

Another World 451

Chapter 451 - Story

After Megan's introduction, Zhao Hai now had a general idea of the several heirs of the Calci Family. It should be said that there heirs were very good since they had their own special talents. With the exception of Juwan, each one of them are definitely capable of acting alone.

The eldest child Peter always stayed in the clan and acted as the head of the League of Dark Mages, his status within the league was quite high.

The second child was Smith, the one who held the family's purse. Although the Calci Family also had fiefs on other places, it was without a doubt that the one who made the most money was Sky Water City. Because of how much money he made for the family, his status within was also quite high.

The third child Dillan was a cultivation freak, he was the one with the least interest in becoming the Patriarch. In his opinion, the position of Patriarch was just something that would impede his progress. He practiced since he was at a young age, he was now an 8th rank expert and may even break through to 9th rank one day.

The fourth child Mike was the diplomat of the Calci Family. He was a smooth talker, the help he provided for the family wasn't small either. Without his help in making connections here and there, the Calci Family might not have retained its current status with the suppression of the Radiant Church.

They were all very important for the Calci Family. Although Dillan didn't serve the family, he was the person that was closest to becoming a 9th rank expert. As long as his strength becomes 9th rank, Randolph can just sit comfortably in the position of Patriarch, nobody would dare oppose him then.

Just as Megan finished talking to Zhao Hai, a servant came with a message from Smith saying that everything was ready. Zhao Hai nodded and was followed by Megan to the meal. Laura and the others didn't come with them, but Laura and the others didn't seem to be excited. They knew that Zhao Hai really didn't want to go, but he had no other choice.

Zhao Hai and Megan went to the main area of Rustling Tree Courtyard and headed to the living room where Smith and his wife are waiting. He didn't see any other person, so Zhao Hai can only greet Smith and the madam this time. Smith asked Zhao Hai to sit on the opposite end of the table and said, "This

can be considered as a family banquet. I've already asked Kristen and Diya to invite their uncles. They should arrive soon. Since you are from the younger generation, I had to call you ahead of time."

Zhao Hai didn't object since he was truly a younger generation with regards to Peter and the others. So in today's banquet, it was right for him to arrive earlier than the older generation.

He can now be regarded as from Randolph's line, so there should be rules that need to be followed, especially during meals. Although he doesn't need to follow the customs strictly like Kristen, he should still respect their rules from time to time.

Naturally, this also comes with exceptions. If he faces Juwan, then he certainly wouldn't be following the family's custom. If he gives me a foot of respect, then he'll return it with a zhang(~10ft) of regard, this was Zhao Hai's principle.

Before long, a servant's voice announced, "The First, Third, and Fourth Young Master has arrived." When his voice finished, three people entered the courtyard.

Zhao Hai and Smith immediately stood up to give their greetings. Zhao Hai looked at the appearances of the three people in front of him. The middle one was a person who had a normal noble's appearance. There wasn't any special feature to him aside from looking like an older version of Smith. This should be Peter.

The one on the left of Peter wore a Magic Robe. This magic robe was a traditional garment worn by Dark Mages. It looked very secretive. The person was very thin, but one could still see some fat here and there. He had a pale skin and looked very much like a sick scholar. This should be Dillan.

On the right of Peter was a person who wore magnificent noble clothing. Even if he looks a bit fat, he wasn't very big. But if you compare him to both Peter and Dillan, then you could clearly see how much fatter he was. But even though he had more weight, he wasn't unsightly at all. He had a fair complexion and wore a smile on his face, looking very approachable. This should be Mike.

Smith immediately went forward and gave salute to the middle person first, "Elder Brother". Then he turned his head to the two other people and said, "Third Brother, Fourth Brother, you came."

Zhao Hai also went forward this time and gave the newcomers his greetings. When Zhao Hai was in the lobby, he also saw the three of them. But since they didn't speak and just sat the entire time, Zhao Hai didn't know their identity.

Peter also took notice of Zhao Hai's presence, seeing Zhao Hai give his greetings, Peter couldn't help but smile and said, "Zhao Hai? Hahahaha, I already heard of you, very good. You actually have some spine, not bad."

Zhao Hai quickly replied, "I don't dare, how can I accept Uncle's praise when I've been impolite."

Peter laughed, then he patted Zhao Hai's shoulder and didn't talk anymore. At this time, Dillan suddenly said, "Zhao Hai, do you really have 10 thousand undead Beastman Cavalry?"

Zhao Hai already know that Dillan was a cultivation maniac, so he wasn't actually surprised for his first words to be like this, so he immediately replied, "Answering to Third Uncle, I do. In the past on the Beastman Prairie, I got to help the Cow-headed Race's Herculean Bull tribe in their matters. These undead Beastmen that I have are Fighting Bull Tribe's cavalry."

Dillan quickly replied, "Release one for me to see."

Zhao Hai stared, then with an awkward face he turned to Smith. Smith smiled and said, "Go on and let Third Brother have a look, he likes to look at these things." Zhao Hai nodded, then with a wave of his hand, an Undead Fighting Bull Cavalry appeared.

Dillan stood before the undead and carefully inspected it. At this moment, the undead had the appearance of a skeleton. After Dillan fully looked at the skeleton, he knocked a bone with his hand. And then with a shocked face, he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "This is an Advanced Level Undead?"

Zhao Hai knew that he cannot hide the truth from an expert like Dillan, so he didn't hide it as he nodded and said, "They can also transform into Zombie form." Then he wielded his magic staff at the undead Beastman before it turned into a Zombie Cavalry. Not only was Dillan intrigued with this, Peter and the others were also surprised.

What they were seeing was really different from a normal Zombie, it was no mystery why Peter and the others looked surprised. They had studied and researched Dark Magic ever since they were young, so they were extremely familiar with Dark Magic. However, they had not heard nor read about a Dark Magic spell that can transform an undead between a Skeleton and a Zombie.

One must know that in the system of Dark Magic, the branches of skeletons and zombies are different. When a Skeleton progresses, it would go from Iron Skeleton, Bronze Skeleton, Silver Skeleton and then Gold Skeleton. This progression was the same for Zombies, Iron Zombie, Bronze Zombie, Silver Zombie, and Gold Zombie. They had not heard of a Skeleton turning into a Zombie, as well as a Zombie turning into a Skeleton.

Dillan had also studied for a long time and even he had not heard of such scenario. Smith was the first to recover, he knew that he cannot make Dillan continue to inspect the undead, or else there would be no dinner that will happen.

Smith turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, store it first, then we'll head inside to talk." Zhao Hai nodded, and then received the Undead. Dillan actually wanted to inspect Zhao Hai's undead more, but he was blocked by Smith. Then the group entered the room and sat down.

After they sat down, Smith turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, what was that? Why is your undead different?"

Zhao Hai forced a smile and said, "This I don't know. This may have something to do with my Magic Staff." Then he showed his Ghost Staff. At this point the staff reverted to its original form, with the Skull and the gloomy atmosphere surrounding it.

Zhao Hai handed his staff over to Dillan while he said, "I got this Magic Staff from the Black Wasteland. Back when I drank the Water of Nothingness, I was totally depressed. I wanted to run to the Carrion Swarm and kill myself. I didn't expect that when I entered the swamp, this staff suddenly appeared. I became curious and took it to see what it was. And then I was surprised when the skull's mouth opened and nipped my finger, taking along a drop of my blood with it. After that, I fainted and was ultimately saved by Grandpa Green. At that point, the Magic Staff had always followed me, there was no way to discard it. It also surprisingly cured me of the toxin from the Water of Nothingness. Most importantly, it was also a very good conductor for casting Magic. When I cast Dark Magic using this staff, it would also increase its potency. The undead created with the staff would have upgraded abilities, the lowest undead that it could make was Advanced Level Undead. It also had the ability to convert the undead from one form to another. Another good thing about this staff is that it can't be stolen from me. If I get

too far from it, it would just directly fly towards my direction. This staff is truly mysterious, even I don't know its origin."

Zhao Hai already had this excuse prepared. Nobody can also debunk his story since it was impossible for Green and the others to betray him. He went all out on this story with his novel writing skills, one could say this reason was very airtight.

When he heard Zhao Hai, Dillan couldn't help but try using it to replicate its effects. But unfortunately, nothing happened. The staff seemed just like a piece of useless wood in Dillan's hands.

Zhao Hai's excuse was also believed by Smith and the others because the Carrion Swamp was truly mysterious. All these years, the number of 9th ranks who lost their lives inside were numerous. Nobody can survive in that place but who knew that Zhao Hai would actually find such a treasure there. All of them sighed when thinking about Zhao Hai's good luck. They didn't suspect Zhao Hai even for a bit, they knew that the Buda Clan had been transferred to the Black Wasteland, everybody knew it. Other than the Black Wasteland, Smith and the others cannot think of any other place where Zhao Hai could have acquired his current strength.

Chapter 452 - Homely

Dillan played around with the Ghost Staff for a while, when he finally got tired of it, he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, didn't you say that no matter where this Magic Staff is, it will always return to your hand? Go try and let me take a look."

Zhao Hai smiled and nodded. When he saw Dillan gripping the staff tightly, he faintly smiled and with an intention Dillan's hand suddenly felt light. Then the staff disappeared from Dillan's hand as it appeared on Zhao Hai's.

Smith and the other two who were observing couldn't help but stare. They just saw the staff vanish from Dillan's hand and then suddenly appearing on Zhao Hai. They had seen a lot of things, but this was something that they had seen for the first time.

After some time, Smith and the others recovered and looked at one another. Then with a surprised expression, they turned to Zhao Hai. Seeing their faces, Zhao Hai faintly smiled and said, "How this thing happens is a mystery, even I don't know what's going on. I still haven't seen the full capability of this staff, but I'm slowly exploring it."

Smith nodded and said, "So this is it. No wonder your strength rose in such a small period of time. It was actually because of this Magic Staff."

Zhao Hai nodded, Mike, who sat next to him, turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, what level of strength have you reached right now?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "I should be 8th rank, I can cast 8th rank magic spells."

Smith and the other's eyes went bright, an 8th rank expert can already do whatever they want in the continent. Smith was amused even more, "No wonder the Third Prince is very polite to you, so it was this."

Zhao Hai nodded, "The Third Prince knows my strength, that is why he wanted to win me over. Although I agreed, I am actually not his subordinate. What he have is a simple partnership, he helps me, I help him, you could say that I'm more like his adviser than anything else."

Advisers were also quite common among Noble Clans. These people were like Foreign Elders, but they are more free. They and the host Noble would only have an employment relationship, if a disagreement occurs, the two could just go on their own separate ways.

Advisers in the Continent were typically well-known people. Not only do they need to be strong, they should also be quite talented enough to give ideas and advice to the Nobles. Advisers receive very high respects inside a Noble Clan.

Smith nodded, "Right, it's good that Little Hai chose to not sell himself off to the Third Prince, otherwise, matters would get troublesome. Alright, no need to talk about this anymore, let's go have some drinks."

Then the group headed to the dining room. When they arrived, Smith invited them to sit down. The madam and Megan actually drew back, leaving the dining room to the men.

After the servants provided the food and wine, Smith, who sat in the seat of honor, smiled and held his wine glass, "God's Grace Day is near, we brothers rarely have the time to eat a meal together. I actually invited Fifth Brother, but he has a grudge with Little Hai, so he refused. I cannot do anything about that.

My invitation this time doesn't have any other purpose. I just want you to meet Little Hai and also introduce you to him. This way, we might avoid offending each other in the future."

Zhao Hai also held his wine glass up, he looked awkwardly at the other people. When Peter and the others looked at Zhao Hai, they couldn't help but laugh. Although they struggle with each other for the seat of Patriarch, they were smart people and knew that they cannot harm the Calci Family, unlike Juwan. This was also the reason why Juwan was quite distant with his brothers. Juwan rarely came to gatherings with his other brothers.

