good. Although the city wasn't as good as Sky Water City, it is still an important port city of the Rosen Empire. Since you gave them enough money as well as products, there isn't anything worth worrying about."

Zhao Hai nodded, "That's great. They're working very hard as well. They are now one of our tentacles outside. Also, I think we should open up our shop in Sky Water City. What do you think?"

Laura nodded, then she turned her head to Megan and said, "I think we should ask Megan about this matter. Megan hasn't been talking much lately, that's no good."

Megan stared, then she immediately replied, "No, no, I don't know any of these matters. I cannot just speak irresponsibly. I dare not talk."

Zhao Hai looked at her and faintly smiled, "It's alright, so do you think we should open up a shop in Sky Water City?"

Seeing that there was no way for Zhao Hai to let it go of the matter, Megan looked down and thought for a moment, then she said, "I think it should be okay. You're now engaged to me, and Daddy likes you, moreover, I already talked about you to Grandpa. So I don't think the Calci Family would be opposing you any longer. But if we want to gather intelligence, it isn't good to rely on the Calci Family, so I think we should get a shop."

Laura and Zhao Hai nodded. Hearing Megan say that made them think that she has truly regarded herself as a member of the Buda Clan and not the princess of the Calci Family anymore. This was good for them.

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Alright, then we'll open a shop at Sky Water City. But I think this would have to wait until the next year. At that point, we'll have to rely on Megan."

When she heard Zhao Hai, Megan shook her head, "That's not good. Although I grew up in Sky Water City, I don't really know much about the things happening there. If we open a shop, I wouldn't be much of a help."

Zhao Hai smiled, "Just give it a try. Among us, you are still the most familiar with Sky Water City. In the end, you're still the princess of the Calci Family. There wouldn't be anyone in the city that won't dare give you face."

Megan looked at Zhao Hai and saw that he really wanted her to give it a try. She didn't say anything more, just nodded and said, "Alright, I'll try."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "It won't be too soon anyway since we have a tight schedule. Tomorrow we still need to head towards Jade Water City, although we don't have much to do there, we still need to see Trezebo."

Laura and the others nodded, then they went to rest. The Space was quite good right now, Zhao Hai didn't need to worry so much.

The next morning, after having breakfast with Randolph, Zhao Hai's group left for the seas again. Zhao Hai released the Haven last night so now it was docked at Sky Water City waiting for Zhao Hai.

But Randolph and the others already knew that this ship was just an act that Zhao Hai did. Although they didn't know how Zhao Hai travels around, they were sure that it definitely wasn't by ship.

After Zhao Hai and the others embarked, the ship quickly left the harbor. Zhao Hai didn't immediately head to Jade Water City via the Space. If people knew that they arrived at Jade Water City just as they

left the harbor of Sky Water City, they would be quite sure that Zhao Hai had a Spatial Ability, there was no other way of travelling this fast other than Spatial Teleportation.

Zhao Hai and the others didn't go to the Space and just stayed on the deck and smelled the scent of the sea. It was quite while since they got to sail so they just sat down and enjoyed the view.

While sitting on the ship and watching the other boats coming and going, Zhao Hai sighed, "I really hadn't thought about it while we were at sea back then, but now, I noticed that the continent is actually really cold."

Laura also sighed, "The continent is indeed very cold, it was good that Cai'er was present in Iron Mountain Fort. Otherwise, the place would be cold as well, unlike the likeable Iron Mountain Fort that it is now."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and then turned to Megan, "Megan, do you like it here? You grew up here as a child. To be honest, I don't like the cold here."

Megan smiles, "I actually got comfortable with Iron Mountain Fort, I prefer being there now. The comfort there is incomparable with Sky Water City, the winter in Sky Water City is too repugnant."

Zhao Hai smiled and then looked at the time, "We'll wait for a while and then go to Jade Water City. When we reach there, we must finish our matters as soon as possible then go to Carson City. We have a little time to spare in order to prepare for the holiday."

Megan and the others smiled as well, then continued chatting on the ship. Two hours unknowingly passed by, when Zhao Hai's ship left Sky Water City he immediately entered the Space. From there they went to Jade Water City,

The place where they chose to appear was somewhere outside Jade Water City. When they arrived outside, they didn't ride the Bull-pulled Carriage and instead rode horses to enter the city.

They went to Mu'en's shop first. The shop was very busy since God's Grace Day was approaching. This was the best time to sell items on the continent and Mu'en's shop capitalized on this. Although Haven

products weren't very popular in the Rosen Empire, it gradually became recognized by the people because of its quality.

And since the people wanted to eat good food in God's Grace Day, and since Haven products were inexpensive and good, it was very popular with those who didn't have much money.

When Zhao Hai saw that the shop was very busy, he couldn't help but smile. Then he turned his head to Laura and said, "Looks like Mu'en works pretty well. When we sell expensive stuff later, the income surely wouldn't be low."

Laura smiled and said, "It wasn't all because of Mu'en, the products from the Space are also very good. And adding on to the fact that Charlie favors you, people wouldn't dare not give you face. All of these are the reasons why business is doing very well."

Zhao Hai smiles, "No matter what, if Mu'en wasn't that skilled, the shop wouldn't be able to reach this far. Let's go talk a bit with Mu'en, then we'll go to the City Lord's Mansion and see Trezebo. After that, we'll head to Carson City."

The group then went to the back courtyard. When Mu'ern's family saw them, they immediately went and fetched Mu'en. At this point, except for some important figures, Mu'en wasn't required to man the counters."

The group headed to the living room after Mu'en arrived. Zhao Hai looked at Mu'en and smiled, "Mu'en, you did really good, very good. Right, the recent batch of marine products, did they get taken care of?"

Mu'en nodded and said, "They're taken care of. I gave them personally to Trezebo, it has been recorded as well. I can show them to the Young Master."

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "I don't need to see them, I'll be handing the marine products business over to you. From time to time, show the accounts to Laura, I don't like to look at those things."

Laura smiled and turned to Mu'en, "God's Grace Day is approaching, what are you planning to do? Is everything in your family ready?"

Mu'en was stunned as he looked at Laura and Zhao Hai. He understood that if Laura asked about it, it certainly came from Zhao Hai.

Chapter 446 - Pure Iron Armor

Mu'en quickly replied, "Prepared, rest assured. How about the Young Lady, are you prepared for the holidays?"

Laura smiled, "We've already prepared well. We'll be accompanying Megan along with the Calci Family in God's Grace Day. Of course, we'll also go to Divine Grace Fort."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Well, let's not talk about these anymore. I'll leave you some marine products for your family to enjoy for God's Grace Day. If I find out that you sold them as well, then I will be angry."

