

Another World 521

Chapter 521 - The Ugly Ah Tai

The horse carriage was something commonly seen in the Prairie. It was full of Beastman craftsmanship techniques, and it was very large as well. It wasn't much smaller than the carriage that Randolph gave Zhao Hai.

The carriage quickly arrived in front of Zhao Hai's group. The driver stopped the carriage and jumped down. When the person jumped to the ground, Zhao Hai was taken back. It was because this man was very tall, he was about two and a half meters tall, he also had a muscular body that wasn't much less than those Beastmen.

This man wore a leather robe that looked very worn and ugly. His skin was also very black, he looked like a black person from Earth. If his body was just covered with hair, then one wouldn't doubt him if he posed as someone from an Ape tribe.

When the man arrived near Zhao Hai's group, he bowed to Laura and excitedly said, "Young lady, you finally came. Ah Tai was waiting for you for quite a while."

It was at this point that Zhao Hai and the others understood that this man was the person that Laura sent to the Prairie, Ah Tai. Seeing this person's appearance, Zhao Hai and the others couldn't help but make a strange expression. Did Laura send Ah Tai to the Prairie because of his appearance?

Laura nodded and said, "Ah Tai, I haven't seen you for a long time. You seem to have darkened some more. Come meet my husband, Zhao Hai."

Ah Tai turned to Zhao Hai and bowed, "Ah Tai has seen the Uncle." Zhao Hai wasn't used to be called by this name, he couldn't help but smile and said, "Alright, no need to be polite. It's been hard for you these past few years. Also, you can just call me young master."

Ah Tai looked up and honestly smiled, "Young Master, I really hadn't been having it hard. I have something to eat and drink everyday, actually, it's been very easy."

Zhao Hai stared at Ah Tai. He never imagined Laura to send such an awkward looking guy to the Prairie. She was actually not afraid that he wouldn't be able to sell properly.

Then Laura introduced Ah Tai to Megan and the others. While Ah Tai were meeting his wives, Zhao Hai paid attention to the surroundings. Around them were merchants who were somehow acquainted with Ah Tai. Zhao Hai could even see some of them pointing towards their direction.

Zhao Hai focused his ears and listened to the words of those people. He listened to a merchant on their side, "Look, isn't that silly Ah Tai? Why did he run out of the camp?"

Another person answered, "Who knows? But looking at his respectful appearance, it seems like the person who came has an authority over him. I heard that this person might have been from the Buda Clan. From the undead earlier, it seems like it was Buda Clan's Patriarch Zhao Hai."

The person who previously spoke said, "If it is really possible for it to be Zhao Hai, Ah Tai is really unlucky. Now that the food is expensive, he actually dared to sell it at a cheap price. I'm afraid that this fool would suffer this time."

The other person said, "Tone down your voice. I heard that this Zhao Hai isn't a simple person. He became famous by being vicious and ruthless on the continent. If he heard our bad words towards Ah Tai, he might not let us off."

The first person snorted and said, "Why do we need to be afraid? This is Beast God City. Violence wasn't allowed in a thousand li radius around the city. If someone dares to neglect this rule, the Beastmen wouldn't let them off easily." Although he said that, his voice was evidently much quieter.

The other person replied, "Don't say that. Even if he cannot find trouble with us inside Beast God City, what would happen when we leave the city? This is Beastman Prairie, if he killed us here, our families would think that it was the Beastmen who did it." Then the two of them went silent.

Zhao Hai now had a faint understanding of the situation. He turned around to look at the ugly man who was talking with Laura. If Ah Tai chose to sell the goods at the same price as those merchants, then Zhao Hai would truly be disappointed, but now it seems like he didn't do so.

After Ah Tai greeted Laura and the others, he then invited the group over to the carriage. When Zhao Hai and the others were on board, Ah Tai immediately drove the carriage towards Beast God City.

Inside the carriage, Zhao Hai looked at Laura and said, "Didn't they say that the camps outside Beast God City were only temporary and sparse? How come there are a lot of people here?"

Laura smiled and replied, "It used to be like that, but now there were a lot more Humans who were trading with the Beastmen. Because of that, the Beastmen allowed them to set up shop outside the city. Because of that, Ah Tai also had his own place outside the city. However, since we managed to take over the Markey Family, Ah Tai had gotten a place inside.

Zhao Hai nodded, then he asked again, "What's the difference between inside and outside the city?"

Laura replied, "There aren't a lot of differences really. The amount of buildings inside the city are too small, tents were much more prevalent there. Also, since the soil inside the city were made from Beast Blood Earth and were heavily controlled by the Beastmen, only great families of the continent were able to have a place there. The weaker merchants can only go outside the city." Zhao Hai nodded. At this time, the carriage had already entered the city.

Through the carriage's window, Zhao Hai looked at the city. The insides of Beast God City was indeed very different from the outside. There were structures inside that were built using Beast Blood Earth. In front of those buildings, Beastmen were seen to be guarding the entrance. It seems like those buildings were very important and weren't used for casual matters. In other places, large tents could be seen. However, these tents were tightly packed. The inside of the tent looked also the same as what would be seen in a normal house.

Words were written on the curtains of those tents. Some of them had names of the stores, at it seems like these shops were all selling assorted merchandise. Zhao Hai cannot see any shops that specialized on a certain product.

Before long, the carriage stopped in front of a tent. This tent was very big, and on its curtains were large letters that read, "Magic Lily Store."

When Zhao Hai saw those words, he couldn't help but feel warm. This Magic Lily Shop was a trademark of the Markey Family, but who would've thought that this shop was built by Laura herself.

There were two people outside this tent. These two doesn't seem to be very large, but still looked very strong. Their build and faces was actually quite similar to Ah Tai.

Ah Tai jumped down from the carriage and then said, "Ah Da, go unload the things in the carriage. Ah Er, prepare some food and drinks for the Young Master and the Young Ladies." The two complied and then turned around to get busy. They unexpectedly didn't greet Zhao Hai and the others.

Ah Tai became somewhat embarrassed, he scolded the two and said, "Show your manners!" Then he turned to Laura and Zhao Hai before saying, "I'm sorry, Young Master, Young Lady, those two doesn't have very good manners. I've shown you a disgraceful sight."

Zhao Hai waved his hand and said, "It doesn't matter, this is but a small thing." Ah Tai felt relieved, then he led Zhao Hai and the others inside the tent.

