

Another World 481

Chapter 481 - Exterminating an Entire Family

Zhao Hai had read too much novels on Earth. The protagonists on those novels share the same feature, they were all hardworking but their hearts were too soft.

Having a soft heart had always been a feature of protagonists. Before they fight against their enemy, they would talk a lot of nonsense before showing their superiority.

Even if Zhao Hai said a lot of words, they were short compared to those main characters. Moreover, his heart was ruthless enough to completely pull out the roots.

Constant good fortune only happens in film and television. In reality, people cannot have too many miracles. When a family is destroyed, it was nearly impossible that one or two heirs that escape would be able to come back for revenge. But that won't happen, Cai'er was already monitoring the entirety of the Robert Family's fort, ensuring that there won't be any survivors.

With the Space's surveillance, not only the people on the ground were seen, the 9th ranks in the sky as well as the underground passages can be seen. Under such circumstances, there was no way for the Robert Family to run away.

Zhao Hai didn't like troubles, he also doesn't like leaving behind something that would inconvenience him. If he handles something, he would make sure to remove all loose ends.

Robert Family might survive, as long as someone stayed behind, there would be a constant possibility of them resurging. Although he didn't turn Robert Patriarch and Terry into advanced level undead, Zhao Hai knew that the Robert Family wasn't simple.

Just by their clan's strength, it was impossible for the Robert Family to acquire and produce Antimagic Powder, it was also impossible for them to have ten 9th rank experts. The Calci Family was considered as one of the top families in the Rosen Empire, and even they have only seven 9th rank experts. Therefore, the Robert Family having three more than them was very unreasonable. Because of this, Zhao Hai believed that Robert Family is part of a huge influence. Their 9th rank experts as well as the Antimagic powder was most likely supplied by this influence.

While Zhao Hai sent the Blood Hawk to deal with the Robert Family, he started to collect all of the Antimagic Powder that the Robert Family spread all around the mountain.

Because of Zhao Hai's worries, he hasn't taken the powder to the Space. But this time, he took the powder and placed it inside the Space.

When the powder entered the Space, a prompt was heard, "Radioactive isolation powder detected. Space doesn't have the formula. Extrapolating formula from ingredients. Added formula to the Processing Machine's list. Extracting Antimagic Powder's characteristics, added the property to the Space's insecticide."

Zhao Hai didn't expect to get the properties of the Antimagic Powder. It seems like the Space's poison would be stronger in the future. Most importantly, Cai'er's poison fog could now isolate magic, increasing the security of the Black Wasteland by another level.

Zhao Hai didn't mean to receive the powder into the Space to obtain its benefits. He just wanted to store it so that he may use it in the future.

While Zhao Hai received all of the Antimagic Powder, he went to manage the matter with the Robert Family. At this moment, the Robert Family no longer had any experts. All that was left in their fort were old and weak. All of these people cannot contend with Zhao Hai's undead. They didn't even have the opportunity to fight back.

Zhao Hai didn't exempt anybody, he even slaughtered the children. All of the members of the Robert Family were now dead. Not a living witness was left. Starting this day, the Robert Family was no more.

Beside this, Zhao Hai had also found the Robert Family's treasure and storehouse. Without hesitation, he took all of them.

When treating his enemies, Zhao Hai would never be lenient. He knew very well that if he softened this time, he would be the one to suffer in the end. For Zhao Hai, the people who wouldn't take revenge and won't be a threat were only one type of people, dead people!

After living in the continent for this amount of time, Zhao Hai had already learned about how to act. If you are too soft, then you will get killed in the end. If you are not ruthless, people would constantly place you under their foot.

He had dealt with Boris' 9th ranks before, he also slapped the Radiant Church's face. But even if he managed to shake some people, its influence wasn't very great. Rosen Empire was the continent's most powerful nation, it doesn't matter if they were commoners or nobles, every citizen of the empire held greed pride. Because of this they didn't care about what Zhao Hai did before. At the very least, the Robert Family didn't pay any attention to him.

But now, he believed that it would be different. Zhao Hai had taken care of the Robert Family in one swoop. Even if they think that it was the Calci Family who did it, they have to acknowledge that Zhao Hai had a hand in it. Zhao Hai can't do anything if they place the credit on the Calci Family, but in the end, Zhao Hai was engaged to Megan. This would make people think that Zhao Hai had a powerful backer. These people wouldn't be thinking so little about Zhao Hai any longer.

After collecting all of the powder, Zhao Hai returned to Dark Soldier Fort. At this moment, people from the fort were sending people to repair the damages in the surroundings. The pits that were caused by the undead were being pounded and levelled. The roadblock as well as the trees can only wait to be repaired tomorrow.

Upon arriving at the fort, people immediately invited Zhao Hai to the fort's lobby. Randolph and the other high level members of the Calci Family were already waiting for him there.

Zhao Hai gave his greetings to the people in the lobby. This time, there were only a few of them who didn't return his gesture, there were even some who stood up before giving a salute.

Looking at their behaviour, Zhao Hai couldn't blame them. People in the continent tend to be realistic, they would only respect strength. If you are strong enough, then people would give you respect. If you aren't strong, then they won't be giving you face.

In the past, although Zhao Hai had some sort of strength, the Calci Family still looked down on him. With how he dealt with the Robert Family, the Calci Family's people had no choice but to reevaluate how they see this young man.

The strength that Zhao Hai showed today was far from what they thought. Under such circumstances, those present knew that offending Zhao Hai wouldn't be wise. Nobody would help them, even their own family members. If the Calci Family were to choose, they would rather pick Zhao Hai and wouldn't care about the life and death of an ordinary family member. A big family like them was this practical.

After Zhao Hai sat down, Randolph looked at all the people in attendance and then nodded, "My Calci Family nearly suffered a tragedy today, it was one of our clan's biggest crisis. We're fortunate that we have Little Hai, otherwise the Calci Family would have been ended tonight."

Nobody disagreed with Randolph's words, they knew that what Randolph said was true. Because of the Antimagic Powder, all the Mages of the family were unable to use magic. Because of this, the fighting power of the family was greatly affected, even their 9th ranks wouldn't be able to help them,. Regarding the Calci Family, tonight's attack was extremely dangerous.

Randolph then said, "Compared to the attack on our family, the matter regarding Antimagic Powder is more important. Our Calci Family is a family of Mages, the appearance of Antimagic Powder was too great of a threat to us. This matter should be figured out and dealt with."

Just as his voice fell, someone outside gave a notification. And then four servants came in carrying two bodies, both belonging to the Robert Patriarch and Terry.

Zhao Hai turned all the attackers into undead creatures. Only these two individuals were left untouched. Zhao Hai knew that these two still held great use.

Randolph looked at the two bodies on the ground and said, "Robert Patriarch and Terry are dead, now that there is no Antimagic Powder, we can now turn them into undead. Who is willing to do it?"

In the Calci Family, there was no shortage of Advanced Level Dark Mages, so Randolph asked such a question. Zhao Hai looked at the scene and quickly said, "Grandpa, slow down. I don't think it would be a good idea to turn them into advanced level undead right now. Although it would be good to make them into undead, the Calci Family cannot deal with the matter of Antimagic Powder alone. This matter should be passed on to the Imperial Clan. The Rosen Imperial Clan is also a Mage family, they should care a lot about the Antimagic Powder. If we turn these two into undead right now, I'm afraid that the Imperial Clan would mistake us for forcing them to admit. Grandfather should bring them tomorrow to the Imperial Palace and then turn them into advanced undead in front of His Majesty. Interrogate them then, that way His Majesty wouldn't have any suspicions."

When Randolph heard Zhao Hai, he immediately understood what he meant. He thought for a moment and then nodded, "Little Hai's words are true. I think we should delay this matter and bring them to the Imperial Palace tomorrow morning."

The other people in the family didn't oppose. Zhao Hai looked at them and said, "Grandfather, I just sent my undead to the Robert Family, completely eradicating their line. I've also looted all of their treasury and storehouse. However, I didn't take any bodies away from their fort, Grandpa might like to take them. Also, I have no need for Terry and Robert Patriarch's space equipment, I'll give those to Grandfather."

When Randolph heard Zhao Hai, he can't help but stare, he looked at Zhao Hai with an face full of disbelief and said, "Little Hai, did you really kill all of the Robert Family? Are there any survivors?"

Zhao Hai shook his head, "No survivors. I've seen their Clan registry. After coordinating their bodies with the descriptions, there shouldn't be any members left."

Chapter 482 - Engraved Ark

Zhao Hai didn't lie, he really was basing on the list. However, he didn't use the list outside the family, but instead, he used the one he got from the Robert Family's treasury. Every single person from the Robert Family was in that list.

From the list that he got, he inspected each member one by one. From the direct line to the side branches, every single one was taken care of, there were no survivors.

Also, since God's Grace Day has passed, the Robert Family held the same custom as other clans. At this season, all of their members were in their fort. This made it easier for Zhao Hai to deal with them, it was like catching all of the fishes in one net.

A Great Clan like the Robert Family had a lot of matters to take care of as well, if it weren't because of God's Grace Day, it would be impossible to see all of the family members in one place. All of them would be spread out, managing their external operations.

However, when God's Grace Day comes, it was imperative for them to return to the Clan. The family had too many members, if they didn't return to Savage Wolf fort, the family would certainly place that member into suspicion. They would think that they might have failed in their own assigned operation.

Now, the faces of Randolph and the others were pale as they looked at Zhao Hai. Although they were Dark Mages, they were also Great nobles, they knew how tough it would be to exterminate another Great noble clan. But Zhao Hai actually told them about the elimination of the Robert Family in a nonchalant manner.

When one counted the direct line as well as the branches of the Robert family, they would number between 1 thousand to 2 thousand people. From Zhao Hai's words, it seems like he had actually killed these 1 or 2 thousand people.

Killing a thousand or 2 thousand people isn't something strange for someone like the Calci Family. But they knew that there were elderlies, women, and children among the thousand people from the Robert Family. Zhao Hai wasn't polite, he actually killed them all. This startled the Calci Family.

Randolph stared deeply into Zhao Hai, this was the first time that he experienced Zhao Hai's ruthlessness. Thinking of this, he couldn't help but turn towards Smith. Now, Randolph was inwardly rejoicing, he felt very lucky when he recalled their planned attack on Zhao Hai. Otherwise, the Calci Family might have been completely exterminated.

Taking a deep breath to calm down, Randolph looked at the people in the room and said, "Alright, now everyone should go back and rest. You still have some matters to attend to." The crowd nodded before they stood up and left.

Zhao Hai went towards Rustling Tree courtyard along with Smith. While walking with Zhao Hai, Smith said, "Little Hai, did you really extinguish the Robert Family?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I did. I did so not only to eliminate the threat of the Robert Family, but most importantly to showcase my might!"

Smith understood Zhao Hai's words, he nodded and said, "Alright, I won't be butting into your matters. Also, Little Hai, are you planning to leave Carson City?"

From what Smith had seen, it would be impossible for Zhao Hai to stay here for too long. He had a lot of matters to take care of, it was certain that Zhao Hai would leave the Capital.

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I'm ready to leave anytime, but I still need to wait for the results regarding the Robert Family's matter. What happened would certainly shake the entire continent."

Smith sighed and said, "The appearance of Antimagic Powder would really make the situation of the Continent quite turbulent." He said as the two of them entered Rustling Tree courtyard. At this time, Zhao Hai returned to his own residence.

Laura and the others were waiting for Zhao Hai in the waiting room. When they saw that Zhao Hai has come back, Laura and the others immediately went and welcomed him. Laura looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, did we make a fortune this time?"

Laura and the others were natives of the Ark Continent. They had no qualms regarding Zhao Hai's extermination of the Robert Family. This was because this matter was very common in the continent, families and clans would disappear from the map every year. To them this matter wasn't strange.