Mu'en understood Zhao Hai, he faintly smiled and said, "Young Master can feel relieved, I'll promise to not sell them. Don't worry."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he turned to Laura and then to Mue'n, "We're going to see Trezebo. Then we'll be heading for the capital. We won't be going back here for a while. If anything happens, send a message through the Blood Hawk."

Mu'en nodded, "Alright, Young Master can feel relieved, If anything happens, I will immediately send you a message."

Zhao Hai nodded, "I'll leave you ten thousand undead, but don't reveal them as much as possible. The troubles wouldn't be small if people find out."

Mu'en nodded, then exchanged some words with Zhao Hai. After that, Zhao Hai led Laura and the others to the City Lord's Mansion. There were also a lot of people outside the mansion. Carriages came and went one after another. They looked like they contained gifts. The line was very long.

Seeing this scene, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile faintly. For him, it seems very intriguing. He can remember back on Earth that if an officer blatantly gives a gift, they might not get killed, but the next

day they would certainly be dismissed. But in Ark Continent, they would give their gifts personally and also the most noticeable manner as possible.

When the people saw Zhao Hai, some of them immediately went over and gave him greetings. Zhao Hai also smiled and chatted with those people before he headed to the City Lord's Mansion.

Once Zhao Hai passed by, a man beside one who greeted him asked, "Old Friend, who was that person? Why do I see that you're more respectful to him than you did with the City Lord?" There were also people around them who didn't know about Zhao Hai. When the person heard the question, he laughed, those who didn't know Zhao Hai just stayed quiet.

The man scolded the person who asked and smiled with disdain, "Of course you don't know, you don't have any qualifications to do so. Let me tell you why I gave him more respect than the City Lord. It is because he's a member of the Buda Clan, his name is Zhao Hai, the patriarch of the Buda Clan. He's also very favored by the Third Prince Charlie. With his undead, he managed to kill 200 thousand soldiers as well as six 9th rank level experts. Now you ask me why such a person deserve such respect?"

When the person asking heard the man, he froze, with a shocked face he said, "That was Zhao Hai? I heard that he's been called the most powerful Dark Mage in the battlefield. I didn't think that he would be so young. That man has several women on his side, was one of them Megan?"

Those around them who didn't know about Zhao Hai were shocked as well. They knew about Zhao Hai's present status on the continent. Their status among nobles weren't very high, but they were still well-informed. Naturally, the news that they received were exaggerated. Instead of killing 100 thousand people, they heard that Zhao Hai killed 200 thousand. And instead of killing four 9th ranks and two Divergent Ability Users, they heard that he killed six 9th ranks.

Although this was the case, they still managed to grasp Zhao Hai's standing in the continent was higher than them. This was why they were very surprised when they knew that it was Zhao Hai who just passed by.

Zhao Hai didn't know about any of these. When he arrived at the main entrance of the City Lord's Mansion, Trezebo came out. The City Lord didn't care about those in front and immediately went to Zhao Hai, "Little Hai, you came back, I didn't think you'd come this time."

Zhao Hai stared at Trezebo's manner. To others, this seems to be nothing, but this showed Trezebo's wisdom. First, it was said to make their relationship closer and the second was to gauge Zhao Hai's reaction.

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Why wouldn't I come, isn't it going to be the holidays? I'm going to visit Megan's home and then stop by to see His Highness."

When Trezebo heard Zhao Hai, a flash of happiness was seen on his eyes. Then he immediately replied, "Alright, come in quickly." After he brought Zhao Hai inside the living room, Trezebo gave out a few crystal cards to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, this are your share of the profits from the first batch of marine products. You can tell me if you're unsatisfied. Do you want to see the account books?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "No need to read the books, there's no reason to deceive me over some small money because I may not cooperate with you later. Right, in the future, you can hand these money over to Mu'en, no need to wait for me."

Trezebo smiled and said, "Alright, I'll give the money to Mu'en in later transactions. You can just ask him to look at the books."

Zhao Hai nodded and smiled, "I'm here to see you during the holidays and give you some seafood. These things are what I recently obtained. These are the finest seafood, don't give them to His Majesty, they're yours. I already have some for myself as well as His Highness."

Trezebo smiled and said, "Alright, I'll accept it. Right, there's also something I need to give you." Then he went back and before long he came out while bringing a set of clothes.

The garments looked very ordinary, just like something that a Noble would wear. Not like the kind of traditional noble clothes and was instead quite casual. It was something that would make one at ease when worn.

Trezebo gave the clothes to Zhao Hai and said, "This was something good I acquired before. I heard that Dwarves made it. Don't underestimate clothes made by dwarves, they're known to be very good. This was made of some light metal, it has good defensive strength as well as magical resistance. There are only a few of them on the continent. When I obtained this, I intended to give it to his highness, but now I'll give it to you instead."

Zhao Hai stared, then Laura's alarmed voice said, "Pure Iron Robe! This is Pure Iron Robe!"

Zhao Hai didn't understand, he turned to Laura and said, "Pure Iron Robe? What is Pure Iron Robe?"

Laura looked at the clothes and said, "The given name of this item is the Pure Iron Robe. There were initially five of them made by the Dwarves. Right now, there are only three of them left, two were destroyed. And it were 9th rank experts who destroyed the two. This weaved iron garment is a treasure even to the Dwarves. I heard that the Dwarves had one while another one is in the hands of the Radiant Church, perhaps the Pope. I didn't expect the last one to be here."

Trezebo apparently didn't know as much as Laura, he turned to look at her and said, "Miss Laura, I actually don't know what's special about this robe."

Laura nodded, "This iron robe was made from a kind of metal that Dwarves rarely used. This item isn't just as tough as iron, it also has formidable defensive power. The most important thing about this was that it can actually cleanse the body, expelling dirt that attaches to it. It is a rare treasure that is warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Another great thing about this was that it was made from something called Pure Iron, some people call it Mother Iron."

Zhao Hai and the others were still confused as they looked at Laura. Seeing their expressions Laura knew that further explanation was needed, "Mother Iron was a rare ore used by the Dwarven Race. When this metal is surrounded by stone, the stones would turn to iron. The Dwarves researched this metal for a long time. At first what they got was poisonous iron. So they made their Mother Irons into weapons, but they soon found out that the weapons were very light, the metal wasn't easily melted either. In the end, they stopped making weapons out of it and stored the made weapons away. Even the iron that the Mother Irons produced were kept away."

Laura stopped for a while. Zhao Hai and the others still didn't understand. According to Laura's description, then the material wouldn't be susceptible to be a dress, right?

Laura looked at the others and then added, "But afterward, a talented Dwarf appeared and found a method to remove the toxicity of the Mother Iron. Now, the Mother Iron cannot infect its surroundings and was turned into a normal metal. But the dwarves called this metal Pure Iron, it meant that it was the purest form that iron can be. The more Dwarves found it difficult to process a metal, the better metal it was, and the more they wanted to turn it into useful things. The Mother Iron has already been turned to

weapons, so they already know how to do that. And also, after many years of research, they finally found another method of processing it. They would let a Metal Silkworm eat the Mother Iron and then process the silk produced after into cloth. Afterwards, they finally were able to make this Pure Iron Armor.”