Mike looked at Zhao Hai and smiled, "Even if I only met Little Hai today, I've already heard a thing or two about him. I'm very sure that if younger brother didn't provoke Little Hai before, then there would be no conflict that would happen. And if Third Uncle didn't send those ships off to Little Hai, then the family wouldn't have lost all those ships."

Zhao Hai showed a faint smile and said to Mike, "Fourth Uncle overpraises me. This one is just an inexperienced junior, I don't deserve your praise."

Mike smiled faintly, "Little Hai, no need to be too polite. You're quite commendable, otherwise the Buda Clan wouldn't have reached its height in such a short time. And even if you don't use your strength, oh well, no need to talk about that, come, come, let's drink."

Smith and the others held their wine glasses and drank the wine. It was good wine since what they were drinking was Zhao Hai's Milk Wine. This Milk Wine was roughly manufactured, so it wasn't that strong, therefore they can down an entire glass in one go.

Peter and the others didn't discuss the matters of the clan too much, they just idly talked about their daily lives, like how brothers did. This made Zhao Hai confused, he didn't understand the purpose of this gathering, are they just here to discuss their feelings?

Only after a while of talking about their daily activities did Zhao Hai slowly understand. Even if these brother were very polite to each other, in the end, they were still fighting with each other for the seat of Patriarch. So naturally, they wouldn't go deep into their matters and risk giving the others a chance to get ahead. This would affect their relationship, so this shallow conversation was the best thing that they could do.

While sitting there, Zhao Hai looked at the Smith and the other who were calmly chatting away. He couldn't help but sigh, these people acted very kind to each other right now, but he knew that when this ends, they would go back to contesting with each other. This made Zhao Hai think of hypocrisy.

After having eaten their meal, Zhao Hai and Smith lead the three others to the exit. After which they returned to the living room along with Kristen and the others. When the group sat down, Smith looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, what do you think?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "From what I've seen, it's been very good. Everyone fights with each other, but it must be based of ability other than outside intervention. This is the essence of healthy competition. I think this is very good, only with such talents can the Calci Family become better in the future."

Smith looked at Zhao Hai and nodded, "You've observed well, Little Hai. Actually, in addition to the family's elders, there is also the family's law enforcement group. This group is directly controlled by the family's 9th ranks, the Patriarch held no power over them. Because of this, even if the core of the family's functions are in a fight over the seat, they couldn't go far in the face of the law enforcement group. Little Hai, your Buda Clan is still struggling despite its strength. Emerging Clans perish in the continent every day. You have a lot to learn in our Calci Family, this way, in the future, you won't be going blind when going forward, understand?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "I understand, Uncle, rest assured I will study hard."

Smith looked at Zhao Hai and sighed, "Your Buda clan is connected to the Aksu Empire in the past, if you continue on this way, your clan won't become great. But because of your disaster this time, an opportunity to cut your ties with the Aksu Empire has arrived. Then your family can survive for a thousand years."

Zhao Hai stared, he really didn't think about this, he also felt that he lacked confidence. He was only a nerd, now someone told him to build a Thousand-year Great Clan. Although he had the Space, he still wasn't convinced.

Smith saw Zhao Hai's hesitation and said seriously, "Little Hai, don't blame me If I lecture you too much. You're very talented, a capable leader, competent, and also a good natured person. The only problem with you is that you don't have a lot of confidence. You always make the worst moves and just fix the consequences afterwards. Although you can fix them later, you will still lose opportunities, and that is not right."

Zhao Hai looked at Smith and forced a smile, "I know that, but I have no other choice, that's just my character. You may not know this, but the Buda Clan doesn't really have much right now. We don't have that much people to farm. Outside the 100 Human slaves that we bought and the 1000 Giant Horned Bulls we got from the Cow-headed race, we really have too few people in the Clan. Moreover, these few people cannot walk the continent openly. Otherwise, I wouldn't be running around right now."

Smith nodded then looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Your assembly line method is very good. Father is preparing to use it in the family. Your factory should be using them, yes?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "I won't hold anything from you. Although the assembly line method gives efficiency in production, the products made are all of standard quality. There are some things that doesn't need assembly line production, and are much better produced the old way. Although they are produced slowly, the quality is better and are generally more durable, giving you the leverage to charge a higher price for them. People may not feel it, but they will slowly understand, they might even prefer those produced in the old method. It was only because I have no other choice that I had to resort to the assembly line method."

Smith smiled, "That's quite a good method. But you're right, there's no way for our Calci Family to produce high quality goods like you because of the numerous products we make. This made it even more applicable to use the assembly line method for our factories."

Zhao Hai nodded, "It's because of that point why our Buda Clan cannot have the same arrangement as you have right here. I can say that the advantage of our Buda Clan is that point, thus I don't dare take any risks."

Smith nodded, "What you said is also right, don't worry, you can work on it slowly. After all, you're now 8th rank, you still have a lot of years left in you. As long as you make the right moves, the Buda Clan would do well."

Zhao Hai nodded, but he sighed, "I really didn't dare think of these things before. I don't know for how long I can live with the Water of Nothingness. Now that the toxin has been cured, I can now feel relief."

Smith naturally knew how fierce the Water of Nothingness was. How its effects trickle down even to your descendants, thus he didn't feel any wrongs from Zhao Hai's words.

Zhao Hai then shook his head and said, "Uncle, after celebrating the new years, I'm preparing to head back to sea and get some more products for Charlie. After that, I'll be heading to the Prairie, I still have a lot to do there.

Smith nodded and then said, "I don't mind, but if you have any good business, you shouldn't forget about Sky Water City."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Right, we were thinking about opening a shop at the city after the new years as well. I'll have Megan handle this matter, I'll make her discuss it with you later."

When he heard Zhao Hai, Smith couldn't help but stare, he looked at Zhao Hai and said, "You really want Megan to handle your shop in Sky Water City? She has no prior experience in this matter."

Kristen and Diya were also giving Zhao Hai a surprised expression, they didn't expect Zhao Hai to give any responsibilities to Megan. In the past, Megan was a tender young lady, the family just let her go eat, play and wander around. But now, Zhao Hai actually wanted to have her handle a business? Is this okay?

Zhao Hai looked at the surprised faces and smiled, "It's fine, I've already talked about this with Megan. She had grown up in Sky Water City since childhood, she was the most familiar with the place. Therefore I decided to let her handle the business, moreover, I think she would love doing it."

Smith smiled bitterly, he didn't expect Megan to develop such a personality. Her tender young lady who only knew how to look good was now going to handle such a heavy responsibility.

Zhao Hai looked at the time and turned to Smith, "Uncle, it's already quite late, I must go back."

Smith nodded, then Zhao Hai gave him a bow before leaving. Seeing Zhao Hai leave, Kristen looked at Smith and said, "Father, Zhao Hai didn't seem to trust us. Why didn't he tell us their location?"

Smith smiled bitterly, "Just like what he said, the Buda Clan is still relatively weak. Because of this, he just can't take any risks, otherwise their location would be compromised, resulting in their end. However, I think their location shouldn't be very far from the Prairie, otherwise he wouldn't just run to the Prairie by coincidence and acquire a lot of Beastman slaves."

Kristen nodded, "Zhao Hai offended the Radiant Church before, one of the most powerful forces in the continent. There are no other places to relocate his family other than somewhere close to the Beastman Prairie."

Smith nodded and said, "You pay attention to the Noble banquets happening in the capital. Find one where we have a good relationship with. Little Hai needs to attend a lot of banquets in order to establish himself. No matter what, Little Hai is now engaged to Megan. For the good of Megan, we must help the Buda Clan prosper. If the Buda Clan is doing well, Megan would get to live a happy life."

The two nodded, then turned around to leave.

Chapter 453 - Side Dishes

After returning to his courtyard, Zhao Hai sat down and let out a long breath. When Laura saw Zhao Hai, she immediately gave him a cup of hot tea and said, "Brother Hai, what happened? You seem very tired, what did you talk with Smith about?"

Zhao Hai forced a smile and said, "He didn't say anything wrong, he was very polite. But being with them is very tiring, I feel even more tired than I did while fighting."

When she heard Zhao Hai, Laura couldn't help but smile, "Of course it's more tiring than being in a battle. When fighting, you just stay behind and command the troops, it's really not that exhausting."

Zhao Hai gave Laura a look which caused him to laugh. At this moment, Megan also came in. When she saw Zhao Hai, she smiled and said, "Big Brother Hai, it seems like they are very impressed by you. It'll be great if my uncles support you. This way, we won't be facing any obstacles in the future."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "It's not really that good. When I had dinner with your uncles earlier, they didn't discuss any matters of the family and just did small talks. This meant that they are still on guard with each other. If we get into such great trouble, I don't think that they will be supporting us that much."

Megan sighed when she heard Zhao Hai's words. She knew that Zhao Hai's words were real. She knew that even if his uncles are now friendly with each other, when it comes to the battle for the seat of the Patriarch, they would surely be impolite.

When he saw Megan's expression, Zhao Hai comforted her and said, "Well, it's alright, you don't need to think too much into it. I know that all your uncles still place the Calci Family first. Uncle Smith also told me about the arrangements of the family. You don't have to worry too much."

Megan nodded, but one could still see that she was quite unhappy. Zhao Hai couldn't do anything about this family struggle, this kind of scenario happens in almost all families.

Zhao Hai thought about shifting the topic as he said, "We'll send Grandpa Gan some seafood later. God's Grace Day is in two days, so I'm thinking we should take a stroll around the capital and play around. This period of time, various products should be converging inside the city because of the holidays. We must go around and find some good things to bring back."

Megan looked at Zhao Hai and smiled, "Alright, let's go to the city tomorrow and have a good look. What does Big Brother Hai want to buy?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "At this point I don't know, but I still want to take a look, maybe I'll find some things I like. Let's also go to the slave market tomorrow, I think we still need quite a few more slaves back at the territory."

Megan nodded and said, "Alright, but Brother Hai, do we really need to buy more slaves? Don't we have 100 thousand slaves coming from the prairie?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Rest assured, I didn't forget about that. But those Beastman slaves cannot farm. We need to buy some Human slaves and have them teach the Beastmen the basics of farming. Moreover, Humans can make simple houses, while the Beastmen cannot, they are already quite used to living in tents, it's a matter of habit. Because of this, I thought that it would be better to get more Human slaves."

Megan nodded, "Right, but the slave market isn't inside the city, it's outside. I think the slave market would be more busy after the holidays and also have more slaves, it would be a good idea to head there at that time."

Zhao Hai replied, "Why would it be busy at that time? And if it would be busy by then, won't we be unable to select the good ones?"

Megan smiled and said, "During the holidays, Great Nobles would be too busy to go buy some decent slaves. After the holidays, they would go find some slaves to help them manage their matters. If those slaves do well, then they would be living a good life. Moreover, they also lost a lot of slaves because of exhaustion and sickness, so the nobles would also look for new ones by then. But Brother Hai doesn't need to worry, there are a lot of slaves in the market, it would be impossible for us to not find some good ones."

Zhao Hai frowned and said, "Where did these slaves come from, why are there too many?"

Laura smiled and answered, "Brother Hai doesn't know, but those slaves are commoners who were unable to pay their taxes, some are also those who borrowed money and wasn't able to pay it back. Some are generational slaves, children of other slaves. There are also some elderly slaves who are not needed anymore. Because of this, there has never been a shortage of slaves in the continent."

Zhao Hai sighed, he cannot say anything. He knew that with his present ability, he has no way of changing this custom of the continent. He could just do his best in order to help those he can.

Megan also knew about Zhao Hai's thoughts. When she first heard about Zhao Hai releasing slaves and restoring the commoner status, she was startled. But she was also a good person, when Meg explained to her about Zhao Hai's intent, she immediately approved of Zhao Hai's methods. Now that she saw Zhao Hai looking quite unhappy, she shifted the topic to something else, "Big Brother Hai, how about you give Grandpa Gan the seafood right now? This will also give him more time to prepare them."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he stood up. Laura stood up as well and said, "We'll go explore Dark Soldier Fortress in the meantime, I want to see what makes it different from Iron Mountain Fort."