Also, they understood the situation back at the Black Wasteland. They knew that the place needed a lot of things, and what it needed the most was money.

When spring comes, a hundred thousand Beastmen slaves would arrive in the Black Wasteland. In managing these 100 thousand slaves, money was extremely crucial. Zhao Hai was also preparing to go buy some slaves in the slave market in Carson City. This will require even more resources, therefore, the thing that the Buda Clan needed the most was money.

But now, in addition to the gold they have gotten from Grand Duke Lionheart, they also acquired the money of the Robert Family. At this point, they didn't need to worry about managing these slaves.

The accumulated wealth of a millennium-old clan was difficult to imagine. A family as large as the Robert Family would have more than one treasury. The one at Savage Wolf Fort was just one of the biggest vaults that they have. Aside from this one, the Robert Family has secret treasuries in many places that they had built for over a thousand years.

One must know that these things are not cheap to build. Most importantly, this was also built in order for the family to wade through difficulties, allowing them capital to start anew.

But the addresses of these vaults weren't in the treasury of the Robert Family, but instead it was stored in their secret vault. This vault was made even more covertly than the treasury. They built it in such a way that those who had found the treasury wouldn't think that the vault exists. Placed in this secret vault were the most important artifacts of the Robert Family as well as their mostly hidden secret documents.

Zhao Hai didn't have the time to look at all these things. After reading the addresses, he placed them on the side. For Zhao Hai, what they had gotten from the treasury and the secret vault was already enough for the Buda Clan to use.

When Zhao Hai heard Laura, he smiled faintly and said, "Not only a fortune, it was a mountain of fortune. What we got was enough for our Buda Clan to use."

Laura and the others cheered, they knew clearly how important money was to the Buda Clan. Once could say that aside from population and background, the Buda Clan was now comparable with a millennium-old clan.

Zhao Hai looked at their expressions and smiled. He was very happy as well. What he obtained from Savage Wolf fort would strengthen the backbone of the Buda Clan. For Zhao Hai, this was very good news.

The group chatted for a while before they entered the Space. They had obtained so much from the Robert Family, they wanted to go and take a look.

Inside the Space, Zhao Hai immediately withdrew all of the things that he had looted from the Robert Family. Each person divided the loot and inspected them one by one.

Zhao Hai held the document about the location of the other vaults. Aside from Savage Wolf fort, the Robert Family also had 12 other secret vaults outside. The total value of these vaults was five times more than the contents of the vault from Savage Wolf fort. This was a huge fortune for Zhao Hai, he gave the document to Cai'er and made her mark the locations on the three-dimensional map. Now, they can easily see where those vaults are located,

Laura held another document, after reading for a while, her complexion changes as she turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, you should look at this right now."

Zhao Hai placed the document in the hand down, and took the document that Laura was reading. The document that Laura held described an organization. From what Zhao Hai has read, the organization was named Engraved Ark. All of the people in this group held numbers, but they had a huge population. Moreover, Zhao Hai had seen the mission of the group, it was to subvert the entire Ark Continent.

Not only were they hostile to Mages, they also hostile to Warriors, Royal Clans, and nobles. One could say that the group held negative sentiment towards all of the people in Ark Continent.

The Antimagic Powder was produced by them. Moreover, they were also researching other things. Some of them were drugs, from what Zhao Hai had read, these drugs had the same effect as viruses on Earth.

This was too scary, Zhao Hai suddenly remembered a word from Earth, Anti-humanity. The vision of this organization had some anti-human elements to it. They wouldn't stop before they make the entire human species vanish.

Zhao Hai's face was very ugly while he was reading the document. Although this document had some introductions for the organization, important aspects of its operation was rarely written. All of its members used a code number, and they also couldn't use this code to trace the origin of the member. The organization's means of sending information was all through encrypted means. Once something goes wrong, the organization would immediately change the way they encrypt their messages. Because of this, Zhao Hai ruled that it would be impossible to find this organization.

Zhao Hai thought for a moment and said, "It looks like we need to hand this document over. This information isn't simple. If this organization succeeds in its plans, the Ark Continent would certainly suffer a disaster."

Laura nodded and said, "I'm thinking the same, Brother Hai, what do you think? Are they people of the Ark Continent? Why would they want the destruction of the continent?"

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly and said, "Nobody knows what these people are thinking about. But I can affirm that these people are lunatics."

Megan sighed and said, "Big Brother Hai, are you going to give this to Grandpa? I think that it won't be good if we participate deeply in this matter."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, I'll hand this over to Grandfather. No matter what these people wanted to do, it wouldn't affect our Buda Clan. After all, there was no way for these people to enter the Black Wasteland. Right, go and see if there are more documents about this organization."

Megan and the others nodded. The group continued to read the document that they acquired from the Robert Family. Unfortunately, they were unable to find any other information about the group. There were some information about the other families in the continent, all of these would be very useful to Great Clans.

Chapter 483 - Eternal Alliance

For Zhao Hai, these materials were very useful. His current understanding about the various Great Clans of the continent was pitifully small. With the Buda Clan having no intelligence unit, acquiring information about these families was very hard.

The other documents were not very useful. Most of them were internal data about the Robert Family. But these information were no longer useful for Zhao Hai, the Robert Family was already exterminated by him. Those data were equivalent to waste paper at this point.

The group organized these documents, some were discarded, some were saved. After that, Zhao Hai and the others went to rest.

The next morning, Zhao Hai took the document about Engraved Ark out of the Space. After eating their breakfast, he immediately handed the document over to Randolph. After that, he went out of the fort to release some undead and made them clean the toppled trees of Dark Mountain.

When Randolph saw the document, he was startled. Then he immediately took Robert Patriarch's and Terry's bodies with him as he rushed towards the imperial palace.

The emperor naturally knew about the happenings last night. Of the 9th ranks who went to check the fighting yesterday, some of them belonged to the Royal Clan. Even if those 9th ranks didn't say too much, they still passed the information about the conflict at the very least.

Randolph gave the document as well as the corpses over to the Emperor. The Emperor immediately had someone call the Royal Dark Mage over to turn Terry and Robert Patriarch into advanced level undead before interrogating them.

In the end, all the matters were made clear. From Robert Patriarch and Terry's mouths, they admitted that they were members of Engraved Ark. Moreover, the Antimagic Powder was mostly manufactured by the organization.

Regarding these matters, the Rosen Empire immediately published the document out to the world. At the same time, they also communicated with the other nations of the continent, making them pay special attention to anything involving Engraved Ark.

Rosen Empire was the continent's most influential nation, their rallying power was formidable. With how they were perceived by the entire continent, this time's announcement from the Empire naturally turned the continent in an uproar.

Zhao Hai did not seem to care about these things at all. He spent one day in taking care of Dark Mountain and then stayed in his residence from then on.

Green and the others were still uninformed about last night's battle. Zhao Hai wanted to tell them and ask about what they think.

Zhao Hai didn't worry too much about Engraved Ark. All of the people under him were slaves, and slaves weren't allowed to be members of the organization. For Engraved Ark, slaves held zero value, therefore, it was impossible for them to join.

Moreover, Zhao Hai had also read from the document that the population of Engraved Ark was relatively small. However, Zhao Hai believed that the status of those people mustn't be low. Otherwise, how could those people pull the Robert Family over into joining them.

On the other side, people were in an uproar. They had just been informed that the Robert Family had been eliminated. When they received this news, all of them were very surprised. They cannot believe that one of the most powerful families in the continent was now nonexistent. This was too unbelievable.

Afterwards, the Imperial Palace had released some news, which made them even more startled. Antimagic Powder, Engraved Ark, all of these things seemed to be from their imaginations. After their initial uproar, people couldn't help but turn speechless.

And then, another information from the Calci Family came, which made everyone shocked silly. This information actually said that the Robert Family's demise was accomplished under Zhao Hai's hands.

But this information was something that majority of the people from Rosen Empire didn't believe. Then, another piece of news was passed on. All of the Robert Family's stores outside of the capital have been destroyed. All of their personnel were killed, their goods were looted, and lastly, their shops burned. It can be said that the Robert Family's final chance of survival went up in smoke. From this day on, the Robert Family became just a word in the history of the Ark Continent.

These news went like bombs as it exploded inside the minds of all the residents of Rosen Empire. Millenium-old clans were much like the symbols of invincibility in the Continent. The number of Millenium-old clans that were exterminated in the entire history of the continent can be counted on one hand. Almost all of them were done from the inside, they all perished due to internal conflict. On the other hand, the Robert Family was actually destroyed completely by someone else.

In the past, when a millennium-old clan dissolved, there were generally some survivors left. But for the Robert Family, there wasn't anyone left, all of their members were killed. This was too terrifying.

The Great Nobles of the continent were startled as well. They were even more startled when the Calci Family spread the fact that the extermination was Zhao Hai's doing. Naturally, these people didn't believe that it was Zhao Hai, one person cannot defeat the Robert Family. However, they were certain that Zhao Hai had a huge hand in the operation.

Now, all of them are changing the way they see Zhao Hai. The Calci Family's strength was similar to the Robert Family. The Calci Family destroying the Robert Family was impossible. But now that Zhao Hai joined the Calci Family, they were actually able to eliminate the Robert Family. If they didn't believe that this was because of Zhao Hai, then they might as well kill themselves for their stupidity.

Because of this, these Great Clans were now scared. Now that the Calci Family had united with the Buda Clan, their cooperation was much more formidable. Zhao Hai was far from what they previously thought; a playboy who liked playing around, eating and others.

Starting from today, all of the Great Nobles in Rosen Empire began to look seriously into Zhao Hai. His image of a playboy had now vanished.

The dissemination of information in the continent was very quick. In a day's time, almost everyone in the continent knew of this matter. All the Mages in the continent became insecure. At the same time, all of the nation's Mage's guild decreed at once that all Mages must unite and look for this Engraved Ark, they must destroy this organization. Otherwise, if this group's plans were to succeed, and they produce a lot of Antimagic Powder, all of the Mages in the continent would suffer a huge accident.

Right now, the thing that was in Zhao Hai's mind was how this organization came to be. How this organization started, how they became a secret. From what Zhao Hai had heard, this information seem to have their own faith.

Faith was mysterious, people in the continent had different faiths. Warriors worship the Martial God, Light Mages worship the Radiant God, Dark Mages worship the God of Darkness, Wind Mages worship the Wind God, Water Mages worship the Water God, Fire mages worship the Fire God, Earth Mages worship the Earth God, Elves worship the God of Life, Beastmen worship the Beast God, and the Dwarves worship the Artisan God. But the Engraved Ark's source of faith was actually out of the norm, what they worshipped seem to a Demon.

Why 'seem'? This was because Zhao Hai had no concrete testimony that the organization worshipped a Demon. However, Zhao Hai had seen an image from the back of the document, it was a portrait of a devil. The devil had eight arms, three heads, six feet, and looked extremely terrifying. From this, Zhao Hai inferred that the Engraved Ark worshipped a Demon.

Zhao Hai knew that if a person didn't have faith, he wouldn't be such a lunatic. It was because of faith that people did overly extreme things.

While Zhao Hai was ruminating on these matter, a servant immediately came bearing a message that Jason had come to visit. Zhao Hai stared for a moment before he had the servant invite Jason to come in.

Jason was different from his usual wacky and joking face, now he had a serious expression on his face. Zhao Hai made him sit down and had the servant retreat. Then Jason turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, are you really responsible for what happened last night? Is the Engraved Ark real? Did the Robert Family really use Antimagic Powder?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I am, but my initial intention was to destroy all of the Robert Family's businesses. I didn't expect the Robert Family to assassinate me, moreover, they actually used Antimagic Powder. But since they were defeated, they became afraid that the Antimagic were to be made known to others, so they attacked Dark Soldier Fort. Later on, they were eliminated by the Calci Family. Then, I went to kill all of the remaining Robert Family members before looting their treasury. It was there that I managed to uncover the matter about Engraved Ark."