Zhao Hai and the others knew that this Metal Silkworm aren’t one of the very famous Magic Beasts in the continent. They have a very mild temper, and never attacked people since they had no means of attack. But their defensive capabilities are very strong. Their diet solely focuses on metals. No matter what kind of metal they eat, they can digest it, which was the main reason for their great defensive abilities. Even an average 9th rank expert would find it hard to take them away. Also, if they eat a certain metal, they would produce silk of the same type. If you let it eat gold, it would produce heaps more. It somehow produces more than what it ate.

They didn’t think that the method to produce this robe was actually like this. This was really not so simple, Trezebo regretted slightly, he didn’t expect this garment to be very precious. If he knew this information beforehand, he wouldn’t have given it to Zhao Hai but to Charlie instead.

When Zhao Hai saw Trezebo’s expression, he smiled faintly and handed the Pure Iron Armor back in Trezebo’s hand and said, “Trezebo, I don’t want these, you should give it to His Highness. This is too precious, if His Highness knew that you gave such a thing away to anyone else, then he wouldn’t feel so good. It’s fine, its not something I want anyway.”

Trezebo gave Zhao Hai a grate ful look and said, “I’ve been unfair to Little Hai. I really didn’t know that this would be that precious. You should understand my difficulties.”

Zhao Hai smiled, “Of course I understand, here take it. Right, make sure to tell nobody about this, or else people might steal it.”

When Trezebo heard Zhao Hai, his expression couldn’t help but change. With clenched teeth, he handed the Pure Iron Armor to Zhao Hai and said, “Little Hai, I’ll leave these clothes to you. When you arrive at Carson City, please give it to His Highness in my behalf”

Zhao Hai smiled, “No need to be polite. Rest assured, I will hand it ot His Highness personally. I wouldn’t dare covet this item.”

Trezebo laughed, "You're mocking me. Hahaha. Right, since I didn't get to gift you something, please stay for a meal and some drinks. We'll drink since you're leaving tomorrow. Are you able to make it on time?"

Zhao Hai laughed, "Able? Of course. Let's go and drink."

At this point, Zhao Hai was naturally happy. This was because when he received the Pure Iron Robe into the Space, a prompt was heard, "Unusual Radioactive Material detected. May affect environment, can transform surroundings into metal. Has Metal element Origin energy. Metallic ore output of Space increased. Space upgraded to level 48."

This prompt made Zhao Hai incomparably happy. He really didn't think that this Pure Iron Armor would still have its original ability from the Mother Iron, but just reduced. People didn't detect it, but the Space surely did. As long as it still held its ability, it didn't matter how strong it was, it can still upgrade the Space and use it to strengthen themselves.

Now that the Space had obtained a new ability, Zhao Hai was happy. He believed that the Pure Iron and Mother Iron in the Space would get more and more. As long as he obtains them, he can make as many Pure Iron Armor as he can. Therefore, he really didn't think about this Pure Iron Robe that Trezebo had.

Laura and the others didn't know about these. But they weren't very greedy. For them, the Space was the most important thing. A robe like this wasn't very special.

On the other hand, Trezebo really commended Zhao Hai in his mind for being not greedy regarding items that weren't his. He now thought that even if a pile of gold was placed in front of Zhao Hai, the young man wouldn't even bat an eye. This was the type of person that one wanted to be friends with. Trezebo was very honored to know such a person.

Chapter 447 - Arriving at Carson City

When their meal with Trezebo came to an end, it was time for Zhao Hai's group to leave. After leaving some seafood to Trezebo, Zhao Hai went to Mu'en's place and took a rest before taking their ship out to sea.

The reason why Zhao Hai chose to travel by sea was so that nobody would know his whereabouts. It would make people see him as though they are looking at a deep well. Only then could he have his security.

Of course, with Zhao Hai's current strength, he didn't need to fear the Radiant Church anymore. But he also knew that if he shows off too much he won't be able to live a good life. On the contrary, it may even lead the entire continent allying up against him because of this strength. For those rulers, Zhao Hai would become a threat much worse than the Radiant Church. Therefore, Zhao Hai chose to wait until the final moment, when he is sure that his strength was already too formidable for the other empires to deal with.

People always harbor a conflicting feeling for something that is too powerful, because at that point they wouldn't be able to even hold a rebellious idea at all. This was the reason why strong forces always find ways to eliminate any threats that they come across, in order to ensure the safety of their benefits.

And Zhao Hai didn't want to be one of those existences. He would rather have people guessing his strength and maintaining a mysterious feeling. People always regarded mysterious things with curiosity, they may become vigilant, but they wouldn't think to eliminate them.

Zhao Hai believed that there weren't a lot of people on the continent that would still dare make a move on him. He even managed to clean up a group of 9th ranks. So even if those people did have any ideas against Zhao Hai, they would still need to think about it. This was the advantage of strength, with enough strength, one could make his enemies think twice before acting against them.

While sitting on the ship, Zhao Hai let out a long breath. Then he drank some of the Space's water. Now, he didn't smell of alcohol.

Laura and the others were on Zhao Hai's side. When they accompany Zhao Hai, the atmosphere becomes peaceful, as well as very warm.

Zhao Hai turned to Laura and the others' eyes and said, "The Space has already reached Level 47. I didn't think that the Pure Iron Armor would actually give this much. Although it doesn't belong to us, it still brought us some benefits."

Laura smiled and said, "It is a good outcome every time the Space gets upgraded. Now we only need two levels before reaching level 50. I really want to know what changes happen to the Space when it reaches that level."

Zhao Hai bitterly smiled, "That's easy to say. Pure Iron is definitely a treasure in the continent. But these things can only be found, not sought. However, even with how precious this thing is, it only brought three levels to the space. This time, it will become hard to raise the Space's levels."

Then Laura chuckled, "I don't think so. Our luck is very good. Did you see how fast we managed to raise the Space's levels? I think it won't take too long before we fulfill those three levels."

Zhao Hai just smiled and didn't speak anymore. When it became dark, the Haven finally left Jade Water City's region. Zhao Hai looked around to see whether there were other ships present. After that, they went to the Space and took their rest. At this time, even if they arrived at Carson City, they still wouldn't be able to enter since the gates would be closed.

Zhao Hai has never seen Carson City, so he could only release a Blood Hawk and had it fly towards Carson City's direction while carrying the Ghost Staff. When it arrives then they will go out.

Megan told the Blood Hawk Carson City's direction then told Cai'er about how it looks like making her pay attention to it before she proceeded to sleep.