Upon entering the tent, Zhao Hai couldn't help but stare. This was because the furnishings in this tent were just like the furnishings in Laura's Magic Lily Shop. However, there were only a few things left inside. There were a small amount of fruit oil present, the other places were quite empty.

Ah Tai embarrassingly looked at Laura and said, "Young Lady, forgive me. The grain and the vegetables are all sold out."

Laura smiled and said, "That's not a problem. You go take a break. I want to explore this place. I also remember how fragrant Sister-in-law's barbecue was."

Ah Tai smiled and said, "Young Lady actually remembers. Since we knew that Young Lady and Young Master were coming, I already had my wife prepare everything. Then, Young Master, Young Lady, please." Then he led the group to a yard behind the tent.

Once they arrived at the yard, they can see that several smaller tents were also erected there. Ah Tai's two sons can also be seen unloading the contents of the carriage into the yard.

Ah Tai directly led the group towards the tent in the middle. Just as he was about to open the tent's curtain, the curtain was suddenly flung open, then a tall woman came out.

The woman seems to be about 40 years old. Although she was already old, and had wrinkles on her face, she was still attractive. Once could see that she was quite beautiful when she was a young woman.

When the woman saw Laura, her face couldn't hide her excitement. She immediately arrived in front of Laura and sized her up before saying, "The Young Lady has surely grown up, you're getting more and more attractive. Time really passes by quickly, in a blink of an eye, the Young Lady was already married. It's a pity that I've not been able to participate in the ceremony."

Laura smiled and said, "Sister-in-law, how have you been good these years? Did Uncle Ah Tai bully you?"

Ah Tai's wife gave a quick glance to her husband and said, "As if he'd dare. Right, Young Lady, come quickly, I've prepared a lot of delicious food." Then Ah Tai's wife turned her gaze towards Zhao Hai while Zhao Hai also looked her in the eye.

Zhao Hai saw that Laura's relationship with Ah Tai's wife was very unusual. When she spoke to Laura, she wasn't being polite. On the contrary, it seems like it was Laura who spoke to her with respect.

Then Ah Tai's wife suddenly gave her greetings to Zhao Hai, "This one has seen Uncle. This one is called Pearl, people generally refer to me as Ah Tai's wife. Sister-in-law would also do fine."

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly, it seems like being called 'Uncle' was very common here. He immediately replied and said, "Thanks, Sister-in-law. You can just call me Young Master, Zhao Hai is good as well."

Ah Tai's wife smiled and said, "I can't call you by name, so I'll just call you Young Master." Then she led Zhao Hai and the others to enter the tent.

The tent was very similar to an ordinary Beastman tent. Only the interior decorations were different, this one had more Human furniture in it.

There was also a furnace inside, of which several good slices of meat were being barbecued. There were also dishes on the sides, taking advantage of the heat to stay warm.

After Ah Tai's wife got introduced to Megan and the others, she immediately invited the group to sit down on the carpet. She also served the group some tea before she spoke to Laura, "Young Lady, you sit here first. The vegetables are still not finished. When they are done, we can have our meal." Laura nodded, then Ah Tai's wife began to get busy, Ah Tai also helped her from the side.

Zhao Hai drank his tea and then turned to Laura, "Laura, are you very close with Sister-in-law?"

Laura smiled and said, "Not just sister-in-law, I'm also quite close with Ah Tai. Ah Tai was my mother's guard while Sister-in-law was my mother's maidservant. They were there while I was growing up."

Chapter 522 - Four Tribes

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "So it's like that. That explains why you trust Ah Tai so much and also why sister-in-law isn't very polite to you."

Laura smiled and said, "Actually, Uncle Ah Tai isn't suitable for business, he's too honest. But him being in the Prairie is good, the Beastmen like his strength. He's also a very strict person when it comes to status, he only wanted me to call him Ah Tai, I'm not allowed to call him uncle."

Zhao Hai smiled, then he looked at Ah Tai with appreciation. Megan looked at Ah Tai and his wife and said to Laura, "Why do I think that Ah Tai is scared of sister-in-law?"

Laura looked at the couple and smiled, "That's true, Uncle Ah Tai is very honest, and he also liked sister-in-law very much. However, because of his appearance, he chose to not dare confess. Later on, sister-in-law took the initiative and asked uncle to marry her, which made uncle happy. Since then, sister-in-law has always been favored by Uncle Ah Tai, almost to a point where he'll always be following her."

Meg sighed and said, "It's been hard for them being in the Prairie for this long of a time. It seems like their appearances had already adapted to this place."

Laura nodded and sighed, "I initially wanted someone else to head to the Prairie, but I just cannot find an appropriate person. It was the two of them who requested me to allow them to go, I really don't want to let them go but I had to agree in the end because of their constant requests."

At this time, Ah Da and Ah Er came in from outside. When the two entered the tent, Ah Tai immediately scolded them, "You two rascals, you saw the Young Lady and the Young Master earlier but you didn't greet them. Go quickly give them your greetings now."

The two nodded and then arrived to Laura and Zhao Hai before giving their greetings. Laura looked at the two and smiled, "Ah Da, Ah Er, you grow up very quick. You two weren't this tall when I saw you a while ago."

Ah Da laughed foolishly and said, "Yes, Young Lady, we've been having good food recently, so we grew bigger and bigger." Ah Er nodded in support. When Zhao Hai looked at the two, he couldn't help but laugh, they were too adorable.

At this time, Sister-in-law came and said, "Young Lady, Young Master, the meal has been prepared." Laura and Zhao Hai nodded, then they stood up before heading towards the Magic Stove.

This Magic Stove was fabricated according to the customs of the Beastmen. The middle of the furnace was heated up using a magical formation while its rims were made of wide stone that could be made into small tables.

In the middle of the stove, a large flat iron pan was placed. The iron pan seems to be lathered with lard. Around it were plates with meat and vegetables.

Zhao Hai had a feeling of being out of place. He felt like he had returned to Earth and was having barbecue with his friends.

After Ah Tai's wife asked them to sit down, Ah Da immediately gave them glasses before pouring them some wine. At this time, the lard had already melted, so Ah Tai immediately laid the slices of meat over to the pan.

After Zhao Hai and the others finished drinking, Ah Tai had already flipped the meats over, filling the entire tent with a pleasant smell.

Ah Tai held his wine glass up this time and then looked at Zhao Hai's group and said, "Young Master, Young Ladies, since I wasn't able to participate in your wedding ceremony, I can only offer you a toast right now. I wish you all to be happy and to have a completely joyful life."

