

Another World 491

Chapter 491 - Announcements

After coming back from Charlie's place, Zhao Hai immediately returned to the Space. Laura and the others had been very busy these days. Now, the documents that they have acquired were already organized. Even though they didn't read them, putting them into categories wasn't very difficult. It has been two days since Zhao Hai asked the undead to write, Laura and the others were now in the final step in their task.

The reading materials were then divided into two classifications, those which were to be placed in Iron Mountain Fort to use for education, and those which were important to the Buda Clan and were placed inside a room in the Space's Villa.

When Zhao Hai entered the Space, Laura and the others were relaxing in the living room while drinking some tea. When they saw Zhao Hai enter, Laura immediately went to serve Zhao Hai a cup.

Looking at Zhao Hai somewhat red and smelt of alcohol, Laura knit her brows and said, "Brother Hai, you should drink less liquor. You smell like wine."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile bitterly and said, "I really don't want to, but I have no choice. The Crook Family wanted to celebrate our Eternal Alliance while Charlie wanted to give me his regards."

Laura nodded, she also understood Zhao Hai's position. Zhao Hai had a lot of matters to consider, returning another person's courtesy wasn't something that he can avoid. But she still felt grieved.

Meg felt grieved as well, then she quickly said, "Young Master, you should bathe in the hot spring. That should make you comfortable."

Zhao Hai thought for a moment before nodding. Him smelling of wine made him very uncomfortable. Bathing in the hot spring would be great, the warmth would do him good.

While Zhao Hai went to soak in the hot spring, Laura and the others sat outside and continued chatting. Laura turned to Megan and said, "Megan, with Brother Hai's title, how about we build a fort outside Carson City?"

Megan nodded and said, "That's a good idea, but I'm afraid that Big Brother Hai wouldn't agree. It costs a lot of money to build a fort, and all of the nice hills around the capital are already taken. The ones that are unoccupied aren't very good."

Laura thought for a moment and said, "Or Brother Hai can just ask His Majesty to take over Robert Family's place. In any case, nobody would want to take their fort."

Meg knitted her brows and said, "I don't like it. The Robert Family has been eliminated by us. Occupying their fort would seem very strange."

Megan nodded and said, "I don't like it as well. And His Majesty likely won't agree to it. I think we should just built one for ourselves, we can't skim on the money. Building a fort around Carson City is also a status symbol. This would show how dedicated one was towards the crown."

Laura knit her brows and said, "There's that as well. If we can build a fort around Carson City, then it would be good for the Buda Clan's face. I think we should discuss this matter with Grandpa Green."

Megan nodded, "We should ask Grandpa Green and the others' opinion. This isn't a minor matter, this would affect the Buda Clan's future."

Laura nodded, then the group talked about other topics. Before long, Zhao Hai came out of the hot spring looking very neat. Laura told Zhao Hai about what they had discussed, he didn't oppose to it, in fact, he was very interested.

However, constructing a castle cannot be done in one or two days. Zhao Hai told them that it would be better to solve the matter with Golden Island before thinking about a fort. Laura and the others naturally agreed.

The night went by uneventfully, then the next morning Smith informed Zhao Hai that the Calci Family would be having a banquet in Dark Soldier Fort. This was to celebrate Zhao Hai becoming a Marquis.

Zhao Hai didn't decline, he knew that this was part of the process of being a noble. This banquet can also make him better known to these Great Nobles. It would let these nobles be aware of his existence.

The banquet went very successfully. Zhao Hai's name was very resounding in the Rosen Empire recently. These nobles wouldn't dare to not give Zhao Hai face.

Additionally, these nobles aren't fools. From the strength that Zhao Hai has shown, as well as having the support of both the Calci Family and the Third Prince Charlie, these nobles knew that the Buda Clan was on its way to greatness. At this time, these nobles wouldn't miss the opportunity to make an early impression.

The day after Zhao Hai's banquet, the Crook Family formally announced their Eternal Alliance with the Buda Clan. This was without a doubt a huge bomb, making the people look into the Buda Clan yet again.

There were no nobles that didn't know what an Eternal Alliance meant. No noble would dare violate an Eternal Alliance, if they went back on their word, they would get ostracized by the other nobles. When that happens, they wouldn't have any other place to survive in the continent.

After hearing this announcement, the old nobles immediately knew that the Buda Clan was no longer worse than they are.

While the waves of this announcement was still echoing on the continent, another news came that made the continent shocked even more. The Shelley Family released word of their alliance with the Buda Clan.

An Alliance and an Eternal Alliance were different. Although an Alliance can also make two parties allies, both of them weren't bound by being an eternal ally. An ally was just what it states, when one of them gets into trouble, the other would give some help. The two's relationship can just be considered to lighter than an Eternal Alliance.

The Shelley family's fame was very huge in the continent. They held the most profitable hotel business in the continent. All of the Great Nobles respect them as a Merchant Family. For them to form an alliance with the Buda Clan came as a surprise, this made the people anticipate for the future.

This matter was already known to Zhao Hai. When he arrived at Carson City, this matter was discussed to him by the Shelley Family, of which he agreed. His alliance with the Shelley Family was settled much earlier than the Crook Family, Zhao Hai just chose not to announce it.

The Buda Clan was quite busy recently, so they hadn't had much chance to announce the alliance. Now that the Shelly Family made the announcement, Zhao Hai's clan would get very great benefits.

The Shelley Family also understood that in the end, they were just a Merchant Clan. If they made an alliance with the up and coming Buda Clan, they could only benefit without losing anything.

Although having an alliance with the Buda Clan would have an effect on their businesses outside the Rosen Empire, the Shelley Family believed that they would be able to take this loss, they have enough reserves from their many years of operation. On the other hand, if they let this opportunity for an alliance with the Buda Clan slip by, they would find it difficult to find another one.

When Shelley Family announced their alliance with the Buda Clan, the people of the continent went into an uproar. Now, there was nobody who underestimated the Buda Clan.

However, there were also people who took this opportunity to humiliate the Buda Clan. These people were no other than the Aksu Empire. The Aksu Empire used this time to come out and announce in a high profile manner that they absolutely couldn't agree with the Rosen Empire's reward for the Buda Clan. If the Buda Clan dared to lay claim on Golden Island, they wouldn't hesitate to use force in occupying the place.

This wasn't a warning, but a threat. With the Aksu Empire's announcement, the people turned their attention to the Rosen Empire and the Buda Clan.

The Rosen Empire didn't respond. They just declared that Golden Island would be the perpetual fief of the Buda Clan. The only people who will own the island would be the Buda Clan. If the Buda Clan asked the empire for help, they would without a doubt provide it, this was because Zhao Hai was a noble of the Rosen Empire.

The nobles of the continent weren't fools. They all knew that the Rosen Empire was just doing this to aggravate the situation between Aksu Empire and the Buda Clan.

When Zhao Hai saw how tyrannical the Aksu Empire had become, he also released his own statement. He gave a strong word that Golden Island completely belonged to his Buda Clan. This was the territory that was bestowed to him by the Rosen Empire, those would dare to oppose this decision would be challenging the Buda Clan. He wouldn't hold back in using force.

This statement of Zhao Hai was also a warning for the pirates that were occupying the island.

Regarding Zhao Hai's announcement, the Aksu Empire immediately fired back, laying claim to the island, announcing that it is the Aksu Empire's territory. Those who dared to occupy the island would meet the fiercest attack of the empire.

Zhao Hai released another statement, giving all those who were currently occupying the island ten days to leave. Ten days later, if people were still occupying the island, the Buda Clan would dispatch their own troops and deal with those people with no mercy.

This situation made the continent riled up. Everyone was anticipating about whether the Buda Clan would actually send troops to the island ten days later. Zhao Hai actually declared that he would deal with Golden Island's matter in ten days.

At this time, a Blood Hawk was carrying the Ghost Staff as it kept flying around Golden Island; not only to monitor the place, but to also see the Aksu Empire's action.

After Zhao Hai's declaration, the pirates immediately left the island. Whether it be the Buda Clan or the Aksu Empire's threats, Golden Island was no longer a good place to stay in. Therefore, all of them went and left the island.

Just like what Zhao Hai said, even if Golden Island was a crucial location, it wasn't that important for the pirates. The pirates only occupied the island because nobody owned it. But now that the Buda Clan made their claim, the pirates would naturally avoid offending them.

Zhao Hai's ruthlessness was well known in the continent. He was able to eliminate the Robert Family, in front of such a person, these pirates were naturally afraid.

Chapter 492 - Switching Owners in One Night

Zhao Hai was very glad about the pirate's response, but he also felt a bit of regret. He really didn't want all of these pirates to run away. If all of them left, nobody would remain on the island, and he wouldn't have any excuse to attack those pirates. These pirates have looted for many years, they should have a

lot of good things in their hand. If all of these ends up in Zhao Hai's hands, he can surely make a great profit.

Zhao Hai was now a little obsessed with robbing people. Taking things by force made more profit than any other business, and its earning was gained all at once.

But Zhao Hai knew that it was impossible, the reason he made his announcement was to make these pirates leave. He knew from Smith that these pirates certainly had a major power as their backing. If he said nothing and just attacked the pirates, he would be offending a lot of people. Then, the Buda Clan would be placed in a disadvantageous position.

He issued his statement with a heavy tone so that the pirates would leave. If there were still some groups who remained, then nobody can blame Zhao Hai for killing them.

However, Zhao Hai underestimated his image in the hearts of the major influences of the continent. These people weren't fools, they knew that Zhao Hai was strong, they were also aware of how formidable his web of relationships was. Because of this, nobody dared to go head to head with Zhao Hao at this time since they still want to live. Therefore, they immediately had their pirates leave and find another place to settle in.

In fact, Golden Island wasn't the original lair of these pirates. They all have their own hideouts and were just using Golden Island as a trading hub. Pirates would trade with each other here with goods that had dirt cheap prices. They would trade living commodities here as well, allowing them to survive for a long time at sea.

Also, even if these pirates stay in Golden Island all year round, they still kept their base on other islands. Therefore, they immediately left the moment their backers told them to retreat.

These pirates also understood what when the Buda Clan goes to the island, the Aksu Empire would make a move. At that time, Gold Island would become a battlefield, and these pirates didn't want to get caught in the crossfire. They knew that they weren't qualified to join in.

After the pirates left, Zhao Hai switched his focus on the Aksu Empire and the Rosen Empire. The nearest territory to Golden Island belonged to Southern King Boris. With Zhao Hai's enmity with him, it would be impossible for Boris to let this opportunity go.

The Rosen Empire might also carry bad intentions. They bestowed Golden Island to Zhao Hai not only because they want Zhao Hai to aggravate his conflict with the Aksu Empire, but also because they wanted to terrorize the Aksu Empire's waters. Zhao Hai was afraid that the Rosen Emperor was just using him and would then have him removed when the matter gets finished. Because of this, he was also keeping a keen eye on the Rosen Empire.

However, he placed more importance with regards to the Aksu Empire's actions. In Rosen Empire, he has Charlie, the Calci family, and the Crook Family. If the Rosen Empire wishes to make a move, he had people who will come and inform him. Therefore, Zhao Hai didn't worry much about Rosen Empire. But with regards to Aksu Empire, Zhao Hai had no choice but to stay vigilant.

Sure enough, as Zhao Hai thought, the Aksu Empire has assembled more than 500 large and small ships and were preparing to occupy Golden Island.

Seeing this scene, Zhao Hai didn't make a move. He just calmly stayed inside Dark Soldier fort everyday. Some days, he would attend some noble banquets while having a carefree expression, as if he has forgotten about Golden Island.