The next morning after they had their breakfast and went to the living room, the Blood Hawk finally reached Carson City. Zhao Hai was glad when he knew about this.

Outside Carson City, then looked for a desolate place before coming out. Zhao Hai released his Giant Horned Bull-pulled carriage and slowly headed to Carson City.

Zhao Hai planned to see Charlie first before heading to the Calci Family. Megan didn't object, she also knew the direction to Charlie's Mansion. Although she didn't come to Carson City quite often, she still went there every year and lived there for a month or two. Because of this, she knew about the notable mansions in Carson City as well as their owners.

When they arrived outside Carson City, Zhao Hai learned how majestic the capital was. The walls of the City had reached an unimaginable height of 60 zhang(~200 meters) as well as a thickness of 100 meters. No wonder the books that Zhao Hai read stated that the city walls of Carson City took five years to build. Know that this construction used countless manpower as well as the cooperation of Mages.

There was a moat outside surrounding the whole city as well as bridges as wide as 100 meters. The bridge that they ran along lead to Carson City's east gate, called the Sea Gate. The gate had 12 openings, with the middle three openings being the widest and highest, height of 30 meters and a width of 20. According to Megan, these three openings cannot be used by average people, only nobles can pass through. The remaining 9 openings were for commoners and merchants.

Since God's Grace Day was approaching, the gate was jam packed with people waiting to enter the city. Only on those three openings did the lines became quite lax. Commoners and Merchants needed to pay entry tax as well as undergo a strict inspection in order to pass through while nobles didn't, which explains the short lines on the middle openings. The nobles only needed to register, making their passage much quicker.

Zhao Hai and the others went to the three middle openings since they already have status. Hung on the carriage was the proper emblem of the Buda Clan. Although it only showed the status of a Count, nobody in the Continent would dare to underestimate this Count.

When Zhao Hai's carriage stopped in line, it brought attention to those around it. There was no other person in the continent that used a bull-pulled carriage aside from Zhao Hai. Because of this, it would be impossible for people to not notice him when he stopped in their vicinity.

The group slowly advanced and arrived at the gate before long. There was a dedicated recorder on the gate of the city. He held the task of recording every vehicle entering and leaving the city. He also listed who the vehicles belonged to.

When Zhao Hai arrived at the gate, the recorder listed their carriage under the Buda Clan's name. Then he asked Shue and Shun, who were driving the carriage, a few questions before allowing them passage to the city.

Zhao Hai drove through the gate and entered the streets of the city. Once they were on the street, Zhao Hai saw how lively the place was. People came and went along the shops in the street, they were even more lively than Zhao Hai's shop back at Jade Water City. Other places simply aren't as lively as this,

even Sky Water City. This was truly the capital of the continent's most powerful empire, truly extraordinary.

While Zhao Hai and the others were driving along, they saw a group of knight heading towards them. The knights were wearing heavy armor and had badges on their bodies. They were all from the Calci Family and wanted to meet with Zhao Hai.

Sure enough, when the carriage met with them, a person went forward and said, "I just want to ask whether mister Zhao Hai is sitting inside the carriage."

Zhao Hai opened the carriage door and showed a faint smile, "Yes it is. Why did these gentlemen come meet us?"

The knight immediately bowed and said, "I have seen mister, the Patriarch has given us orders to meet mister and invite him over."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "No need to hurry, I've been asked by a friend to deliver something, this time I need to head to Third Prince Charlie's mansion first. You could help me by leading the way." The knight couldn't ignore such request and immediately gave a command to his team before they headed towards Charlie's mansion.

At this time, another group of knights appeared in front of them. These knights were also wearing heavy armor, but they were golden. The badges worn by this group showed the emblem of the Rosen Imperial Clan.

When the team arrived in front of Zhao Hai's carriage, a man bowed and said, "Mister Zhao Hai, His Highness has asked us to meet and escort mister over to his Mansion."

Zhao Hai went out of the carriage and looked at the Knight and said, "You people are from His Highness' Mansion?"

The knight answered, "Exactly sir."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "It just so happens that I'm heading towards His Highness' Mansion. Well then, please go lead the way." The man stared for a moment before issuing a cry and went to the front of the procession while the men from the Calci Family retreated towards the back of the carriage.

Zhao Hai's convoy arrived outside Charlie's mansion quickly. The outside of Charlie's mansion was very stylish, it looked very impressive. It wasn't any worse than one held by a Grand Duke. In fact, Charlie's status was that of a Grand Duke.

All Empires on the continent have the same custom. Only Princes who held the status of Grand Duke can compete for the throne, otherwise they wouldn't be given the opportunity to do so.

When Zhao Hai's carriage stopped outside the mansion, Charlie was seen walking out of the door. Just as Zhao Hai got off from his carriage, Charlie laughed and gave his greetings. "Little Hai, surprisingly, you came to me first instead of the Calci Family. Aren't you afraid that Miss Megan would get angry?"

When Megan who was inside the vehicle heard Charlie, she couldn't help but smile and said, "Your Highness, I'll only get mad if Brother Hai greets you with more energy than he does with me."

At this moment, there were a lot of people outside Charlie's Mansion. When they saw Charlie's enthusiasm towards Zhao Hai, even coming out to meet him personally, they immediately understood Zhao Hai's standing in the Third Prince's heart. Those people cannot help but be envious, but they knew that they cannot be jealous of Zhao Hai, they just didn't have his strength.

When Charlie heard Megan, he laughed and said, "Miss Megan doesn't need to get angry, I'm just cracking a joke. Right, let's head inside quickly." Then he pulled Zhao Hai to enter the mansion.

Chapter 448 - Dark Soldier Fort

In the living room, after everyone was seated, Charlie smiled to Zhao Hai and said, "Why did you come this time? Right, I've heard about what you did in Purcell Duchy, hahaha. Very good. With your reputation, there'll nobody in the continent who would dare underestimate you even if you're still a Count. Right, I was actually thinking of giving you a higher title in Rosen Empire."

Zhao Hai knows that Great Nobles have a lot of titles in various empires, they may even have territories on those empires. This matter wasn't rare, so Charlie's offer was understandable. After all, even if the

Buda Clan was a Count in Aksu Empire, their territory was in the Black Wasteland, something people can consider as having no territory at all.

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Then I'll have to give my thanks to Your Highness. Right, there's a gift that Trezebo sent for me to give you. Please accept it." Then he placed the Pure Iron Robe on the table.

Charlie looked at the Pure Iron Armor and nodded, he already received word about it from Trezebo, so he already knew the background of this matter, making him quite calm when seeing it.

Charlie also knew that Trezebo meant to give the Armor to Zhao Hai but Zhao Hai didn't accept it. Thinking about that, Charlie looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, you can take this robe."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Your Highness, I have no use for this robe. You should keep it for yourself. Right, I've also prepared a gift this time. There's some seafood here, I picked them out myself, they're much better than those we sell."