Zhao Hai and the others also quickly held their glasses up. Zhao Hai smiled to Ah Tai and his wife and said, "Thank you, thank you. I also wish for your family a happy and joyful life." Then the group simultaneously drank from their glasses.

At this time, when Ah Da was about to refill their liquor, Zhao Hai quickly stopped him. He took the bottle and then served Ah Tai and his wife as well as Laura and the others with liquor. Then he lifted his own glass and said, "Ah Tai, Sister-in-law, you've been working hard for all these years. Let me offer you this glass of wine." Ah Tai and his wife didn't dare to dally as they immediately drank their glass of wine.

Then Laura also got up and poured the group another glass of wine before giving her greetings. The group still hadn't eaten, yet they had already drank three glasses of wine.

Zhao Hai and the others had always greeted other Beastmen this way, so they had already formed a habit. At the same time, Ah Tai's group had also dealt with Beastmen before, so this custom wasn't strange for them.

After drinking three glasses of liquor, the group stopped, then Ah Tai quickly said, "Young Lady, Young Master, have a taste of this barbecue. I've just chopped this meat this morning, and they had now finished cooking. They are definitely delicious."

Laura smiled and said, "Alright, I've been hungry for sister-in-law's barbecue. They're very delicious." Then she grabbed a two-pronged fork next to the pan and got herself some few slices of meat. Then she sliced it with her knife before placing a morsel into her mouth.

Zhao Hai and the others followed her example, they forked some meat into their own plates then ate it. Not to mention the fragrance of the barbecue, the pieces of meat were also very large and thick. Even if they were cooked, they weren't fully done. The meat was slightly red but it was very tender and delicious.

When Zhao Hai ate a piece of the meat, he nodded and said, "Delicious, this so delicious. Sister-in-law's cooking is very good. If you open a shop selling these barbecue, it would certainly do very well."

As soon as Ah Tai's wife heard Zhao Hai, a smile blossomed on her mouth as she said, "If Young Master likes it very much, then you should eat more."

The group continued to eat and chat. Before long, they had unconsciously ate until they are full. The only ones left eating were Ah Da and Ah Er. Zhao Hai and the others were now just drinking and chatting.

Ah Tai turned to Zhao Hai and Laura then said, "Young Lady, Young Master, there has been rumors going around Beast God City saying that the Beastmen may declare war with the Humans. They might expel Human Merchants. What do you think about this matter?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "We already know about this, rest assured. Even if they do drive the other Merchants away, that doesn't apply to us. We have the Herculean Bulls' King's Flag as well as the Black Bear Tribe's friendship flag."

Ah Tai nodded and said, "Since we have those flags, the Beastmen wouldn't touch us. But Young Master, I've sold the grain that you've given me at normal price. Are you angry?"

Zhao Hai laughed and said, "Of course not, why would I be angry? That's what you decided to do, so it's no problem. Right, I've brought a new type of crop, you'll be selling these later." Then he showed Ah Tai a Bread Fruit.

The food that Zhao Hai gave Ah Tai in the past weren't Bread Fruits, but instead Bamboo Rice. At this time, Zhao Hai took out the Bread Fruits.

When the Bread Fruit was opened and exhibited its pulp, the eyes of Ah Tai and his wife lit up. They dealt with the Beastmen for a long time, so they knew what they needed. This Bread Fruit would definitely be a favorite among the Beastmen.

Zhao Hai gave them the Bread Fruit and then had them taste it, then he said, "Only our Buda Clan has this Bread Fruit. No other people have this in hand. We shall mainly sell these fruits in the future, we have a lot of them. Moreover, we should also sell some daily necessities. The price of the Bread Fruit is half of Bamboo Rice. The price of the necessities shouldn't be very high, maybe a bit higher than its price back on the Human territories."

Ah Tai then said, "Young Master, isn't this too low? This Bread Fruit is much more convenient than Bamboo Rice, it is cost-effective as well. It would still be popular even if we sell it at a high price. Also, those daily necessities, they still needed to be transported to the Prairie, that would cost us. If we do it just like what you said, we would be losing so much money."

Ah Tai was an honest person, but it didn't mean that he was stupid. He knew that when one travels to the Prairie, one would need to go through a lot of checkpoints. Delivering things to the Prairie would generally make the price of the items double. If one doesn't increase the price of the item, they would generally lose out on profits."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "That's not an issue. I've already calculated the sums, we won't be losing money. Also, if we make a name for ourselves this time, when the Beastmen is done waging war with the Humans, we would become the largest merchant in the Prairie."

When Ah Tai heard Zhao Hai, his eyes couldn't help but lighten up, then he laughed and said, "Alright. Young Master's words made me feel relieved. I certainly wouldn't disappoint the Young Master."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I'll tell you the truth, since the Buda Clan and the Markey Family have been combined, there aren't a lot of people who would dare offend us. However, Ah Tai, you shouldn't presumably think that we can monopolize the business of the Prairie. It's impossible for that to happen."

Ah Tai smiled and said, "Young Master can rest assured, I fully understand."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Since the Markey Family has been here for quite some time, we should have some tribes that we directly supply, right? Do we have a deep relationship with them?"

Ah Tai nodded and said, "Before the takeover, the Markey Family supplies four large tribes with food and daily necessities. The four tribes are the Fire Fox tribe, Black Panther tribe, Gibbon tribe, and the Gold-ringed Eagle tribe. These four tribes are all branches of Warring Races. Each year, their food and necessities consumption are quite large. However, the Markey Family's business only accounts for 20 percent of their food supply and 10% of their daily necessity supply."

When he heard Ah Tai, Zhao Hai couldn't help but frown and said, "What's the problem? Why is it like that?"

Ah Tai sighed and said, "This isn't really a mystery. Even if the goods of the Markey Family are of high quality, their prices were also significantly higher than the other merchants. If not for the fear of having their supply monopolized, those four tribes wouldn't be buying from the Markey Family. This year, even if the Prairie was having a food shortage, those four tribes didn't buy any food from the family. The amount of daily necessities that they bought didn't increase either."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but sigh, he really cannot understand why the Markey Family acted this way. Not only did they offend everyone on the continent, they were also quite overbearing in doing their business. They really think that they were soaring in the heavens and thus became conceited. If Zhao Hai didn't deal with the family, other people would attack them sooner or later.

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, I understand. Do you know the addresses of these tribes? I plan on visiting them when I have time."