Such actions made the people of both the Aksu and Rosen Empire confused. They didn't know what he was doing, it seems like his prior statement was a lie.

Only Laura and the others understood what Zhao Hai was planning, he was waiting for the Aksu Empire's fleet to arrive at Golden Island. As soon as the fleet reached the island, Zhao Hai would immediately appear and release his undead to wipe them out. Then, he would turn the fleet into his own undead navy.

Zhao Hai's actions made the people of the continent confused, they began to despise him as well. But nobody said anything to his face. After all, even if they think that Zhao Hai's strength was weak, he wasn't someone that common folk can offend.

Boris' fleet didn't care about Zhao Hai's inaction. No matter what happened, they still started their operations. More than 500 ships started to sail from the Aksu Empire's southern port of Sula and were headed towards Golden Island.

Smith and the others were puzzled about Zhao Hai's actions as well. They asked Zhao Hai what he was doing, but Zhao Hai just gave them a smile and didn't answer.

Two days before the arrival of the Aksu Empire fleet, the Rosen Emperor suddenly summoned Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai knew why the Emperor called for him, he didn't say anything and just immediately boarded his carriage as it went towards the Imperial Palace.

This time, the only people present in their meeting was the Emperor and Zhao Hai. They were in a place at the rear part of the palace, inside the Emperor's study. Zhao Hai gave his greetings to the Emperor before he was invited to sit down.

After Zhao Hai sat down, the Emperor looked at him and said, "Marquis Zhao Hai, do you know the movement of the Aksu Empire's fleet?"

Zhao Hai didn't expect that the Emperor would be this direct, he immediately answered, "Answering his Majesty, this official knows."

The Emperor nodded, then he looked at Zhao Hai and seriously said, "I wonder if Marquis Zhao Hai has any plans for it. You should know that Golden Island was bestowed to you by the Rosen Empire. You shouldn't let those Aksu Empire savages snatch it. Do you understand?"

Zhao Hai quickly responded, "This official understands. Your Highness can rest assured, Golden Island will forever belong to the Rosen Empire under the rule of the Buda Clan. This official wouldn't hand it over to anyone, His Majesty doesn't need to worry."

When the Emperor heard Zhao Hai's answer, his expression turned slightly mellow, he nodded and said, "It's good that you understand. Marquis Zhao Hai, you are now a Marquis of the Rosen Empire, a subject under the crown. If there are matters that are out of your control, then Rosen Empire can provide you with help."

Zhao Hai understood what the Emperor meant. The Emperor was afraid that Zhao Hai didn't have the strength to handle this matter, so he told Zhao Hai that if he couldn't solve this situation, the Rosen Empire will act for him.

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "His Majesty can feel relieved, this official can certainly deal with a small thief. What this official wants to do is to invite the thief inside the house and then close the door behind him. This way, he wouldn't be able to escape."

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, the Emperor stared, then he immediately laughed and said, "Alright, Marquis Zhao Hai. Remember those words that you said, do not disappoint me."

Zhao Hai stood up and gave a salute, "His Majesty can be assured, this official surely won't betray your expectations."

The Emperor nodded, "Alright, you can go back. This Emperor shall be watching your performance." Zhao Hai nodded, then after he gave another salute, he asked to be excused.

It was already the eighth day in Zhao Hai's ten-day announcement. In two days, Zhao Hai's deadline would be done, at the same time, Aksu Empire's fleet would arrive at the island.

Now, every person in the continent had focused their sights on Zhao Hai. They wanted to know what Zhao Hai would do. But in the end, they were left disappointed, it seems like Zhao Hai wasn't planning to do anything. He still stayed inside Dark Soldier Fort and occasionally attended noble banquets with a smile on his face.

At this time, a lot of people believed that Zhao Hai had already accepted his fate. In their minds, they couldn't blame Zhao Hai, the other party has dispatched more than 500 ships. The fleet had about 200 ironclad ships, and more than 300 three masted battleships. The sailors numbered several hundred thousand people. Moreover, the number of 8th ranks that the Aksu Empire had sent numbered about a thousand people. They had also heard that a 9th rank expert was in charge of the operation. In this case, Zhao Hai would have no choice but to give up.

But there were still nobles who went to ridicule Zhao Hai. The Buda Clan's reputation had been rising too quickly, this made people feel uncomfortable with their rise.

Two days passed by in a flash as people kept watching the Aksu Empire fleet. The fleet had already entered Golden Island's waters and were preparing to land. It seems like they were preparing to station their troops there.

Sure enough, as soon as the Aksu Empire's fleet came to land, the Empire immediately declared that Golden Island was an inseparable territory of the Aksu Empire. They even want to build a naval base on the island.

Aksu Empire's statement made the people on the continent speechless. Then, all of them simultaneously turned their heads towards Rosen Empire. In their minds, Zhao Hai was already not in the equation. What they paid attention to right now was the Rosen Empire, they wanted to know how the Rosen Empire reacts towards Aksu Empire's obvious provocation. They waited to see where the situation boils down to.

However, what made them surprised was the nonresponsive stance of the Rosen Empire. It seems like the Rosen Empire chose to swallow this time's humiliation, it seemed very strange.

Under the looking eyes of the continent's people, the Aksu Empire spent ten days doing construction. In this ten days, Zhao Hai didn't have any response while the Aksu Empire went all out, freighters kept coming and going to the island carrying building materials on board. They didn't stop for even a minute, hundreds of thousands of man-hours were used. In the end, with the help of Mages, the naval base took roughly ten days before completion.

The establishment of the naval base symbolized Aksu Empire's victory. In the minds of the people, with Aksu Empire's naval base on Golden Island, the Rosen Empire would find it very hard if they wanted to take it away. Also, at this point, it seems like the Buda Clan was already forgotten.

Ten days after the Aksu Empire's fleet landed on the island, their naval base was already up and running, all of the people involved were celebrating in the evening. While the celebration was taking place, countless undead suddenly appeared on the island. The assault spread all throughout the island, including inside the Aksu Empire battleships. The slaughter continued on until daytime arrived.

Nobody knew about what happened on Golden Island that evening. The people just noticed that on the next day, the flags of the Aksu Empire were nowhere to be seen, in their place, Buda Clan's Wild Dragon Banners were waving with vigour. Aksu Empire's naval base was turned into the Buda Clan's base as well. At the same time, Aksu Empire ships were being blocked when they tried approaching the island.

The overnight transformation made everyone shocked. They didn't know what just happened. Did Aksu Empire's fleet do a collective revolt?

While the people on the continent were baffled, Zhao Hai had already left Carson City. He rode his carriage and travelled using his ship to head towards Golden Island.

Everyone turned their gazes towards Zhao Hai again. At his side were the same people, the two servants, his three fiances, and one maid, nobody else. The carriage and the ship only had them as passengers.

However, when these people saw Zhao Hai's carriage and his ship, all of them gave way. They wanted to see what would happen when Zhao Hai arrives at Golden Island. They wanted to see whether he would be warmly welcomed or turned back.

Before long, they got their answer. When Zhao Hai entered the island's marine region, the Aksu Empire fleet immediately escorted him towards the docks. When Zhao Hai arrived at the island, he immediately made a declaration, "The Aksu Empire's fleet have all been turned into my undead. If the Aksu Empire didn't immediately construct their naval base, their fleet would've been exterminated the day they stepped foot on the island. Let this be a lesson to the Aksu Empire! Let this also be a warning to those in the continent who wishes to invade Golden Island. Take the Aksu Empire's fleet as an example!"

Such remark immediately made the entire continent speechless. However, they didn't suspect Zhao Hai's words. This was because when Zhao Hai made his announcement, the Aksu Empire sent another fleet to attack Golden Island. In the end, they were repelled by the original fleet. In the process of their battle, the people on Aksu Empire's second fleet noticed that the people they were fighting with were all undead!

Their testimony confirmed Zhao Hai's statement. This made the backs of everyone in the continent turn cold. They felt shocked by Zhao Hai's method, and then they felt fear. In their minds, Zhao Hai was no longer a person, but a living devil instead!"

Chapter 493 - Golden Island Finally Belongs To Someone

The scale of the Aksu Empire fleet was well known to all the people because all of them were looking into this event. What the Aksu Empire sent this time weren't only ship crews and some combatants, they also sent in artisans to help make the naval base.

The people on the more than 500 battleships, along with some artisans and coolies, all add up to hundreds of thousands of people, how many people was that? Moreover, those hundreds of thousands were turned into undead by Zhao Hai. If he wasn't a devil, then what was he?

Although there were other people who killed more than a hundred thousand people before, most of them were still relatively lenient. On the other hand, Zhao Hai didn't even bat an eye when killing those more than a hundred thousand people and then turning them into undead.

This announcement by Zhao Hai made every single person in the continent shocked, they were even more shocked by Zhao Hai's strength. What kind of person can make more than a hundred thousand undead? How strong was Zhao Hai really? All of these questions placed Zhao Hai behind a mysterious veil.

The major influences in the continent wanted to lift this veil not only because of curiosity, but also for their interests. Zhao Hai's strength and methods were really scary.

When people went to investigate Zhao Hai, they suddenly discovered that he quite had a terrible youth. For the first eighteen years of his life, he was a standard playboy; overbearing, prideful, and didn't learn any talent nor skill. He was a low class playboy.

When he drank the Water of Nothingness and banished to the Black Wastelands, he suddenly made his transformation. Several months later, a person named Zhao Hai appeared on the continent.

As soon as he came out, he immediately took care of an group of undead mercenaries before he established his own business. Then, he became an enemy of both the Radiant Church as well as the Markey Family. After killing their people, Zhao Hai then ran away to the Prairie.

After coming out of the prairie, he turned into another appearance as he arrived at Rosen Empire. There, he managed to bring down Grand Duke Lionheart, having Lionheart's entire clan slaughtered. Then, he was acted upon by the Calci Family, where in the end, the family admitted defeat. Zhao Hai also rescued the Purcell Duchy from their demise, obtaining about 100 thousand undead in the process. He also revealed that he had at least 10 thousand undead Beastman cavalry. When he extinguished the Robert Family, people found out about his method, he killed every single person of the Robert Family, not even a living witness remained. Moreover, he also turned all of the Robert Family into undead. Then, their investigations arrived to the Aksu Empire's fleet.

Now, from the people's calculation, Zhao Hai should already have about 1 million undead in his hand! About 1 million Advanced level undead? What did this represent? Not to say any ordinary noble clan, even millenium-old clans and the giant Rosen Empire might not even dare to offend him easily.

One could say that people cannot connect the previous Zhao Hai to his present form. In the past, the Buda Clan doesn't even have a 9th rank expert, and was also dumped into the Black Wasteland. However, this was not the case this time, people have heard that Zhao Hai has 9th rank experts among his people. And adding on his status as the son-in-law of the Calci Family as well as the Eternal Ally of the Crook Family, those who would dare offend him would probably might as well have their heads bashed in by a closing gate.

The moment Zhao Hai stepped foot on Golden Island, the whole continent turned silent, even the Aksu Empire didn't make a sound.

Then, Zhao Hai immediately stated that Golden Island would be turned into the continent's first free harbor. Anyone can come here for business, regardless of status and background. As long as they pay taxes and don't stir up any trouble, they can do business on the island. At the same time, Zhao Hai also stated that on a 1000 li radius around the island, his policy of non-violence must also be followed. Those who dared violate his rules would be killed immediately!