Charlie also knew about this matter, he smiled and said, "Alright, I'll be impolite then, but those seafood are really welcome. The marine products that you've brought out last time really gave us huge profits, Little Hai, I really need to express my gratitude to you."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Your Highness is too polite, it wasn't only you who profited so much, I also did get lots of money. I came this time to greet His Highness for God's Grace Day in advance since all of us would be very busy later. After the new year, our liquor will be available for market. At the same time, my business with the Beastmen would begin. I hope Your Highness has prepared yourself as well. We don't want too much confusion, or else Your Highness will be losing money."

Charlie laughed and said, "Rest assure, I can guarantee that there will be no problems. How could I possibly let the possibility of losing money happen to me?"

Zhao Hai nodded, then he looked at the skies and said, "Your Highness, I should be leaving for the Calci Family. After all, I've only just arrived, it won't be too good if I take too long in giving my greetings. When I find some free time, I'll be visiting you again and have a meal together."

Charlie smiled and said, "Alright, I know about how busy you are. You're welcome here at all times." Then Zhao Hai nodded and walked outside along with Megan and the others.

Charlie escorted Zhao Hai towards his carriage as well as having a team of Knights guide him towards Dark Soldier Fort. The Calci Family was a Great Clan of the Rosen Empire, but their main residence was actually not inside the city, but on a small mountain outside. Their residence was on a place called Dark Mountain, and the castle that they built there was called Dark Soldier Fort. The Calci Family actually had a small mansion inside Carson City, but that was mostly occupied by servants and extended families. The core of the Calci Family all congregate and live inside Dark Soldier Fort.

Zhao Hai and the others had to ride their carriage from Carson City towards Dark Soldier Fort. But fortunately, the fort wasn't that far from the city, it only takes a bit more than an hour to arrive there.

While on the way, Zhao Hai noticed the many castles constructed on the mountains surrounding Carson City. All of those who resided on those castles were Old established Nobles of the Rosen Empire. These castles was also the first line defense of the capital. If one wanted to attack Carson City, they still need to break this line of defense.

Moreover, there was also a symbolic meaning to this arrangement. Because of their close vicinity to the capital, any of those nobles can also quickly amass an army and occupy the city and overthrow the current monarch. Because of this, those who resided on the mountains outside the Capital were seen as the most loyal vassals of the crown.

Dark Soldier Fort was built on the summit of Dark Mountain. Connecting the foot of the mountain and the summit was a cyan stone road. Its width was about ten meters. The mountain also had a lot of trees, and with how old some of the trees here were, one could see the mystery and elegance in the way they obscure the view towards Dark Soldier Fort.

In front of the road to the mountain was a bar blocking entry with a small house beside it. The house was meant to receive and list the guests.

Two servants went out of the small house and removed the bar to the entrance just as Zhao Hai's carriage arrived. Apparently, they already received word about Zhao Hai's arrival, they stood respectfully at the side and let Zhao Hai's carriage pass through.

The team of Knights that Charlie sent left after delivering Zhao Hai to the foot of the mountain. They also knew that there were another team of Knights that would escort Zhao Hai towards the summit of the mountain. Since the members of the Calci Family still needed to get to the capital and back needed escorts, a team of Knights were always present on the family's mansion inside Carson City.

Under the escort of the Knights, Zhao Hai's carriage quickly arrived outside Dark Soldier Fort. Upon arriving there, Zhao Hai was quite shocked. This was because the fort looks like Iron Mountain Fort. The only main difference between the two of them was that Iron Mountain Fort was constructed on Iron Mountain while Dark Soldier Fort was constructed on Dark Mountain.

What can be seen outside the fort was a moat as well as walls, clearly showing that the place was very ready for war and was not meant to look good.

At this moment, the big gate to the fort was opened. Two heavy armored soldiers were seen in front of the gate as well as an old man. The old man wore a housekeeper's robe. Although he was already quite old, he still held a straight body as well as a strong temperament.

When Zhao Hai and the others went out of the carriage, Megan immediately rushed to the old man and said, "Grandpa Gan, why did you come out personally? Is it alright for you to specially come and see us?"

A smile arose from the serious face of the old man, he looked at Megan and said, "Little Megan has come back, of course I'll go meet you. Otherwise, you might think that I don't love you anymore."

Although the man wore housekeeper's clothes, he was very casual when talking to Megan, he didn't follow customs at all. On the contrary, he acts like he was Megan's senior.

Megan had also become accustomed to the old man's way of talking and didn't mind it at all. Instead she took at the old man's arm in a spoiled manner and said, "But do you really love me? If you don't, I'll go on and tell Grandma."

Gansu smiled and didn't say anything more. He turned his head to look at Zhao Hai as Zhao Hai was inspecting the old man's appearance. He saw that Megan had a good relationship with this man and knew that he couldn't be ignored, so Zhao immediately gave a bow to Gansu and said, "Zhao Hai has met Grandpa Gan."

Gansu sized up Zhao Hai and nodded, "Alright, young man, I've heard about all things that you've done, you're very good. You've done them well and beautifully. I actually dislike that boy Juwan. And I also agree that those Radiant Church really think of themselves as god while dipping their hands into a lot of people's businesses. Good thing you've made a big hit on them, so satisfying, hahaha."

The old man's words made Zhao Hai unable to speak anything. For this housekeeper to criticize Juwan, this gave Zhao Hai a vague idea about this old man's identity and status. It seems like this old man wasn't an ordinary housekeeper.

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly and replied, "I was forced that time, I wanted to live peacefully but they didn't want that. They just wouldn't let me go, so I could only rise up and resist."

The old man laughed and said, "Boy, you speak the truth. Let's go, the family members are waiting for you." Then he lead the group into the fort.

This castle was divided into three sections, the soldier's area, the servant's area, and then the main area. The group entered the main area of the castle.

When Zhao Hai and the others were entering the courtyard, a person came along with a carriage. This carriage was specially meant to receive guests who arrived at Dark Soldier Fort. One must leave their personal carriage outside the fort and ride a specially prepared carriage to enter it. This was an old custom of the family, and it has stayed to this very day.

The carriage that the family had was very big, its interior decorations were also luxurious. Zhao Hai's carriage simply cannot be compared to this. Moreover, the carriage has space for many people, one simply couldn't feel that they were being packed inside.

Gansu looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, you must prepare yourself. Elders from the family are waiting for you in the living room, Juwan is present as well. The losses that guy suffered was all because of you, he will certainly give you some troubles. Make sure to be mentally prepared."

Zhao Hai faintly smiled and said, "Grandpa Gan, rest assured, there won't be any problems. After all, he is Megan's fifth uncle, so he's also my elder. I'll never go too far, you don't need to worry."