Ah Tai nodded and said, "I know, these four tribes are quite famous in the Prairie. It's very easy to look for them. The Fire Foxes are well-known prophets among the Beastmen. Their abilities are also special. It was said that their spirit technique can summon fire attributed beasts and their attacking abilities are very strong. The Black Panther tribe are one of the very few assassin tribes among the Beastmen. Their stealth techniques are very formidable. The Black Panthers were the people who clashed with Human assassins during wars. The Gibbon Tribe are one of the main forces of the Beastmen. They dual wield scimitars, and their movements are very flexible. They are the ones who generally attack the walls of Human cities. The Gold-ringed Eagle tribe are also one of the main battle force of the Beastman Race. Their bodies aren't very huge, but they are very skilled in archery. And because of their unique mount, they were also one of the most famous aerial scouts in the Prairie."

Zhao Hai nodded, "That's good. It seems like now is not the right time to visit them. The war between the Beastmen and Humans are inevitable. It would be impossible to sell food at this time since the Beastmen are going to pillage them from the humans. You don't need to get busy at this time, just stay here in Beast God City. I don't think that this war would go on for too long. As soon as the war is over, we should try to be the first to establish new connections to the Beastmen. It'll be the opportune time to form partnerships with the tribes."

Ah Tai nodded and said, "Young Master can rest assured, I know what to do. I originally have a cooperation with the Pig-headed Race. But they are just too far and is only a commoner race. Recently, I've been planning on getting in touch with the Tiger-headed race. If we can get a partnership with them, we won't be worrying about where to sell our goods later."

Zhao Hai nodded, the Tiger-headed Race and the Lion-headed Race are considered to be the Royal Races of the Beastmen. These two races have innumerable amounts of subordinate and slave races under them. Because of how much excess manpower they have, they can fully devote themselves into improving their fighting strength. Because of this, they have become leagues stronger than the other Beastman races. Adding on to the fact that these two races were very rich, Zhao Hai wouldn't worry about not selling his goods anymore.

Chapter 523 - The State of the Human Merchants

Zhao Hai was very satisfied with Ah Tai's work ethic. This may be because of his personality. It explains why he was able to thrive here in the Prairie. He also heard from Ah Tai that he was able to make many friends among the Beastmen.

But Zhao Hai kept calm, he knew that since the Beastmen were getting ready to fight the Humans, the chances of Ah Tai's plan with the Tiger Race succeeding wouldn't be big.

However, Zhao Hai didn't say anything since he didn't want to dampen Ah Tai's enthusiasm. It wouldn't be good for Ah Tai, if he doesn't have a spirited attitude, he wouldn't have a lot of Beastman Friends.

After eating their meal, Zhao Hai and the others didn't leave. They entered one of the tents that Ah Tai arranged and rested. At the same time, Ah Tai's wife also offered them some milk tea.

Although ordinary tea was available, milk tea was instead served. This was because since they had eaten meat, milk tea would be better for them. Another reason was because they were in the Prairie, ordinary tea was rare, Beastmen weren't used to drinking it.

Zhao Hai had interacted with the Beastmen for quite a long time, so they were already used to drinking milk tea. Zhao Hai took a sip and sighed, "I didn't have the opportunity to get a tea tree all this time. I really want to plant one in the Space."

Laura smiled and said, "What's wrong, Brother Hai? Do you really like to drink milk tea?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, and didn't respond. He cannot tell Laura that he didn't really like drinking milk tea. What he wanted was classic green tea.

Megan didn't care about any of these, so she turned to Zhao Hai and asked, "Big Brother Hai, what do we do now? Now that Ah Tai told us that the war between the Humans and the Beastmen is about to start, do we stay here or do we return to the continent?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Don't worry, at this point the continent should be very chaotic. Father-In-law has already arranged to inform all of the people in the continent about the Radiant Church's hand in the Prairie's food shortage. And because of their move, the Beastmen are now planning its big attack on the Aksu Empire. All of Aksu Empire's residents know that if the Beastmen wage war against humans, the Aksu Empire would be the first to suffer. The Radiant Church should have fallen in favor right now, but not to a point where they can't control it. We can wait for a moment until we confirm that the Beastmen would indeed attack the Humans, then we can return back to the continent."

Megan became confused, "Why would we return to the continent at that time?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Only when the situation starts would the continent go into turmoil. If we there at that time, there would a possibility for us to get some people. Don't forget, we are friends with the Purcell Family and the Iksa Family. Their territories are bordering the Beastman Prairie. At that time, we can go to them and recruit some talented people into our territory."

Laura smiled and said, "I've heard that the Purcell Family hasn't been doing too well these times. When you helped them in the past, the Aksu Empire came to know about your relationship. Because of that, the Empire went and fully suppressed them. At the same time, your relationship with the Iksa Family has been revealed as well, which led to them also being suppressed. The two families have had it hard these past few months."

Zhao Hai's expression turned cold, then he snorted and said, "If the Aksu Empire didn't do this, I might have helped them in this crisis, I might even prevent the Beastmen from attacking. But now, it seems like they needed to be taught a lesson."

Laura and the others understood what Zhao Hai meant. Since he had a lot of Bread Trees as well as the Farming Ground, Zhao Hai can definitely provide food for the entire Beastman Race. If the Beastmen have food, then they would naturally stop their plan of pillaging the Human territories. Even if the Beastmen are hot blooded, they also know that wars bring death. They know that war wasn't a good choice.

But Zhao Hai didn't want to give the Beastmen a lot of food. He wanted this war to happen. Not only would the upcoming conflict deal a heavy blow to the Aksu Empire, it would also bring bigger trouble to the Radiant Church.

In the following days, Zhao Hai and the others stayed inside the store. He brought out some Bamboo Rice as well as some Bread Fruits and daily necessities. He stocked the store full of goods.

But restocking a shop wasn't generally this fast. Not only the Magic Lily Shop, all other Human shops were also like this. Their shipments this time had gotten quite scarce, this made them very anxious.

When these Human merchants came to the Prairie, they didn't know about the Beastmen's food shortage. They also didn't know that the Beastmen were going to attack the Humans. Because of this, they followed their usual practice and brought the same amount of goods to the Prairie once spring came. This was because they knew that this was the time where business with the Beastmen yielded great profits. It was the time when the Beastmen would crazily purchase goods to stock up because they had eaten their stores during the winter. If one brings some goods to sell at this time, they wouldn't be worried of not making a profit.

But this year's situation was different. When the Merchants came, business was doing great as usual. However, when information came that the Radiant Church was behind this time's food shortage and that the Beastmen were going to send troops towards the Human territory, the sales volume of these Human Merchants dropped in a single day. Right now, they weren't able to make the same amount of transactions as they did in the past. With how low their profits came, these Human Merchants wished that they could just die.