Jason's face had a heavy expression, he nodded and said, "I believe that this organization is real. You don't know, but before I came here, I rummaged some data from my family and managed to see that there were a lot of strong Mages that suddenly died in the past. Moreover, their death actually didn't involve them using any magic. These cases became one the mysteries of the continent. Now it seems like these incidents were caused by Engraved Ark, they were using Antimagic Powder."

Zhao Hai stared, he truly didn't know about this, he looked at Jason and said, "Really? There was such a thing?"

Jason nodded and said, "I just figured that out. As far as the information that my Crook Family has, there were at least 100 Mage deaths in the last ten years alone. 20 of them were 8th rank experts. But nobody thought more into these incidents, after all, these people came from different nations, their deaths were very far apart. But now that new information came about, people would certainly think that there was something wrong with the deaths of these Mages."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "It seems like this Engraved Ark has existed for quite a long time. No wonder they had such strength, but it's a pity that there was no way to find out about their identity."

Jason nodded, then his face turned serious as he looked at Zhao Hai, "Little Hai, today I came to look for you because of Grandfather's proposal. He wanted my Crook Family and your Buda Clan to be in an eternal alliance starting this day. What do you think?"

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't expect the Crook Family to initiate forming an Eternal Alliance with him. This Eternal Alliance wasn't easy to enact. There were too many people involved in it and there were too many matters to consider.

The Eternal Alliance was also called the Ironclad Union by the people of the continent. When two families form an Eternal Alliance, if one of them falls, the other would have to help them recover and achieve their previous strength. This alliance had the same meaning as a Beastman's Beheading Blood Oath.

Zhao Hai stared for a moment before he became happy. The Crook Family's influence in the Rosen Empire wasn't much smaller than millenium-old clans. If Zhao Hai forms an Eternal Alliance with such a family, then his Buda Clan would benefit a lot from it.

Zhao Hai immediately nodded happily and said, "I fully agree. But I still have a few reservations. Just by our relationship, forming this alliance seems to be wrong."

When Jason heard Zhao Hai, he couldn't help but laugh and said, "I'll go back to grandfather and express your concern. If you have time, go to my family's fort and play. You can also discuss this matter with the family."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Alright, I'll go there tomorrow." Then as he said that, a knock was heard. Zhao Hai immediately responded and said, "What's the problem?"

The servant's voice was heard, "Young Master Zhao Hai, the Patriarch had sent a message. His Majesty, the Emperor, wishes to see you in the palace immediately. He said that he has an important matter to consult with."

Zhao Hai stared, Jason stared as well. They looked at each other, confused. But Zhao Hai immediately recovered and said, "Alright, I'll go tidy my clothes and then I'll immediately leave." The servant issued a sound of compliance as he walked.

Zhao Hai frowned towards Jason and said, "Why do you think his Majesty called for me?"

Jason also frowned as he replied, "I really cannot say, but it should have a something to do about what happened yesterday. You should go, right, why haven't I seen sister-in-laws today?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "They're currently rummaging through all of the documents from the Robert Family in another room. We didn't expect that the Robert Family would have a lot of information about Great Clans in the continent, these things are very useful to my clan." Actually, Laura and the others were sorting through all of the Robert Family's documents inside the Space, not in another room.

Jason smiled faintly and said, "You lucky guy. This time, you looted the Robert Family. The wealth of a millennium-old family, you're really making me envious."

Zhao Hai laughed and said, "Lucky, right? As it turns out, there's nothing much faster in gaining money other than robbing people. It seems like I need to do this a few more times."

Jason laughed as well, "Are you really a guy who likes to rob? I really didn't see it before, but you actually have the potential to be a thief. Hahaha. Right, we shouldn't be talking too much, the Emperor is waiting for you, we can't have him wait too long." Zhao Hai nodded and stood up, then he tidied his clothes before leading Jason to the exit.

When they came out of the courtyard, a servant was already waiting for them with along with a carriage. The two rode the carriage as they left Dark Soldier Fort. Jason rode his carriage, but before leaving, he reminded Zhao Hai about his visit to the Crook Family. Zhao Hai nodded before boarding the carriage that the Calci Family already prepared for him.

Since Zhao Hai's carriage was destroyed, Randolph personally assigned this carriage to Zhao Hai. The carriage was pulled by a Demon Horse, the carriage itself was very spacious, it had a room inside that could fit six people. It also had a bedroom inside. The carriage was made from Iron Driftwood as well as Saint Lightwood, it looked beautiful and elegant.

Chapter 484 - Third Eunuch

Zhao Hai's previous carriage wasn't that large, it was a vehicle that was used by common nobles. The one he was using right now was something that a Great Clan's Patriarch would use, it was beautiful and elegant.

Randolph gave Zhao Hai this carriage because Zhao Hai's status was now different. Zhao Hai was now qualified to sit in this kind of carriage, he was now treated the same as the Patriarchs of millenium-old clans.

When Zhao Hai boarded the carriage, he asked the driver about why the Emperor was looking for him, but naturally, the servant had no idea. This made Zhao Hai very confused.

When the carriage entered Carson City, all of the people who saw the vehicle immediately gave way. All residents of Carson City were well aware that someone who rode such a carriage didn't have a simple status. These were people that they cannot offend, so they backed away immediately.

Before long, the carriage arrived outside the Imperial Palace. Rosen Empire's Imperial Palace was extraordinary. Its outside fence was several feet high, in front of the gates were two rows of Warriors, numbering 40. All of them wore full-body armor, the material that it was made from looked very uncommon either.

Outside the palace was a moat, with a bridge connecting the two sides. Zhao Hai's carriage stopped in front of the bridge, the servant went down from the carriage and informed Zhao Hai, "Young Master Zhao Hai, the carriage has reached its destination. You need to walk to the bridge and have your name registered, after that, people would lead you to see His Majesty."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he went down the vehicle and walked towards the bridge and crossed it. When he reached the other side, he was blocked by two of the Warriors. Looking at Zhao Hai's carriage, these Warriors naturally didn't look down on Zhao Hai as one of them said, "Mister, please head inside and have your name registered." Then he gave a gesture.

Zhao Hai followed the direction he was pointed to and arrived in a place with small rooms, it seems like these were used for registration. Zhao Hai nodded and walked into the room he was led to.

He opened the door and walked in. The room wasn't very big, but it was warm. The inside of the room was quite simple, it has one table and four chairs. Sitting on one side of the table were two men, both of them looked approximately 30 years old, they were very white and flawless. They wore a patterned dress that looked beautiful.

Seeing Zhao Hai come inside, the two men immediately stood up and gave him a bow before saying, "We have seen mister, may we ask mister's name?" Their voices were a bit thin. When he heard their voices, Zhao Hai immediately knew that these two men were eunuchs.

Although Zhao Hai didn't have much liking towards eunuchs, he was still very polite. In the history of China, there were a lot of incidents where eunuchs were the principal cause. Who knows what these people could do, so Zhao Hai became polite and returned the bow before answering, "I am Buda Clan's Patriarch, Zhao Hai Buda. I came here to answer His Majesty's summons."

As soon as the two eunuchs heard the name of Zhao Hai, they immediately became even more respectful, they quickly nodded and said, "We'll take care of mister's registration before Mister can go, another eunuch will be waiting for you inside."

Zhao Hai nodded, after the two eunuchs registered his name, they gave him a golden token. One of the eunuchs said, "Mister can take this and head inside. Someone will be leading you to His Majesty."

Zhao Hai nodded and received the token, then he turned around to leave the room and walked towards the Imperial Palace. The guards inspected the token in Zhao Hai's hand before allowing him passage.

When Zhao Hai entered the gate of the Imperial Palace, he saw that a eunuch was already waiting for him there. The eunuch wasn't young, he looked over 50 years old. However, Zhao Hai didn't dare underestimate the eunuch. The eunuch had an imposing manner, a kind of attitude that someone of a high position would have. Moreover, he also had a very heavy killing aura around him.

Upon seeing this eunuch, Zhao Hai immediately knew that he wasn't simple. He reckoned that this man should be an assassin, an advanced level assassin.

When the eunuch saw Zhao Hai, he immediately went forwards and gave him a bow before asking, "Patriarch Zhao Hai?"

Zhao Hai didn't dare neglect the gesture as he returned a bow and said, "Mister is too polite, this one is Zhao Hai."

The eunuch immediately replied, "Mister Count, please come with me. His Majesty is already waiting for you." Then he walked towards the interior of the palace, Zhao Hai followed him behind. While walking, the eunuch gave Zhao Hai instructions about how he should give courtesy to the Emperor.

Giving respects to a monarch in the Ark Continent was not quite the same as in Earth. On Earth, when you see an Emperor, you would need to perform a kneeling ritual, if you meet for the first time, a kowtow would be needed. However, in Ark Continent, as long as one held a Noble title, they won't need to kneel in front of the Emperor, a bow would suffice.

Bowing naturally had its own rules, it was different between noble ranks. Lowest nobles would need to bow 90 degrees, the scale lessens as the rank increases. All of these were introduced to Zhao Hai.

It was Zhao Hai's first meeting with this eunuch, it wasn't good for him if he were to ask too much. He just quietly walked at his side and listened to the eunuch, but Zhao Hai wanted to try gaining his favor.

When they arrived in a hallway, Zhao Hai looked around to make sure that there were nobody else before he turned his hand and retrieved an item that he had looted from the Robert Family. This was a piece of magic crystal, an alchemy product. He didn't know how the alchemists made this but he can see that there was a formation engraved in it. The formation was very beautiful, all of it was inlaid with gold along with some other materials. The formation seemed to sparkle, and along with how the formation itself, the crystal became even more beautiful.

The crystal wasn't very big, only the size of one's palm. It might look small, but its function was very nice, it can help in regulating a person's temperature, eliminate fatigue, as well as remove any strange odors in one's body. It was a rare plaything.

Zhao Hai gently handed the crystal over to the eunuch and said, "This is the first time that I had met eunuch, so I was not prepared. I would like sir eunuch to accept this small plaything as a gift from me."

The eunuch looked at the crystal in Zhao Hai's hand. He was a person who was keen on noticing an item's worth and he saw how extraordinary Zhao Hai's crystal was. He immediately said, "The Count is too kind. I'm just a eunuch, it wouldn't be proper for me to accept such a gift."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Sir eunuch is too polite. For His Majesty to trust you meant that you are absolutely worthy of this small gift. The current weather is very cold, this little thing can keep Sir eunuch's body temperature at a comfortable level. Sir eunuch would also be by his Majesty's side all the time, this thing can also relieve fatigue. Additionally, this one can eliminate any odors in one's body, even if it didn't have much use, it should still be able to take care of the small nuances in Sir eunuch's day to day living."

The eunuch looked at Zhao Hai, the first two points wasn't much of a problem for him. Just as Zhao Hai has suspected, the man was indeed an assassin, an 8th rank assassin. With his strength, the cold and heat wasn't a problem, he doesn't get tired easily as well. However, the last point of eliminating odors attracted him.

Eunuchs have this problem, because of their function, they didn't have the advantages that a normal man might have, there were things that they can't do. Moreover, they are easily prone to odors. Because of this, they rarely eat in the morning, they rarely drink water as well. Their tasks were stressful. One should know that if the King notices a strange smell in them, there was a high possibility of them being executed. If not, they would fall out of favor, and for them, falling out of favor was much worse than death.

Therefore, this issue of body odors was a very important issue to these eunuchs. Besides eating and drinking a little, they would also constantly change clothes. They would also sprinkle powders along with other methods in order to mask the smell of their bodies.

With Zhao Hai's crystal, all of these issues would be solved. The eunuch became elated when he heard Zhao Hai point out the uses of the crystal.