Megan smiled and said, "Alright, but Dark Soldier Fortress has some areas that are forbidden. Only some places are allowed to be explored, I'll go lead you there." Then she went with Laura outside, Zhao Hai smiled helplessly as he followed right behind them.

When they left the courtyard, they were immediately greeted by some servants. Megan asked one of them to lead them to Gansu. Gansu held special status in the family, even Randolph held some sort of respect to him. Gansu is someone who never limits the things coming out of his mouth and was generally quite impolite. But although he had an explosive temperament, he was actually quite kind to the servants. Because of this, the servants in the family gave him very high respect. If they made any mistakes, Gansu would just scold them a bit and then forget about it later.

Zhao Hai quickly found Gansu, who at this time was in the kitchen. Since God's Grace Day is approaching, there was a massive need to prepare some food, especially in a place like Dark Soldier Fort. Since banquets were happening, it won't be good for the family's face if they were to run out of food.

At this time of the year, Gansu was in charge of keeping everything in check inside the warehouse of the kitchen. Gansu didn't have any impatient expressions, he carefully inspected everything.

Zhao Hai couldn't help but stare when he entered at the warehouse. The things inside were simply numerous. There were even some ingredients that he had never seen before. All of them were neatly placed inside the warehouse according to their classifications.

At this moment, the servant arrived at Gansu's side and whispered a few words. Gansu stared for a moment before he turned to look at Zhao Hai. Gansu's impression of Zhao Hai was very good, so he immediately stepped forward and laughed, "Little Hai, Little Megan, why did you come here? You want to have some delicious stuff? Don't worry, if some arrive I definitely won't forget you."

Megan ran up to Gansu's side and held his arm, "Grandpa Gan, Big Brother Hai came here to deliver some stuff. You better receive them or else you will certainly regret it."

Gansu stared, then he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, you have some good things? What are they? Can I see them?"

Zhao Hai smiled and waved his hand, making a big pile of products appear on the floor. One could see some swordfishes and crabs among other things. Moreover, their sizes aren't very small.

These are the things that Zhao Hai asked Cai'er to cultivate. With how large they look, they would certainly be eye-catching.

Gansu looked at the products and couldn't help but be surprised. His eyes turned bright when he saw the swordfishes as well as the crabs. These are very rare in the continent, even if one saw them, they were very hard to catch. If these are made into dishes and shown to others, their banquet would surely have high attendance.

These past few years, there were no new dishes that were served in these banquets. Everyone just ate the same things, there was nothing new. But with these things present, the Calci Family's banquet would surely be very good.

The things that Zhao Hai took out were all dead and frozen, but it still baffled Gansu. They would generally cool the products inside cold storage areas filled with magic arrays, this way, they would last a long time, and may even allow them to be consumed in the summer.

Gansu stared at the pile for quite some time before he turned to Zhao Hai, "Good, boy, you really have good things. With these seafood, we could make the Buda Clan shine this year. Good job."

When she saw Gansu's reaction, Megan smiled, "See, Grandpa Gan? I said that Big Brother Hai has some good stuff. Go get some people to take them away quickly, or else they would melt. Alright, we'll be going now, I'll go lead sister Laura and the others to explore the fort."

Gansu didn't stop them, he nodded and said, "Go, go. Little Hai, since you won't be joining the ladies, come with me. Let's have a drink between grandfather and grandson."

Zhao silently nodded and stayed. Megan and the others chuckled as they went away. Gansu wasn't polite with Zhao Hai as he directly brought him to the kitchen. He had the cook make some side dishes for them as he took out a pot of wine and sat with Zhao Hai to drink.

In the past, Zhao Hai would drink some wine with his old friends. He wouldn't drink too much and would just enjoy the chat and the company, it felt great. But when he arrived in the Ark Continent, he wasn't able to experience such opportunity. And now, Gansu made him remember the old times, this gave Zhao Hai a warm feeling.

Gansu and Zhao Hai leisurely drank wine and ate some of the side dishes, they had a very good time. Even if it was the holidays, and everyone in the fort were quite busy, Gansu was an exception. He would just delegate the tasks to his subordinates and would just check their progress from time to time.

Because of this, he wasn't that busy. Moreover, the servants that were under him were the children of the slaves, they didn't have much negative feelings towards him, making Gansu's life quite at ease.

Chapter 454 - Two Types of Liquor

Gansu initially thought that since Zhao Hai was a child born of a Noble family, he would be unfamiliar with this set-up of drinking and eating side dishes, and would be uncomfortable while being with him. However, he didn't expect that Zhao Hai would actually have a very happy expression, he chatted with him, drank some wine while munching on some food. Seeing how Zhao Hai was more comfortable than he was, Gansu's impression of Zhao Hai cannot help but raise two points.

After drinking a glass of wine, Gansu said, "Little Hai, I can see that you're a good kid. But I want to tell you that I've watched Little Megan grew up. Although this little girl is noble born, she is good natured, she's pure as water. If you dare not treat Megan well, then even at the cost of my life, I will teach you a lesson."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Grandpa Gan, you're thinking too much. I have a very good relationship with Megan, it would be impossible for me to not treat her well. Rest assured, Zhao Hai isn't that bad of a person."

After hearing Zhao Hai, Gansu nodded and said, "If something happens in the future, go have someone send me a letter. There are a few people in the Calci Family that I can't handle, there are also a few people in Rosen Empire that would dare not give me face. Those fellows in the Family, you don't need to care about them. If they give you trouble, I'll take care of it."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, although he didn't fear the Calci Family, he still didn't want to fall out with them because of his relationship with Megan. Because of this, he was happy with what Gansu said.

Gansu looked at Zhao Hai and seemed more satisfied. He smiled and said, "Little Hai, you're a talented fellow, you're future won't be small. But do remember to not forget about your grandfather when you get some good stuff. Your Grandpa Gan doesn't have any other hobby other than drinking. Your Milk Wine is very good, if you have any other nice liquors, do remember to give some to me."

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't expect Gansu to ask for nothing else other than some nice wines. This surprised him, he admired this old man in front of him. Zhao Hai smiled faintly and with a wave of his hand, two bottles of liquor appeared. One bottle was black beer, while the other was good rice wine.

These two bottles weren't fermented by Zhao Hai's group, but were instead produced by the Multipurpose Processing Machine. Of course, Zhao Hai didn't plan to produce his liquor through the processing machine. He only had the machine produce the liquor so that the people researching them could have a reference. After countless experiments and finally producing the liquor, these two bottles were the only ones that remained.

Gansu looked at Zhao Hai's two bottles. The bottles were transparent, so he can see the color of its contents. One of them was transparent while the other was black, which made him very confused.

Zhao Hai opened the black bottle first. Naturally, this black liquid was black beer. The beer's foam was very rich. Zhao Hai intentionally got a big glass, filling half of it with beer while the other half was filled with foam.

Zhao Hai raised the glass to Gansu and smiled, "Grandpa Gan, have a taste, this is a new liquor that I've been researching. But this one doesn't have any means of mass production right now, this bottle is from the most successful batch."

Gansu looked at the half-filled glass. He smelled it and got a mild smell from it, but despite this, he couldn't help but be more curious. He took a small sip and tried to taste it, only to find out that he only drank the foam. Zhao Hai laughed and said, "Grandpa Gan, this liquor isn't too strong. Just drink the entire glass so that you can taste it."

Gansu didn't blame Zhao Hai, instead he followed his instruction and downed the glass in one go. He couldn't help but stare before his eyes lit up, "Good liquor, fantastic! The taste of this liquor isn't very strong. It has a different kind of taste, but it isn't something I'm used to."

Zhao Hai looked at Gansu, he knew that the old man liked strong liquor. He didn't say anything and just handed Gansu a cup of rice wine.

Rice wine was divided into many types, rice wine produced by peasants were generally not distilled. Because of this, the liquor wasn't very strong, even children can take one or two cups of it.

But those produced by most farmers have been distilled, giving the liquor quite the strength. Although it was slightly sweet and does not go to one's head, it was still strong. What Zhao Hai took out was the latter type, a fierce rice wine, which was also something that a northerner like Zhao Hai liked.

Because the weather in northern parts of China were generally cold, people liked to drink strong liquor. Because commercial rice wine aren't very strong, families in the north decided to brew their own liquors in their backyards. They didn't like drinking those weak liquor, even drinking a jin of it would still make them unhappy. Northerners want to drink strong liquor, something over 40 degrees and along the lines of 60. Let alone one jin, an average person would get drunk in just half a glass. Even if you're quite an experienced drinker, you would still feel tipsy.

The rice wine that Zhao Hai took out was over 40 degrees. For those in the north, it was still considered to be on the low side. Adding on to its sweet taste, people who drink it wouldn't get hit that hard by its intensity.

Gansu looked at the cup, he lifted it up and smelled it. This wasn't Milk Wine, it didn't have that milky fragrance. Instead, this rice wine had the smell of regular wine.

After smelling the liquor, Gansu tasted it, then his eyes turned bright, he immediately downed the entire cup and swirled the liquid inside his mouth. He wrinkled his brows, the strength of this wine was higher than Milk Wine, a liquor known for how strong it was.

After savoring the alcohol, Gansu laughed and said, "Nice Wine! This is really nice wine, Little Hai, If you have any more of this liquor, you must leave some here for me."

Zhao Hai gave a forced smile and said, "We still didn't have any way to mass produce this liquor right now, we only have this bottle left. I'll leave this bottle to you, when we find a way to make a lot of them, I'll go and send you a batch."

When Gansu heard Zhao Hai, he couldn't help but laugh as he said, "Good, I'll wait for your delivery. Come, come, this bottle still has some left in it, today we drink."

Seeing how the other person was very enthusiastic, Zhao Hai didn't decline. He and Gansu continued to eat some side dishes while drinking liquor. Before long, the bottom of the bottle can be seen. With Zhao

Hai's current capacity, he was now feeling dizzy. He stopped drinking and said his goodbyes before returning to Rustling Tree Courtyard.

Zhao Hai immediately drank some Spatial Water upon arriving at the courtyard. To be honest, even if the liquor that he drank was very simple, it was the most enjoyable drink that he had in a long time.

Blockhead and Rockhead were present, Zhao Hai looked at them and said, "Tomorrow we'll go to the city and buy some things and have them delivered to Iron Mountain Fort. No matter what, we have over 1000 people in the fort, this God's Grace Day, we need to help them celebrate."

Blockhead and Rockhead nodded, then Zhao Hai said, "When you go back to the fort tomorrow, you don't need to return here. The place should be very busy, you two can go help Grandpa Green and the others. Although the Beastmen doesn't celebrate God's Grace Day, they are still in human territory, let's make them experience our festivities."

Blockhead and Rockhead nodded again, these more than 1000 people can be considered to be part of the Buda Clan. Naturally, they would treat them properly.

After some time, Megan and the others came back. When she saw Zhao Hai, Megan cannot help but smile and said, "Big Brother Hai, I didn't you we're very strong. I just saw Grandpa Gan earlier with a reddened face. There is no way that his capacity for liquor is that low, what type of wine did you drink with him?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "No need to tell me that, you're Grandpa Gan's alcohol capacity isn't a joke. I almost couldn't head back here, I only managed to feel well after drinking some Spatial water."

Megan also knew that the Spatial Water can sober one up. When she heard Zhao Hai, she couldn't help but chuckle. Zhao Hai didn't care about it as he looked at the skies and said, "The sky has already turned black, I've been drinking with Grandpa Gan all this time. Wouldn't your family be looking for us? I didn't do anything else today other than eat."

Megan and Laura smiled, then Megan replied, "It's alright, I already had Grandpa tell Mother and Father to not prepare any meals today."

Zhao Hai nodded then he said, "That's great. I'm quite tired as well, I'll go back to the Space and rest for a while. You go play outside and when you're done, you can just talk to Cai'er if you want to go to the Space." Then his body flashed and entered the Space.