These merchants knew that if the Beastmen attack Human lands, their goods would be left unsold. This was because as long as Beastmen pillaged the Human territories, they would have enough food in their hands to merit not buying anymore.

And these Human Merchants have brought a lot of things to the Prairie this time. But now, the goods would have to rot here because they knew that they would probably be driven out once the war starts. It would be impossible for them to bring those goods back to the Human lands, they don't have any choice than to just leave them here.

But even if the Beastmen didn't touch the things that they left behind because of their principle, once they leave, nobody would take care of their goods. Before long, those things would slowly get damage, this was equal to losing everything.

Zhao Hai had also seen the situation during these past few days. He knew that the merchants had been bleeding money at this time. He was also certain that these people didn't have any relationship with the Radiant Church, they might even have an enmity with the organization. Otherwise, the Church should've already informed them, making them avoid jumping into this fiery pit.

Upon thinking about it, Zhao Hai understood another aspect of the Radiant Church's plan. If the Radiant Church succeeds and has all the blame shifted to the Rosen Empire, these merchants would detest the Empire. And when the Church emerged and the Merchants discovered that those affiliated to the organization didn't suffer any losses, they would be joining the Radiant Church. When that happens, the Church would then control the Merchants in the Prairie. They would then have a bargaining piece against the Beastmen. The Church's plan was truly brilliant.

If not for Zhao Hai foiling the church's plan, then both the Rosen Empire and the Beastmen wouldn't have any good days.

But now that Zhao Hai was aware of the Church's plan, he naturally wouldn't let them succeed. Zhao Hai observed these merchants for several days. The Merchants have reached a point where they were just left grasping on straws. They cannot bring their goods back, but they couldn't sell it as well. The only reason why they haven't left Beast God City yet was because they can still make one or two transactions each day. They hoped to sell as much as possible to minimize their losses. They only planned to leave once the Beastmen started to drive them out.

This gave Zhao Hai see an opportunity. He can buy the goods of these Merchants since they're going to be abandoned anyway. If he buy these things, he would be solving the Merchants' greatest problem. He can also form a good relationship with these Merchants. They would then be grateful to him and they might even affect the Radiant Church's relationships with other merchants, preventing the food shortage from happening again.

After thinking of this, Zhao Hai immediately told his plan to Laura. Regarding business matters, Zhao Hai always wanted to hear Laura's opinion. Laura's gift of commerce was something that no normal person had.

After Laura heard Zhao Hai's idea, she immediately gave her approval, she also thought that this was a good plan. Upon arriving at their decision, they quickly had Ah Tai go out and see those Merchants as well as see their bottom line.

Ah Tai's nickname was Silly Ah Tai. Because of this, the other merchants' vigilance towards him was very low. Adding Ah Tai's careless appearance to the formula made the merchants even less on guard. It didn't take a long time before Ah Tai managed to get their bottom line.

The requests of the Merchants weren't high. In their opinion, they already lost out. If they can just recover a little bit of their capital, then they would be happy.

Chapter 524 - Alliance

After knowing the bottom line of the merchants, Zhao Hai decided that he would buy all of their goods. Of course, he wouldn't buy them at a high price. He would make the merchants lose a little. However, even with this, he expects that the merchants would still feel grateful to him.

This even also gave Zhao Hai more understanding regarding the Beastmen. When the Beastmen declares war with the Humans, they would drive all of these merchants away. In this case, the Humans would generally leave their goods behind. Then the beastman can then choose whether to take those or not.

But according to the past convention, the Beastmen wouldn't touch these commodities, they will just leave those to rot. In order to survive, Beastmen would take their weapons and attack the Human lands, however, they wouldn't touch these left over merchandise in Beast God City. This was one of the strange and respectable aspect of the Beastman Race.

Zhao Hai also knew that if the Beastmen does expel the Human merchants, then the merchants would surely suffer big.

The majority of Beastmen tribes do their trades with Magic Beasts. The Humans would bring their goods to the Prairie to have it traded with some Magic Beasts of which were then taken back to human lands to be processed. The markup from this process would be the merchant's main source of profit.

If the Beastmen drives them away, then that would mean that the war is already near. If they bring the Magic Beasts, then they would find it difficult to cross the Human border. Even if they did pass through, the money that they would shell out will be very big, it can even be several times more than normal. As the matter stands, it would be very disadvantageous for them. One could even say that during this war between the Beastmen and the Humans, it would be the Merchants who didn't know of the matter that would be losing a lot of money.

Because of this, Zhao Hai planned to trade with these humans using money. Presently, he has a lot of money in his hands. He even had some unnamed crystal cards, these cards have not been used so far. There really aren't a lot of places where Zhao Hai can spend money, so he decided to spend them here with the Human Merchants. After all, it was the Human Merchants that use crystal cards the most.

Zhao Hai had been in Beast God City for nearly ten days now. And during these ten days, rumors about the Radiant Church and the food shortage have finally started to spread throughout the city. Moreover, it was known that the Lion and Tiger Races had already confirmed the authenticity of this news. The Beastmen were now officially starting to prepare for their attack towards the Human territories.

But even if the information had already been passed on, the Beastmen from Beast God City still didn't drive the Human Merchants away. This basically means that the Beastmen still hasn't decided when their attack would begin. However, everybody knew that it would be happening sooner rather than later.

Right now, the Human Merchants in Beast God City were feeling like they were ants inside a hot pot. They knew that the time the Beastmen left for them was running out.

At this time, Zhao Hai made his move. He made Ah Tai invite the Human Merchants to Magic Lily Store. Then he made Laura and the others prepare some food while Zhao Hai discussed transaction to the Humans present.

Before long, the Merchants had followed Ah Tai to Magic Lily Shop. They actually didn't care about Ah Tai, but they didn't dare to not give Zhao Hai face.

Zhao Hai was the Buda Clan's Patriarch, he was already very famous among Humans. Naturally, this fame was due to his mercilessness and ruthlessness.

These merchants knew that the people that died on Zhao Hai's hands had already reached several hundred thousand. Just thinking about the numbers made their scalp numb. Since Zhao Hai invited them, they didn't dare to not go. However, everyone was frightened. They didn't know why Zhao Hai was looking for them.