Seeing the eunuch's expression, Zhao Hai immediately handed the crystal over and said, "I ask Sir eunuch to receive it and give me face. Right, I've been very disrespectful, I still don't know Sir eunuch's name."

The eunuch didn't decline this time, he received Zhao Hai's crystal and placed it near his chest. He immediately felt the benefits of the crystal, in his usually cold body, the temperature began to rise. The eunuch smiled and then turned to smile at Zhao Hai, "The Count is too kind, we don't have any names. But in my generation, I'm number three. Later on, people began to call me Third Eunuch."

Zhao Hai quickly said, "This count has met Third Eunuch. If mister has any needs in the future, please don't hesitate to inform me."

Third Eunuch laughed and said, "Very well, I will do so."

Zhao Hai didn't believe that this gift would completely buy Third Eunuch. He just wanted to earn his good favor, it might make things more convenient in the future.

Actually, with his current strength, he didn't have to earn Third Eunuch's favor. But Zhao Hai still did it in order to establish relations. He knew that he still couldn't offend a lot of people. After all, nobles still held control of the matters in the continent. People who didn't have any good relationships in this world wouldn't be able to survive.

At this time, they have arrived outside the Imperial Palace great hall. This was the place where the Emperor handles his day to day politics. The place didn't have an elegant name, it was just called Hall of Administration. Like the rest of the continent, it's naming was a practical one.

The Hall of Administration had a few dozen steps in it. Third Eunuch asked Zhao Hai to wait at the bottom of the steps while he goes in and reports his arrival. Before long, Zhao Hai heard a voice announcing his presence, "Mister Zhao Hai has arrived!"

Zhao Hai patted his clothes to make them proper before ascending the steps. He was going to see the Emperor of the continent's most powerful nation. If he said that he wasn't anxious, then he would be lying.

Chapter 485 - Matters in the Great Hall

When Zhao Hai arrived in front of the Hall of Administrations' door, the eunuch announced a second time, "Zhao Hai Buda has arrived!"

Zhao Hai looked into the eyes of the eunuch and then took a deep breath before he entered the hall. Upon entering, Zhao Hai scanned the hall to see that there were a lot of people inside. He also saw people he was familiar with, the Crown Prince, the Second Prince, Charlie, Randolph, Jason's Grandfather, as well as Nobles he became acquainted with during the banquets that he had attended the days before. Now these people were divided into two sitting columns. Zhao Hai already expected other people to be present, but he didn't expect that it would be this much.

There was an elevated stage with a throne in the middle of the hall, a man can be seen sitting down on it. The throne was made of gold and silver, it was also inlaid with a lot of gems, and covered in a layer of animal leather. The throne looked very soft and comfortable.

The man wasn't very tall, he looked very refined, maybe even delicate. His hair was faintly gray, his complexion was still quite rosy. He had a gold crown on his head and a staff in his hand. The staff wasn't

very long, it was only about 40 centimeters. The staff was made entirely of gold, its head was decorated with gigantic gemstones. This wasn't a Magic Staff, but a scepter, an item that was a symbol of influence.

This man wore very magnificent and expensive looking clothes. Although he looked very refined, he also gave off a very imposing aura, enough to make a weaker man submit. The man just sat there, calmly looking at Zhao Hai. However, Zhao Hai felt pressure, this pressure came purely from the man's body. This pressure wasn't deliberately made to shake Zhao Hai, it was just the natural aura coming from the man's body.

"This should be the Rosen Empire's Emperor", Zhao Hai mused inwardly. He immediately made a move and slowly walked towards the man, when he was five meters away, he performed a 90 degree bow to the man. He straightened his body and then said, "Zhao Hai Buda has seen His Majesty!"

Rosen Empire's Emperor looked at Zhao Hai and then nodded, "You are Zhao Hai? Good, young man, very good. Were you present when the Robert Family used Antimagic Powder?"

Zhao Hai quickly responded, "Yes, Your Majesty. The Robert Family did use Antimagic Powder to attack me."

The Emperor nodded, then said, "Are you really a Mage? How did you survive the Robert Family's attack?"

Zhao Hai stared, then he thought that Randolph might have not told the Emperor about him being a Martial and Magic Dual Cultivator. Randolph also didn't tell the Emperor that Zhao Hai can cast magic under the influence of Antimagic Powder, leaving Zhao Hai with a card in hand.

Thinking about this, Zhao Hai immediately said, "Replying to His Majesty's question, this one isn't only a Mage, I'm an 8th rank Warrior as well. Because of that, Antimagic Powder cannot suppress me." Zhao Hai also didn't reveal the fact that he was unaffected by the Antimagic Powder, he wanted to make this into his hidden ace. Compared to his ability as a Warrior, this matter was a better choice to conceal.

After hearing Zhao Hai, the people in the hall became shocked. They couldn't help but whisper to each other. They already knew that Zhao Hai was an 8th rank Mage, but they didn't expect that Zhao Hai was an 8th rank Warrior as well!

In other words, Zhao Hai was a Dual Cultivator of Magic and Battle Qi? However, in the history of the continent, Martial and Magic Dual Cultivators didn't have much of a success. There were only a handful of people of people who can reach 6th rank, reaching 7th rank was the highest recorded instance.

But now, Zhao Hai revealed that he wasn't only an 8th rank Mage, he was also an 8th rank Warrior, this was unbelievable. If Zhao Hai wasn't in front of the Emperor right now, they would surely think that Zhao Hai was lying.

The Emperor was also somewhat surprised at Zhao Hai, then he nodded and said, "Good, young man, you're very good. This Emperor has called you today for a small request. If you handle this matter well, you will be rewarded."

Zhao Hai bowed and said, "For the benefit of His Majesty, I wouldn't even need a reward to take action. I ask His Majesty to show me."

The Emperor gave a satisfied nod and said, "This is about Engraved Ark that you have uncovered. I will not hide it from you, we already turned Robert Patriarch and Terry into advanced level undead in order to interrogate them. However, the matters that they knew were not many. They also mentioned that there should also be another member of Engraved Ark in their family. But as to who this member was, they didn't know. Now that the Robert Family has been eliminated by you, the amount of corpses present is too much for our Dark Mages to turn into advanced level undead. Randolph told me that you can achieve it. Is that true?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "I can, Your Majesty. Rest Assured."

The Emperor nodded and said, "Then can you do it inside this hall? Our country wants to see how different your Dark Magic is."

Zhao Hai stared for a while before saying, "Your Majesty, turning these corpses into undead needed them to be present. If we do it inside this hall, it might contaminate Your Majesty's sights. Moreover, I'm afraid that His Majesty might not like the way I use Magic."

The Emperor didn't seem to care, he shook his head and said, "No need to worry, just do it in this hall. Let this Emperor see for himself."

Zhai Hai didn't say anything else, he nodded and said, "Just as you wish, Your Majesty."

The Emperor nodded, then he waved his hand. Third Eunuch, who was standing right by the Emperor's side, took two steps forward and said loudly, "Take them in!" Then a buzzing sound was heard outside the hall before stretchers carrying bodies covered in white cloth entered.

These corpses were naturally processed. They didn't have any unusual smell, but the sight of this row of corpses looked very unattractive.

The nobles inside the hall already knew that it was Zhao Hai who exterminated the Robert Family. But when they saw the bodies being carried in, they couldn't help but exclaim about Zhao Hai's ruthlessness, they whispered between each other.

The Emperor didn't care, he turned his head to Zhao Hai and said, "You can begin." Zhao Hai gave a bow before he took his Magic Staff out and muttered several incantations. Then a black gas appeared and covered the corpses inside the hall. When the black gas disappeared, all of the bodies were already standing. These people looked no different than when they were alive. If it weren't for their pale complexion and lifeless eyes, people might even mistake them for live people.

Zhao Hai could just change these people into skeletons, but since he wanted to display his abilities, he deliberately made them into zombies. In Ark Continent, one didn't need to be afraid if they had the strength. As long as you are strong, people would give you great importance. Conversely, if you are useless, nobody would look at you in the eyes.

When the people in the Great Hall looked at the undead, they couldn't help but feel somewhat restless. In their minds, undead were generally either skeletons or rotting zombies. However, Zhao Hai's zombies were in a pristine condition, they looked exactly just like a normal person. This wasn't something that they had seen before.

After reviving the undead, Zhao Hai turned to the Emperor and said, "Your majesty, you can now ask them questions. I can assure you that they wouldn't lie."

The Emperor was also shocked by Zhao Hai's undead, he looked at Zhao Hai and then said, "Alright, you go ask them. Just find out who the other member of Engraved Ark was."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he immediately went to ask the group of undead. But unfortunately, the member of Engraved Ark wasn't present among them. Zhao Hai didn't say anything as he received these undead into his Space and then had another batch of corpses be sent in.

Zhao Hai remained in the hall as he turned groups upon groups of corpses into undead until he found out the other member of Engraved Ark. When he found out, Zhao Hai was surprised, the member of Engraved Ark turned out to be one of Robert Patriarch's wives!

From the mouth of this member of Engraved Ark, Zhao Hai managed to get a few more information. The source of faith of the organization was truly the Demon God. Destroying the continent was their duty. All of the members of Engraved Ark almost never meet, they just communicate with each other using encrypted codes. Most importantly, none of these members knew each other's identity. They don't have any marks on their bodies. If one wanted to find out about anything regarding their identity, then it should be that each of their homes should have an idol of the Demon God!

This kind of information was truly useless for Zhao Hai. How many people were in the continent? How many noble families? They don't have any obvious characteristics, just the fact that they have an idol of the Demon God in their homes. But who actually knew what the Demon God looked like? There were too many factors to consider, there was no way to find it.

However, even if they didn't have a single good harvest, this member knew much more than Robert Patriarch and Terry. This organization has existed for more than a thousand years. In the very beginning, all of them were just people at the bottom of society. These people were oppressed by the nobility and found that there was no way to resist them. In the end, these people joined up and create the Engraved Ark, it was also at this point that they started to worship the Demon God.

Along with the transformation on the continent and the constant change of dynasties, the organization slowly gained power and influence and eventually became Great Nobles. The Robert Family was one of those families.

Also, even if there wasn't a definite indication that one was a member of Engraved Ark, they were devilish in their hearts. They believed that the Demon God was a good killer and a ruthless person, therefore, the attitudes and temperaments of their members would generally be ruthless and sinister. All of these would naturally reflect on the overall outlook of their families, just like Robert Family's Savage Wolf emblem.

Obtaining this information was a great help for the Rosen Empire. At the very least, they now have a heading, they can now somewhat decrease their scope of surveillance.

At this point, the nobles in the hall were now dreading Engraved Ark. This was because this organization's threat to the continent was much higher than the Radiant Church. The Radiant Church only wanted to establish control, but Engraved Ark actually wanted their life!

Chapter 486 - Reward

The Emperor was very satisfied with Zhao Hai's performance. He had seen how other Dark Mages use Dark Magic. Seeing how Zhao Hai was so relaxed showed that Zhao Hai was strong.

Moreover, Zhao Hai or the Buda Clan's Patriarch, was Calci Family's son-in-law. He also heard that Zhao Hai had a good relationship with the Crook Family, he was also someone from Charlie's side.

Because of these, the Emperor became very fond of Zhao Hai. Although he was an Aksu Empire noble, it didn't matter. The Emperor wouldn't care about his background as long as he is strong. It was also impossible for the Emperor to not know about the Buda Clan's resentment towards the Aksu Empire. In his opinion, it was impossible for Zhao Hai to not hold a grudge. If he was able to pull Zhao Hai into the Rosen Empire, it would be good for the empire overall.

The Emperor was clear, Zhao Hai had offended the Radiant Church, he had also offended Aksu Empire's Royal Clan. In this case, if Zhao Hai wanted to find a place to place his foundation, the Rosen Empire was the only choice, it was impossible to do so in other places.