Laura turned her head to Megan and smiled, "It looks like Brother Hai is really very exhausted. Megan, we'll go to the city tomorrow to buy stuff. Iron Mountain Fort will also be celebrating the new year. We must prepare something for them."

Blockhead smiled, "Miss Laura can feel relieved, the young master already told us that we'll buy some items for the fort tomorrow. Then I will go back there to help along with Rockhead."

Laura nodded, "It looks like Elder Brother Hai already thought of this. Right now, Iron Mountain Fort doesn't need to worry about food and water. I think it would be good if we get some things that aren't produced there."

Megan nodded, "Right, we'll go to the eastern market tomorrow. The eastern market sells rare goods. We can go there and take a look at the various goods used in the continent. I'm thinking of buying some things for the people of Iron Mountain Fort. This is the first year that our Buda Clan reappeared on the continent, we must make this celebration lively."

Laura looked at Megan and smiled, "Little Megan is quite good, now starting to say 'our' Buda Clan. It seems like she's very impatient to marry Brother Hai."

When Megan heard Laura, her face couldn't help but redden, she turned to Laura and said, "Why are you saying that to me? You've been with Big Brother Hai for longer, aren't you more impatient than me?"

Laura's face also turned red, she turned to the sneering Meg and couldn't help but tease, "I can't compare to Sister Meg, she has been following Brother Hai since they were children, she must be the most impatient among us."

Then Meg's face turned red, she looked at the other two and said, "Hmph, I've been with the young master since I was a child. I've already become quite used to waiting. Right, how about I tell Grandfather and Grandmother to delay the wedding by two years."

Laura and Megan immediately threw themselves to her, playfully beating her while saying, "You dare!" The group became jolly as Rockhead and Blocked slowly retreated with a smile on their faces.

Chapter 455 - Killing Intent

The next morning, Zhao Hai and the others sat inside their carriage and progressed towards Carson City's Eastern Market. The Eastern Market was Carson City's largest bazaar. It was a market purposely built for selling goods. The City made this for retail, sporting a lot of cheap products sold by small businesses. Because of this, the place was the commoners' most visited area in the city.

When Zhao Hai's carriage arrived at the Eastern Market's vicinity, it couldn't progress any further. Zhao Hai looked at the amount of people present and shook his head. He suddenly thought about the time when he attended a temple fair back on Earth. Looking at the volume of people here, Zhao Hai thought that the two were the same.

Zhao Hai turned to the group and said, "Let's walk, the carriage definitely couldn't progress any further. Shue, you look after the carriage here."

Shue nodded, then Zhao Hai and the others got off the vehicle and slowly walked towards the market. The people gathered all looked at Zhao Hai's group with curious eyes.

Zhao Hai looked around and noticed the problem. There were indeed a lot of people on the streets, but none of them wore any noble clothing. Most of them wore civilian ones, even servants didn't dress up.

Zhao Hai turned to Megan and said, "Megan, why am I unable to see any nobles? Look at those people looking at us."

Megan smiled and said, "Big Brother Hai, you don't know but Nobles in the continent don't buy things personally. They have some people specifically tasked to buy things in this market. The nobles would just tell them what to buy, they don't need to buy it themselves."

Zhao Hai nodded, then no longer cared and walked towards the Eastern Market. It was currently still winter. Even if the Rosen Empire was warmer than the Prairie, the four seasons were still quite distinct here. On the doors of shops were piles of goods waiting to be sold. People on the shops were coming and going, the place was very lively.

Before long, Zhao Hai's group stopped following the crowd and started looking around the shops. Blockhead and Rockhead were on their sides with Shun leading in front. When commoners see them from afar, they couldn't help but get out of the way.

While walking, Zhao Hai was suddenly attracted to a shop. The shops in Eastern Market were very beautiful, they also have some sort of uniformity between them, and were two-stories. The shop that Zhao Hai saw was a bit different, it was three-stories. And most importantly, this shop was quite alone, no other buildings were nearby. Moreover, there were no people coming and going to this shop.

Zhao Hai looked at the scene and couldn't help but get curious, he turned to Megan and said, "Megan, which family owns that shop? How come nobody went there?"

Megan looked at the shop and smiled, "This is the shop of the Robert family. Their family is the largest seller of general merchandise in Rosen Empire. They don't handle retail and everyone knows it, that's why commoners rarely go to this shop."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Let's go there and take a look. I want to see what things this shop has to offer."

Megan smiled and said, "I'd also like to come to this shop. They have the most complete set of products among all shops in the Rosen Empire." While they were talking, they entered the shop.

Just as they arrived inside the store, one of the servants inside greeted them. The guy loudly gave his respects and said, "Sir, Miss, please come inside." The servant can see that Megan and the others were still unmarried judging by the clothes they wore, so he decided to just call them 'Miss'.

Zhao Hai nodded and continued on to enter the store. When they are inside, Zhao Hai's eyes couldn't help but sparkle. The furnishings inside were similar to what Zhao Hai saw in the cities in his previous life. On the shelves were samples of the products along with their description and price. Zhao Hai looked at the products and saw that they were cheaper than those sold outside.

One could see a counter upon entering the door, an old attendant was behind it. When the attendant saw Zhao Hai, he didn't care too much. But when he noticed Megan, he couldn't help but open his eyes and immediately left the counter and went forward, "It's actually Miss Megan, forgive me for being slow

and neglecting you. Little Five, go lead Miss Megan's group to the resting area and send them the best tea in the shop."

The servant immediately led Zhao Hai's group along and directed them towards the back of the shop. The attendant whispered a few words to another servant as they followed Zhao Hai to a small room.

This was the first time that Zhao Hai came across this kind of business. These small rooms in the store aren't like hotel rooms. There aren't any tables inside but instead there was an ornamental sand pool in the middle of the room. There were also flowers suspended on the walls as well as beautiful oil paintings. The room looked very elegant.

When Zhao Hai and the others sat down, the servant immediately came and served them hot tea. Then the store attendant gave a bow and said, "This one is very glad to see Miss Megan." Then he turned to look at Zhao Hai and said, "Can I know who this gentleman is?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "This one is Zhao Hai. Megan told me that this shop has the most complete inventory of goods in the entire market. Today, I happen to need some things, so I came here to take a look."

When the attendant heard Zhao Hai's introduction, he immediately understood who he was. Zhao Hai's identity wasn't a secret in Rosen Empire, all of the Great Clans knew about him.

The attendant immediately answered, "Miss Megan really praises us, but we indeed have the most complete inventory of products here. May I know what items Mister Zhao Hai needs?"

Zhao Hai smiled and pulled out a list and said, "These are the things I want, I've also listed the quantity. I want to know how long it will take you to prepare them."

The attendant received Zhao Hai's list respectfully and gave it a quick scan, then he looked at Zhao Hai and said, "We have all of the things that mister needed. If mister wants it today, we can have them ready in three hours."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, please prepare them, in three hours I will come back and take them." The attendant nodded as he turned around to leave.

Seeing the attendant leaving, Zhao Hai turned to Megan and said, "Megan, the attendant seem to be quite familiar with you, do you know them?"

Megan smiled and said, "We do, the friendship between the Robert family and the Calci family spanned for generations. I used to visit them in the past, so their people should know me. I just don't know much about them, just like how I don't recognize that attendant."

Zhao Hai nodded, then drank his tea before saying, "Since they need to prepare the good for three hours, we cannot just wait in here the entire time. How about we head to the West Market and have a look?"

Megan agreed, "Right, there are a lot of delicious things in the West Market. That's the gourmet area of the capital. There are dishes there that are unique only to Carson City, no other place served them. We might as well have a try."

Zhao Hai nodded, then the group went out of the shop after bidding the attendant goodbye. Then they left the east bazaar and headed to the West Market.

The West Market wasn't very far from the East, it was only quite a ways away from the main road. Because of this main road, the city was divided into East City and West City. Which also gave the two markets their current names of East Market and West Market.

Since the East Market held priority to selling goods, there weren't a lot of restaurants present in the area. There weren't a lot of choices for those who wanted to eat a meal here.

On the other hand, the West Market gave priority to the food sector. The place was divided into the snack street, the food street, and the kitchenware street. There was needless to say that the food street would have almost all of the ingredients on the entire continent. They even had some seafood, but compared to those that Zhao Hai supplied, their quality was naturally much worse.

Aside from kitchen-related products, the kitchenware street also sold some goods. However, their selection wasn't as diverse as those found in the East Market. Additionally, one could see that those sold here were much more expensive. In fact, many of those goods sold here were just bought from the East Market and resold here for a higher price.

Zhao Hai's group weren't interested in kitchenware. They first went to the food street and bought some ingredients that weren't present in Zhao Hai's Space. Of course, Zhao Hai bought some living creatures, for example some magic beasts that he still didn't have. But after those things were transferred, Zhao Hai became disappointed since they didn't manage to nudge the Space's upgrade requirement.

The food street wasn't short, from beginning to end, one needed to walk one hour to completely walk along it. Zhao Hai and the others bought no less than 100 beasts. But all of them didn't manage to upgrade the Space, further disappointing Zhao Hai.

After finishing their trek along the food street, they immediately went to the snack street, where their initial purpose was. The food in Carson City were all very famous, and all of them were concentrated on this snack street. With all of these foods present, naturally, Zhao Hai and the others decided to give some of them a taste.

There were a few people walking the streets bringing along some snacks with them. But in this area, the sight was very common, therefore, the group didn't seem so strange.

Zhao Hai not only ate some food, he also bought a lot to save them for later, these things are only available here, not anywhere else. After that, they strolled around for another hour before taking their carriage and returned to the East Market.

Zhao Hai's carriage stopped in front of the Robert family's shop. At this moment a young man stepped out of the store. He didn't seem to see the others as he headed straight for Megan, "Megan, you came. Why didn't you tell me? When did you come back?"

Megan looked at the young man and smiled, "Big Brother Terry, I just came back yesterday. I accompanied Big Brother Hai today to buy some things." She said as she slightly leaned her body towards Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai stared and looked at Megan. Currently, even though Megan had a smiling face, the smile seemed to be quite distant. If one looked closely, they could even see a disgusted mood on her eyes. It was obvious that she wasn't very glad to see the young man.

Zhao Hai understood what happened, then he turned his head to the young man and smiled, "Hello, this one is Zhao Hai."

The young man looked at Zhao Hai, still wearing that smile on his face. Although he looked quite charming, his eyes flashed a small killing intent, something that Zhao Hai was very keen on noticing.

Since Zhao Hai had fought a lot of battles, he was very sensitive to any hostility towards him. He can immediately feel from Terry the sense of not only opposition, but also a murderous aura.

Zhao Hai's mood couldn't help but sink. He understood what the other party was thinking, but he didn't express his discontent with the situation. Terry also didn't feel a change in Zhao Hai's mood, he continued to smile to Zhao Hai as he said, "Hello, Mister Zhao Hai. Your name surely is a thunder to the ears. Sir is very young and is already very promising. Even I have heard about my uncles talking about you."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Mister overpraises, this Zhao Hai is still a very small character. How could I compare to the enormity of the Robert Family's assets. This one is ashamed."

Terry smiled and answered, "Mister is too modest. Right, let's not talk outside, let's head to the rooms and continue there." Then he sized up Laura and Meg, he only glanced at them and didn't say anything.

Seeing his expression, it was impossible for Zhao Hai to not understand what was going on. It seems like Terry likes Megan, and seeing Megan happy being with Zhao Hai made him express a murderous aura.

After the group entered a private room, a servant served them tea as per usual. Terry didn't touch his cup, he looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Is mister spending the holidays in Carson City? I heard that the Calci Family's banquets are very lively every year."

His words didn't sound strange at first. But it seems to be not that simple. Zhao Hai himself was a Patriarch of a Clan, this time, he went to the Calci Family for God's Grace Day in order to accompany Megan, as well as see Charlie, and also form some connections with the nobility of the Rosen Empire.