These merchants followed Ah Tai towards the shop's courtyard. Meanwhile, Zhao Hai was standing there while waiting for them to arrive. When he saw the merchants, Zhao Hai immediately stepped forwards to meet everybody. He gave a bow to the Merchants and said, "Zhao Hai Buda welcomes you."

Zhao Hai checked, these merchants were medium level nobles of the continent. They couldn't rely on Great nobles and were naturally unaffiliated with the Radiant Church. Zhao Hai invited them in to propose an alliance.

The statuses of these merchants were very different from Zhao Hai's. They didn't dare accept Zhao Hai's bow, so everyone almost simultaneously gave a bow back.

Zhao Hai looked at their faces and faintly smiled, "I've been in Beast God City for ten days already. However, because of the matters that I needed to handle, I only had the time to invite all of you today. I've been very disrespectful. I've invited everyone today to gain better understanding of each other. After all, everyone of us are merchants of this city."

Although these merchants had heard of Zhao Hai's name and actions before, they didn't have a chance to meet him in person. In all honesty, with their status in the continent, they don't have the qualifications to meet Zhao Hai.

Because of this, they didn't understand Zhao Hai and what kind of person he was. To the people present, Zhao Hai was a Dark Mage that killed several hundred thousand people. In their minds, Zhao Hai's image was that of a gloomy and murderous man.

However, the Zhao Hai that they saw this time was completely opposite of their expectations. Although Zhao Hai looked very ordinary, he had a warm smile plastered on his face. At the same time, his body's aura dispersed an amiable aura, making people unconsciously feel intimate towards him.

These Merchants were now thinking that this Zhao Hai must be an impostor. How could a God of Death, capable of killing countless people, have this kind of warm smile? This was a huge contrast to what these merchants expected, making them dumbfounded.

Zhao Hai didn't care about their reactions, he just smiled faintly and said, "Everyone, please come in. I've prepared some liquor for you all. I invite all of you to have a few cups with me."

The merchants recovered, then after quickly expressing their gratitude they entered the tent with Zhao Hai. There were also some food present inside. Naturally, the most important course was Sister-in-law's barbecue.

Now that everything was prepared, Zhao Hai invited the merchants to sit down. Ah Tai sat down as well. Naturally, Laura and the others weren't present. Humans and Beastmen were different, after all. If Laura and the others were present, these merchants would probably feel uncomfortable. Not only them, the women might also feel some discomfort.

After having everybody settled down, Ah Tai went on and personally poured them a glass of liquor. This liquor was naturally red wine and not the milk wine that the Beastmen generally serve.

After having the wine, Zhao Hai held his glass up and said, "Meeting everyone here in the Beastman Prairie is a happy matter. We're all fellow humans, we should help each other in the future. Everyone, share this cup with me."

The statuses of these Merchants weren't very high. Therefore, they hadn't been able to have any contacts with people of Zhao Hai's status. In their opinion, Zhao Hai was someone that they weren't able to meet casually.

Therefore, when these merchants saw that Zhao Hai was speaking with them in a friendly manner as well as eating a meal together with them and even proposing a toast. Every one of them felt very excited, so they immediately held their glasses up.

Then they simultaneously drank the wine. Then Zhao Hai didn't urge them to drink anymore, he then got them to eat the dishes. He invited them to eat the barbecue as well as the vegetables that were prepared. Zhao Hai was now in the company of Humans, not Beastmen. If he urged them to drink three glasses, they might get angry.

Although Zhao Hai's status was higher than these people, he didn't have any enmity with them so he didn't want to create it unnecessary. At the same time, it wouldn't be good to his plan of alliance if they felt any dislike towards him...

After some time eating and feeling somewhat full, Zhao Hai said, "Today, I've invited all of you because I have a matter to discuss."

These Merchants knew that Zhao Hai wouldn't ask them to eat a meal for no reason. Sure enough, it came. They had waited for this moment to arrive, therefore, they weren't surprised when Zhao Hai brought it up. They just gave Zhao Hai a curious expression.

Zhao Hai looked at them and said, "Are you having a bad time right now? The Beastmen and the Humans are going to have a war soon. I'm afraid it wouldn't take a long time before the Beastmen drives everybody back to Human lands. When that time comes, everybody would probably suffer a loss."

When these Merchants heard Zhao Hai, their faces immediately turned gloomy. They knew that what Zhao Hai said was correct. But they also knew that they cannot do anything about it.

Zhao Hai continued, "I think that everybody already knew why they fell into such a situation. I can tell everyone here that the rumors that you've been hearing are all real. This matter was caused by the Radiant Church. They wanted to deal with the Rosen Empire using this method while at the same time dealing with the Beastmen as well. In the end, all of you have become sacrificial victims. In the eyes of the Church, all of you are unimportant people, not worth reminding. Moreover, they also used you to hinder the Beastmen."

The Merchants might appear calm while listening, but one could see deep anger in their eyes. Looking at their expressions, Zhao Hai knew that this was the time to express his intent, so he continued, "Everybody knows my identity. You also know about my enmity with the Radiant Church. But me telling you this information wasn't to defile the church. This matter would be confirmed by the Beastmen sooner. I had everybody come today in order to present a proposal. I want everyone here to join me in an alliance."

When the Merchants heard Zhao Hai, they couldn't help but stare blankly. Everyone of them were puzzled at Zhao Hai. They seem to not understand what Zhao Hai just said. Alliance? With Zhao Hai's strength, does he really need an alliance with them?

Zhao Hai looked at them and said, “You’ve seen the strength of the Radiant Church. They gave an order and then so many merchants suddenly stopped their trade with the Beastmen. It is obvious that their influence is very huge. After the war, the Radiant Church may use those merchants to rule the commerce of the Prairie. If we don’t make an alliance, how can we possibly resist them? They won’t sell food to the Prairie today, but what would happen if they suddenly drop the prices one day? What can we do? Because of this, I wanted to set up an alliance!”

Chapter 525 - Vassal

The merchants present knew what Zhao Hai meant. They knew that what he said was true. After the war between the Beastmen and the Radiant Church, those merchants controlled by the Radiant Church would definitely return to do business in the Prairie. The merchants present also knew that the commercial might of those people would be very strong, this was because they have the Radiant Church’s support.

As Zhao Hai said, these Radiant Church people cannot be allowed to sell their food in the Prairie. If they decide to cut their prices, everyone not on their group would certainly suffer some losses.