Thinking about this, the Emperor felt assured that he can pull Zhao Hai over to the Empire. This was Rosen Empire's standard of recruiting people. Regardless of their origin, as long as someone has talent, they would bring them to the Empire's fold. This was the method that the Rosen Empire used to become the continent's most powerful nation.

After Zhao Hai found the Engraved Ark member, the Emperor still had the bodies sent over to be turned into advanced undead. The Emperor was afraid of any fish that might slip through the net. Fortunately, there were no other members of Engraved Ark in the Robert Family.

After waiting for Zhao Hai to be done, the Emperor nodded, then he turned his head towards Third Eunuch. Third Eunuch immediately took two steps forward and declared, “Zhao Hai Buda, go forward and receive the decree.”

Zhao Hai stared, he immediately complied as he went forward and knelt on one knee. This was also a custom in Ark Continent. When a monarch rewards you, you shall kneel down on one knee upon accepting. This makes it seem like you really valued the reward.

When Zhao Hai knelt down, Third Eunuch immediately said loudly, “Zhao Hai Buda, you are a Noble with outstanding ability and excellent strength. Receive this title of First Class Marquis. The Crown has also bestowed Golden Island to Zhao Hai Buda as his perpetual fief. “

Zhao Hai immediately said, “I thank His Majesty for this reward. Zhao Hai Buda shall fully serve the Rosen Empire!”

Ark Continent’s rewarding process was very simple, Zhao Hai liked it very much. But what he didn’t expect was how comfortable the Emperor was in giving him the title of Marquis, moreover, he also gave him an island as a fief.

The Ark Continent’s ranking goes: Duke, Marquis, Count, Viscount, Baron, and then Knight. Knights can only be regarded as a false noble, with the lowest nobility rank being the Baron. The Duke, Marquis, Count, Viscount and Baron, these five ranks are the official ranks of nobility. Each titles are divided into three Classes with third class being the lowest and first class being the highest. Above a First Class Duke was the position of Grand Duke. A Grand Duke can establish his own Duchy. Above a Grand Duke were the Princes. Princes generally came from the Imperial Clan. A Prince’s power can only be dictated by the Emperor. If the Emperor doesn’t give a Prince any power, then they can only be a normal noble, he cannot do anything serious. Although, he technically held a higher status, his influence wasn’t as good as a Grand Duke.

Not only did Rosen Empire give Zhao Hai the title of First Class Marquis, he was also bestowed by a perpetual fief. This was a very good thing. Some Noble’s fiefs weren’t hereditary. If they want to keep their territory, they need to work hard. Only through this way would their lands stay in their hands. However, Zhao Hai’s was different, it was equivalent to the Buda Clan owning the territory.

However, Zhao Hai felt strange when he heard that his fief was Golden Island. This was because he hadn’t heard of this Golden Island before.

For a place to be called Golden Island, it would surely be a special one. Moreover, since it's an island, it should certainly be at sea. But Zhao Hai had already stayed for quite some time in the seas of Rosen Empire, he had never heard about a Golden Island there, it was quite strange.

But since it was the Emperor's reward, he had no other choice but to accept it and ask Randolph later.

Since Zhao Hai had accepted the reward, naturally he was now a noble of the Rosen Empire. Later on, when meets the Emperor, he wouldn't need to bow so low.

After Zhao Hai received his reward, the Emperor looked at him and said, "Zhao Hai, you're now a person of the Rosen Empire. I won't interfere with your matter with Aksu Empire, but you must remember, no matter what you do, you cannot lose the face of Rosen Empire in Aksu Empire."

When Zhao Hai heard this, he couldn't help but stare. This was because the Emperor basically just told him that he was supporting him. This was something that was out of his expectations.

Zhao hai immediately bowed and said, "I thank His Majesty. This one will certainly not lose the face of Rosen Empire. His Majesty can feel relieved."

The Emperor was satisfied, then he nodded and said, "Good, it's good that you understand. Alright, today's affairs are finished, everybody can go back." The others immediately stood up and gave a salute to the Emperor before they asked to be excused.

Outside the hall, Randolph and Charlie approached Zhao Hai. After seeing the two of them, Zhao Hai gave a salute. Charlie smiled at him and said, "Good, you've now become a Marquis. Hahaha. If you have free time, go visit my mansion." Zhao Hai nodded, then Charlie gave a nod before leaving.

Randolph looked at Charlie before he turned his head to Zhao Hai and said, "It looks like Charlie highly thinks of you. Also, it's good that your title has now risen."

Zhao Hai nodded, and then he looked around before he whispered, "Grandfather, this Golden Island, where is it? How come I never heard of it?"

Randolph looked around as well and then whispered, "Let's talk about this back at the fort." Looking at Randolph's conduct, Zhao Hai understood that there may have been some secrets that he wasn't allowed to ask publicly. He nodded and then headed back to the fort with Randolph.

When they arrived outside the Imperial Palace, Randolph and Zhao Hai rode their carriage and drove towards Dark Soldier Fort without saying a word. Before long, the two of them arrived at the fort.

Upon reaching their destination, Randolph immediately brought Zhao Hai to the lobby. Then he sent someone to call Smith and the others over. Zhao Hai looked at Randolph, he didn't ask anything and just waited in the room for Smith and the others.

Before long, Smith and the others arrived, Zhao Hai stood up and gave them a salute. After the group sat down, Randolph opened his mouth and said, "Earlier, His Majesty just asked Little Hai to turn all of the Robert Family members into undead, then he asked them about Engraved Ark. Although we didn't manage to get a lot of information, what we got wasn't few either. His Majesty was happy with Zhao Hai's performance that he gave him the title of First Class Marquis. He also bestowed Zhao Hai with Golden Island as his perpetual territory."

Upon hearing Randolph's words, everybody stared. Then they started whispering to each other in discussion. Zhao Hai was confused, being a First Class Marquis wasn't something to be surprised about, was it because of Golden Island?

Seeing Zhao Hai's confused expression, he seriously said, "Little Hai doesn't know about Golden Island. Second, go tell Little Hai."

Smith nodded and said, "Alright, Golden Island was once rich in gold. But even before the Rosen Empire has been established, all of its gold was mined up. Right now, the island doesn't have any special products left, only the mining tunnels remained. Such an island isn't very noteworthy. However, its position was extremely coveted. The island was placed in between Rosen Empire and Aksu Empire's marine border. Because of this island, the two Empires often had frictions between them. Now, there was nobody who owned it. But since the island still had some freshwater, it became a Haven for pirates. Although it was like this currently, its importance to both empires didn't decrease. If Rosen Empire obtains that island, they can construct a naval base there and threaten the Aksu Empire's marine region. The opposite case was the same. Also, because this place previously produced gold, it had very good piers, it wouldn't be a problem if a thousand huge boats were to dock there. The strategic value of this island is very big."

Zhao Hai answered, "Is this the case? Does this mean that even if I got the fief from the Rosen Empire, the Aksu Empire can still declare it as theirs?"

Smith nodded and said, "Yes, like that. I think His Majesty gave you this land possibly because he wanted you to thoroughly break off your relations with the Aksu Empire."

Randolph nodded and said, "Right, I also think that this is His Majesty's intention. Still, I think that this would be a good opportunity for you. Golden Island's location is extremely important. As long as you eliminate the pirate's nest, you can slowly allow passing ships entry. You can also establish a market there, carrying out trades. I believe that it will be a goose that lays golden eggs."

Zhao Hai excitedly nodded. Golden Island's position was indeed good. For Zhao Hai, this was fantastic. As long as he held this place, he was sure that he would profit a lot off of it. He can also take the things in the Space to there and sell them.

Then Smith looked at Zhao Hai and sighed, "Little Hai, don't be celebrate prematurely. Occupying Golden Island wouldn't be simple. There were pirate groups controlled by Great Nobles stationed there. The Imperial Clan's looting fleet has a stronghold there as well. If you really want to take control of Golden Island, I'm afraid it wouldn't be very easy."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "It's fine. I wouldn't be offending them much. There are a lot of islands in the surroundings, they can just move. If they really want to go head on head with me, then let's see if they have the capability."

Randolph nodded and said, "Little Hai's words are justified. Little Hai can even deal with millenium-old clans. Those who wanted to move against Little Hai need to have good courage. What I'm currently worried about was the Radiant Church."

Smith and the others turned silent, they understood what Randolph was thinking. Zhao Hai has a grudge with the Radiant Church. With Golden Island being in the edge of Rosen Empire's territory, an in addition to it being overseas, it would be difficult for the Rosen Empire to give him help.

Moreover, with this domain, Zhao Hai would build upon it, making it one of his foundations. The Radiant Church cannot cope with Zhao Hai in the past because they couldn't find his location. This time, the Radiant Church naturally wouldn't let him off.

Zhao Hai sneered and said, "I don't worry about the Radiant Church. They couldn't deal with me before, they couldn't deal with me this time either. What I'm worried about is Engraved Ark. Me eliminating the Robert Family this time meant that their organization just lost a Great Family. Not only did I destroy their Great Clan, I've also exposed them to the continent. I'm quite worried about them since we have close to no understanding of their operations."

Randolph nodded and said, "That's true, we now have a good amount of understanding with regards to the Radiant Church. But this Engraved Ark, we had almost to know information about them."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he turned to Randolph and said, "Grandfather, I think that the Calci Family would also need to be more careful. The Engraved Ark would surely take the clan into account this time. People from Engraved Ark are different from the Radiant Church. When the Radiant Church copes with us, they would need to find an excuse to act in the open. But the Engraved Ark can do almost about anything. This time, they used Antimagic Powder, who know what cards they will use the next time. Moreover, since they can research Antimagic Powder, they surely have other types of concoctions in their hands. We should all be careful from now on."

Randolph agreed, "This matter is surely thorny. Our Clan is a Mage Clan, just by using Antimagic Powder, they managed to place us in a difficult position." At this time, Smith and the others were frowning.

Zhao Hai opened his mouth, "Grandfather, I think we should take extreme care for the important figures in the family. It is also better for the family to invest more into Warriors. In the meantime, I'll head back and see whether my side can develop an antidote against the Antimagic Powder. If we can produce one, our days would become easier. If it's impossible to make it, then the family can only increase their security even more."

Randolph stared when he heard Zhao Hai. With an elated face he said, "Little Hai, is that true? Do you have a Potion Master?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Two Potion Masters, they're very good, but we really lack medicinal plants at this moment. I'll need to ask Grandpa for help, I need a lot plants, the more advanced, the better. I can accept seeds as well, I can slowly grow them."

Chapter 487 - Appearing Aggressive

Smith smiled when he heard Zhao Hai, he turned to Randolph and said, "Father, Little Hai used to tell me this, but since it was winter, there weren't really good plants available. However, it seems like we need to go all out in helping Little Hai to acquire various plants. If Little Hai develops the antidote, then it would really be very good for us."

Randolph nodded and said, "Alright, go send the orders. Have the entire clan seek for strange plants, the more the better. Right Little Hai, do you need Magic Beasts as well?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I do. Magic Beasts can also be used for making medicine. The more the better."

Randolph gave a nod, then he looked at the people in the room and said, "Did you listen carefully? Fully coordinate with Little Hai." Those present didn't dare to oppose it, they immediately agreed. All of them knew that this matter shouldn't be neglected, it was very important for the family.

Zhao Hai looked at the others and sighed in relief. Then he turned his hand and retrieved a large bottle from the Space. This bottle had enough volume to contain ten jins of water. It was made of glass and was gotten from one of the Robert Family's stores.

Naturally this bottle wasn't special, its contents were. Randolph and the others looked at Zhao Hai, they don't know why Zhao Hai retrieved such a big bottle.