Gansu looked at Zhao Hai and nodded, he was very satisfied with the young man. He wasn't soft but he wasn't dry either. He was very polite, and was respectful to his elders.

Gansu didn't know that deep within Zhao Hai's bones were very traditional Chinese teachings. The Chinese heavily respects their elders. Respecting the elderly while loving the young were traditional virtues of the Chinese people. This was the type of teachings that Zhao Hai grew up on, thus the reason why he gave his utmost respect to Gansu. Naturally, if you're old, but you're very disrespectful, Zhao Hai wouldn't tolerate it.

They aren't arrogant, but they are proud. Zhao Hai was exactly like this, he will not look down on anyone but if someone looks down on him, he will not be respectful and polite anymore.

The carriage slowly moved on. The carriage had little vibrations, but Zhao Hai was still quite nervous. After all, he was still facing the core of a Great Family. Zhao Hai hasn't experienced this kind of thing ever.

Chapter 449 - Disregard

When the carriage came to a stop, Zhao Hai took a deep breath before going out. He was someone who didn't like to evade. When he encounters something, he would think of ways to deal with it. It was the same this time.

Zhao Hai looked around and saw that they were currently inside a courtyard. This was the inner courtyard where only the people closest to the family were allowed to enter. And all of them would need to ride the family's carriage, even Randolph, the family's patriarch, needed to do it.

Zhao Hai followed behind Gansu and walked to the front courtyard. The place looked very simple and in the middle was a single statue. The statue was of a Dark Mage, and under it was a carved name. It seems like this statue was of the first Generation patriarch of the Calci Family, the person responsible of building and sustaining the earlier period of the family.

Megan told Zhao Hai that no matter who they are, everyone who came here must give a bow to the statue first. Only then can they enter the main fort, this was also a custom of the family.

When Zhao Hai heard this, he immediately thought about how much customs a Great Family had. With this much rules, it's a wonder why people can still listen and remember them.

After giving respects to the statue, Zhao Hai entered the main palace lobby. When he entered the lobby, Zhao Hai couldn't help but stare. The inside was filled by people and the youngest seemed to be Juwan. The others were middle-aged and elderly.

Randolph was sitting in the Patriarch's seat with a flat expression. Smith sat beside him but not too close. With Randolph were a few old people, they looked like they held great power inside the Calci Family.

Zhao Hai looked at their arrangement and gave it a small glimpse. After that, he went forward calmly and first gave Randolph and Smith greetings before giving respects to the other people in the room.

Then Zhao Hai just stood there without making any noise, only staring at the people inside, looking as though he was watching a play. Randolph looks at Zhao Hai and can't help but laugh inside. He had been dealt with this move from Zhao Hai before. Even if he already made a decision regarding Zhao Hai, the family's elders were still unconvinced. Randolph had accepted Zhao Hai, but it was not the same for the others. This was the reason for today's arrangement, they wanted to place Zhao Hai in a position where he would get pressured by the family.

At this time, Juwan was sitting not far from Smith and was staring viciously at Zhao Hai as if he had just killed his father.

Zhao Hai also noted Juwan's stare, but he didn't care. At present, his strength was something that Juwan cannot touch. And also, Zhao Hai just didn't have much interest in people like Juwan.

Megan, Laura and the others weren't allowed to enter the lobby, and were instead lead to rest on the backyard. Because of this, they didn't know about any of these.

The people in the room also stared at Zhao Hai but they felt uncomfortable. They thought that Zhao Hai would budge under the gazes of so many people. If Zhao Hai says even a single line, these people would make use of it to judge his character. However, Zhao Hai didn't say a single word, his expression was also quite calm. He just stood there quietly, as though he didn't care about anything around him. This left the family members with no idea about what they needed to do next.

Randolph came to appreciate Zhao Hai more and more. In truth, he was also very sick about the attitudes of family. But he had no choice, in the end, they were all on the same side. They were all of his loved ones, he didn't want to go too far. This current situation was good, seeing Zhao Hai give those people zero face gave Randolph a feeling of satisfaction, instead of being angry, he was instead quite glad.

Both sides didn't speak, they continued on with this stalemate. The people of the Calci Family began to feel unease, they didn't want to speak first and give Zhao Hai the upper hand. They wanted to overwhelm Zhao Hai with pressure. And if they talked first, this was the same as losing to Zhao Hai. But they had no choice but to continue on, it really gave them the feeling of riding a tiger and unable to get off.

Zhao Hai didn't care about any of these, while the other people in the room weren't feeling well, he was communicating with Cai'er about how Laura and others were treated. He found out that they were doing well, they were currently inside a room in Smith's courtyard.

For a Great Clan like the Calci Family, the number of their branches were quite plenty. This was the Patriarch's dwelling place, as well as the place he does all his work. Since the other branches are not from the capital, they naturally have their own courtyards inside the fort. Naturally, Smith also had one.

Zhao Hai was technically part of Smith's branch, that's why his fiancée's were sent there.

Seeing that Laura and the others were settled down, Zhao Hai felt relieved. However, he still didn't take note of the expressions of everyone in the room as he continued on and switched to looking at Dark Soldier Fort.

Zhao Hai can see that the fort had underwent extension and reconstruction several times, but he also noted that the main fort remained just the way it was before. Moreover, he can also see the defensive strength of this place, so long as they had enough defenders, this castle can withstand an attack from an army containing 150 thousand soldiers.

Zhao Hai studied the castle to use it as reference when he expands Iron Mountain Fort. He also wants to make other castles in other places in his territory to form a defensive system. He wants to futureproof the Black Wasteland, otherwise, if they get attacked in the future, the commoners would surely suffer heavily. The villages alone cannot stop an army from advancing.

While Zhao Hai was looking all around, the other people in the room couldn't remain sitting still anymore. From the peaceful setting in the beginning, there was now sounds of whispered discussion in the room. In the lobby, a small humming sound of collective discussions echoes. Although nobody said anything, they already knew that they lost this battle.

Randolph also thought the same, he gently coughed twice and said, "Alright, this is Little Hai's first time in coming to the family. He's already engaged to Megan, later on, he would be one of us. I think it would be better if we let him go back and take a rest."

Zhao Hai also raised his eyes and looked at the others. But he still didn't say anything, he believes that these people wouldn't just let him off easily.

And just as Randolph voice fell, an old man sitting beside him opened his mouth, "No need to be anxious. Since Zhao Hai is a newcomer, then we must ask him some questions. I believe Big Brother won't oppose?"

Randolph looked at the man, this was his third brother who struggles for the position of Patriarch with him in the past. In the end, Randolph won. But this brother has always opposed him. This time, he would surely give Zhao Hai a hard time. Randolph didn't stop him, he just gave a nod and didn't say anything.