However, by the tone of Terry's words, he made it sound like Zhao Hai specifically went to the Calci Family to smooch off of their food and drinks. It was necessary to know that the Calci Family doesn't

have a lot of relatives. But they still have some distant relatives that would come during God's Grace Day and present some small gifts and in return, the family would give them some food and wine to consume. Terry seemed to group Zhao Hai along with these people.

Laura and Meg's expression couldn't help but change. Megan's face wasn't any better either. Zhao Hai acted as if he didn't hear any of it as he smiled and said, "The Calci family had a lot of people, so it was natural that their banquets would be very lively. But this time, I mainly came to the family in order to discuss with Grandpa Randolph about the matters of me marrying Megan by next year."

With Zhao Hai's words, it was Terry's turn to change his expression. But he quickly recovered as he still wore a smile on his face and told Zhao Hai, "That's great, I will certainly offer you a toast of celebration when that time comes."

Zhao Hai smiled and replied, "That will be very welcome. Seeing that Megan doesn't treat you as an outsider, Mister Terry should arrive early."

Terry's face couldn't help but twitch, but the smile on his face remained unchanged, he then laughed and said, "Alright, I will prepare a big gift."

Zhao Hai smiled, "Then we will wait for mister's big gift. Right, Mister Terry, it looks like it's already late. May I inquire if the things that we ordered have already been prepared?"

Terry immediately responded and smiled, "They're already prepared. Mister can come and take a look." Then he stood up and invited Zhao Hai over with a hand gesture.

Chapter 456 - Family Banquet (First Part)

Zhao Hai sat in the carriage with his eyes closed. His face didn't express happiness nor sadness, he just held a calm expression. However, his heart wasn't very tranquil.

Megan was looking at Zhao Hai with a somewhat uneasy feeling. Zhao Hai had been like this ever since they went out of the Robert Family's shop. Seeing Zhao Hai closing his eyes made her restless.

Megan was not afraid of anything else but Zhao Hai misunderstanding her relationship with Terry. In fact, she and Terry were childhood friends. But when she transferred to Sky Water City, their

interactions became minimal. After seeing him after some years, she saw that something changed with Terry. Smith also opposed to her meeting up with him. Since Megan didn't have any particular feelings towards Terry, she also slowly drifted away from him.

Later on, with the exception of relatives and those belonging to great powers, all men who came in contact with Megan had suffered bad luck. Moreover, she also heard that these seem to be caused by Terry.

Megan wasn't worrying about Zhao Hai's safety, but seeing how calm Terry was today made her very nervous. She was afraid that Zhao Hai might misunderstand. So she just sat there soundlessly, becoming more nervous as time passed by.

Laura naturally noticed Megan's expression. She was a perceptive woman so she immediately understood what Megan was thinking. However, she thought that Megan's worries were all useless. She believed that Zhao Hai's thoughts weren't on those matters. In order to not make Megan worry, Laura asked Zhao Hai, "Brother Hai, what are you thinking about?"

Zhao Hai opened his eyes and looked at the group before saying, "This Terry isn't very simple. I can see that this guy looks very enthusiastic when meeting Megan. But when his gaze wanders to me, he would reveal a small killing intent, and manages to hide it quite well. And the fact that he didn't make any moves while doing business with us made me think that he isn't a good person to deal with. I think he would use underhanded methods to take a shot at me."

When she heard Zhao Hai, Megan relaxed. It seems like Zhao Hai didn't suspect her relationship with Terry.

Megan let out a long sigh and said, "Big Brother Hai, it's alright, there's no need to fear Terry. Although Terry is the first in line successor for the Robert Family, he wasn't someone who can cover the skies with one hand. Those in higher positions in their family are also keeping a keen eye on him. The Robert Family isn't like mine, the heirs of the family all came from the grandsons, making their status quite high. Even if Terry is indeed a grandson of the current Patriarch of the family, there were a lot of grandsons who held the same right to succession like him. Once he does something wrong, the family wouldn't hesitate to abolish his status as first in line and would just give it to another one. But their family doesn't have a testing phase like ours, the family's heir immediately becomes very powerful."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Naturally, I don't fear him, but I really don't want to reveal my strength. Because of this, Terry's actions might give us a bit of trouble. Don't forget, even if I'm engaged to you, in

the eyes of the Rosen Empire, I am an outsider. If I do reveal my hand just to deal with Terry, those nobles might join up to deal with me. When that time comes, I'm afraid that even Calci Family wouldn't be able to help me."

Megan didn't oppose, instead she agreed. Now that she had more contact with this aspect of the world, she naturally understood the power of the nobles. If those nobles did ally up to deal with Zhao Hai, then Zhao Hai's troubles certainly wouldn't be small. Let alone the Calci Family, even the Rosen Imperial Clan wouldn't be able to do anything about it.

Laura also nodded, then said, "Right, Brother Hai is right to be worried. But I'm afraid Terry knows about this too, so if he decides to begin to move, it would certainly be troublesome."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "This person is very sinister and manipulative. We should take care and pay more attention to his future actions."

Megan nodded, "Big Brother Hai, I will say this matter to Grandpa, making him take note of this as well. If Terry dares make a move on you, then we wouldn't spare him."

Zhao Hai looks at Megan and smiled, "What happened? I thought that you have a good impression with that fellow? Did he offend you?"

Megan shook her head and said, "He didn't, but I heard about how sinister he was, not just from what I heard from Brother Hai. Father told me that since our families are close friends, the two of us grew up together. In the past, our relationship has been good, and after I moved to Sky Water City, our communications have been cut short. But we still see each other everytime I go to the capital. Afterwards, Father told me that he is too sinister, and to not make contact with him. Because of that, I slowly drifted away from him."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Uncle Smith must have known something. We must seriously be careful with Terry, this person hides too much." While they were talking, the bull-pulled carriage arrived at the foot of Dark Mountain.

Megan thought for a moment and said, "Brother Hai, I think there would be a lot of banquets in the city. Terry will definitely participate in them, you must be careful whenever you attend one."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Be relieved, if worse comes to worst, I can just exterminate his Robert Family, hmph."

Megan didn't think that Zhao Hai was lying, if Terry really does provoke Zhao Hai too far, the Robert Family surely wouldn't fare very well. Not only the Robert Family, even the entire Rosen Empire can be turned upside down by Zhao Hai.

Before long, their carriage stopped on front of Dark Soldier Fort. After the group changed vehicles, they entered the fort and proceeded to Rustling Tree Courtyard.

When they arrived at the courtyard, a servant immediately greeted them, "Young Master, Young Lady, the Patriarch conveyed a message. Tonight, our Calci Family would be doing its Family Banquet. Everybody must participate."

Megan nodded and said, "Alright, you can head back." The servant nodded and then turned away.

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly and said, "I'm going to say it, this feast wouldn't be better than eating at home."

Megan smiled, "This Family Banquet isn't much different than normal banquets. This feast is done by the family every year, even servants participate. When the event comes, people would go to the main square and loosen all tensions regarding their status. Everyone will sit and drink with each other, it is the Calci Family's most popular party."

When Zhao Hai heard Megan, his eyes turned bright as he said, "That's good, I must prepare well. Right, we bought a lot of snacks today. We should contribute those to the banquet, let's go tell Grandpa Gan."

Megan nodded and smiled, "Alright, let's go see Grandpa Gan. While we're at it, we should also give Grandpa Green the goods that we bought earlier. Iron Mountain Fort will also have their festivities, it would be great if Grandpa Green receives those much earlier."

Zhao Hai nodded, he looked around and said, "Right, Blockhead, Rockhead, you two also head back to Iron Mountain Fort and help Grandpa Green and the others." The two nodded, then Zhao Hai led his group as they vanished into the Space and headed back to Iron Mountain Fort.

Iron Mountain Fort will also be celebrating God's Grace Day. Although the things here were still very crude, Zhao Hai still felt the warmth coming from this place. The people in the fort stopped their work and went busy on cleaning up and getting new clothes for themselves and their families. While they were getting ready to eat, everyone's face were full of smiles.

This was no mystery, because they were slaves, they weren't able to experience God's Grace Day. Although they knew when the day was, their master told them that God's graciousness doesn't reach to lowly slaves. Because of this, for them, God's Grace Day was just any ordinary day.

Zhao Hai looked at the people and became very happy. He found Green and handed the things he bought over. He also left Green a lot of seafood, even a Blade-Scale Whale. This thing was huge, Zhao Hai wanted Green and the others to eat this fish and have a very nice evening.

After leaving the things behind, Zhao Hai and the others returned to Rustling Tree Courtyard. No matter what, they were living inside the Calci Family right now, leaving this place for too long won't be ideal.

After returning to the courtyard's living room and sitting down, Megan turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, do you plan on returning to Iron Mountain Fort on God's Grace Day?"

Zhao Hai thought for a moment and then said, "I think I must go back, but I'm afraid that there would be a lot of things happening. Right, what do you usually do during God's Grace Day?"

Megan replied, "Actually, God's Grace Day is the most boring day. Grandpa and Father would be going to the imperial palace to attend a banquet. And they would come back very late. At the same time, we would be having a delicious meal and then after lighting some incense, we were free to do what we want."

Zhao Hai's eyes lit up, "I didn't think that it would be that free. Then after we eat our meal and lighting some incense, we can just return to Iron Mountain Fort, what do you think?"

Laura nodded and said, "That's also good, but Megan seems to have a lot to take care of during that time. Can you spare some?"

Megan nodded and said, "Rest assured, I also want to go to Iron Mountain Fort and celebrate God's Grace Day with Big Brother Hai. I want to look at how they will celebrate."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I would also like to see how they'd do it. Among those people, aside from Grandpa Green's group, it would be everybody's first time to experience God's Grace Day. I'm looking forward to it."

Laura and the others chuckled. Besides Green's group, there were only human and beastman slaves in the fort. Beastmen celebrate their ten thousand beast festival while the human slaves only experience God's Grace Day as any ordinary day. Both of them weren't able to celebrate it before.

Chapter 457 - Family Banquet (Last Part)

After reaching an agreement, Zhao Hai and the others came out of Rustling Tree Courtyard. They wanted to look for Gansu in order to hand the delicious snacks over and have them served during this evening's feast.

Gansu was busy in the kitchen, he was truly busy today because he handled the preparation for tonight's banquet. All the people in Dark Soldier Fort would be participating, the servants will be participating in the eating and drinking. Therefore, there were a lot of food that were needed to be prepared ahead of time.

Zhao Hai looked at Gansu who was about to drink something and then said, "Grandpa Gan, you're looking quite busy."

When Gansu heard Zhao Hai's voice, he turned his head to Zhao Hai and smiled, "Boy? Why are you here? Want to ask me to drink? Today's no good, I have a lot to do, let's do it another day."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Grandpa Gan, do you really see me as a drunkard, wanting to drink everyday? I'm here to do you a favor, you don't need to prepare a lot of food. When we went out earlier, Megan led us to snack street to have some food. I bought a lot of Carson City's unique snacks. We can add those to this evening's feast." Then he waved his hand as a pile of snacks appeared.

Gansu's eyes turned bright when he saw the snacks. One should know that the snacks of Carson City aren't considered to be commoner food. These things are widely famous in the continent, even Gansu liked them. They were a very good pair to liquor.

While thinking of that, Gansu immediately said to Zhao Hai, “Good, but you don’t need to take them out right now. These snacks aren’t proper meals. You can take them away and then serve them yourself in the evening.”

Zhao Hai listened to Gansu’s advice and didn’t disagree. He nodded and received the snacks, then he led Megan and the others to head back.

Time quickly passed as evening came. Smith had someone call Zhao Hai over and then the group headed to the main square.

Usually when a large group of people live together, one couldn’t really fathom the amount of people present. All the people inside Dark Soldier Fort numbered towards several thousand people, this wasn’t a small number.