Zhao Hai carefully placed the bottle beside Randolph and said, "Grandfather, the family should distribute this water to everyone. If they encounter any accidents or get poisoned, drinking this water will be very useful."

Randolph looked confused at Zhao Hai, "What is inside this bottle? Is it potion?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "The liquid in this bottle isn't a potion. It is much more effective compared to a potion, this is Life Liquid!"

Life Liquid! When they heard Zhao Hai say this, all of the people present breathed a cold air. Life Liquid was something very useful, no matter how rich you are, you might not be able to get it.

Randolph stared at the bottle for quite some time, then he turned his head to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, this, is this really Life Liquid?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Yes, I've obtained this from a 9th rank expert of the Radiant Church. At the time, the 9th rank was cooperating with the Fighting Bulls to deal with the Herculean Bulls. When he was killed by me, I obtained this Life Liquid. I asked the person where he got it, he said that it was given to him."

Randolph nodded, he also got something from Zhao Hai's words. He frowned and said, "The Radiant Church are meddling with the Beastmen?"

Zhao Hai nodded, then he told Randolph about what happened the last time he was in the Prairie. He also introduced his status as a Prince of the Cow-headed race.

Randolph was surprised at Zhao Hai. He didn't think that Zhao Hai would have such a status. Beastmen don't trust humans, it was surprising to know that Zhao Hai was actually a Beastman Prince.

But then he immediately thought about the Radiant Church, he hesitated for a moment before he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, since you now have some sort of status in the Beastman Prairie, you should pay attention to the movements of the Radiant Church in the Prairie. Know what they are planning to do. And if you can make the Beastmen turn on them, then that would be fantastic."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Grandfather can feel relieved, I've already figured out the temperament of the Beastmen. It would be easy for the Beastmen to deal with the Radiant Church. There aren't any radiant Church believers in the Prairie, as long as they are members of the Radiant Church, the Beastmen wouldn't be able to trust them."

Randolph nodded and said, "I'll accept your Life Liquid, it's very useful for the current situation. Right, since you've given this to the family, the family wouldn't be ungrateful. Now that you have the Golden Island as a territory, the family can provide you with a fleet to help manage it."

Zhao Hai declined and said “Grandfather, doesn’t need to trouble himself. I really don’t need to deal with the pirates in Golden Island. Making the family move would be very troublesome. This Life Liquid isn’t very important to me, I also have some left on me.”

Randolph nodded, then he looked at Zhao Hai in appreciation. At this moment, he felt that Zhao Hai looked more pleasing to the eyes. He was a decent human being, a good leader, willing to help the Calci Family, even giving them Life Liquid. At this point, Zhao Hai was much better than the other members of the Calci Family.

Randolph looked at the other members of the family and said, “Alright, we have a lot of things to do. All of you know your assignments, go back and deal with the. Remember to not make any mistakes.”

The others nodded, then Randolph made them disperse. Smith went with Zhao Hai to Rustling Tree Courtyard. The two sat on the living room, then Smith turned to Zhao Hai and said, “Little Hai, how do you plan to handle Golden Island’s situation? I think you should be careful about this. Otherwise, it wouldn’t be only the Aksu Empire that would come after you, all of the noble controlled pirates would be going after you as well. You may even aggravate the situation even more.”

Zhao Hai nodded, he understood what Smith meant. But now that he knew the location of Golden Island as well as knowing about how lawless the place was. It would be a pity if he doesn’t make use of the pirates.

Of these pirates, it would be impossible for all of them to be affiliated to a Great Clan. Those who had connections could just sell their loot over to those Great Clans. However, for those who didn’t have any connections, they can only find a middleman and sell their loot at a much lower price.

There was a huge business opportunity here. Zhao Hai’s idea was to turn Golden Island into a free port. Pirates can trade on the island, but they have to pay a certain amount of tax. Merchants can trade here as well, and naturally, they would also be taxed.

Zhao Hai wanted Golden Island to be a place for Merchants, Pirates, and other influences to trade, like some sort of black market. He will place the tax here at a very low level. Pirates can also take refuge in the island. If he manages to achieve this goal, the island wouldn’t only be a goose that laid golden eggs, it would in itself turn into a golden goose.

When Smith asked him this question, Zhao Hai didn't immediately tell him of his plans to make the island a free port, he just said, "It's not difficult to subdue the island. Although its location was very special, it wasn't irreplaceable for the pirates. In addition to the reputation that I have gained, those who would dare to attack me shouldn't be true pirates. In the end, if anyone really wishes to challenge me, then I won't be polite to them."

Smith knit his brows, he really didn't want Zhao Hai to have any conflicts with Great Nobles. If the situation goes to south, things wouldn't be good for Zhao Hai.

Looking at Smith's expression, Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Uncle, rest assured, the solution for Golden Island is nothing more than a two-step process. First step is to not attack them, make it known to them that we mean well while at the same time making them respect us. Second step is to then offer them benefits. This point is actually something that I needed uncle's help with. I'm preparing to turn the island into a free trading harbor. No matter pirate or merchant, all of them can come to the island and trade. What does uncle think?"

Smith stared for a moment before his eyes lit up. He was a Merchant and he naturally understood what Zhao Hai was planning to do. If Zhao Hai really managed to accomplish this, then the yearly income of Golden Island would be comparable to Sky Water City, if not more.

However, he soon recovered from his thoughts as he frowned, "This is a really good idea. But if we really do as you said, then would Merchants really dare to go to Golden Island? Wouldn't they be afraid to get robbed?"

Zhao Hao smiled faintly and said, "This is simple, I can just issue a rule disallowing violence inside Golden Island. I shall also make sure that the rule would get applied at a thousand li radius around the island's waters. Those who dared violate this rule would get eliminated. With this, nobody should act unreasonably. What does uncle think about this?"

When Smith heard Zhao Hai, he couldn't help but look into Zhao Hai's eyes. Zhao Hai was appearing very aggressive these past few days. Hearing him say that he would eliminate those who would dare violate his rule in a thousand li radius of the island seemed like he was also expressing his aggression at this time.

In the past, only Great Clans dared to speak such words, but now, Zhao Hai was also speaking it. This was undoubtedly due to the change in Zhao Hai's status.

Moreover, Smith was certain that if Zhao Hai completes this matter, his Golden Island would surely become another Sky Water City, another huge trading harbor.

At this point, Smith was admiring Zhao Hai. He knew about the Buda Clan vanishing, but in just one year, they were able to reach this height. They can now appear on the continent, this was all because of their current strength, it was also because of Zhao Hai.

For a clan to survive, strength was an indispensable resource. However, strength alone was not enough, the clan also needed a smart leader and good direction. Zhao Hai's leadership was already well proven. Having such a head, the Buda Clan would be able to overturn their past situation and become one of the powerful Clans of the Continent, the only thing that they require was time.

When Smith knew about Zhao Hai's plan for Golden Island, he understood that the island would have a lot of work needed to be done. There were things that needed help, and Smith wanted to provide it.

Chapter 488 - Walking in Circles is Hereditary

Smith knew that although the Calci Family has a lot of relationships with other clans, they had nobody who could share the hardships of their family. This was one of the Calci Family's disadvantages.

Now, the Buda Clan appeared, a Clan that has a potential to become a Great Clan. If at this time, the Calci Family gives the Buda Clan a helping hand, the Buda Clan would surely become the Calci Family's true friend in the future. With the two clans helping each other, both of them can become the strongest clans in the continent.

After thinking all of these through, Smith nodded and said, "Alright, Little Hai, I won't bother you with Golden Island. However, I'll go inform father about this. If you need any help, immediately tell us, we will certainly support you. I believe father wouldn't oppose to it."

Zhao Hai nodded and then with a serious voice he said, "Uncle, I have a matter to ask for your opinion. Today, Jason looked for me and sent a message telling me that their Crook family would want to have an Eternal Alliance with my Buda Clan."

Smith became surprised when he heard Zhao Hai, he knew what being in an Eternal Alliance meant. He didn't expect the Crook Family to suddenly propose being an Eternal Ally to the Buda Clan.

When he recovered, Smith's mind suddenly sprang into action. He knows that the Crook Family wasn't simple. A few years ago, they were just an ordinary Great Clan, but now, they already had reached the levels of millenium-old clans. What does this mean? This indicated that the Crook Family's head had the ability, and was very insightful as well.

In this case, for the Crook Family to make an Eternal Alliance with the Buda Clan only meant one thing, they were very optimistic about the future of the Buda Clan. Because of this, they wanted to reach out to the Buda Clan before they reach their full potential. Later on, when the Buda Clan completely grows into being a Great Clan, they would gain a very strong ally!

Good plan! Smith had to recognize the Crook Family's plan. It was pure benefit without disadvantages. At the least, when the Buda Clan doesn't reach the Crook Family's level, Zhao Hai would still be allied with them, bringing good benefits to the Buda Clan.

Smith walked several steps on the ground, he had thought through all the parts of it. Then he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "This is a very good thing for the Buda Clan. You should accept, how about going to the Crook Family tomorrow?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I won't only go to the Crook Family, I'll need to go see Charlie tomorrow as well. Haha, I'm quite busy tomorrow."

Smith looked at Zhao Hai and laughed, "Right, it's also time to visit Charlie. Alright, you get busy, I have something to discuss with father." Zhao Hai nodded and then turned towards his own residence before going to the Space. He wanted to see what Smith would tell Randolph.

Zhao Hai didn't believe that Smith and Randolph would harm him. He had given Randolph the Life Liquid, giving Randolph a good impression of him. Zhao Hai believed that Randolph wouldn't move him, he believed that Randolph would even attach great importance to him.

When Zhao Hai arrived at the Space, he immediately entered the villa. At this time, Laura and the others were reorganizing the documents. They were sorting through documents that might be helpful to the Buda Clan.

Seeing that Laura and the others were very enthusiastic in working, Zhao Hai became happy. Then he went to the living room and turned the monitor on, showing the scene inside Randolph's study.

Randolph's study was very big, this was where he handles his things, and also where he meets the managers of the Calci Family. Because of this, his interior decoration was very good. Although it couldn't compare to Evan's study, it wasn't that much worse. After all, Dark Soldier Fort wasn't as big as a Grand Duke's mansion.

When Smith arrived at Randolph's study, they sat down and drank some tea. Apparently, they still weren't talking about Zhao Hai's matter.

When Randolph saw that Smith came to see him, he knew that it surely has something to do with Zhao Hai. Therefore, he didn't worry too much, so he first sent someone to get them some tea as he and Smith sat and chatted.

At this point, Smith held Randolph's favor. If Smith didn't insist, it would be impossible for Zhao Hai to be married into the Calci Family. If their family actually became Zhao Hai's enemy, he wouldn't be able to imagine the consequences.

Zhao Hai getting married to the Calci Family brought great benefits to them, and this was Smith's doing. Because of this, Randolph placed great importance to Smith.

Randolph drank some tea and sighed, "This time's incident was really breathtaking. Who would've thought that an ordinary attack can lead to so many things. If it weren't for Little Hai, our Calci Family would have surely ended."

Smith nodded and said, "Right, nobody thought that there would actually be a hidden snake in the continent. This Engraved Ark organization is too dangerous. Right, Father, what can you say about Little Hai's Antimagic Powder antidote? Do you think he'll succeed?"

Randolph sighed and said, "I hope that he can succeed, but it seems like it wouldn't be very easy. From the time when Antimagic Powder first appeared, people had only found ways to suppress it, not make an antidote. The powder's original recipe was destroyed as well, with no concrete source being present. This will bring a lot of trouble to Little Hai. You need to figure out the ingredients of a certain drug first

before looking for ways to make its antidote. However, I still think that Little Hai's approach is correct. Even though the continent was now aware of Engraved Ark, the only source we got about them came solely from the Robert Family. Now that the method to make Antimagic Powder has disappeared, making its cure much more difficult to achieve, what do you think will the Mages of the continent think when Little Hai manages to make an antidote?"