But if their alliance get set up, they would become a power that couldn’t be underestimated. Most importantly, these merchants can use this alliance as a way to have a connection with the Buda Clan. Even if they cannot do business in the Prairie anymore, they can just shift their operations on the Buda Clan’s Golden Island. The island now embodied its name, as long as merchants do business there, they would certainly gain massive wealth. Moreover, that place was much safer than the Beastman Prairie.

Zhao Hai looked at their expressions and didn’t say anything. He wanted to give these merchants a choice. He believes that since these people were able to do business with the Beastmen, especially in Beast God City, these people certainly understood the situation.

Sure enough, the merchants looked at each other for a moment and then nodded. Then one of them turned to Zhao Hai and said, “Mister Zhao Hai, we agree to the alliance. Sir shall be the leader of our group. What rules does sir have?”

Zhao Hai faintly smiled, he didn't think that these people would be this surprisingly calm. He quickly answered them and said, "Actually, our corporation is completely a business alliance. I only hope that everyone would share information with one another. Also if one has goods with no buyer while someone has a buyer but with no goods, I hope that you would cooperate with each other. This way, the two parties would benefit from the profits. Naturally, the split of the money would depend on your prior agreements. Also, if someone wanted to deal with one of us, I hope that everyone would help in resisting. This way, we can become stronger and stronger. Does everyone agree?"

When the Merchants heard what Zhao Hai said, they all bowed. They now believed that Zhao Hai really did want to form an alliance with them. The question of the man earlier was just in fact, a test. They wanted to see whether Zhao Hai just wanted to have benefits in the alliance. Now it seems like Zhao Hai was not just trying to gain benefits, he really did want everyone to help one another.

The merchant earlier held his wine glass up and said, "Alright, we'll do what mister asks. Mister, my name is Milton Curry, from the Curry Family. What name would our alliance have?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "A name isn't important, let's just call it Merchant Alliance. Everyone shall introduce each other later. I also hope that our alliance won't just be here in the Prairie. When we return to the Human Lands, let's still be allies. If one has difficulties, everyone should do everything in their abilities to help. Can everyone accept this?"

The merchants looked each other and then nodded. Milton then turned to Zhao Hai and said, "We accept. The establishment of this alliance only gives us benefits with no harm. But we're afraid that mister would have to suffer some losses. After all, our families aren't very great."

Zhao Hai laughed and said, "That doesn't matter. The alliance's benefits to my Buda Clan aren't small either. Everybody should know that our Buda Clan is still an emerging family. Our connections simply cannot compare to the other Great Clans. Forming an alliance with you is also a form of having new connections. For our Buda Clan, this benefit is very big."

When Milton heard Zhao Hai, his beating heart finally relaxed. In the end, Milton lifted his glass and said, "Sir can rest assured. Later on, our Curry Family will be considered to be a vassal family of the Buda Clan. If mister wants something done, you can just approach us."

Zhao Hai stared blankly, he didn't think that Milton would actually declare this. While Zhao Hai was still dumbfounded, the other people also raised their glasses and one by one said the same thing as Milton. These people are all Patriarchs of medium-ranked Families, so they also had the authority to declare so.

Zhao Hai didn't quite understand why they did this. If one becomes a vassal, a lot of control would be lost. At the very least, they wouldn't be making decisions just like this one anymore.

Actually, this shows how Zhao Hai still didn't understand the circumstances in the continent. On the continent, all Great Nobles have their own vassal families. Although those vassal families needed to listen to the Great Nobles, they would also benefit a lot from being a vassal. They can have the Great Noble take care of problems that they weren't able to take care of. For medium-rank families, this was a huge thing.

Although the Buda Clan was still an emerging family, the strength that they have was tyrannical. Additionally, Zhao Hai was the son-in-law of the Calci Family as well as the Rosen Emperor, also the Buda Clan is in an Eternal Alliance with the Crook Family, while also being normal allies with the Shelley Family. These connections were something that middle-ranked Noble clans like Milton's didn't have. Now that they have the opportunity, they naturally wouldn't let it go.

Zhao Hai looked at Milton and the others and said, "Alright, I'll take all of you in. From now on, all of you are vassals of my Buda Clan."

Milton and the others showed happiness in their face. The benefits that they just received were too great. The merchants immediately put down their glasses as they stood up and gave Zhao Hai a salute. From this point on, they were now Zhao Hai's men.

Zhao Hai also received their salute. He was now a half-lord for Milton and the others, so he naturally would receive their ceremonies. After this ceremony, Milton and the others were officially his subordinates.

After Milton and the others gave their salute, Zhao Hai had them sit down, then after this he said, "I won't always be in the Prairie. If you have anything to inquire, you can just find Ah Tai. Then he shall relay your words to me. Right, I have another matter to discuss with all of you."

Milton immediately said, "Mister, please tell us."

Zhao Hai waved his hand and said, "I don't need anything from you, I want to help you instead. All of you brought a lot of goods this time since you didn't know about what would happen. When the

Beastmen drives all of you away, those goods would all go to waste. I want to buy all of your goods. Of course, I won't buy them at a high price. You may take a few losses, but it wouldn't be a lot. Also, I will use crystal cards in the transaction, not Magic Beasts. What do all of you think?"

Milton stared, then with evident happiness, he replied, "Sir, that's fantastic. We absolutely agree. However, wouldn't mister lose too much?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Didn't you see the three flags outside the tent? With those flags, the Beastmen wouldn't be driving me away."

Milton and the others stared, they didn't know the significance of those three flags. The only thing they knew was that they were Beastman flags. They also have Beastman flags, but they would still be driven away.

Zhao Hai looked at their confused expressions and couldn't help but gawk. Then he suddenly remembered that there weren't a lot of people who knew about the different Beastman flags. Thus, it was also possible that Milton and the others had no idea about them.

Zhao Hai then looked at Milton and the others and said, "Those flags aren't the same as your flags. I'm very sure that the Beastmen wouldn't drive me away, so you can all just sell those goods to me. Rest assured, I won't let you suffer too much loss."

Milton and the others nodded, they felt that a huge stone in their hearts has finally dropped. They were now very grateful to Zhao Hai. It was because if Zhao Hai didn't do this, then their losses would definitely be huge.

When he saw that Milton and the others nodded, Zhao Hai smiled and invited them to sit down again. Then he took out some milk wine that he made and placed it on the table.

This was the first time that these people had tasted this kind of liquor. Their status was insufficient, and adding on to the fact that this liquor was quite rare, they simply didn't have the chance to taste it.

The meal lasted for a couple of hours before the group dispersed. After the meal, Zhao Hai instructed Ah Tai to go to those merchants and check the purchase before giving them the money. This would allow the merchants to leave Beast God City as soon as possible.