If it was the past Zhao Hai who issued this killing order, people wouldn't have believed it. But now, Zhao Hai's voice wasn't something that the major influences wouldn't dare to not listen to.

Strength decides everything, and Zhao Hai did have the strength. Therefore, this killing order was immediately followed. This was because people were very aware of the current strength of the Buda Clan.

The more than 500 undead-filled battleships of the Buda Clan can certainly enforce the rule on a 1000 li radius.

After Zhao Hai released his statement, the Aksu Empire released another announcement that was very thought provoking: Count Zhao Hai Buda of the Aksu Empire has been awarded the title of Third-Class Marquis. The Buda Clan is also awarded the fief of Golden Island as their perpetual domain.

This statement was really interesting. The relationship between Zhao Hai and the Aksu Empire was very well known. It can be said that this statement was the Aksu Empire's way of admitting defeat.

This made the people on the continent very puzzled. They couldn't understand why the Aksu Empire suddenly admitted defeat. They should at least send 9th rank experts to deal with Zhao Hai.

Then, a piece of information immediately circulated. The Aksu Empire did indeed send out 9th rank experts to deal with Zhao Hai. But the five 9th ranks that they sent out to Golden Island wasn't able to return. This made the Aksu Empire accept their defeat.

Although not confirmed, the people of the continent believed that this information was real. This was because they knew that if the Aksu Empire didn't send 9th ranks to the island, they wouldn't admit their defeat this easily.

No matter what reason, the Aksu Empire's statement settled the matter of Golden Island's ownership once and for all. From now on, the Buda Clan would own the entirety of the island.

When this matter was settled, the people turned their attention to what Zhao Hai said before, turning the island into a free harbor.

'Free Harbor', this was the first time that such a word appeared on the Continent. But even with this, the nobles immediately knew what this free harbor would do.

This free harbor would give the pirates a place to publicly sell their loot. This was very attractive, however, nobody still went to Golden Island because they were scared. After all, this was a place where hundreds of thousands of people have died, it was not a mystery that they would be afraid.

With the people's response, Zhao Hai didn't worry. At this moment, he was inspecting Golden Island.

Although Zhao Hai had already seen the island on the monitor, being here today felt very different. Zhao Hai now knew why pirates occupied the place, it was because the destruction brought by gold mining was extremely serious.

The entire island looked like a worm eaten apple, full of holes. The way the people mined this place was much different from how Dwarves mined Iron Mountain.

Dwarf mining didn't leave behind a lot of tunnels, if there wasn't a lake in the middle, Zhao Hai would have been certain that the Dwarves made a city inside Iron Mountain. On the other hand, Golden Island was very different. There were a lot of tunnels here, so many that Zhao Hai wasn't able to count all of them. So he let Cai'er do the counting and in the end, the large and small tunnels numbered up to more than 20 thousand.

These twenty thousand tunnels made the originally small Golden Island look like face full of sores, horrifying to look at. Also, even if the vegetation slowly came back to the island after a thousand years, with the prior destruction of the island, there were no tall trees that grew here, only weeds were present.

There were two mountains in Golden Island, making a T-shaped structure in the island. But these two mountains were riddled with tunnels as well, they had suffered very serious destruction.

But fortunately, the original miners on the island still had a bit of brain left. Although the tunnels weren't connected, there were roads made on the mountainside since transporting ores was difficult. Although many years has passed since then, the roads can still be used.

Zhao Hai looked at the tunnels in the island and can see traces of people living on some of them. What Zhao Hai was puzzled about was the fact that there were no Magic Beasts that can be seen on the island.

Although it was strange, Zhao Hai didn't think too much about it. Aksu Empire's naval base was constructed on the tunnels of the island. From what Zhao Hai saw, the naval based used nearly a thousand tunnels and caves for places of rest. It also had one of the largest piers of the island, which was also constructed in between stone walls. Looking at the naval base, it wouldn't be a problem for it to be home to tens of thousands of people.

The base was built underneath a part of the T-shaped mountain formation. Because of the joint effort from Mages, workers, and warriors, the base was built to a very high standard. This base was completely ready for Zhao Hai to use. The undead who weren't on board the ships were made to stay in the naval base.

For the Golden Island to successfully become a free harbor, it needed ironclad rules that should be enforced. These undead would be the on the island to keep the place in order.

Besides the undead, Zhao Hai had also released large quantities of marine Magic Beasts to protect the waters around the island as well as to monitor the surrounding activities.

In reality, Zhao Hai wasn't really very invested in Golden Island. For him, this was only a place to make money. When speaking about environment, he much prefers Ape Island, where the atmosphere was better than Golden Island.

Zhao Hai decided to stay at the base after arriving at the island. Then, he transferred some managers from Iron Mountain fort to manage the administrative matters of the island. The other matters were handed over to the undead.

What Zhao Hai needed to do right now was to repair the island's roads, only then can he be comfortable opening the island for business.

Zhao Hai already thought about the situation. Nobody came to the island because nobody took the first step. But he wasn't afraid of this not happening, he had the Calci Family, the Crook Family, the Shelley Family, and Charlie. All of them wanted to do business in the island and open their own stores. Also, Zhao Hai didn't believe that these people would be so clean to not have one or two privateer groups under their control. As long as those pirates enter the island and take the first step, others would follow.

Chapter 494 - Plate Silk Grass

Although there was nothing in the island right now, as soon as its function as a free port goes full throttle, everything will fall into place. Do you want to do business in the island? Then you will only be provided a piece of land, the other matters are for you to deal with. If you want to use a tunnel for yourself, then go and make your own structures, the island would give you preferential treatment.

If you don't want to make your own structure, then that wouldn't be a problem. The island would help you construct it, however, you need to remember to pay the fees.

Zhao Hai already thought about how Iron Mountain fort had nothing right now. So what did he do about the artisans that the Aksu Empire brought here? If he didn't use them, then it would be a pity. Because of this, Zhao Hai has thought about making a construction team and having them build some structures for him. After all, even if they are undead, their capabilities aren't much less than those who were alive.

A group of 8th rank undead builders constructing a house, what scene would that be? Thinking about this made Zhao Hai smile. He believed that if this construction force were to be brought back to earth, their bosses would certainly make sure that they get their wages on time.

Zhao Hai used this construction group to build a small building outside the naval base first. This building would be used by the managers that he had brought from Iron Mountain Fort.

These staff that were from Iron Mountain fort was naturally Laura's subordinates. All of Laura's people were capable of handling an important task by themselves. Placing them in Iron Mountain to teach as well as to command undead was too much of a waste.

Zhao Hai didn't really want to kill those coolies and artisans. However, he didn't have any choice since the artisans themselves took up their own weapons and fought against him. Because of this, Zhao Hai had no choice but to end them.

A thing that made Zhao Hai happy was the number of Mages present this time. Majority of these Mages were Earth Mages and Water Mages. This was because they had the most use in constructing a naval base.

Aksu Empire got together and sent forth about a thousand Mages. Moreover, the levels of these Mages aren't low since they needed to create a naval base at the shortest time possible. This was to ensure that the Aksu Empire held the advantage in the future sea battles around the island.

However, it was a pity that this naval base was handed to Zhao Hai. Originally, Zhao Hai wanted to wait until the fleet stepped foot on the island before he made his move and extinguish them. Who would've known that as soon as the fleet arrived, they would immediately construct a naval base. This gave Zhao Hai an idea, they want to construct a base? Fantastic! Then he would just have to wait until they are done before he stepped in and clean them up.

It would be impossible for all of these builders to participate in making the small building. Zhao Hai was planning to make a five story building, the first floor would be used for working, while the remaining ones are going to be used for living quarters. The remaining coolies and artisans were sent out to repair the roads of the island.

Zhao Hai remembers a very famous slogan in China. If you want to be rich, then build proper roads first. If Zhao Hai wants to attract merchants to Golden Island, then he would naturally have to provide them with a good environment. So Zhao Hai was also preparing to improve the overall facade of the island.

What was something that was abundant in the island? The answer was tunnels. There were a lot of tunnels and caves in the island. Some of them were interconnected with each other, while some were just dead ends.

Inside those tunnels and caves were weeds that needed to be dealt with. But when Zhao Hai saw these weeds, he found out that they were weeds that he hadn't seen before. He became curious about them so he placed some of them into the Space, "Thousand-year old grass detected. Has strong medicinal functions. They might look like individual blades of grass, but all of them are interconnected with each other, making the grass have a strong vitality. It is recommended that the host transfers all of the grass into the Space. The Space would use its property to improve its grass as well as the growth of the plants inside."

The Space didn't hint that the grass can make it level up, nor did it provide the rank of the grass. However, the function of the grass made Zhao Hai glad. With these properties, he didn't wait for a moment before he started to collect them.

As long as he can upgrade the Space, Zhao Hai wouldn't hesitate even if he needed to uproot all of the weeds inside Golden Island.

Presently, the way that Zhao Hai can receive items have become much easier. In the past, he would open a spatial rift before he can store the items. Now, after the Space has gone through its upgrades, as long as the item was within a kilometer from Zhao Hai, he can immediately get them. Even if it was underground, it didn't matter, it can still be absorbed into the Space.

Zhao Hai immediately moved, it took him five days before he swept the island clean of weeds. Every weed and shrub was received into the Space.

Zhao Hai was very surprised when he was taking the weeds. When he gets them, he also made sure to get the soil a meter around them as well. He was afraid that he might damage the roots of those weeds.

However, Zhao Hai didn't expect that the roots of these weeds could actually reach more than 2 meters into the ground, some of them were even rooted into the bedrock.

After Zhao Hai took every plant in Golden Island, the Space gave a prompt, "Massive amounts of wood energy received. Space's level has reached 49. Plants can be improved, making them interdependent. The Wood energy has been added to the Metal energy, upgrading the host's body. Host has now acquired Plant Manipulation."

When Zhao Hai heard this announcement, his mind went blank. At its current state, it was really very hard for the Space to level up. With the amount that he took in, he only managed to upgrade the Space by one level.

But Zhao Hai having Plant Manipulation was a very extraordinary matter. He can already control metal, now he can control plants as well.

He also knew that with all of his efforts, he can only control 100 jin of metal at most. With this, he also knew that he would need to practice Plant manipulation in order to be good in it.

But all in all, Zhao Hai was very happy. At this point, the only thing that bothered Zhao Hai was the fact that there was no longer any vegetation present on the island, it was now a barren island.

Zhao Hai clearly knew that it would be troublesome if there weren't any vegetation on the island. When a storm comes, landslides and mudslides could become common. When that happens, the island wouldn't be suitable for humans anymore.

While Zhao Hai was bothered, he suddenly heard fluttering of wings. Zhao Hai was surprised, did the Space release a flying Magic Beast on its own? At this time, the sound of the wings vanished, then while Zhao Hai was confused, a voice came, "Young Master, I levelled up!"

Zhao Hai stared, then when he followed the sound, he saw Cai'er. Cai'er wasn't finger sized any more, she was now almost as tall as his arm, but her outfit wasn't changed. However, it wasn't undeniable that Cai'er had indeed leveled up.

Cai'er flew towards Zhao Hai's side before she said, "Young Master, this is fantastic! With my level up, even a dozen 9th ranks wouldn't be able to damage me. I can also make more branches. I can control the plants in the Space as well as improving them. I can even fuse two seeds together in order to make a new seed.