Seeing Randolph agree, the elder's eyes couldn't help but reveal a smug look. Then he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Zhao Hai, I'm Megan's third grandfather, why didn't you give me any respects?"

Zhao Hai looked at this third grandfather's eyes and faintly smiled, "Third Grandfather, this is the first time that I came to the family, so I'm not very clear about everybody's status. But I'm quite sure that I gave my respects to Third Grandfather earlier. Did Third Grandfather not see it?"

Third Grandfather's face sank upon hearing Zhao Hai, "Do you talk to your elders this way? You dare be disrespectful? Do you think that the Calci Family didn't have rules?"

Zhao Hai looked at Third Grandfather with a faint smile as he replied, "I don't know if the Calci Family has rules, but I'm quite sure that my Buda Clan has. My family's first rule was : whoever dares slander our reputation will become the clan's enemy. Punish according to the severity of the offense. But I think that my clan's rules doesn't apply to the Calci Family. Is Third Grandfather satisfied with my reply?"

Third Grandfather stared, he was speechless. He knew that Megan was engaged to Zhao Hai. And according to the rules in the continent, she was already part of the Buda Clan. And since Zhao Hai was the patriarch of the Buda Clan, the rules of the Calci Family naturally didn't apply to him. Third Grandfather only used this move to put pressure on Zhao Hai.

What Zhao Hai said made the other people from the family uncomfortable, they now looked more displeased with him. But they also have the feeling like when a dog bites into a porcupine, dealing harm only to be harmed itself. What Zhao Hai implied was basically, since he was still engaged to Megan, and were still not married, he didn't have much of a connection to the Calci Family. And since he is the Patriarch of the Buda Clan, the Calci Family should receive him according to his status, and should have not treated him in such a manner.

Juwan wanted to watch Zhao Hai's face turn ugly. But he didn't expect him to not only act calm in face of pressure, he also made Third Grandfather speechless. This made Juwan mad, he stood up and looked at Zhao Hai, "Zhao Hai, you don't get it do you? You're just relying on Megan, what is there to be proud of? Do you think that we can't end your engagement?"

Zhao Hai saw Juwan as though he was a mad dog, he only showed a faint smile and said, "I don't" He said that with a calm manner while not even turning his face towards Juwan. This made Juwan quite irritated.

Seeing Zhao Hai's actions, the people in the room became angry, the humming sound became louder. They were the elder of the Calci Family, Great Nobles of the Rosen Empire. When did someone have the guts to act like this in front of them?

Randolph looked at Zhao Hai and cannot help but smile. When he came to Sky Water City and met Zhao Hai, it made him reflect on the family's situation. Currently, Randolph held negative feelings about the elders of the family.

The people in the room spent a long time speaking with each other but still didn't come up with how to deal with Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai's current status was something they cannot easily snuff out, he had the strength to resist. Even if they are dissatisfied with Zhao Hai, they actually wouldn't dare to go too far. After all, this young man in front of them can cause the family great trouble if they ever go into conflict. Ultimately, this man was able to kill several 9th rank experts.

When the others still couldn't find out what to do next, Randolph coughed twice and said, "Do you people still have any questions for Little Hai? If not, we can let him take his rest."

Gansu issued a sound at Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai smiled faintly and gave Randolph and Smith a bow each while giving the other people in the room another one. Then he turned away, with how courteous he was, nobody could find fault with him.

After leaving the lobby, Gansu suddenly laughed and said, "Right, Zhao Hai, what you did was very good, hahaha. You've really showed those guys some character, hahaha, good job."

Zhao Hai was sure that Gansu voice can be heard by the people inside. But Gansu still dared to say it, this made Zhao Hai more curious about this old Gan's identity. He wore a housekeeper's clothes, but not acting like one, this was really very strange.

Gansu looked at Zhao Hai and smiled, "Do you want to know why I can dare to not give them face and still come out alive?"

Zhao Hai gave an honest nod. Gansu laughed and said, "Boy, if you shook your head, I will not tell you. You nodding showed that you have real courage. Well then, let me tell you how I came to the Calci Family. I was adopted by the Calci Family's precious generation. At that time, the family had no single heir. From the rules of the continent, I have the right of inheritance. Moreover, my military exploits in the army were quite high. If we really did calculate everything, then I should be having the position of Patriarch. Foster father also liked me very much and was prepared to let me take charge of the family since he needed to concentrate on breaking through to 9th rank. However, I know that I have a worse temperament than Randolph, I'm too easily angered, too stubborn, not really suitable to become a Patriarch. Because of this, I took initiative to tell Foster Father that I'll become a housekeeper and have Randolph become the Patriarch, father agreed. In the end, father broke through to 9th rank. Since I have father's greatest favor as well as having the most ability to reach 9th rank, none of those guys dared offend me. Don't think that this place is Randolph's home, in front of father, he still needs to act accordingly."

Zhao Hai nodded, he now understood why Gansu could be impolite. He actually had that identity, his foster father was the former generation's Patriarch, and was a 9th rank expert, only a crazy person would dare offend him.

Before long, Zhao Hai arrived at Smith's courtyard. The courtyard was very big, it was also named Rustling Tree Courtyard. There was an ancient tree towering inside, it had a very elegant atmosphere, Zhao Hai liked it very much.

Gansu led Zhao Hai to the door and told the servants about who Zhao Hai was. Then he tapped Zhao Hai's shoulder and said, "Young man, I'll leave you here. I'll find you in the evening and drink a couple cups with you, I'm quite busy right now."

Zhao Hai respected this frank old man, he gave him a bow to Gansu and said, "Alright, when you're done, I'll pay respects to you with Megan."

Gansu laughed and then waved as he walked away.

Chapter 450 - Banquet

When Zhao Hai entered the courtyard, a servant immediately came and guided him towards the place that Smith prepared. Smith's place was very large. Inside were a lot of small courtyards intended for resting.

The servant left after leading Zhao Hai to his courtyard. Zhao Hai pushed the gate open and saw Shue. When Shue noticed who entered, he immediately announced, "The young master is back."

When they heard Shue, Laura and the others went out. At this point, they were already wearing their home clothes, they looked very casual. Zhao Hai was surprised when he saw Megan.

Zhao Hai gave the group a greeting before entering the living room. When Megan saw that Zhao Hai had sat down, she immediately said, "Big Brother Hai, did the family embarrass you?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "It's alright, I'm fine, they didn't manage to embarrass me. Right, if you have time, lead me to see Grandpa Gan. I have some seafood from the Space, I'll go give some to him as our gift."

Megan nodded and said, "Right, we'll go to Grandpa Gan later. Big Brother Hai, what did you experience in the lobby today?"

Zhao looked at Megan and knew that if she didn't get to know what happened today, then she would be uneasy. So Zhao Hai had no choice but to tell Megan and the others about what happened earlier.