It would lead to great benefits! Randolph meant that when Zhao Hai manages to make the antidote for Antimagic Powder, his reputation among the Mages would surely skyrocket. As long as he succeeds in making one, the respect that he would gain from the Mage community would surely be colossal. And at this time, the Calci Family would be profiting from it as well.

Both Smith and Zhao Hai hadn't thought about this before. Now that he was reminded by Randolph's words, Smith found it hard to sit still. However, he was currently in front of Randolph, so he was embarrassed to walk around in a circle. Therefore, he can only take his teacup and kept turning it around.

After some time while looking at the ground, Smith looked at Randolph and said, "Father, if Little Hai succeeds, the rise of the Buda Clan would take zero effort."

Randolph nodded and said, "So now, we should give Little Hai our full support. If Little Hai succeeds, the Buda Clan would gain great benefits, but our Calci Family would profit off of it as well. Little Hai doesn't need our help in dealing with Golden Island, but as long as Little Hai needs our help for something else, we must fully support him. Make sure to remember this."

Smith couldn't help but smile when he heard Randolph, then he turned to Randolph and said, "Father, I also came here today for something else. This has a connection to the thing you said about fully supporting Little Hai. This is an important one."

Randolph looked at him and said, "What is it?"

Smith smiled and said, "Just earlier, Little Hai told me that Jason came to look for him and delivered a message from his family. The Crook Family sent a message telling Zhao Hai that they wanted to form an Eternal Alliance with the Buda Clan, making their families eternal allies."

When he heard about this, Randolph couldn't help but stand up and walked around in circles. Smith looked at Randolph, thinking about the matter made him smile. He didn't think that walking in circles was actually hereditary.

After who knows how many circles, Randolph stopped. He turned his head to Smith and said, "Did Little Hai personally tell you this? This isn't a mistake?"

Smith nodded and said, "It's absolutely real. Father should know that Little Hai doesn't say these kinds of things easily. And since he told me, it should be true."

Randolph nodded and said, "The Crook Family is good. Their vision is really good. We really need to completely support Little Hai. If Little Hai became eternal allies of the Crook Family, it would also be good for us."

Smith nodded and then said, "Father, there's another thing. Little Hai told me that he wants to turn Golden Island into a free trading harbor. Pirates and Merchants would be able to trade freely in the island, he only needs to collect some taxes. Moreover, he shall also make a rule forbidding violence in a 1000 li radius outside the island. If this succeeds, then the Buda Clan would surely have great gains."

Randolph nodded and said, "It's a good idea, if it becomes successful, Little Hai wouldn't be worrying about money anymore. However, its early stages would be difficult, he would need enough naval might to shake those people. We shall fully support Little Hai in this matter. But it looks like Little Hai didn't need our support in this. However, you should still go and find some little matters where we can insert ourselves. Also, there's another point, don't mix in sand."

'Mixing sand' was a type of slang. Randolph used it here to tell Smith that they shouldn't send in some spies towards Zhao Hai's camp. For a Great Clan like the Calci Family, this was something that was rarely seen.

Smith knitted his brows, then after some time he said, "Father, if we do that, wouldn't some people in the clan object? Seeing Third Uncle's stance, it seems like they want to control Little Hai."

Chapter 489 - Family Greeting

"Stupid!" Randolph said after he heard Smith. "Don't listen to them. They're short-sighted, who knows how many people outside the Calci Family died with their tricks."

When Randolph talked about this, he stopped for a moment and then took a deep breath before continuing, "Second, remember this. When you become a Patriarch of a Great Clan, there are some moments where you want to insist your own thoughts, no matter how unordinary they may be. As long as it brings benefits the clan, then we must do it. Even if it fails, we, that Calci Family can still afford to lose some. If we become afraid and don't dare to do anything, then our position of Patriarch might as well be a decoration."

When Smith heard Randolph, he nodded understandingly. At the same time, his eyes turned bright. Why did Randolph tell him this? Smith's mind couldn't help but think of all the implications.

Randolph looked at Smith, he smiled then said, "What is Little Hai's status right now? He's the head of the Buda Clan, he has formidable strength and can command ten 9th rank experts. Do you think that kind people can control him? I would think they're crazy if they actually believed that they can take control of Little Hai. And even if we control Little Hai, what would it give the Calci Family? Little Hai is so strong that his addition is enough to cause instability in the Clan. What the Calci Family needs right now aren't 9th rank experts. What we need is a strong ally. If the Buda Clan becomes the strongest Clan in the continent, then it would be very good for us. With that in mind, we might as well support Little Hai, we can remove some roadblocks from the Buda Clan's road to greatness. This will not only allow us to gain a strong ally, it would also leave a good impression on Little Hai. When the time comes, he will certainly help the Calci Family become greater."

Smith nodded, "Yes father. I understand, you don't need to worry. Right, father, if Little Hai's plan on Golden Island succeeds, will it affect our Sky Water City?"

Randolph smiled faintly and said, "It shouldn't affect it. Even if it brings affects to Sky Water City, it would be good things. If he does well, then the products flowing through there would be pirated goods, so it would surely be cheap. Merchants would go there, buy the goods, and then resell them in Sky Water City. Pirates wouldn't dare come to Sky Water City, but Merchants would. Golden Island will be the hub where pirates discharge their inventories. In the end, it would be a very good thing for Sky Water City."

Smith nodded, "After Little Hai goes to the Crook Family, he would head to Charlie's mansion. What do you say about Prince's Charlie's intentions?"

Randolph smiled faintly and said, "What can Prince Charlie do, Zhao Hai is his man, and His Majesty the Emperor know it. His Majesty rewarding Zhao Hai was equal to making Charlie's influence increase."

Naturally, Charlie would be glad. It seems like Charlie has a greater chance of mounting the imperial throne right now. But we still need to hold ourselves back and refrain from interfering, we should maintain our Clan's passive stance."

Smith nodded, "Rest assured, I know what to do. I will not participate in Little Hai's matters." Randolph nodded as well.

After seeing this scene, Zhao Hai decided to stop spying at them anymore. He knew that he now had the full support of the Calci Family. For the Buda Clan, this point was very important.

Zhao Hai let out a long sigh and sat still in the living room. The recent developments were extremely good. Not only did he obtain the title of Marquis, he also obtained the full support of the Calci Family as well as gaining the Crook Family as an Eternal Ally. At this point, he has now unfolded his own web of relationships in Rosen Empire. This web might still be immature, but when the Buda Clan slowly gains strength, this web would get more and more dense and sturdy.

After having rested for a while, Zhao Hai called the Robert Family undead. He wanted to ask them about other matters, for example, their Battle Qi Techniques and so on.

Although the Buda Clan had the Wild Dragon Battle Qi manual, this Battle Qi doesn't suit everyone. So Zhao Hai wanted to look at the Battle Qi techniques of other clans. Even if he couldn't use them, he can have these techniques provided to the schools to have the children study. This was one of the most fundamental things that millenium-old families do.

This time, the most precious thing that he acquired from the Robert Family wasn't money. But instead, it was the Robert Family's internal library.

There were a lot of books circulating in Ark Continent, but the genuinely useful books were all kept within the internal libraries of Great Clans, commoners were unable to see them.

With the Robert Family's standing in Rosen Empire, it was certain that they had their own internal library. This library contained not only the materials of the Robert Family, it also had a lot of manuals for Battle Qi and Magic. These things were very important for Zhao Hai.

Another thing that made Zhao Hai ecstatic was the fact that there were some notes paired with these manuals. These notes were carefully kept in wooden crates and looked more expensive than those books.

After Zhao Hai saw these notes, Zhao Hai knew why the Robert Family placed these things in a secure location. This was because these writings were actually cultivation notes of their 9th rank experts!

Cultivation notes of 9th rank experts were very precious things. For Zhao Hai, these might not be important, but for Green and the others, this was an absolute treasure.

Green, Merine, and Kun were all at the peak of 8th rank, they only need a single nudge to reach 9th. For them, these notes would give them crucial insights that they might be able to use in advancing.

Zhao Hai had now understood why these Great Clans could get 9th ranks easily while general noble clans would still have difficulties. Those common Nobles surely lacked or had little amounts of cultivation notes.

As for those cultivation techniques, Zhao Hai naturally wouldn't remember them. He had the Robert Family undead write those down. After all, they were advanced undead, writing wasn't a problem for them.

While Zhao Hai was thinking about all of these, Zhao Hai summoned all the other undeads that he had and made them write their cultivation methods down. They had nothing else to do anyway, they weren't very needed in fights, so they might as well go and write down their techniques. In the future, these manuals would surely be important for the Buda Clan's development.

While Zhao Hai's day went smoothly, the entire Ark Continent was in a storm. The appearance of Engraved Ark, the Antimagic Powder, the extermination of the Robert Family, Zhao Hai's title of Marquis and his bestowment of Golden Island made the population go into unrest.

Engraved Ark and Antimagic Powder did not have a huge effect on the common folk and was only an enormous matter for the Mages and major influences in the continent.

However, the ownership of Golden Island made the every person go alert. Golden Island was well known among Nobles and commoners.

Golden Island was a sensitive matter between the Rosen and Aksu Empires because there weren't any owners of the island in the past.

And now, a claimant of the island appeared. Moreover, the identity of the new owner was a very interesting matter. The Buda Clan was a family that came from Aksu Empire, however, Golden Island was bestowed onto them by the Rosen Empire. This made the continent look at the situation in interest.

Rosen Empire's bestowment was very thought provoking. The relationship between the Buda Clan and the Aksu Empire was well known among the people of the continent. The Buda Clan was supposed to be finished, but they surprisingly reappeared and was on their way to becoming one of most powerful clan in the continent.

When the Rosen Empire gave Golden Island to Zhao Hai as his fief, the people immediately thought of its ramifications.

The Aksu Empire took a stand immediately, declaring their disapproval of the Rosen Empire's decision. Moreover, they also insisted on their ownership of Golden Island. If Rosen Empire really asserts their influence on the island, the Aksu Empire wouldn't be able to guarantee peace.

This was without a doubt a threat. They were certainly saying that if Rosen Empire doesn't take their bestowment back, then the two empires might get into war.

However, Aksu Empire didn't say anything about Zhao Hai. His title and territory in their empire was made under the authentication of the nations of the continent as well as the Radiant Church, it was irrevocable. Because of this, the Aksu Empire cannot do anything about Zhao Hai at this time.

But all of these commotions were nothing in Zhao Hai's view. In his mind, Golden Island was already his. Before, he doesn't dare occupy any location because he was still not part of Rosen Empire, it would be equal to offending two empires. Now, if he wanted to fight for Golden Island, he can only offend one of them, this made him unafraid to go forward.

Zhao Hai didn't have a favorable impression of Aksu Empire. What they did to the Buda Clan was so terrible that Zhao Hai didn't regard himself as a person of the Aksu Empire anymore. He was now a person of the Black Wasteland, he already considered the place to be his kingdom. Because of this, offending Aksu Empire was not a psychological burden to him.

In the evening, Zhao Hai went to the Space in order to meet Green and the others and tell them today's matters, his new title and new fief.

Green and others didn't oppose to Zhao Hai's decision since they didn't have a favorable impression of the Aksu Empire either. Now that Zhao Hai's title in Aksu Empire was lower than Rosen Empire, Green and the others can now claim that they are people of the Rosen Empire. In the end, they were all natives of the Ark Continent, the only thing that matters to all of them were the titles that they held. But this wasn't the case in Zhao Hai's mind, for him, strength was the most important thing, nobility was less important.

Green and the others agreed to Zhao Hai's procedures. For them, it didn't matter that Golden Island was a goose that lays golden eggs, what mattered was the fact that the Buda Clan has achieved another domain.