Zhao Hai was surprised, he s looked at Cai'er and said, "Cai'er, are saying the truth? Did you really level up?" Cai'er nodded and said, "Young Master, I really leveled up."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but laugh happily and said, "Fantastic! Cai'er, that's fantastic. Right, I have a problem, you can see that all of Golden Island's vegetation has been uprooted by me. I want to plant new ones here, what do you think I should plant?"

Cai'er looked at Golden Island and made some calculations before she turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Young Master, there is a plant that is very suitable for Golden Island. It's a plant in the Space's shop called Plate Silk Grass. According to the Space, it is a recreational plant. If it is planted in an incompatible land, then it would take a few years before it fully grows. Since it's very compatible to Golden Island, it would grow on its own when planted. It also has some medicinal effects according to the Space. After improving its seeds, it would become more suitable for the island. Young Master can plant some seeds and spread them all over the island. If you sprinkle them with the Space's water, they would be able to grow quickly. And when they reach their full growth, Young Master can then leave them alone. Every year, young master can also harvest some plate silk grass three times. Plate Silk Grass can be made into medicine. It can also be woven, items made from woven Plate Silk Grass can bring benefits to both Mage and Warrior cultivation. The effect can continue for two years."

Zhao Hai stared, then he looked at the shop. Not only did this plant exist, it actually appeared in the Journey to the west. This thing was truly a recreational plant. In the past, Zhao Hai didn't see this plant in the store, it seems like after the Space leveled up, it suddenly appeared.

Zhao Hai looked at its price, 1000 gold coins for single bag that can cover a hundred mu of land. But Golden Island's area seemed to be about a hundred thousand mu. If Zhao Hai wishes to plant Plate Silk Grass all over the island, he would need to fork out 1 million gold coins.

Without hesitation, Zhao Hai immediately bought more than 1 million gold's worth of Plate Silk Grass seeds before he spread it around the island and watered it with Spatial Water. There wasn't a limit on Spatial Water now, so Zhao Hai can feel relieved in using it this way.

After being watered with Spatial Water, the Plate Silk Grass immediately started to grow. Zhao Hai didn't think that it would only take ten hours before the whole island would be covered by Plate Silk Grass.

Chapter 495 - Nuances of Golden Island

After ten hours, these grasses can even be harvested. However Zhao Hai didn't want to touch them right now, he decided to just let them grow. Even if the grass can be harvested, they were still very short. If he harvests them now, Golden Island would only return to its previous state. Because of this, Zhao Hai decided to let them grow more before harvesting.

By the time Zhao Hai, Laura, and the others appeared back on Golden Island, the grasses were already a meter long. The entire Golden Island was green and full of vitality.

Looking at the situation of Golden Island, Laura smiled and said, "Brother Hai, I'm afraid we need to enforce a rule forbidding people from moving these Plate Silk Grass on their own. Otherwise, our losses would be very big."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Construction would certainly destroy a part of them, but we can control it. These grasses can provide us with profit."

Megan looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Big Brother Hai, you still care about money? These grasses can only be worth so much."

Zhao Hai showed a faint smile and said, "I certainly don't care about money, but these grasses are necessary to guarantee Gold Island's appearance. Alright, no need to think too much about it. Now that everything has been completely prepared, the only thing we need to wait for are the people."

Megan smiled and said, "Big Brother Hai, do you think it would be that easy? It's almost been a month and nobody has come to visit the island."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "They didn't come because I still haven't made them come. Now that we have taken care of Golden Island, we can have them come. Right, I have to send Grandfather a letter when I go back."

Megan was confused, Zhao Hai hadn't told them what he was planning to do in the island. So it was no wonder that Megan and the others were puzzled.

After returning to the naval base, Zhao Hai immediately sent a letter to the Calci Family, Prince Charlie, Crook Family and the Shelley Family. He relayed his plan carefully and asked them to cooperate.

In fact, Randolph and the others wanted to send people to Golden Island, but Zhao Hai still hasn't agreed. He asked them to wait for his letter before they can come.

Soon, Randolph and the others received Zhao Hai's letter. They couldn't help but comment him, they thought that Zhao Hai's plan was fantastic. If the pirates don't come to Golden Island in order to trade, the major forces of the continent would suffer as well.

However, the pirates were still uncertain about the situation on Golden Island. Therefore, they chose to wait until there is exact confirmation coming from those who went in first.

Randolph and the others knew about this. So when they received Zhao Hai's letter, the Calci Family immediately sent a party to enter Golden Island. Because Sky Water city was closest to Golden Island, they can immediately send a party as soon as possible.

The second group to enter the island was from the Shelley Family. Recently, Shelley Family's businesses on the continent have been severely suppressed by the Radiant Church. Although they had taken care of it, the businesses weren't as good as before. For the family, this loss was huge. The elders of the Shelley Family were now very dissatisfied with the Patriarch for his support for Zhao Hai. Their arrival at Golden Island this time was a good opportunity to cover their losses.

The third group who entered Golden Island was from Prince Charlie. His base was Jade Water City, although it was farther than Sky Water City, its distance to the island wasn't that far. It was because of this that they were quite slower than the Calci Family.

The Crook Family were the last people to enter the island because their family doesn't have a port city. If they want to move to Gold Island, they needed to make more preparations compared to the others, which made them a lot slower.

These four groups entering Golden Island wasn't a mystery for the people of the continent. All of them knew about their relationship with Zhao Hai, because of this, people weren't very surprised by it.

However, two pirate groups suddenly entered Golden Island to do business. Naturally, they weren't there to make a shop, they wanted to sell off their snatched goods. They went to the island to have their loot sold and were given gold or other goods in exchange, the trade went very smoothly.

Not only did they manage to buy what they needed, they had also bought it at a much lower price than what they usually paid for. The things they sold were also bought at a much higher price than what they were usually bought at. This time, they earned three times the profit compared to what they had before.

The two pirate groups who entered the island were quite courageous, they directly entered the island. In the end, their courage was well rewarded, the gains that they made was more than satisfactory.

Their success stimulated the other pirate groups. The pirates really lacked a place where they could trade. Now that Golden Island appeared, all of them were very happy.

The coming of these pirates brought great fortune to the Calci Family and the other three. Naturally, these profits weren't hidden from the other forces in the continent, they immediately went and started to move.

Their first action was to set up shops on Golden Island. At this time, Laura's men also arrived at the island and began to work as its administrators.

Before long, Golden Island became very bustling. Golden Island wasn't only cheap, its taxes weren't very high as well. All of their businesses weren't very restricted, as long as they don't violate the basic rules of Golden Island, the administration wouldn't disturb them.

The pirates were extremely pleased. They haven't been this rich before, they couldn't help but be very happy. In the past they can't even walk on the streets because of their fear of being arrested.

Now it was very different, as long as one arrives at Golden Island and follows its rules, the undead who acted as guards wouldn't even spare you a glance.

In the beginning, they weren't very used to seeing the undead patrols, however, in time they gradually accepted it as a normal thing. These undead were very good, as long as you don't violate Golden Island's rule, they wouldn't pay any attention to you. Only when someone commits a crime would they become impolite.

The pirates have seen it with their own eyes. A pirate went to sell their items but didn't receive any money. The owner even fought with him before the owner was taken away by the undead and whipped a few times.

If this was just the case, then there's nothing strange about it. But interestingly, the person was from the Calci Family. When he was taken away, he was still very arrogant, he kept shouting to the undead that he was from the Calci Family. He said that if these undead dared to touch him, then he wouldn't make Zhao Hai look good.

But the undead didn't care about his words, they still proceeded to whip him. And at the same time, they heard that the person was heavily fined by the Calci Family.

There were some small merchants who were planning to no longer move their goods to other places. Instead, they decided to directly go to Golden Island. As long as they are inside the waters of Golden Island, they can be safe.

Naturally, some of the pirates didn't follow the rules. After the Buda Clan announced this rule, they still robbed along Golden Island's sea region.

However, even if they robbed at daytime, nighttime, or even if they didn't use magic cannons, the Buda Clan would still be the first ones to know. After that, the pirates were guaranteed to be destroyed.

After three pirate groups were exterminated in a row, the pirates finally behaved themselves. The pirates knew that there should've been some kind of secret signal, otherwise it wouldn't be possible to know everything.

Regarding the profits that the Buda Clan has lost in dealing with these pirates, it wasn't that large. On the other hand, the action was very good for their income.

Some of the goods that merchants brought to the island and were sold off would fall into pirate hands. The cycle would then continue, therefore the Buda Clan doesn't need to worry.

Because of the amount of goods being shipped to Golden Island, the prices of these items were naturally lowered. In the end, the ones who managed to save their profits would be the pirates. Therefore, the pirates were naturally very popular among the merchants.

But to say that the pirates would stop robbing would be impossible. The pirates would still rob, however, when they enter and sell their loot in Golden Island, nobody would tell on them. Even those who are eager to trace the pirates would find it hard to do so. Because of this, Zhao Hai wasn't worried that the island's income would be affected.

Zhao Hai's taxation on Golden Island being very low was because he wasn't taxing the goods that were shipped in, instead he applied taxes on each transaction.

Zhao Hai gave a clear announcement that this tax rate wouldn't change, it would always be at this rate. Zhao Hai knew that as long as he made the tax of Golden Island very low, as well as provide good services, Golden Island would sooner or later have a reputation. As long as Golden Island has its brand, more merchants would come in. They may not want to deal with pirated goods and would only want to do normal business, but Zhao Hai reckoned that the tax rate would still be enough.

Just a month after the Calci Family arrived at the island, the place welcomed its peak season. Whether they be pirates or merchants, all of them wanted to trade on Golden Island because the taxes here was really cheap.

Even if the taxes on other places aren't very high, they weren't that low. Take Sky Water City for example, the city's base tax for ordinary cargo was 5% - 8%, other goods would reach 10% to 15%

However, in Golden Island, the taxes for ordinary cargo was only 1%, other goods can be taxed about 2% or 3%.

The division between ordinary cargo and others was whether they are strategic resources. If they are strategic goods, then the tax would be higher, if not, then they would be lower.

Also, Golden Island taxed based on transactions, not the amount of cargo. If you sell something, they you would get taxes. If you don't sell, then you don't need to pay tax.

Also, damaged items might still be taxed on other places, but on Golden Island, damaged goods wouldn't.

For other people, it might look like merchants can abuse this fact to evade taxes. However, such a thing doesn't happen on Golden Island.

When goods arrive at Golden Island, they would be inspected. Moreover, each month, someone would come to the storehouses and record its contents before charging the merchants for tax.

Moreover, the people who would come and inspect the goods were undead. Undead couldn't be bribed, and they were also very careful in their inspection. Because of this, evading taxes would be very difficult.

In order for Zhao Hai to prevent falsely declared damage goods, he borrowed the ticket system from Earth. If you make a transaction, you need to issue a ticket. Then the island would collect the taxes based on those tickets.

At the same time, Zhao Hai also carried appraisals for all damaged goods, assigning prices on them. If 5 out of 100 of your goods gets damaged, then they would be classified as fragile goods. If their mean value is 6% of the value of the 100, then those 5 wouldn't be taxed. If you claim to have 10% worth of damaged goods, but the appraisal for those are just 5%, they you would be punished. At that time, 100% of your goods will be taxed.

Naturally, this might sound unfair. For example, if someone encounters a typhoon which caused massive damages to their goods. In that case, then they can report the incident to the island. When the time where you pay taxes comes, those goods wouldn't be taxed.

This way, most cases of tax evasion would be eliminated. However, there would still be some people who can find a way to escape being taxed. Because of this, Zhao Hai thought of a reward system. If someone goes and reports someone of tax evasion, as long as that report is true, then that person would be rewarded. As a result, tax evasion was almost non existent in Golden Island.