As soon as Smith’s entourage arrived, the servants and guards present immediately came to greet him, some gave a salute while some gave a bow. Smith was also very polite to these people, he gave well-wishes to these people and also chatted with them for a bit. This made Zhao Hai surprised, for Smith to remember the names of these people was something worthy of admiration.

Zhao Hai then knew that something as small as remembering ones name can make people have a favorable impression towards you. Especially someone with a position like Smith, for a master to remember the name of a servant would surely give him a high evaluation among the servants, making him occupy a special place in their hearts.

Zhao Hai, Kristen and Diya followed beside Smith. However, Megan and the others followed the madam to go greet the women on the other side.

Inside the fort, there were a lot of people who hadn’t seen Zhao Hai. Now that they did, they were somewhat disappointed, Zhao Hai looked very ordinary, in their opinion, Zhao Hai seemed to be unworthy of marrying Megan.

Megan wasn’t only liked by Smith and the other members of the Calci Family. Even the servant in the fort had a very good impression of her because of her good nature. She never treats the servants wrongly and was very kind to others. The servants in the castle liked Megan very much.

Zhao Hai didn't care about what they thought about him. When Smith introduced him to the servants, he greeted them with a smile along with a salute. Seeing Zhao Hai give them a salute, the servants immediately returned the gesture, their impression of Zhao Hai also went a bit better.

These people are simple, if you respect them, then they'll respect you. Naturally, to get their respect, you must understand how to respect them. In addition, Zhao Hai was something like a half-master to them. Even though they didn't exchange some words, the servants were still touched by his gesture.

Before long, the people from the other parts of the fort also arrived. The people in the square became more and more. At this moment, there were already several bonfires made in the square, giving it proper illumination. The normally cold square was given warmth by the fires.

There were large tables placed right by the bonfires. Each table can sit several people, Gansu was also present arranging the seats for the guests.

Almost everyone didn't need to be led to their seats. After all, the Family Banquet was an occasion that happens every year. It was one of the most important events for the family, everyone already knew where they would be sitting. After having everyone sit down, Gansu immediately had the servants serve the dishes.

After the servants have served the food, they immediately looked for their table and sat down. Then it was time for Randolph to speak, this was also part of the event's proceedings.

After having all the dishes served, Randolph stood up and scanned the people in the square. Then he said loudly, "This year has brought abundant harvests to our Calci Family. We have gained new stable income sources as well as the most important event where we made those Radiant Church people suffer a loss under our hand. Our Calci Family had finally expelled some foul air."

After this section of the speech, the square was filled with thunderous applause. These servants were the descendants of the previous servants of the Calci Family. Their honor and disgrace were closely linked with the family. In the past, when the family was overly suppressed by the Radiant Church, they found it hard to stay calm. When the family finally managed to turn the tides of battle over, causing the Church's influence in the Rosen Empire to be erased, it was natural for these servants to feel excitement.

When the applause subsided, Randolph then said, "This year, our Calci Family's little princess Megan has also been engaged to the Buda Clan's Patriarch Zhao Hai. Our little princess has grown up, it is finally time for her to get married."

After he said that, the square became lively. Many people loudly cried as well. Regarding the Calci Family's rules, the servants need not follow them this time. Therefore, these people dared to be quite rowdy.

Megan didn't think that Randolph would actually address her engagement at the family banquet. Her face couldn't help but redden, but she still stood up. Seeing Megan stand up, Zhao Hai stood up as well. After giving the people in the square a bow, the two of them sat down.

The performance of Zhao Hai satisfied Randolph, he nodded and then continued, "In short, it has been a very good year for our Calci Family. Right, no need for more words. Everyone, let's eat!" Then he sat down.

Seeing the people starting to eat, Zhao Hai immediately stood up and carried a wine glass towards Randolph's table. Along with Randolph, the table contained the people with the highest status in the Calci Family, Smith was also in that table. In the table that Zhao Hai sat in were the people from Smith's side.

While carrying a glass of wine to Randolph's table, Zhao Hai bowed and then said, "Grandpa Randolph, elders, this is the first family banquet that I attended so I came unprepared. When I went out earlier, I managed to buy some snacks with Megan in snack street. I initially wanted to give them to Grandpa Gan earlier, but he told me to give it to the people myself, so that I can get more acquainted with them. I came here to offer them to your table first and then proceed to the others. I just don't know if Grandpa Randolph agrees."

Randolph laughs and said, "Who wouldn't want Carson City's snacks, it is very famous in the continent. I've always wanted to eat them for quite a long time, good, leave some here."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and then waved his hand as two trays of snacks appeared, carrying several types of snacks. The quantity aren't that many, but the variety was quite a lot.

Zhao Hai placed the trays on the table and then bowed to them and said, "Grandpa Randolph, please enjoy the snacks. I'll be heading to the other tables to deliver them."

Randolph nodded and said, "You go, give some to the people." Zhao Hai nodded, then he turned around to leave.

Zhao Hai proceeded to send snacks to each table. Although there weren't a lot, it still held some meaning, especially to the servants. Zhao Hai also chatted with them, gaining the servants' good graces. Currently, Zhao Hai became even more pleasing to their eyes.

Upon finishing to deliver the snacks, Zhao Hai already knew most of the servants' names. He also came to know the names of the Calci Family members.

Even if Zhao Hai's memory was much worse than Smith, he has the Space. If Zhao Hai cannot remember, the Space's recording function can certainly remind him. The Space can even record the entire continent, much less names of people.

Zhao Hai got this move from Smith. After all, Zhao Hai was a nerd, his social skills couldn't compare to someone who had noble education since childhood. Zhao Hai gave his best to learn about his deficiencies.

After delivering the snacks, Zhao Hai returned to his own table. The madam looked at Zhao Hai and smiled, "Little Hai, you really are quite sensible. Right, go sit down and quickly eat something. You seem to be the busiest one this evening."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Wouldn't it be great to offer some snacks? I just want the family to be more lively, haha. Alright, let's eat."

Because the people on the table were all considered to be family members, everyone wasn't polite with each other. They chatted while eating and drinking, the night's events became livelier and livelier.

The family banquet continued on until midnight. People enjoyed themselves fully, there were a lot of drunk people by the end. Because of this, the square wasn't cleaned up, they needed to wait until tomorrow to do so. This was also something of custom that the Calci Family practiced.

Zhao Hai and the others didn't drink a small amount either. Zhao Hai didn't expect for the servants to come over and offer him some liquor. It was not only him, even Randolph was approached for some drinks. On this event, Zhao Hai managed to cement his foundation inside the family as he ate and drank with everybody. Also, because of the liquor offerings, Randolph was the first to get drunk.

Moreover, Zhao Hai knew that Randolph wasn't just pretending to be drunk, he was truly intoxicated. This made Zhao Hai surprised, under normal circumstances, old foxes like Randolph would pretend to be drunk so that he wouldn't be offered more drinks. But at this time, he actually let go of himself and got drunk with the servants. This gave Zhao Hai insight as to how the family treated its subordinates.

Chapter 458 - Same Camp

Although it just seems like a normal family banquet, Zhao Hai had learned a lot from the event. Although he was well-read, there were still some things that he needed to learn about management.

The next morning, Zhao Hai and the others came out of the Space. When he went out to the courtyard, he saw Smith. Seeing Zhao Hai, Smith smiled and said, "Just got up? Didn't you drink a lot yesterday? Hangover?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Fortunately, I've had some soup to sober up yesterday evening so I'm still fine. How about Uncle, are you fine?"

Smith smiled bitterly, "On this day of the year, it's perfectly fine to go all out. Right, let's eat a meal together."

After breakfast, Zhao Hai and the others prepared to head out and see the situation at Carson City. Suddenly, a servant came outside the door carrying a card. He bowed to Zhao Hai and said, "Young Master, a letter came from Prince Charlie. It was sent over by his servant."

Zhao Hai nodded and then received the card to take a look. It was an invitation to a banquet that Charlie was hosting tonight, addressed to Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai slightly frowned, he nodded then said, "Alright, tell the servant that I'll be coming." The servant gave a nod and turned away.

Zhao Hai stared at the invitation, he wasn't afraid of meeting anyone, he just didn't like attending banquets. But on the other hand, he also knew that he cannot dodge them because of his current status.

He sighed and stored the invitation. At this moment, Laura and the others came in chatting and laughing, they just came back from a small expedition to Rustling Tree courtyard's garden.

The group of women came to see that Zhao Hai's expression wasn't good. Laura can't help but be curious so she asked, "Brother Hai, did something happen?"

Zhao Hai faintly smiled as he handed the invitation over to Laura. When she received the card, she smiled and said, "This is great. It seems like Charlie wants to introduce you over to his subordinates. Moreover, this is a formal invitation, this meant that a lot of people will be coming tonight. You might see a lot of people from Great Noble families."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I already knew about the possibility of me meeting Great Nobles. Charlie wanted to brand me as someone from his side, letting people know that we're on the same camp. Megan, you shouldn't go this evening, I'm afraid this might have an impact on the Calci Family."

Megan shook her head and said, "No, I'm going. Brother Hai, with you, everything will be fine. Besides, even if they suspect the Calci Family to be supporting Charlie, what can they do about it? If the prince manages to lose the battle, then with you supporting him from the back, nobody would dare go too far in dealing with him. Also, with you on his side, I think Charlie has the greatest chance of obtaining the imperial throne."

Zhao Hai looked at Megan, then he smiled and said, "Alright, then everyone will go. Right, we should buy some clothes, we cannot shame the Buda Clan."

Megan smiled and said, "No need, I can just ask the family to get Big Brother Hai some new garments." Then she turned around to tell a servant to find someone from the clothes storeroom.

Laura looked at Zhao hai and said, "Brother Hai, it is certain that Terry would be attending this banquet. He may find some opportunities to smear your face. We should be careful this time, that Terry person is

sinister. He may not act, but he might have some subordinates doing the deeds for him. After asking Megan, it seems like the Robert Family doesn't have a low status in Rosen Empire."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I know, rest assured nothing will happen. Right, let's go prepare." Laura nodded.

Before long, a person from the clothes room came and took Zhao Hai's measurements. An evening black suit was then sent over immediately.

The suit was a very traditional Noble clothing. It had very fine workmanship, it even had the Buda Clan's crest embroidered over it. Zhao Hai didn't expect the Calci Family's people to be so fast. With this point, Zhao Hai can see the difference between new and old noble families.

Zhao Hai's group tried on their clothes and saw that they were perfect. Because of the small notice, Zhao Hai went to tell Smith about this matter, but he didn't think that Smith would already know about it. Turns out, the Calci Family also received an invitation.

The skies slowly turned dark, Zhao Hai's group rode his bull-pulled carriage and headed towards Carson City. Since it was God's Grace Day season, the gates of the capital weren't closed during the evening. But the passage in and out of the city were instead heavily monitored.

Shun already knew the way to Charlie's mansion, so he didn't need anyone's guidance. He directly drove the carriage towards the Third Prince's palace. While on the way, Zhao Hai and the others could see the amount of carriages present.

When the carriages passed by and noticed Zhao Hai's bull-pulled carriage, some of them stopped and offered Zhao Hai their greetings. Zhao Hai took note of these people, they may be Charlie's people.

Before long, Zhao Hai's carriage stopped in front of Charlie's front door. The servants in charge of welcoming the guests immediately greeted him when they saw his carriage, one of them came forwards and bowed, "Mister Zhao Hai?"

Zhao Hai opened his door and looked at the servant, "I am Zhao Hai."

The servant immediately said, "Sir, let me lead you to the backyard. His highness ordered me to inform Mister that you shall enter the mansion's back door. Whenever mister comes here next time, he can immediately head over there."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Lead the way." The servant nodded and then walked alongside the carriage as it was lead towards the back door.

The back door of this mansion wasn't a place that people can just pass through. Generally, except the direct family, no other person can come here. This was because this door has direct access to the main courtyard, the center of the mansion.