After the group discussed this matter, Zhao Hai gave the notes to Green and the others. When the group saw these notes, they immediately acted as though they just had received a treasure. They didn't leave the Space, they just went to their own rooms and proceeded to read.

The environment of the Space was good, it was really suited for cultivation. Because of this, they didn't want to leave. And since there aren't a lot of matters left to take care of back at Iron Mountain Fort, they chose to close up for several days inside.

After resting the entire evening inside the Space as well as having his morning breakfast, Zhao Hai boarded his carriage and headed towards the Crook Family.

Zhao Hai's arrival at the Crook Family wasn't the same as last time where it was only Jason who came to receive him. This time, along with Jason's grandfather, the senior members of the Crook Family were waiting for him in the entrance. For Zhao Hai, this was a very good respect for his face.

Zhao Hai didn't bring too many people today, only Shue and Shun. Laura and the others were still organizing the documents inside the Space. With the quantity of books that they acquired, a day or two wasn't enough to organize it.

Zhao Hai was still inside the carriage when he saw the Crook Family's arrangement. He didn't think that the Crook family would mobilize these people to meet him. When the carriage stopped, he immediately got down and went to Jason's grandfather and said, "Grandfather, why did so many people come out to meet me? This is too much."

When Jason's Grandfather heard what Zhao Hai said, he couldn't help but show a smile on his face. Then he gave Zhao Hai a salute and said, "Crook Family Patriarch, Jesse Crook, has seen Patriarch Zhao Hai Buda."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but stare at Jesse, then he immediately understood what he was doing. Zhao Hai quickly returned a salute and said, "Zhao Hai Buda has seen Patriarch Jesse!"

After the two parties offered their greetings, Jesse introduced Zhao Hai to the people from his family. Jason's father was named Ron. While Zhao Hai personally remembered Jesse and Ron's names, he didn't do so for the other members of the family, he just had Cai'er record their names and have him be reminded later.

When he finished introducing the people present, Jesse then turned to Zhao Hai and laughed, "Little Hai, welcome to our home. Also, it has already been several days since God's Grace Day, I'm offended that it took you this long to visit."

Hearing Jesse this time, Zhao Hai knew that when he was introducing the family members, he was acting officially as the Crook Family's Patriarch. This time, he was acting as Zhao Hai's friend, thus, explaining his current change of tone.

Zhao Hai naturally preferred this tone of speech, he immediately smiled and said, "I really have too many things to take care of. I attended your banquet a few days ago, but grandfather has a lot to manage and wasn't able to participate, so we didn't have the opportunity to meet."

Jesse laughed and said, "Alright, I'll accept that. However, you have to accompany me to drink today. Right, let's go in and take a seat."

Then, Jesse led Zhao Hai to enter the fort and sat down inside the lobby. While they were walking, Zhao Hai noticed how powerful Jesse was as a Patriarch. The other Crook Family members were walking behind him and didn't even have a lot of chances to speak. Jesse seemed to have full control of the family. However, Zhao Hai can also see that Jesse was open to the opinions of his family members. When it came to decisions, he was too influential that all of his choices went unopposed and final.

Chapter 490 - Two Identities

The Crook Family's lobby was relatively similar to the Calci Family's. Although Jesse's influence in the family was unprecedentedly high, the other members of the family still held their own power. If they united, Jesse wouldn't have any choice but to surrender. But in addition to Jesse's influence, his skill and wit was also good, drawing support from his family members. Because of all of these support, Jesse's word carried heavy power, however, he was still polite to those who supported him.

After having sat down on the lobby, Jesse didn't become polite as he looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, I have a few things to say first. In my mind, you now have two identities. The first one is the Patriarch of the Buda Clan, and the other one is Jason's friend. With your first identity, you'll be my equal, in the other, I'm your elder. Which identity would you use today?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Grandfather, of course I'll talk to you as Jason's friend. I can only be the Patriarch of the Buda Clan in public. Privately, I'm Jason's friend. You're Jason's Grandfather so you are naturally my elder. I will be speaking to you as a junior."

Jesse looked at Zhao Hai, he was waiting for this response. When Zhao Hai said it, he was certain about how this man carried great importance for sentiment. Such a man was worthy of the Crook Family's full support, of being their ally.

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, Jesse couldn't help but laugh and said, "Alright, Little Hai, since you'll treat me as an elder, I won't be polite. I hope that the Buda Clan and the Crook Family can have an Eternal Alliance, becoming allies forever. I don't know if Little Hai can agree?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Naturally I agree. But from the current matter, I think that the Crook Family would suffer a loss."

Jesse laughed and said, "Even if the Crook Family suffers some losses, it wouldn't be for long. Alright, since this matter has been decided, we'll go announce it in two days. Right, Little Hai, how about your new fief? Will you claim it? Or you'll just leave it alone?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Naturally, I'll claim it. If I don't, then wouldn't that be a waste?"

Jesse frowned, "Little Hai, the situation with Golden Island isn't simple. If you really want to claim it, it would be very difficult. Moreover, it might even lead to a war between two nations."

Zhao Hao coldly snorted and said, "War? I don't think so. If the Aksu Empire really wants to contend for Golden Island with me, we'll have to see if they have the ability. Rest assured, the Calci Family will fully support me, and if the Crook Family support me as well, the Aksu Empire wouldn't have any choice other than recognize my claim over Golden Island. Grandfather, don't forget, I'm still a noble from the Aksu Empire. If necessary, I can use this status as a leverage against them."

Jesse stared, then he immediately understood Zhao Hai. Even if Zhao Hai did have a stiff relationship with the Aksu Empire, he still had his title, he just cannot be attacked. In the end, his identity in Aksu Empire was still very useful.

Jesse nodded and said, "What would you plan to do after securing Golden Island? You cannot mine gold from there anymore."

Zhao Hai smiled, "I haven't thought about this yet. I'm still thinking about how to claim it."

But Jesse was an old fox, he knew that Zhao Hai wasn't telling the truth from what he saw. He knew that Zhao Hai already had a clear idea but just didn't want to reveal it at this time.

Jesse didn't question him and just smiled and said, "Alright, today's matter ends here. Everyone can disperse. Little Hai, accompany us to drink a few cups!"

Zhao Hai bitterly smiled and said, "Grandfather, I'm preparing to visit the Third Prince this afternoon. Can we not drink today?"

Jesse doesn't care, he stared at Zhao Hai with one eye and said, "No need to waste your breath, you're drinking with us today. What's there to be afraid of? When you visit the Third Prince later, the least he could do is reprimand you for being incompetent." When he heard Jesse, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile bitterly.

At noon, Jesse's group and Zhao Hai drunk so much liquor that Zhao Hai's mind began to turn dizzy. Jesse wouldn't be satisfied if they he don't drink until he collapses, Zhao Hai had no other choice but to keep up.

But Zhao Hai still went to Charlie, he didn't want to leave Charlie disappointed. When Zhao Hai left the fort, his appearance almost couldn't be recognized. However, he immediately drank Life Liquid and recovered.

Megan felt very amused by this. The Calci Family treated Life Liquid as though it was a treasure while Zhao Hai just uses it to sober up. If the family knew about this, then it was certain that Randolph would kill Zhao Hai on the spot.

In Charlie's mansion, the Third Prince was waiting for Zhao Hai in his front door. The two gave their respects to each other before going to the rear courtyard. Zhao Hai didn't ask for tea from the servant, instead he asked for water since he was supposed to be drunk.

Charlie looked at Zhao Hai's appearance and smiled, "What's wrong? The Crook Family made you drink too much?"

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly and said, "I didn't know that they can drink so much. Have you tried having dozens of people offering you a toast? I was scared that I almost ran away from the table."

Charlie laughed and said, "The Crook Family is always like this. People from the Imperial Capital actually has a nickname for them, the Rascal Nobles. People from their family were well known to be troublemakers. There were few people who can receive their actions peacefully."

Zhao Hai forced a smile and said, "Who would've thought that such a very old man can be so shameless, really."

Charlie laughed, then after a while he said, "Right, what matter did you go to the Crook Family for? Did you only go to drink with them?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "It's a good thing, the Crook Family and my Buda Clan have formed an Eternal Alliance. In two days, their family will announce it to the outside world."

Charlie stared, then his face became happy as he said, "Really? That's fantastic!"

Zhao Hai was on Charlie's side. The strength of the Buda Clan was shown to be not weak, and they also had a good relationship with the Calci Family. This made Zhao Hai's reputation change greatly. If you add the Calci Family's full support for Zhao Hai, then even if Charlie fails the succession, keeping his title as a Prince wouldn't be difficult. It might even be possible for him to be a Prince who held real power.

Of course, Charlie understood that he currently had the best chance of acquiring the throne. The Crown Prince used the strongest among the Princes, with Charlie coming close second. But since Charlie was acting low-key, nobody noticed it.

Afterwards, because of Terry, the Great Clans came to know that the Crown Prince had the Robert Family's support. This was an extraordinary matter, the Crown Prince's strength increased immediately, making him look like he would definitely get the throne.

But the sudden demise of the Robert Family, the appearance of Engraved Ark. and the Antimagic powder, placed the Crown Prince in an awkward position. These made the Crown Prince's plans go into disarray. Because of his relationship with the Robert Family, he had displeased the current Emperor. He had also disappointed the Mages of the continent because of the Antimagic Powder. And because of Engraved Ark, the other nobles kept a safe distance away from him. At this point, he now became the most unlikely candidate to get the throne.

The Second Prince was too crude, he just couldn't be compared to Charlie. Rising Water City and Jade Water City had always been in a competitive relationship. However, Rising Water City had no way no contend with the current Jade Water City. Therefore, it was impossible for the Second Prince to get the throne.

But Charlie was different, he had the very competent Zhao Hai by his side, who had just been rewarded by the Emperor with a title of Marquis as well as Golden Island as his fief. All of these affirmed Zhao

Hai's strength and status. This made Charlie's influence increase. And adding the indirect support from the Calci and Crook Family to the mix, Charlie's strength had now surpassed the Crown Prince by a few levels.

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Your Highness can feel relieved, this matter has already been settled, there will be no mistakes."

Charlie's face was currently red. It took some time before he managed to calm down, he looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, you really are my lucky star."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, "It's too early to say that I'm a lucky star. Right, your highness, I'm afraid that I'm going to be very busy for a while. I'm preparing to claim Golden Island."

Charlie stared and then he nodded, "Claiming Golden Island is also good. But this matter was not easy to do, have you thought about what to do after that?"

Zhao Hai nodded, then he told Charlie about his plan to turn the island into a free harbor. While he was talking to Charlie, the other party listened closely as well. Charlie was surprised, he didn't think that Zhao Hai's plan for the island would be this big.

However, he still supported what Zhao Hai wanted to do. If this plan succeeds, it wouldn't only benefit Zhao Hai and the Buda Clan, but him as well.

Thinking about this, Charlie then said to Zhao Hai, "Little Hai, I fully support your plan. If you want help, then I will provide help. But you have to give me one thing, if you succeed in making the place into a free harbor, then you have reserve a place for me to establish a shop. What do you think?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Your Highness is too polite, with our relationship, this is a natural thing to do. Rest assured, I will certainly have a piece of land for you in Golden Island. When that time comes, I'll have to ask you for help and carry some goods over from Jade Water City."

Charlie became happy with Zhao Hai's response. He was afraid that Zhao Hai might change his attitude towards him now that his status has increased. If Zhao Hai did, then it would be a great blow towards him.

If Zhao Hai leaves Charlie at this time, not only would he lose his strength, the blow on his reputation would be very heavy as well. He simply cannot forcefully keep a strong person like Zhao Hai. When that happens, how can he become the Emperor? People who were following him would lose confidence, and the current Emperor would feel disappointed in him.