Golden Island became a place of enthusiasm and prosperity. The businesses on the island became very popular. This made everyone on the continent jealous. However, they aren't able to sabotage the island.

Zhao Hai had already set his reputation on stone, he even offended two Great Clans but he still didn't care. If he didn't have his reputation, he wouldn't have opened Golden Island.

At this time, Zhao Hai was smiling on his gains. Also, since there were a lot of merchants who came to the island for business, his construction team was very busy. Due to these constructions, Zhao Hai had also made a lot of money.

The merchants on the island weren't fools. They calculated everything before they proceeded with construction. If they saw that the construction group was very expensive, then they'd rather buy materials elsewhere and hire some people to build the shops on their own. But after doing their calculations, they saw that the construction team wasn't more expensive than the other construction groups of the continent, on the other hand, they were actually cheaper. Therefore, people on the island decided to just hire Zhao Hai's construction group to do the job.

Chapter 496 - Slave Market

Although merchants have only entered Golden Island for a month, the state of the place can only be described as hot. Pirates, Merchants, as well as major influences have come here to mingle.

This month's development was only the first explosion of Golden Island. It would continue to grow, and over time, the popularity of this place would become stronger and stronger.

At this time, Zhao Hai wasn't already on the island. He has now returned to Carson City. This was because he needed to take care of an important matter for the Buda Clan.

In the past, Laura and the others have discussed the possibility of them constructing a castle on the area around Carson City. This would solidify the Buda Clan's status on the capital. However, because of Golden Island, this matter has been placed at the back of their minds.

But they can't put this matter aside for too long. So they went and asked Charlie, Jason, and the others for help to see which hills around the city was up for grabs. When they find a place, then they would make their move immediately.

Charlie and the others were naturally willing to help. However, after the passing of years, all of the hills around Carson City was already occupied. Even when there was a suitable place, they either had a bad environment, or they were too low. Not to say Zhao Hai, even Charlie and the others wouldn't like it. They surely wouldn't let Zhao Hai claim those hills.

Originally, Laura suggested that they occupy Robert Family's fort. But Zhao Hai didn't agree since they were the ones who eliminated the Robert Family. If they occupy their fort, then that would really look very strange.

Charlie and the others didn't agree to it as well. But after a long time, they still weren't able to find a place. This made Charlie and Jason feel apologetic to Zhao Hai, he asked for their help but they were unable to deliver.

Then, Charlie finally thought that since they couldn't find a suitable hill, they they might as well find someone who were willing to sell.

But after checking for several days, Charlie still wasn't able to find people who were willing. This made Charlie feel bad, Jason as well, he even felt more sorry than Charlie. But there was no other way, all people who lived on the vicinity were all Great Clans. All of these clans have their own businesses, so all of them are doing very well. Charlie and Jason cannot just make them leave in account for Zhao Hai. It wasn't worth offending these people just for such a paltry reason.

Zhao Hai didn't think too much of it, almost two months had passed since God's Grace Day. Golden Island has been doing very well, spring had also arrived at Aksu Empire, which means that spring would be arriving at the Prairie. As long as spring arrives, he would be heading to the Prairie, then he wouldn't worry about constructing a fort anymore.

When Charlie and the others were about to give up, information suddenly came. The current owner of Lionheart's fort was willing to sell.

Lionheart was Zhao Hai's first enemy on Rosen Empire. He also colluded with the Radiant Church before being killed by Zhao Hai. His family's fort was then occupied by a noble of the Rosen Empire.

Saying occupy wasn't excessive. This was because at that time, nobles were scrapping Lionheart's possessions. At that time, the fort was being sold for a cheap price so the noble decided to buy it. At the same time, since he bought it, he might as well occupy the place.

However, because of the Robert Family and the Engraved Ark, Carson City's atmosphere became tense. The eyes of Great Clans were very active regarding people with good relationships with the Robert Family. At this time, people went to investigate the noble who bought Lionheart's castle. This person was a Second Class Duke and he didn't have the power to have his own duchy. However, this person's fief wasn't small, moreover, he had a very good relationship with the Robert Family. His clan's emblem was a mad cow. This cow lacked one horn while its eyes were red with rage.

At this point, the Rosen Empire was very critical in looking for clans' emblems. In addition to finding friends of the Robert Clan, the empire was also looking for suspicious clan emblems.

When the investigation found that this noble and the Robert Family were very intimate, they immediately prepared to do a thorough investigation. However, when they came to do so, the nobleman's family suddenly vanished.

Overnight, all of the family members have left, they didn't even take their precious things along with them. Even the servants stayed behind as well as their businesses. Only the family itself vanished, nobody remained.

This caused the entire Rosen Empire to be in a stir. For an entire clan to run like this, it clearly confirmed their status. The Imperial Clan immediately went and thoroughly searched their home. As a result, all of the family's documents were taken away. Since the family didn't take their valuables with them, the Rosen Empire became skeptical. The empire immediately issued an order to seize the family. However, all of them were already gone, no news was found about them.

As a result, their fort became empty. The Rosen Empire grabbed all of the servants and the people associated with the family and interrogated them. They wanted to ask them about the family, but the servants literally knew nothing at all.

Because of this, nothing was known, and the castle was left empty, which was a pity. Charlie and Jason were very happy when they knew about this, they knew that Grand Duke Lionheart's fort was very well constructed. Now that the place was ownerless, it would be great if Zhao Hai bought it.

Also, because the family ran away in a hurry, all of the precious things in the castle weren't taken away. Although the gold and silver items were taken away by the Imperial Clan, the fort was still left well equipped. Therefore, Charlie immediately told Zhao Hai to buy it.

Zhao Hai also knew that even if he already has Iron Mountain Fort, he still needed a fort on Carson City for the benefit of the Buda Clan's face. At the same time, it would also indicate that the Buda Clan has considered themselves as people of the Rosen Empire.

The matter was quickly completed under Charlie's operation. In the end, Zhao Hai bought the hill as well as the castle for a price of 10 million gold coins.

After acquiring the fort, Zhao Hai immediately sent a construction team over to modify the fort. At the very least, he needed to have the emblem changed, there were also some little things inside that Zhao Hai wished to change.

Zhao Hai returned to Carson City for this matter. But when the fort's construction was underway, he assigned the undead under Cai'er's supervision. Then Zhao Hai took Laura and the others to Carson City's slave market.

Carson City's slave market wasn't inside the city, but in a valley not too far. The entire mountain valley was a large slave market.

It was the first time that Zhao Hai had come here. Now that Kun was in Golden Island along with Laura's people, Zhao Hai didn't worry about anything. He lead Laura and the others to come to the slave market. When he goes to the Prairie, he would get 100 thousand slaves. However, 100 thousand slaves who were all Beastmen wasn't good. Because of this, Zhao Hai decided to buy some human slaves as well.

The valley's entrance wasn't very wide, giving people a hard time because only two carriages can pass side by side. There weren't any people that can be seen on the entrance, there weren't any structures as well. Just by looking at it, one might even mistake it as an ordinary mountain valley.

However, the moment Zhao Hai's carriage entered the valley, he immediately became surprised. In the one year that he has been in Ark Continent, this was the first time that he saw this kind of slave market. He thought that this slave market would be very dirty and very chaotic. Only when he entered did he understand that he was wrong and that he was thinking ridiculously.

This slave was neither dirty nor chaotic. In contrast, this slave market looks even more cleaner than any ordinary market. It wasn't as crowded as ordinary markets as well. The shops here were well constructed and also had a very pleasant facade.

Looking at the 21 three-story buildings, Zhao Hai cannot really connect this place with a slave market. After staring for some time, Zhao Hai turned to Megan and said, "Megan, are you sure that you're not mistaken? Is this really the slave market?"

Megan smiled and said, "Of course I'm not wrong, this is indeed the slave market. I came here before because I'm curious."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he looked around before he murmured, "This is a beautiful place, who would've thought that it would deal with filthy transactions."

Laura and the others didn't say anything, all of them were natives of Ark Empire so they didn't have as much of a dislike for slaves as Zhao Hai. But seeing the happy expressions of the slaves who had become commoners back at Iron Mountain Fort, they couldn't help but also develop a dislike for the slave trade.

Their horse carriage stopped in front of a shop's door. When Zhao Hai and the others walked down from their carriage, someone from the shop immediately came to welcome them. The man looked very decent, he was tall and wore a merchant's suit without anything else on his body. But Zhao Hai didn't underestimate this person because Megan had told him that almost all of the people who dealt with the slave business were nobles. The bigger the slave merchant, the more powerful the noble above them. Even small slave merchants would still have formidable powers behind them. Because of this, nobody dared to look down upon these people.

When this merchant saw Zhao Hai's carriage, his eyes turned bright. He immediately wore a welcoming face as he bowed to Zhao Hai, "Merchant Ren has seen Marquis Zhao Hai."

Zhao Hai stared, he looked at the Merchant and said, "You know me?"

The merchant smiled and said, "How can I not know of Marquis Zhao Hai. This small merchant has always heard of Marquis Zhao Hai's name. If I don't recognize the Marquis even after seeing the Buda Clan emblem, then I might as well have my eyes gouged out."

Chapter 497 - Artisan Slaves

Zhao Hai looked at Ren, then he showed a faint smile and said, "You really have good eyes. You should do your best to keep it." Then he was led into the shop by Ren, the others also followed.

After having entered the shop, Zhao Hai stared. The inside didn't look like what a shop should be, one could even call this a living room. The ornaments and decorations inside was commonly seen on living rooms, it wouldn't be bad if it was one.

Ren immediately asked Zhao Hai and the others to sit down. Zhao Hai didn't hesitate and just sat down just as Ren presented him with tea. Ren just stood respectful as he asked Zhao Hai, "Sir Marquis, what can this little one do for you?"

Zhao Hai looked at Ren and smiled faintly, "What else? I'm here to buy some slaves, both men and women. I have just recently bought a castle and want to place some slaves to maintain it."

Ren immediately nodded and said, "Alright, how many slaves does sir Marquis need? How many males and females?"

Zhao Hai waved his hand and said, "Why are you asking these things? Lead me to see them first, I want to look at their quality. If they're good, then I would buy a large number. If they aren't up to par, then I wouldn't want to buy even one."

Ren smiled and said, "Then Marquis, please, follow me. I believe there won't be any shop in this valley who would sell low quality goods. Because of the valley's vicinity to Carson City, the guests here are all great nobles, we wouldn't want to risk our business, so we certainly wouldn't sell substandard goods."

Zhao Hai waved his hand and said, "Talking is useless, go, go guide me." Ren complied and then led Zhao Hai to walk towards the back of the shop.

Right behind the shop was a very big cavern. There were large and small caves inside as well. These caves held people inside, the people only wore the simplest clothing on their bodies, just enough to cover important parts. The rest of their bodies were exposed.

Each cave had about 10 to 100 people in them, men and women were separated. It was only here that the face of the slave market was seen, they didn't seem like people at all, they were more like beasts waiting to be sold.

Zhao Hai looked at these slaves, he has to admit, these slaves were really very good. They were all young people, and from their skin, one could see that they are all very healthy.

From their eyes, Zhao Hai can see that all of them were strictly trained. Their eyes were expressionless much like their faces, they looked just like Zhao Hai's undead. If it weren't for the fact that they were living, Zhao Hai might have thought that all of them were undead.

Zhao Hai looked at these slaves calmly. He was currently a noble, he couldn't just lose heart in front of these slaves, otherwise he would be looked down by the other nobles.