When Megan heard Zhao Hai, she said, "Third Grandfather has always been like that. In the past, he already wants me to marry. Thankfully, Father and Grandpa managed to stop him, but it was not without pressure. Third Grandfather has strong relationship with a lot of elders, so they pressured Father and Grandpa all the time. The reason why Grandpa didn't oppose to our engagement that much was precisely because of this matter."

Zhao Hai nodded, he knew that these things tend to happen in Great Clans. Because of a human's greed, people will always want more. They would resort to doing various things in order to sate their thirst.

Then Megan said, "With Fifth Uncle being on bad terms with you, he already lost Grandpa's favor. At this point, he should be holding a huge grudge with you. But since he doesn't have Grandpa's support, you don't really need to worry."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, "I have nothing to worry about. With my current strength, even if the whole Rosen Empire deals with me, it would be impossible. There's no need to worry about."

Megan sighed and said, "I'm not worried about your safety, I'm worried that Fifth Uncle would annoy you to the point that the Calci Family would pay for it. The Calci Family wouldn't be able to resist your attacks."

As soon as Zhao Hai and Laura heard Megan, they couldn't help but laugh. Megan also chuckled, but what she said wasn't a joke. The people from the Calci Family didn't know how strong Zhao Hai was. But Megan knew that if Zhao Hai would seriously deal with the Calci Family, then the family would certainly cease to exist.

After laughing, Laura turned her head to Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, you should still prepare yourself for the following days. I think you would be invited to several banquets."

Zhao Hai stared, then he frowned and said, "Banquets? Can I not participate?"

Megan forced a smile and said, "That would be difficult, the Calci Family aren't the only ones who would hold a banquet, other nobles would do so as well. The Princes will also hold a banquet. Even if you don't participate in the other noble's banquet as well as the Calci Family's, would you dare decline Charlie's invitation? Also, I think you should attend several banquets since it would benefit the Buda Clan. Establishing personal connections is extremely important for the clan right now."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he sighed. This was a nerd's nightmare, they really didn't want to socialize. For Zhao Hai, these banquets were surely a pain in the ass.

But what Megan said was also true. For a noble, banquets were a normal occurrence, which were also the bane of Zhao Hai.

Laura looked at Zhao Hai's appearance and smiled faintly, "Elder Brother Hai, don't worry, if you really don't like participating on those banquets, then you can choose to not go. After all, the Buda Clan's strength is already quite high. Even if you don't go to those gatherings, other nobles would still take the initiative to approach you."

Megan didn't oppose, but she still said, "With the current strength of the Buda Clan, we can surely opt not to attend those banquets. But the problem with this is that our current strength is still not clearly known to other people. We may have killed 9th rank experts in Purcell Duchy, but the majority of the continent gave most of the credit to Origin Sword Saint. If that wasn't the case, people would have already reached out to the Buda Clan. Therefore, I think that we should attend some of the banquets."

Zhao Hai turned his head to Laura who nodded. At its current state, the Buda Clan really did need visibility in the banquets of other nobles, especially in those hosted by Great Clans. This would slowly make the Buda Clan known to the higher ranked nobles, which may lead to partnerships in the future.

Seeing Laura agree, Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, I'll go participate. But we should choose which ones to go to. I don't want to spend all of my time attending banquets."

Laura smiled and said, "Don't worry, you won't waste much time on those banquets. When God's Grace Day passes by, it won't take too long for us to become busy. There's a lot of things waiting for us back at the Beastman Prairie. Even if you want to participate in a banquet, it would be impossible."

At this time, Shue sound was heard, "Grand Duke Smith."

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't know what Smith came for at this time. But he still stood up and walked outside along with Laura and the others. Seeing Smith and the madam enter the courtyard, Zhao Hai immediately welcomed them inside the living room. After having sat down, Laura and the others served them some tea.

Smith took a sip of tea and looked at Zhao Hai, "Little Hai, you really performed well today. Not only did you not smear the face of your Buda Clan, you've made father proud as well. I'll be having a family dinner this evening. I will be inviting eldest brother, third brother and fourth brother along. You should also come, they really want to meet you."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Alright, I will go when the time comes."

Smith nodded, then he sighed, "You going against Third Uncle earlier isn't a big deal. In the past, when you are still in conflict with the family, Father went to Sky Water City to confront your engagement with Megan. But in the end, he came back to the headquarters with a positive impression of you, which made the family elders dissatisfied. Today, I want my brothers to go meet you. We brothers can now be considered to be the core of the family. If all of us were to agree with each other, the family would be able to do anything. Otherwise, the family may keep on giving you weird looks in the future.'

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "You don't have to worry about that, I won't be staying here for long. After God's Grace Day passes, I would have to leave. But in these days, there should be no problems, I could just leave the fort for the time being."

Smith sighed, he didn't know what else to say. He knew that the people of the family had a general dislike for Zhao Hai because of the good he has. Almost everyone wanted to offend him, but they didn't want to be the first since they didn't want to suffer consequences.

Smith was afraid of this matter, although he didn't know Zhao Hai's true strength, he was sure that it wasn't very weak. If those people from the family really did offend Zhao Hai, then the family would surely find themselves in a bit of trouble.

When Megan saw Smith's expression, she couldn't help but smile, "Father, there won't be a problem. In the fort, Grandpa Gan will look after us. Outside, there's no need to worry about it as well. Right, Father, can you pay attention to the banquets happening in the capital and see which ones suit the attendance of Big Brother Hai?"

Smith stared for a moment, then he immediately understood what Megan meant, he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "You plan to attend banquets? Considering my reputation, no noble would dare not send me an invitation."

Zhao Hai forced a smile and said, "If I could choose, then I'd rather not attend any of them. But Uncle knows that with my Clan's current status, we really need to make a few more connections. Therefore, I have no choice but attend those gatherings."

Smith smiled and said, "Right, it's as you said, not participating in any of them is not good. Alright, I'll pay attention to some nobles who have good relations with our Calci Family and see which ones can provide you with benefits."

Zhao Hai nodded and didn't talk anymore. He knew that with the Buda Clan's status, not many people would go and take initiative to invite him to a banquet. For Smith to seek those who are close to the Calci Family is also good, at the very least, for those people would have some sense of familiarity with him. If he went to those where he was relatively unknown, some ugly scenes may occur.

Smith looked at Zhao Hai and smiled, "Alright, let's stop here, I'll go back and get ready. When everything is prepared, I'll have someone come and fetch you." Zhao Hai nodded, then Smith, along with the Madam who was talking with Laura, left.

Looking at the departing Smith, Zhao Hai then turned his head to Megan, "Megan, what kind of persons are your eldest, second and third uncles? Are they like Juwan?"

Megan smiled and said, "They're not, rest assured, my other uncles are really easy to get along with. Especially my third uncle, he doesn't think of anything aside from cultivation."