After entering the back using the back door, the servant immediately led Zhao Hai's group towards the living room. Upon arriving, Zhao Hai saw Charlie standing in front of the room's door along with several people. These people also wore formal clothing, along with their emblems. Looking at them, Zhao Hai found out that their titles aren't high, they didn't have the bearing of someone coming from a Great Noble family.

Zhao Hai, along with Laura, Meg, Megan and Nier, came forwards and gave Charlie their greetings. Charlie smiled and said, "Little Hai, you came. I actually had somebody send over a carriage as a substitute to your bull-pulled carriage. Don't you think that your carriage is a bit too slow?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "You're highness, in all honestly, I really prefer my bull-pulled carriage. I think I won't be comfortable with his highness' carriage, it is too fast and less stable. I'm just not used to it."

Charlie smiled and said, "That's fine as well, come, let's go to the living room , I have some people I need to introduce you to."

Zhao Hai entered the room with Charlie. At the same time, Laura and the others were lead by a servant towards the side halls. There, people of the other Nobles were staying,. Some were like Zhao Hai, bringing along several women to attend the banquet.

After entering the room, Charlie introduced some people to Zhao Hai. In fact, Zhao Hai was already familiar with some of them. When Zhao Hai opened his shop in Jade Water City, these people came over and expressed their well wishes, therefore, Zhao Hai were aware of their appearances.

When their greetings came to an end, they sat down. Charlie looked at the people present and said, "I welcome all of you today and I also express my gratitude in accepting my invitation. I will not beat around the bush and directly tell all of you that everyone present here are all the people that I have placed my full trust in. We're all on the same side, so I hope that all of you can be more acquainted in the future."

Zhao Hai nodded as he smiled and said, "Certainly, your highness can feel relieved, we're on your side. If something goes wrong, we surely won't be bringing the trouble to you."

A tall person sitting by Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Yes, Mister Zhao Hai is right, Your Highness can rest assured."

This person was from the Yinmi Family. The family can be regarded as an emerging clan. Their family was a hundred years old and held the title of count. Even if they only had the status of a count, they were actually a military family, a family of generals. Their troops were also very good. But since the Rosen Empire was the continent's most powerful nation, there weren't a lot of people who dared to provoke them, making wars quite scarce. Because of this, the family had no chance of displaying their might making it impossible for their title to be promoted.

This person was called John Yinmi, a typical martial artist with a frank temperament. But because of his disposition, the Yinmi Family had been having some bad years lately. John was not good at business, and the income from their territory wasn't that great.

But Zhao Hai actually took a liking to this person. There were only a few nobles with tempers that are straight just like John. This was because such attribute is very disadvantageous for a noble to have.

The people present also agreed to what Zhao Hai and John just said. Charlie nodded and then said, "Father is still in his prime, but even if he tolerates us having our own groups, he doesn't like to see us flaunting our influence. Your families don't belong to the core of Rosen Empire's power, so I hope you don't attract too much attention to yourselves. At the same time, I hope you also pay attention to others. But be careful with your actions"

Several people nodded, Charlie continued, "Mister Zhao Hai joining my side certainly brought a huge effect on my standing. My brothers doesn't have any 9th rank experts, they didn't even have the capacity to invite one. Thus, mister's help was truly big. But this also drew jealousy from my brothers, even father may start paying attention to me. So I hope that all of us can stay low-key, do not make any moves that can attract attention."

When Zhao Hai heard Charlie, he couldn't help but be apologetic, "I have given his highness some troubles, Zhao Hai has been inconsiderate."

Charlie waved his hand and smiled, "No, mister is just showing his own strength. Although it brought me small trouble, its effects aren't really that big, so mister doesn't have to worry. On the contrary, with Mister's strength, people who wanted to make a move on us would have to think twice. This is already a huge help."

Those present also nodded, they agreed with Charlie's words. Among the Princes, the Crown Prince in the capital city can be said to have the biggest influence. The Second Prince has also been exhibiting his talents these past few years. Charlie handles his affairs quite low-key, to the point that he seemed unremarkable. This made people who wanted to hire themselves to him think that Charlie's strength wasn't that big.

However, Zhao Hai joining made thing a whole lot different. Zhao Hai managed to invite a 9th rank expert, moreover, his undead also held formidable fighting strength. Most importantly, he was also the Calci family's son-in-law. With this status, now many people in the continent dared to underestimate Zhao hai.

Zhao Hai coming to Charlie's side made people think twice about their evaluation of the Third Prince. Some small nobles who were waiting at the sides already threw themselves towards Charlie's door. Now, Charlie's people had already reached quite a substantial number.

But Charlie understood that even if his numbers increased, those who were truly loyal to him were only few. The majority of them were just like tall grass, although their numbers looked menacing, when it came to use, only a few were qualified.

Because of this, Charlie maintained his policy of acting low-key. Zhao Hai admired him for this. Zhao Hai also knew about Charlie's recent momentum, he was actually afraid that the Third Prince would be swallowed up by this increase of power. It seems that Charlie put much thought into it.

Zhao Hai looked at the group and smiled, "Your Highness, I know that you're just saying that to lift my spirit. But if there really is anything that I can do to help in the future, please don't hesitate to send a word to me. We are all in the same camp, we ought to help each other. Right, Brother John, since we

still have to wait until God's Grace Day, how about we discuss about a partnership. I have a lot of good products on hand, maybe Brother John is interested in them."

When John heard Zhao Hai, he didn't understand what was going on at first. However, he was very clear about Zhao Hai's Haven Rice. This product has received minor fame inside Rosen Empire. No matter who received the rights to sell those Haven products, they would surely gain good profit. Zhao Hai was clearly doing this to help him.

John was filled with gratitude as he looked at Zhao Hai, "I thank Brother Zhao Hai. I will not lie to brother, His Highness has been keeping my family up these past few years. I'm afraid that I've already incurred a huge debt. Brother's help is surely heaven sent."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "My grain business isn't something that His Highness wanted to sell. So I don't have a good distribution point inside Rosen Empire. Since I'm looking for a person to partner with, might as well have someone from my own side, so that good fortune won't flow towards another person's yard."

Charlie laughed and said, "Good, what Little Hai said is was really good. Not making fortune flow into another person's yard. I was going to say something along the lines of that. Remember, we are all family. If we succeed in the future, then I, Charlie, will vow that i will never forget to treat everybody well."

The people present immediately gave their thanks to Charlie. People on the continent rarely make any vows. Charlie doing this convinced them that he really valued them very much.

After Charlie asked them to sit down, another person, the head of the Heller Family, Tahl, said, "If his highness want to let others shift their attention away from us, there is a way. We can fake an internal dispute. What does His Highness think?"

Chapter 459 - Crown Prince Arrives

Charlie shook his head and said, "No, acting might not deceive those people. It might even draw away those who are determined to join my side. The gains might not justify the losses. What we need to do right now is to be united, and be low-key as well. Just like how Little Hai handles his strength. No matter who needs any help, we must help." The group nodded.

Charlie turned to look at the sky and said, "Alright, let's head out, those who ought to come should have arrived."

Just as Charlie set out, footsteps were suddenly heard. The footsteps were urgent, but they weren't heavy.

Charlie's complexion couldn't help but sink, he already told the servant to not allow anyone disturb them. Moreover, the servants outside were his trusted aides. He was very familiar with the footsteps of those people, Charlie knew that the one who came was surely not one of his people

Seeing Charlie's expression, Zhao Hai knew that there was something wrong. He immediately stood up and took out his Magic Staff. When the group saw Zhao Hai's action as well as Charlie's complexion, they understood and also got ready to move.

Then, a voice came from outside, "Third Brother, Third Brother, you in? The guests have arrived, why did you suddenly disappear? Come out quickly."

Hearing this sound, Charlie forced a smile and said to the group, "Well, no need to be anxious. It's just my Ninth sister."

When Charlie said this, John couldn't help but ask, "Ninth sister? Is your highness talking about Princess Lizzy?" Charlie nodded, then he smiled bitterly as he answered his sister, "Come in, sister."

As soon as they heard Charlie, Zhao Hai and the others relaxed. Then the doors was swung open as the hem princess' skirt appeared.

After he saw the princess, Zhao Hai's first idea was that her posture was very good. This Princess Lizzy's figure was fantastic, she was about 1.7m in height, but her poise can only be described as fiery. Zhao Hai can confidently say that Princess Lizzy has the best figure of a woman that he's ever seen.

At the sight of Lizzy's face, Zhao Hai couldn't help but blink. She had big eyes, a thin and exquisite nose. Not too thick, but still very sexy lips. She had wheat colored skin, smooth as though it has been oiled. Light brown and shallow eyebrows decorated her green eyes.

However, Zhao Hai staring wasn't because of these, it was because this Princess Lizzy looked a bit like a person Zhao Hai wasn't familiar with, but can still recognize.

Keeley Hazell, a British model and actress. A woman who was both sexy and elegant, one of the world's most recognizable women. Even Angelina wasn't able to enter the top 100 sexiest women in the world, goes to show how gorgeous Keeley was.

Charlie's younger sister was actually called Lizzy, Ji Li, Lizzy, good. Although there was some difference in the name, her appearance wasn't any different. This surprised him.

Zhao Hai more and more thought about how Ark Continent is related to Earth. Otherwise, how did the same beautiful women on Earth appear here?

Lizzy didn't expect the room to have these much people, she stared. Zhao Hai and the others immediately bowed and said, "We've seen Princess Lizzy."

Lizzy recovered, she immediately exhibited her princess-like manners as she bends down slightly and then said, "At ease."

Then the group stood straight. Charlie looked at Lizzy and said, "Younger Sister, why didn't you wait for me in the hall? What made you come here?"

Lizzy looked at Zhao Hai and the others' eyes and then pretended to have a desolate expression as she said, "The guests have already arrived, but you still haven't shown yourself. So I came to take a look."

Charlie nodded and then said, "Alright, we'll be heading out. Little Hai, let's go out and see." Charlie calling Zhao Hai didn't evoke any envy. First, Zhao Hai's had overwhelming strength among those present. If they had Zhao Hai's strength, then Charlie would appeal to them as well but unfortunately they did not. Second, Zhao Hai had a lot of good things on hand. Some of these goods might be useless to Charlie, but for those middle to low ranked nobles, they were a once-in-a-lifetime road to huge profit. They need something from Zhao Hai, so how could they be offended by this kind of thing. It can be said that in Charlie's inner circle, aside from the Third Prince, Zhao Hai held the highest status.

Hearing Charlie specially addressing Zhao Hai, Lizzy couldn't help but look at him. Zhao Hai's name wasn't new to Lizzy, she has also heard about what happened back at Purcell Duchy. She also knew about Megan's engagement. It can be said that she and Megan were called the Twin Flowers of the Imperial Capital. Now, one of the flowers has gotten herself a man.

Also, Lizzy was clear, whether it be Charlie or Megan, those two had eyes as tall as their status, ordinary people simply wouldn't enter their sights. But for this ordinary looking, average guy to receive the appreciation of the two meant that he wasn't a simple person.

Lizzy didn't stare at Zhao Hai for too long. She was a Princess, she has seen a lot of magnificent scenes. To her, she only held curiosity towards Zhao Hai.

Charlie led the group to leave the room. At this time, Laura and the others were already waiting for them outside. Charlie took this chance to introduce Lizzy to Laura and others. Then Lizzy went to join Megan as Laura offered a gift.

Charlie didn't manage them as he led Zhao Hai and the others to walk towards the front courtyard. They proceeded forward until they reached a very big hall. This was mainly used as a place to receive various guests, but with a few changes here and there, it has been transformed into a grand hall.

As soon as Charlie and the others arrived outside the door, a servant in front immediately announced his arrival, "Prince Charlie has arrived!" Along with the echo of the voice, Charlie entered the hall.

Inside the hall were more than a hundred guests, fortunately this hall was big enough. If not, this hall might not have survived to this day.

The servants decorated the hall with water fountains that looked like a butterfly exhibition. In the middle of the hall were long rows of tables containing a variety of foods. There were also clean plates and utensils present, those who wanted to eat can just easily go and pick out something to eat.