With the state of the continent, nobles wouldn't lose their hearts when dealing with slaves. Because of this, Zhao Hai also acted as though he was calm.

Looking at the slaves, Zhao Hai nodded and then turned to Ren, "Good, Mister Ren, these are very good. Alright, I'll go take 200 men and 200 women. These people should be enough for my castle."

Ren nodded immediately and said, "This is not a problem, Sir Marquis. You can take them any time you want. If Sir Marquis wants us to deliver them on your doorstep, as long as we have your address, then we can send these slaves as soon as possible."

Zhao Hai nodded, then turned to Ren and said, "Ren, does your shop some specially skilled slaves? Like Artisan slaves, or some battle slaves? As long as you have those slaves, then I also want a lot of them."

When Ren heard Zhao Hai, his eyes couldn't help but turn bright, he quickly replied, "I invite the Marquis to the living room, this is not the place to talk." Zhao Hai nodded and then returned to the living room. Ren went to give a person some commands before he served Zhao Hai a new cup of tea.

To be honest, Ren was initially quite disappointed, 200 male and 200 female slaves can only be considered to be a small scale transaction in a shop like this. Altogether, it only costs 300-400 gold coins, their shop can only make a little amount of money. Average nobles would buy slaves in transactions that involved thousands to tens of thousands of gold coins. Some transactions even make it to a hundred thousand gold coins. Compared to Zhao Hai's small transaction, it's certainly not worth mentioning.

But when he heard that Zhao Hai wanted some artisan slaves and battle slaves, Ren became happy. Artisan slaves and battle slaves are several times more expensive than average slaves, some were even several hundred times more expensive.

If Zhao Hai wanted dozens of artisan slaves and battle slaves, it certainly wouldn't be called a small-scale transaction. But he didn't believe that Zhao Hai would buy so much, all of the artisans and battle slaves on their shop was worth millions of gold coins; such number wasn't small. Average nobles wouldn't spend that much money on slaves.

After Zhao Hai and the others arrived at the living room and sat down, Ren immediately went to Zhao Hai's side and said, "Sir Marquis, we also have some artisan and battle slaves at the shop. But sir must know that the price of these artisan and battle slaves are very high. And these include the most ordinary ones among them."

Zhao Hai nodded and then looked at Ren and said, "Ren, I don't care about the price as long as they are worth it. I believe you know about the fact that I own Golden Island, what I need there the most were artisan slaves, we can discuss their prices. Also, if you have slaves that are whole families, I want them as well. Very young slaves are also good, but I want a discount on them."

Ren understood Zhao Hai as he nodded, "The Marquis' words certainly made this one feel relieved. This shop has a lot of good quality battle slaves as well as artisan slaves. Artisan slaves are have many types according to which production branch they are skilled in. And their prices depend on how skillful they are. We also have a lot of battle slaves with varying strengths, the more strong the slave, the more expensive."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Let's go look at the artisan slaves first."

Ren nodded, then went to one side of the living room and took a big book from a bookshelf. Then he placed the book in front of Zhao Hai as he said, "Sir Marquis, this has all the names of our shop's artisan slaves. Their situations are present as well, Sir Marquis can take a look."

Zhao Hai nodded and then carefully took the book and read its contents. The artisan slaves in Ren's shop were very good, all of them numbered more than 200 people. A lot of them were carpenters and masons, their speciality was also written. Quite a few of these slaves were blacksmiths and the like. What made Zhao Hai the most surprised was that there were actually two artisans that can brew alcohol, there was also one Potion master present.

Zhao Hai placed the book down and looked at Ren and said, "You really have a potion master slave? How can a potion master become a slave?"

Ren smiled and said, "Sir's eyes are really as bright as torches, immediately noticing the problem at a glance. This potion master isn't an ordinary person. He used to be a fairly famous potion master, but later in his life, he developed a highly toxic potion that had exploded, spreading its effects outside of his laboratory and had killed a lot of people. Because of this, he was demoted into becoming a slave, we had spent quite a lot of money in order to buy him."

Zhao Hai nodded, he wasn't very excited about this potion master. This was because he already has the Processing machine to make potions for him. If he wants a potion, he can just have the machine make a potion that was even better than ones that a potion master can make.

What Zhao Hai was interested about were the other slaves. Except 30 of them, the others had their own families with them, one of them was even a family of three generations.

Zhao Hai handed the book over to Laura and the others. Laura wasn't polite and took the book and scanned through it. Meanwhile, Zhao Hai's action made Ren surprised, but when she remembered who Laura was, he became calm again.

In Carson City, it wasn't only Zhao Hai who had become famous, Laura and the others acquired some fame as well. Laura and Megan held the most fame. There was no need to mention Megan, she was one of the twin flowers of the Imperial Capital, it was impossible for any nobles who didn't know of her. Because of Laura's relationship with Zhao Hai, people went and had her background investigated. When they received their reports, they found out how formidable Laura was in the past.

She was a flower of Purcell Duchy. She started from scratch and managed to establish her own business presence in the duchy. She even managed to become the most powerful merchant of the duchy at one time.

Even the not too famous Meg has become famous right now. Meg was in herself a talented mage. This young and was already a 6th rank Water Mage. This basically meant that her future achievements would be limitless. Because of this, her reputation wasn't any lower than Zhao Hai's other fiancée's.

Laura carefully read the register and then nodded before handing it over to Megan. Megan took a look and then handed it over to Meg who also scanned through its contents. Zhao Hai looked at the three, then all of them made a nod.

Zhao Hai turned to Ren and said, "Ren, I want all of these slaves in this book. I also want those 400 slaves I mentioned before. Moreover, do you have some young slave? I want to buy some to train myself."

Ren stared, then he became overjoyed, he didn't expect Zhao Hai to take all of these slaves. This was surely a huge transaction, the overall price of these 200 slaves was around 200 thousand. The potion master alone was worth 20,000 gold coins.

A transaction worth 200 thousand was a huge business for even a shop like them. Ren quickly said, "We don't have child slaves here because this was just a place to sell them. Slaves would only be sent here after being trained. Only artisan slaves who have their families with them have children included."

Chapter 498 - Wedding

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I want some child slaves, go help me find some. The price is open for discussion."

Ren nodded, "No matter how many slaves Sir Marquis wants, we can certainly provide."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he thought for a moment before saying, "Golden Island needs a lot of slaves right now. Those 400 slaves are only for my fort in Carson City. I still haven't bought any for Golden Island."

You go see whether you can provide me some young slaves. I also need some old and experienced ones, I have some facilities that needed managing.”

Ren couldn't help but hold Zhao Hai in high esteem. General clients would only buy some young and strong slaves. Those who would buy old ones were very rare. This was because those slaves have been so overworked that their bodies aren't very good anymore. Such slaves would only survive for only two years before dying. Because of that, nobody wanted to buy them.

From all of his years of selling slaves, Ren had come to know that these old slaves have its own uses. Although these old slaves cannot read, they had a lifetime of experience behind them. They understood situations that only an experienced person knows, like what disease a certain plant was suffering, the best time to plant, and there are even old slaves that can predict the weather. Those abilities are absolutely priceless.

But a lot of Nobles didn't know about this. It was even possible for those Nobles to have never been on their territory in their entire life, they simply cannot understand farming. There was a substantial difference in income between Nobles who have old slaves compared to those without.

It was unfortunate that this difference wasn't something that Nobles took note of. What they cared about was the strength of their slaves. It was because of this that they overexhaust their slaves and have them die an early death.

These old slaves were actually treasures. In Ren's eyes, these slaves should be more expensive than the younger ones. But it was a pity that nobles do not share his views. What they always see was a slave that wouldn't be able to live long. A lot of these old slaves just die miserable deaths.

Ren also understood why Zhao Hai wanted to buy some child slaves. These child slaves are very malleable. If they were allowed to learn some crafting skills, then their price value would increase by dozens of times. A lot of slave merchants do this method now. They would buy some child slaves and then find some artisan slaves to train them. When those child slaves grow , they would have learned a lot and would be sold at the price of artisan slaves. This would bring them a huge profit.

Zhao Hai buying slaves along with their families are also good as well. Ren had seen a lot of slaves who went crazy because they became separated from their families, so their handlers had no choice but to kill them. Slaves are people as well, Ren knew this, so he saw Zhao Hai's approach to be very agreeable.

Zhao Hai looked at Ren and then asked, "Ren? What's wrong?"

Ren recovered, then he shook his head hastily and said, "There's no problem. How many slaves does Sir Marquis want?"

Zhao Hai thought for a moment before saying, "A hundred thousand, having more isn't a problem, but make sure that there aren't less."

Ren became ecstatic, he immediately said, "Sir Marquis can be rest assured, as long as you give me a month to prepare, those hundred thousand slaves wouldn't be a problem. Do you want us to deliver those slaves to Golden Island for you?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "When they are prepared, you send me a message at my fort. Then wait for my instruction before sending them there. Right, how much money do I need to give you?"

Ren nodded, then he went to the side and did some calculations before saying, "Sir Marquis, everything is 213 thousand gold coins. It would be fine if Sir Marquis paid 210 thousand gold coins, we can waive the three thousand."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and then waved his hand as two crystal cards appeared. There were some markings on the cards, one showed 200 thousand while the other has 10 thousand. These cards were issued by banks and were commonly used by nobles.

These banks made this crystal cards with different denominations. All of them had special markings made by their banks and can be revealed as long as energy was provided. By doing this, one could see the authenticity of these cards.

Ren had been dealing with these cards all year round, he can distinguish between fake and real in one look. But authentication wasn't needed, Zhao Hai was famous, it would be impossible for him to use a fake crystal card.

Ren accepted the cards and said, "Marquis can be rest assured, we shall certainly provide good slaves. Do you want to see the artisan slaves?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "No need, I believe that you won't deceive me. There aren't a lot of people in the continent that would dare to do so."

Ren felt his heart stop, he was sure that Zhao Hai wasn't joking. What he said was true, there won't be many people in this world who would dare deceive him. Those who dared to deceive him would have to face death. Even his backers wouldn't dare to offend Zhao Hai.

Ren immediately said, "Sir Marquis is cracking a joke. Our little store wouldn't be able to withstand your fury. Mister can be rest assured, I can assure you that our shop would certainly ensure the safety and security of your goods."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "That's good. I'll go back first, I'll go look at your battle slaves in another time." Then he stood up and headed out.

They boarded their carriage outside and then headed out of the slave market. Laura looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, we bought a lot of slaves this time. I think we should inform Grandpa Green about it "

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Rest assured, not only this matter, I will also talk to him about another important thing."

Laura looked at Zhao Hai, she was puzzled as she said, "What's that? Is there anything important matter left? We already bought the castle. As long as the renovations are finished, we can immediately move in. When that time comes, we can then hold a banquet. I think there's no other matter left."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "This matter must be taken care of, otherwise Grandpa Green would throw me into a pit of fire." Laura still didn't understand what Zhao Hai meant. But seeing that Zhao Hai didn't want to say it, she didn't ask anymore.

Soon, they arrived at the fort. Zhao Hai already had the name Wild Dragon Castle prepared for the place. The flag that was raised also had the Buda Clan's Wild Dragon Insignia. This along with the name of the fort, people would certainly know that this place belonged to the Buda Clan.

At this time , there were a lot of undead in the castle being busy. They were carrying the final renovations of the castle. This was Carson City, the capital of Rosen Empire, the place with the largest distribution center in the continent. Because of this, it was very convenient to buy anything, so Zhao Hai was able to confidently do renovations on the fort. He was also preparing to have Cai'er place one of her branches on Wild Dragon Castle.

When noon came, Ren sent people to deliver more than 600 slaves to Wild Dragon Castle. Zhao Hai had some of these slaves go to Iron Mountain Fort under the leadership of Rockhead and Blockhead. He had the two of them handle the newcomers to do specific jobs at Wild Dragon Castle.

When it came to managing slaves, Blockhead and Rockhead already had a few tricks. They had already been assigned by Zhao Hai to do some management tasks before. And after having them study at the school, the two should be able to handle the slaves without a problem.

Most importantly, both of them spent a long time with Zhao Hai. They understood his habits as well as what he liked. The 400 slaves that were left in the castle needed to be managed well, otherwise Zhao Hai wouldn't feel comfortable in living there.

The artisan slaves were easier to manage. Zhao Hai directly transferred them to Iron Mountain Fort since the fort badly needed people like them right now. However, the Potion Master was referred by Zhao Hai to Shun's mother. Shun's mother studies potion and that potion master just happens to be an expert in it. Zhao Hai wanted the slave to teach Shun's Mother.

After having arranged these people, Zhao Hai went to the Space where Green and the others were waiting for him. Green and the others knew that Zhao Hai was busy with the slaves, therefore they didn't go and disturb him. After all, they fully supported Zhao Hai's methods.

After the group arrived at the villa's living room, Zhao Hai turned to Green and said, "Grandpa Green, I went to see you today for two matters. The first one was to tell you that I had bought 100 thousand Human slaves. They aren't artisan slaves, just regular ones. After they arrive, I want to have them farm on the Black Wasteland. I have a lot to do in the future, so I won't have enough time to do farming. We should make a village for them outside the fort."

Green nodded and said, "Alright, that's good. But although we already have 200 thousand people coming, I still think that they aren't enough to farm the Black Wasteland. I suggest the young master to have them forage on the land as well as raise some livestock. With this, we may have more income from having a ranch. If we don't do this, the big area of the Black Wasteland would be wasted."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "That's a good idea. Before utilizing the whole area for farming, we might as well use the unused parts for rearing animals."

Green nodded as well then said, "The second matter?"

Zhao Hai took a deep breath, then he looked deeply at Laura and the others who were listening at the side before turning his head to Green and said, "Now that our Buda Clan's reputation has been established, as well as having our own castle and fief, I want to officially marry Laura and the others. Having them be my fiancées for too long will make people gossip."

Green stared, and also Kun as well as Laura and the others. They hadn't thought of this, the matters that they had been handling were too big recently, they have absolutely forgotten the marriage. Now that Zhao Hai opened the topic, they were suddenly left staring blankly.

After some time, Green recovered as he laughed and said, "Right, right, I also think it's time for young master's wedding to be pushed through. We have been very busy these days that I've completely forgotten about it. Good, good, I'll immediately go arrange it."

Kun was happy as well, Laura being somewhat of Zhao Hai's follower has hurt her reputation. However, Zhao Hai insisted that they should wait until the Buda Clan establishes themselves before carrying on to their marriage. Finally, the opportunity to do so has arrived.

Laura and the others were also happy, when Zhao Hai goes out, he can only introduce them as his fiancées, this made them feel a little bit uncomfortable. Now, it's time for them to be married.

Mérine was also in the living room, she was naturally the happiest one in the room, she smiled and said, "Young Master, fantastic! We'll go and give respects to the ancestors and tell them the good news."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Alright, then it's all settled. Grandpa Green, Grandpa Kun, I need to ask you to help me prepare the invitations. I'll go to Grandpa Randolph tomorrow and ask him for help as well."

Green replied with a smile, "Alright. But Young Master, how long are you planning to prepare for this wedding?"

Zhao Hai understood what Green was saying, the latter wanted the date to be farther off. With this, they would be able to prepare the invitations properly as well as having the event more grand. However, Zhao Hai doesn't have much time right now, he turned to Green and said, "Grandpa Green, I want the ceremony to happen as soon as possible because I need to go to the Prairie. I also need to take care of the business with the merfolk."

Green thought for a moment and nodded, "Alright, spring is coming to the Prairie, it wouldn't be good if you head there late. Very well, we'll see to it that it happens as soon as possible. I think we should also discuss this matter with Randolph, in any case, we need to respect his opinion on this matter. Old Kun, what do you think?"

Kun nodded and smiled, "That's fine. I'll go tell Karen about this matter. Right, there should also be an invitation for the Markey Family. I'd like to see their reaction, if they dare act up, then they can't blame us for being impolite."

Green snorted and said, "If they dare, do they really think that the Buda Clan is the same as before? Let's see if they act unreasonably this time, hmph. We must make this wedding ceremony as grand as possible, let's make sure that all of the people in the continent gets to hear it."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I'd like that, I can't let my fiancées feel wronged. If not because of this fear, the wedding might have been already done. This time, we must make it grand. I think we should do it in Wild Dragon Castle, what does Grandpa Green think?"

Green thought and then shook his head, "Young Master, I think it would be better if we do it at Golden Island. That's our domain, if people would want to act impolitely, then we can deal with them immediately!"

Chapter 499 - Wedding Date Has Been Decided

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't even think about doing his wedding at Golden Island. This was because there was nothing there. He preferred to do his wedding at the castle, that would be more befitting for a noble.

Seeing that Zhao Hai was silent and frowning, Green got confused and said, "Young Master? Is Golden Island not good?"

Zhao Hai forced a smile and said, "Grandpa Green, there aren't any good structures in Golden Island yet. There are only tunnels and caves there, I don't think it would be a good idea to have our wedding at that place."

Green thought about it and nodded, "This is really an issue, there aren't any good enough structures at Golden Island. If we do the wedding there, then it would really seem simple."

Laura opened her mouth and said, "Brother Hai, Grandpa Green, I really don't think it's bad. Golden Island is our territory, we can handle matters there anyway we like, completely different to Carson City. Some people might want to cause trouble during the ceremony, so there will be fighting. Although Brother Hai is very strong, we very much prefer to hide it. The Emperor wouldn't really care what we do on the island, but in Carson City? If we show our strength, it might even frighten him. This would be troublesome. This is why I think it would be best if we do the wedding ceremony on Golden Island."

When Laura heard that Zhao Hai was going to marry her, she naturally became shy. But doing so was good, they already wanted to marry Zhao Hai for so long. Now that their desires had been met, they were more happy than shy. Also, they aren't ordinary women, so they don't act like them.

Hearing Laura made Zhao Hai's mind unexpectedly calm. He had already offended the Aksu Empire, the other nations were also under the heavy influence of the Radiant Church. If they go there, then they won't be able to have any good days. At this point, they can only rely on the Rosen Empire to accommodate them. He was afraid that he can only defend Golden Island in his lifetime, Zhao Hai didn't want this, so he had no choice but to consider the empire in his decisions.

After thinking for a moment, Zhao Hai nodded, "It's a pity, although Golden Island's environment is good, there aren't just any good structures there. If we do our wedding there, then I would only be doing you women injustice."

Laura smiled and said, "We really don't mind it Brother Hai, there's no such thing as injustice. With the Buda Clan's reputation, there aren't anyone who dared to underestimate us. Don't worry about doing our wedding in such an ordinary place, nobody would dare comment on it."

Zhao Hai looked at Laura and then smiled, "Alright, then I'll go talk to Grandpa Randolph tomorrow about the wedding date. After having it settled, we'll begin to make the invitations. I already had the

processing machine make the templates for the invitation, the only thing missing are the names as well as the date.”

After that, Green and the others went and continued to talk to Zhao Hai about the details about the wedding, the reception, the food, the drinks, as well as who to invite. They must prepare the event properly, Zhao Hai’s status wasn’t ordinary. Because of this, his visitors would be similarly not ordinary, if the visitors are unsatisfied, their Clan might offend them.

Fortunately, Green and the others were quite used to being stewards, so these kinds of things aren’t enough to burden them. Since Zhao Hai raised this matter, Green and the others needed to fulfil his requirements, these matters would be left for them to arrange.

Presently, the Space wasn’t lacking any kinds of commodities, therefore Green was able to manage everything easily. Additionally, they have more than 1 million undead to command, handling this matter was too easy.

After reaching an agreement, Zhao Hai and the others rested. Zhao Hai returned to his room and laid down on the bed, he also went to see the situation back on Golden Island.

After one month of construction, the shops on the island had already been built up. But these shops were mostly made with stone which the undead mined from the island, since they aren’t exploited, they are the best product left on the island. Even with the Shelley Family’s five-story hotel, there wasn’t any decent building on the island. Holding a wedding in such a place was such a injustice to Laura and the others. Zhao Hai really didn’t want this event to be a lifelong regret for them.

Although his eyes were already closed while he lied down, Zhao Hai’s head still stayed constantly moving. This was also one of his rituals. Before sleeping, he would think about all the things that he hadn’t managed to handle during the day. This was because he believed that the time where the mind is most active was just before sleeping. If he thought over the matters of the day, he might get some great inspirations to deal with them.

Sure enough, Zhao Hai wasn’t left disappointed this time. When he was just having a headache about dealing with the structures on Golden Island, he suddenly thought of a certain image.

This image wasn't anything else other than a sea of flowers. It was a flower garden, everything in it was made of flowers, even the walls were made of plants.

Zhao Hai was originally starting to fall asleep, but when this image appeared, his eyes immediately turned bright. This scene was extremely familiar, this looked exactly like the Carrion Swamp's Flower City!

After he thought of this, Zhao Hai immediately summoned Cai'er over using his thought. Cai'er immediately appeared on the room as she looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Young Master, what matters did you call me for?"

Zhao Hai looked at Cai'er and said, "Cai'er, can you send a branch over to Golden Island and have it formed into a castle? I like to use it to hold my wedding."

Cai'er nodded and said, "I can, Young Master. Since I leveled up, I can even make a flower garden as large as a big city."

Zhao Hai's face showed his excitement as he said, "There's no need to make it so big, just make it as large as Wild Dragon Castle. Remember, make its color and atmosphere similar to Flower City."

Cai'er nodded and said, "Alright, Young Master, I'll go do it immediately." Then she flashed as she vanished. Zhao Hai breathed a sigh of relief. He doesn't plan to tell the girls about this, he wanted to give them a pleasant surprise when the time came.

The next morning, Zhao Hai came out of the Space and sat on his carriage as he headed to Dark Soldier Fort. Naturally, Laura and the others were with him as well. Actually, for someone like Megan, if she still wasn't married, then she would need to stay in Dark Soldier Fort. However, Megan strongly disagreed. Additionally, Randolph also saw that Zhao Hai already had two fiancées on his side, if Megan was at home all the time while Laura and Meg were with Zhao Hai, it would probably make Zhao Hai favor Laura and Meg more. Because of this, Randolph chose to have Megan also stay by Zhao Hai's side.

Upon arriving at Dark Soldier Fort, Zhao Hai was immediately welcomed to Randolph's study. Zhao Hai saw only Randolph inside the study since Smith was already back at Sky Water City. The city cannot survive for long without Smith at the helm.

Seeing Zhao Hai come, Randolph smiled and said, "What brings you here today? You have a lot of matters to attend to, you don't have much time to come and visit me here."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Grandpa Randolph, I'm here to discuss with you about a matter of deep importance."

Randolph looked at him and said, "What matter?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "I want to wed Megan soon, I chose Golden Island for the venue."