There were also chairs on the sides of the hall for those who were too tired of standing. In the innermost area of the hall, an orchestra was continually playing gentle music.

When the people inside the hall saw Charlie came in, they immediately gave him a bow. Charlie also returned to courtesy as he greeted everyone inside. Zhao Hai wasn't far away from him, he had the Space record each name and appearance of the people inside.

At this time, Laura and the others were dragged along by Lizzy towards the other ladies. The other women were talking with each other about, clothes, jewelry, as well as some gossip. Laura used to talk to people, so she was quite familiar with this scenario and naturally knew how to approach it.

Meg was also quite experienced. She grew up in the Buda Clan since childhood. In the past, the Clan also held frequent banquets. Therefore, Meg also knew how to deal with these women. There was nothing to say about Megan, she lived her whole life along these types of ladies, how could she not possibly know how to interact with them?

Zhao Hai paid attention to Charlie's banquet. Charlie invited the noblemen but it seems like he didn't do the same for the other princes. The only person from the Royal Clan aside from Charlie was Lizzy. From this point, one could see that Charlie's relationship with his brothers aren't that great.

At this time, the sound of a servant can be heard from the front door, "His Highness Crown Prince, Young Master Terry Robert, and Young Master Jason Crook has arrived."

When these three names were called out, the room seem to come into a halt. Almost everyone here knew that the relationship between the Crown Prince and the Third Prince wasn't very good. Because of the succession battle, it was impossible for Charlie to invite the Crown Prince in this banquet. This made things very strange.

But what made it even more strange was the fact that Terry and Jason also came along with the Crown Prince. Terry was the Robert Family's successor. The Robert Family wasn't less than the Calci Family in terms of status. This was something everybody knew.

Jason Crook wasn't a simple character either. The Crook Family was very famous in the continent, although they aren't on the same status as the Calci and Robert Families, they still had a huge influence inside Rosen Empire.

For these two people to suddenly appear along with the Crown Prince to Charlie's banquet, what did this mean? Does this mean that the Robert Family and the Crook Family has thrown their lot with the

Crown Prince? The servant's announcement of their arrival was still ringing on the minds of those present.

Zhao Hai slowly headed at Charlie's side. Charlie was staring blankly right now. Zhao Hai arrived at Charlie's side and whispered, "Your Highness."

Charlie recovered, he turned to Zhao Hai and saw him nodding towards the door. Charlie immediately understood Zhao Hai, he gave Zhao Hai a grateful nod as he restored his calm state and walked towards the hall's entrance with a face full of smiles.

Zhao Hai didn't follow Charlie and just stood there. It took a short while before Charlie arrived at the front door to see three people walking in. In the front of the trio was a 40-year old middle aged man. He looked very much like Charlie, but he had a small beard that was handled very neatly. This made him look very imposing. One couldn't help but admire how this man carried himself.

Behind him was Terry. There was another person beside him, he was very handsome and wore a decent Noble's clothing. His figure wasn't very tall but he carried himself with prestige. Although he couldn't steal spotlight away from the Crown Prince, people still took notice of him.

Chapter 460 - Foul-mouthed Jason

When Charlie was near the three newcomers, he laughed then gave a salute, "Big Brother, welcome. I didn't expect brother to come to this one's small banquet, so I didn't bother sending an invite. But for Big Brother to actually come here, it's a great honor."

The Crown Prince looked at Charlie and faintly smiled, "I also heard that Younger Brother has held a banquet, so I decided to stop by. On the way, I met Terry and Jason, so I decided to take them with me as well. I hope I didn't trouble Third Brother for bringing additional guests."

Charlie smiled and said, "No problem, Brother visiting has given me quite an honor. So how can Big Brother possibly bring me trouble? Big Brother, Terry, Jason, come in, don't be polite."

Terry and Jason gave Charlie a small salute before heading towards the hall. The other people inside also gave a salute to the Crown Prince, naturally, Zhao Hai wasn't an exception.

But Zhao Hai was surprised when the Crown Prince headed towards him after their eyes met. The Crown Prince smiled faintly and said, "Mister Zhao Hai?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I didn't think that the Crown Prince would know of my name. This is really surprising."

The Crown Prince laughed and said, "Mister is too modest. There isn't anyone in the continent who doesn't know how fierce mister is. May I ask Mister to pay a visit to my mansion?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "If I have time, then I will certainly come visit."

The Crown Prince smiled and said, "Then I'll be waiting for mister. By the way, I heard that mister has a lot of businesses in hand, is there a chance for the two of us to cooperate?"

Zhao Hai faintly smiled at the question, "I certainly have some businesses on hand, but for cooperation? This is something I cannot say. Currently, I'm in a partnership with the Third Highness. Moreover, we've already signed a long-term contract regarding our cooperation. If His Highness the Crown Prince wants to cooperate, then I'm afraid you will need to discuss it with the Third Highness."

The Crown Prince placed a small play on his words. The reason he asked Zhao Hai about the possibility of cooperation was to assess whether there was a chance for Zhao Hai to change sides.

But Zhao Hai's reply was very clear, he was now on Charlie's side, it was impossible for the other camps to recruit him at this point. The conversation between the two was clearly heard by the people present in the hall. All of them were smart people, it was impossible for them to not understand the exchange. When the Crown Prince heard Zhao Hai's response, his expression couldn't help but drop, but he still forced a smile and said, "That is regrettable." Then he turned around and left.

As soon as he heard the Crown Prince's regretful voice, Charlie's face changed, it was now quite red. Naturally, Zhao Hai's answer gave him this much happiness.

Zhao Hai also knew that he had already lost the opportunity to get closer with the Crown Prince. However, he didn't find it regrettable. One couldn't always be half-hearted, or else they won't be getting good results.

At this time, Terry and Jason arrived at Zhao Hai's location. Terry then smiled to Zhao Hai, "Little Hai, I didn't expect you to come. If I knew, I would have arrived earlier."

When Zhao Hai heard how he was called, he couldn't help but stare. The age gap between the two of them aren't so large to merit such calling. Terry was obviously doing this to make their relationship closer.

However, Zhao Hai didn't relax because of this, he became even more vigilant instead. From what he heard from Megan, Terry was a sinister person. Moreover, he also knew that Terry was his love rival. For Terry to be warmer to him meant that he was already planning about how to deal with Zhao Hai.

Although he was thinking about this, he didn't show it on his face. Zhao Hai just smiled and said, "Big Brother Terry is too polite. Brother should know about my relationship with His Highness Third Prince. So how can I not attend such occasion?"

Terry wants to bring their relationship closer, while Zhao Hai attempted to back away politely. He also addresses Terry that way in order to throw the other party into confusion. Zhao Hai didn't lower his guard against Terry.

When Terry heard Zhao Hai, he looked delighted as he smiled and said, "I knew that you have a very good relationship with the Third Prince. But since God's Grace Day is approaching, I expected you to be helping inside Dark Soldier Fort, so I didn't think that you would come."

Zhao Hai replied with a smile, "Megan told me to come, so how could I not? Hehe, Megan is also quite close with the Ninth Princess."

Then Zhao Hai turned his head to Jason and said, "Is this Young Master Jason from the Crook Family? Zhao Hai gives his greetings. I've heard about the young master's name, I didn't think that I would be meeting you today."

Jason looked at Zhao Hai and smiled faintly, "I've also heard about mister Zhao Hai's name, but I cannot help but be disappointed by what I have seen today."

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't think that Jason would be this impolite. One must know that in a Noble gathering, one would do his/her best to stay modest. It doesn't matter if the two of you were life and death enemies, if you meet in a gathering such as this, you better show your full smile and act like how a noble should. But Jason was different, this was far from Zhao Hai's expectations.

Zhao Hai couldn't help but look at Terry. At this moment, Terry's face expressed a wronged expression. This made Zhao Hai curious, since Terry and Jason came together. Aren't they supposed to be in a group? Why did it seem like Terry wasn't expecting Jason to utter such words? Didn't they plan this encounter ahead of time?

Thoughts churned inside his brain, but Zhao Hai's face didn't show any of it. He just smiled at Jason and said, "I'm really apologetic for disappointing Young Master Jason."

Jason slyly looked at Zhao Hai's smiling face, he didn't seem to be fazed. This gave Jason an incentive to push things further. He commended Zhao Hai to keep his grace and honor after such words. While he looked impressed, Jason's mouth opened, "You're really unworthy of Miss Megan. Miss Megan is one of the Twin Flowers of the Imperial Capital. It seems quite a waste for her to be marrying a very ordinary looking person."

After Terry heard this, he turned to Jason and said, "Jason, you should hold back on your words."

Zhao Hai actually laughed and said, "Young Master Jason is right. I also think that marrying Megan is such a loss. But alas, I actually wanted to be more attractive, but my father didn't make me handsome. This is such a disaster, hai."

Jason and Terry stared at Zhao Hai before they both laughed, Jason patted Zhao Hai's shoulder and said, "Brother, I must say, I like the way you speak. Hahaha. Good, you're someone worth befriending."

Seeing that Jason didn't seem to be faking, Zhao Hai couldn't help but laugh as well, "You really have low standards for making friends. Are you looking for a not so handsome guy? I must say, you've found the right one."

The three of them laughed. Jason grasped Zhao Hai's shoulder and said, "I didn't think that you would actually read my thoughts, you're quite good."

Zhao Hai smiled, "Even if I guessed it right, I think there's no reason for you to hold my shoulder this hard. I'm a mage, I might suffer injuries."

The conversation between the two made it seem like they were long time friends. It also seemed like Terry was pushed aside. It made Terry look a bit ridiculous. But he still smiled, but it was a stiff smile.

A person like Terry has always been heavily favored since he was a child. He was already quite used to being in the spotlight, no matter where he was. Even if he stood along with the Crown Prince, he didn't allow himself to be overshadowed. Because he was a successor to a millenium-old family, his status wasn't any lower than a Prince.

Zhao Hai and Jason chatting away made him feel like an outsider. He felt like the two of them had already forgotten about him, this made him feel unwell.

At this time, a servant passed to their side. On the tray that the servant was holding were two glasses of wine. Jason immediately took the two glasses and gave Zhao Hai one of them. Then he raised his glass to Zhao Hai and said, "I really thought that this would be a very boring party. But I didn't expect to meet an interesting person such as you. Come, come, let's drink, after this, we will become friends."

Zhao Hai didn't expect Jason to actually be so refreshing, whether his gesture was true or not, Zhao Hai still returned Jason's toast and said, "Right, let's drink this glass, from today on, we're both friends, cheers!"

Jason raised his glass and bumped it with Zhao Hai's, "Good, cheers!" Then without any courtesy, the both of them downed the wine in one go.

This scene was very visible to the other guests. When they saw the two, they couldn't help but stare. There were a lot present that knew about Jason. He wasn't very popular within the circles of nobility because of his frank attitude. He never gave anybody face, because of this, there weren't a lot of nobles who wanted to mingle with him.

But with Jason's status, average people wouldn't dare to not give him any face. Therefore, in common banquets and parties, the hosts would still deliver an invitation to the Crook Family. However, even if Jason came, there were only a few people who came to talk to him. People were afraid to be embarrassed by Jason's words.

Just as Jason was about to speak to Zhao Hai, the people nearby couldn't help but watch in anticipation. They wanted to see Zhao Hai's embarrassed expression. However, they didn't expect Zhao Hai to actually carry on with ridiculing himself. This move of embarrassing himself was out of their expectations.

Those who weren't nearby and didn't hear them speak still kept an eye out. This was because they also wanted to see how Jason manages to embarrass Zhao Hai. Even if they couldn't hear anything, they knew from Terry's expression that Jason didn't say anything nice.

However, what happened next made them confused. They didn't hear what Zhao Hai said to make the three people laugh and even make Jason look amused at Zhao Hai. This was too unexpected. They were very curious to the point that they were on the verge of approaching the two just to ask what Zhao Hai said. But unfortunately, there was no way for them to do so.