Randolph stared blankly for a moment before looking at Zhao Hai and sighed, "Right, Megan already follows you everyday. If you don't hold a wedding, her reputation would be affected. Also, you're still young, men your age are very thirsty. If anything goes wrong before the wedding, things wouldn't be too good. Alright, I agree, when do you plan to hold it?"

Zhao Hai's mind went black with Randolph's dark words. He really didn't think that Randolph would have such thoughts. But when he thought about it, he was at Ark Continent and not Earth. Here, it was quite common to be scoffed at when people live together before marriage. Randolph was just afraid that Zhao Hai wouldn't be able to endure.

Zhao Hai immediately recovered and said, "The sooner the better. I still need to head to the Prairie after the ceremony. There are a lot of things I need to handle there, and there isn't enough time to do it."

Randolph nodded and then thought for a moment before he said, "How about ten days later. We should immediately go and prepare the invitations. Then hand them over along with the notification that the wedding would be ten days later at Golden Island."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I already have the invitations made. The only thing missing from them are the dates, I'll have them prepared immediately."

Randolph nodded, "Go and prepare them. We have a lot of things to take care of, I'll do my part here at the fort." Zhao Hai nodded, then he gave Randolph a greeting before heading out. After returning to the castle, he immediately had the processing machine print the dates on to the cards before having them sent.

There are a lot of invitations that Zhao Hai needed to send this time, the farthest one was to Evan, while some were sent to the other Nobles of the Rosen Empire. Although it can be said that Zhao Hai doesn't have too deep of a relationship with these nobles, he had already met them at various banquets. It would be disrespectful in his part to not send them an invitation.

Fortunately, Cai'er had already taken down the names of these nobles, making the manufacturing of the invitations much easier. After printing the names of these people, the invitations were then sent over.

Zhao Hai didn't have a lot of people by his side, therefore most of these invitations were sent either by undead or Blood Hawk. This was a new and odd way of sending invitations.

While Zhao Hai became very busy in preparing for the wedding, the people outside were very excited. The Buda Clan's reputation has been quite loud recently. These people knew that the Buda Clan wasn't only powerful, they also had the literal golden egg which was Golden Island. This matter made people very jealous, but they weren't able to do anything about it.

Now that Zhao Hai was holding his wedding, this made the small and medium sized noble clans feel an opportunity. As long as you can participate in the wedding and form a connection with the Buda Clan, one's rise in the future would be more reachable.

At this moment, another information came out which made these nobles more inclined to throw their lot with the Buda Clan. Even if they cannot be under the clan's umbrella, at the very least they needed to make a good impression.

Chapter 500 - Marriage Bestowment

The Rosen Empire's Emperor bestows a marriage to Zhao Hai with his daughter, the 9th Princess Lizzy, and she was to be a normal wife!

People on the continent weren't estranged to this kind of thing, they knew that Grand Dukes would generally be bestowed marriages, and such person was a very lucky man.

When this news arrived to the Buda Clan, Zhao Hai and the others were shocked. Zhao Hai wasn't actually glad, he was startled to receive such a decree.

After this information passed on, the entire continent seethed with excitement. The 9th Princess of Rosen Empire, the most powerful nation on the continent, one of Carson City's Twin Flowers, the most dotted daughter of the emperor, she was attractive, intelligent, a pureblood noble, she was the continent's number 1 candidate for marriage.

But such a person was actually bestowed to Zhao Hai, and as a formal wife! In other words, after Lizzy marries into the Buda Clan, her status would be the same as Laura and the others. Her position as a princess would be placed on the side.

This was surely a dropped bomb to the minds of the nobles of the continent. However, for Zhao Hai, this wasn't a good thing. If he marries the princess, people who had unrequited love for her would surely be his mortal enemy. This would certainly bring a lot of hidden enemies to the Buda Clan.

When Zhao Hai heard this decree, he was absolutely terrified. He didn't want to accept this decree, but Green and the others forced him to accept it.

After the person that served the decree left, Zhao Hai was left in the living room staring at Green. Green didn't budge, as though nothing just happened, he stayed very calm. What Zhao Hai was surprised about was the fact that Laura and the others were calm as well.

Zhao Hai looked at Laura and said, "Laura, why would you make me accept this? This would be unfair to you, I only met Princess Lizzy once at Charlie's residence. With this marriage bestowment, not only would it be unfair to you, it would also be unfair to Princess Lizzy."

Laura looked at Zhao Hai and then faintly smiled, "Brother Hai, you don't need to be so anxious. It's alright. I think that it was Princess Lizzy who wanted to marry you, otherwise this decree wouldn't have passed. Princess Lizzy is extremely favored by the Emperor, moreover, with the Rosen Empire's strength, it wouldn't be a problem for them to find a better candidate. In this case, it can only be because of Princess Lizzy that this decree was accepted."

Zhao Hai stared, "Is that really the case? But how come I couldn't see that Princess Lizzy wanted to marry me? Moreover, for her to make this decree happen, wouldn't it be too much for a princess to do?"

Megan smiled and said, "Big Brother Hai, you don't know but yourself has that kind of thing that women gets attracted to. In the beginning, it was also because of this that I got to like you. We hadn't even met a lot of times before, nor did we exchange a lot of words."

Laura smiled, "Additionally, Brother Hai shouldn't forget, you have rescued the Princess' life. I'm quite sure that it was because of this that Princess Lizzy came to like you."

At this time, a voice was suddenly heard from the door, "Right, it's because of that."

Zhao Hai and the others turned their heads towards the door and saw Charlie. The Third Prince was led by the servant to was guarding the door. The servant didn't announce Charlie's arrival therefore Zhao Hai and the others were unable to notice him.

Zhao Hai and the others immediately gave Charlie a salute, Charlie waved his hand and said, "I didn't make the servant announce my arrival. Little Hai, I came here today to talk to you about this decree."

Zhao Hai nodded and invited Charlie to sit down. After having a seat, Charlie looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, I know that you have been hiding from Lizzy these past few days. However, Lizzy hasn't forgotten about you, she actually placed you in her heart. The imperial decree came about when Lizzy heard that you are getting married. She kneeled in front of father, the Emperor, saying that she wanted to marry you, and that she wouldn't marry anyone else."

Zhao Hai stared, then he smiled bitterly. He really didn't have anything to say. He only met Lizzy once, and when he sees her in a banquet, he would do his best to hide from her. With this, how could Lizzy actually have deep feelings for him?

Zhao Hai still didn't understand that since Lizzy was a nation's Princess, the plan succeeding would certainly make her lose her own dignity. Zhao Hai appearing and saving her made Lizzy's heart regard Zhao Hai very deeply. It had left her with a lasting impression of him.

Women are sometimes emotional beings. They believe in love at first sight more than men did. They liked romance and fantasy more, and they were also more likely to love blindly. There were previous occasions that women would fall in love with a man over a very small thing.

When Megan had thought that her life would end, Zhao Hai stepped in to save her. For Megan, this was very memorable. Because of this, Megan came to find herself having fallen in love with Zhao Hai. With the passing of time, this sentiment didn't decrease, conversely, it was getting stronger and stronger.

Therefore, when Lizzy heard that Zhao Hai was going to be married, her emotions defeated her reason. She immediately ran to the Emperor and kneeled. She asked the Emperor to bestow her to Zhao Hai, moreover she stated that she won't marry any other man.

Knowing about the beginning and the conclusion of this matter, the only thing that Zhao Hai can do was sigh. He didn't say anything, he understood that if he refused this decree, Lizzy might do something stupid. When that happens, his relationship with the Rosen Empire would go down the drain.

Regardless of whether or not Lizzy was indeed in love with him, refusing this bestowment would make Lizzy a laughingstock of the continent. When that happens, Lizzy would certainly be left with nothing to do. Also, since the Emperor heavily favored Lizzy, the Buda Clan would suffer an unfortunate fate. Not only the Buda Clan, the Calci Family, and the Crook Family would share the same fate.

Zhao Hai sighed and then forced a smile, "I initially thought that I wouldn't marry any other women after Laura and the others. Not only would I be fair to Laura and the others, I would also be fair to the other women, but I didn't expect Princess Lizzy to actually find favor towards me. God really won't leave me at peace. Your Highness, rest assured, this Zhao Hai would surely take the Princess as a wife and will treat her like Laura and the others. Right, Your Highness, we shall be married at Golden Island, and can you see to it that Princess Lizzy gets to Wild Dragon Castle? We still need to discuss about the marriage matters."

Charlie looked at Zhao Hai and smiled, "Alright, I shall tell this to father. But kid, you really are quite lucky. You're also going to be my brother-in-law in the future. Hahahaha."

Zhao Hai was speechless at Charlie's remark, he didn't think that Charlie would be thinking about such things. At this time, Green and the others were actually very happy. Zhao Hai had become the Rosen Emperor's son-in-law. For the Buda Clan, this was a very huge thing.

Green didn't even consider that Zhao Hai marrying the princess would heavily offend the other nobles. In Green's eyes, Zhao Hai already had enough status to deserve it. Even if the other nobles gets angry, they wouldn't be able to do anything. Among those who wanted to marry the princess, people who love her not for her status was very scarce.

So long as Lizzy gets married to Zhao Hai, the Buda Clan's strength, along with the help of the Calci Family, would certainly rise at a very short time. Even those who wanted to put down the Buda Clan would need to consider the consequences.

It must be said that Green was a native of Ark Continent. He knew that nobles wouldn't offend a strong power just because of a woman. They would certainly weigh the pros and cons of their actions.

When information about the Rosen Empire's wedding bestowment to Zhao Hai spread out, all the Nobles in the continent understood that the Buda Clan had just acquired a formidable backer. There were now a lesser amount of people who would dare to offend them.

At the same time, the Nobles also felt strange, especially those who knew Zhao Hai. They knew that Zhao Hai's appearance was very ordinary, so why would such beautiful women be throwing themselves at him? They didn't understand what about him that attracts women.

But no matter what, everybody knew that establishing a connection with the Buda Clan would certainly bring huge benefits.

In the past, Zhao Hai didn't make any invitations towards people who he didn't have any previous interactions with. But now, it seemed that he had to do so since he would have the princess as his bride.

Marriage was really troublesome, especially for people like Zhao Hai where a lot of things needed to be considered. One of these was the clothes that they need to wear. Zhao Hai really disliked what they wore in Ark Continent, because of this, he made the processing machine make the clothes worn back on earth. Even if they looked excessive, they were also much more elegant.

Laura and the others didn't say anything about their wedding dresses, naturally they also didn't expose it. Ark Continent still wasn't open to such a degree, but wonderful weddings were surely well regarded by the people of the continent.

As for the food and drinks, Zhao Hai prepared to do the same thing as banquets did back on earth. People who would come were certainly many, therefore, the food and drinks must be prepared well. Because of this, he had assigned ten Processing Machines to make the food and drinks.

The liquor that Zhao Hai had the Processing Machine made were red wine, white wine, and beer. Among these three liquors, only red wine was very common on the continent. The only white liquor on the continent was Zhao Hai's milk wine, and finally the beer was only something that a select few were able to drink.

In order to prepare for this wedding, Zhao Hai placed a huge capital on it. He not only made Cai'er make a Seven-colored castle, he also allocated the Processing Machines to the preparations. Almost everything that was going to be used for the wedding was made using the Processing Machine. Zhao Hai knew that with the current manpower of the Buda Clan, they wouldn't be able to finish everything in time. He also didn't want for Randolph to intervene. Therefore, he had no choice but use the Processing Machine.