The merchants already knew about this matter, so they didn't oppose to it. In all honesty, if it weren't for them wanting to sell as much as possible to recoup their losses, they would have already left the Prairie. The war between the Beastmen and the Humans was inevitable. They would only get in danger if they stay here for too long.

They had no choice but to stay, the majority of them rely on the profits of these goods to run their families. If they couldn't at least recover their capital, then they would have a bad time in the future.

Zhao Hai and the others had already decided on the price beforehand. Although the price was much cheaper than selling to the Beastmen, it wasn't pitifully low. Even if they suffer some losses, the merchants were still satisfied. Amidst the situation between the Beastmen and Humans, this result was already fortunate for them.

Zhao Hai returned to his own tent and then drank several cups of Spatial water. Then he told the matter of vassalage to Laura and the others.

After the group listened, Laura smiled and told Zhao Hai, "Although we'll suffer a few losses after having them as our vassals, this development is good for the overall situation of the Buda Clan. Having vassal families is good."

Megan nodded and said, "Those guys had it cheap. Raising this matter at that moment made it impossible for Brother Hai to decline. Those guys are surely some sly fellows."

Lizzy smiled and said, "I think they also saw that Elder Brother Hai was acting too well, so they wanted to ask that question to test him. They actually didn't expect Brother Hai to agree immediately, those guys are really lucky."

Zhao Hai looked at the three awkwardly, he really couldn't understand. It was clear that it was the Buda Clan who got vassals. But from Laura and the others' mouths, it seems like the merchants had gotten something good.

Laura knew that Zhao Hai didn't know much about Noble matters, so she took the liberty to explain it to him. A medium-ranked noble being a vassal to a Great Noble wasn't a shameful thing. On the contrary, it was a good thing. After becoming a vassal, these clans would be able to do some things easier than when they were still independent.

Moreover, if someone offends them later, they can also ask the Great Clan to act on their behalf. Being a vassal was like being under a Great Noble's umbrella of protection. Benefits such as these are very hard to find.

Don't think that these medium-ranked nobles had such beautiful lives. In reality, they always find themselves stepping on the tip of their toes, especially those who weren't vassals of Great Noble Clans. These medium-ranked nobles always move carefully because they fear offending the Great Nobles. If they ever offend one, then they might face the fate of being extinguished. Because of those reasons, these medium-ranked nobles were always careful and cautious in everything they do.

But most of them didn't have any good qualities that would attract Great Nobles. Even if they voluntarily side themselves to a Great Noble Clan, it wasn't always certain that they would be accepted. Now that Zhao Hai had them in his fold, this was equal to having a strong power at their back. Although they will now need to offer yearly tributes to the Buda Clan to appease Zhao Hai, the benefits that they will get completely overshadowed it.

After listening to Laura's explanation, Zhao Hai finally understood the matter. However, he didn't regret his decision of accepting Milton and the others. He knew that the present connections of the Buda Clan were pitifully low. All of their information came from the Calci Family, which made Zhao Hai very passive. Now that he had Milton and the others, the Buda Clan can now have its own intelligence network. Handling matters in the future would be much more convenient.

Zhao Hai wasn't a person who wants to be under the control of others. Therefore, he doesn't want to always depend on the Calci Family for information. This would make the Buda Clan always bow their heads down to the Calci Family and Zhao Hai doesn't want that. So Zhao Hai planned to establish his own influence.

And Milton and the others were going to help him achieve his goals. Although Milton and the others weren't strong families, these people came from different parts of the Continent. As long as they have the support of the Buda Clan, they can only get stronger and stronger. Then, they can slowly form their own net of influence of which the Buda Clan was in the very center. With this, the Buda Clan would also start to get bigger and bigger, and will slowly get stronger and stronger.

Chapter 526 - Eviction

The Buda Clan has already established its might in the continent because of Zhao Hai's effort as well as the Space. However, when it came to personal connections, they couldn't even compare to low-ranked nobles families. The Buda Clan's background was just too thin.

Currently, the connections that the Buda Clan had include: the Calci Family, Crook Family, Rosen Imperial Clan, Shelley Family, Purcell Family, and the Iksa Family.

But one has to know that these families were already very powerful. Even the Iksa Family, they have the title of a Duke. Although they aren't a Grand Duke's family and had their own principality, they were still Old Nobles of the Aksu Empire. The help that Zhao Hai can get from them was not very much.

Because of this, Zhao Hai wanted to establish his own circle of influence. And Milton and the others gave him this opportunity.

All of the Great Clans in the continent had their own personal web of influence. This web was something that their clans have woven for many years. Since the Buda Clan didn't have such a web, Zhao Hai had began to weave it right now.

Therefore, Zhao Hai placed great importance towards Milton and the others. No matter what, it was these people who voluntarily sided themselves to the Buda Clan. So Zhao Hai decided to help them out as much as possible.

In the following days, all of the Human merchants who participated in Zhao Hai's banquet had shipped their goods to Magic Lily Shop. At the same time, Zhao Hai also took out those unmarked crystal cards and handed them over to the merchants.

These merchants understood that if they return to the human lands while carrying either Magic beasts or coins, they would surely fork some of them out on the road. But if they have these crystal cards, they can just place them on their pockets. And when they come across a checkpoint, they can just choose to not declare its existence.

Because of this, the merchants were very grateful to Zhao Hai. If it wasn't for Zhao Hai, they would suffer huge losses. At this point, the situation in Beast God City was not getting intense, it was time for them to leave. After handing their good over to Zhao Hai, they immediately left Beast God City.

When these merchants left, Beast God City became somewhat desolate. This made the other merchants who were still there scared. Therefore, they also decided to leave.

The merchants that Zhao Hai invited to his banquet were thoroughly investigated by him. These merchants were from medium-ranked families that didn't have a lot of background. They didn't have any connections to a Great Clan, nor did they have a relationship with a Noble affiliated with the Radiant Church. Those who didn't fit into this criteria weren't invited by Zhao Hai.

When the Radiant Church implemented their plan, they didn't inform the Great Clans beforehand. Therefore, since these Great Nobles had no idea, they also sent their merchants over to the Prairie.

At the same time, there were also merchants affiliated with the Radiant Church present. But they were in the minority. They only came because they were sent by the Radiant Church to monitor the situation with the Beastmen.

When Zhao Hai went to investigate the prospective nobles that he wanted to invite, he checked them very carefully. He asked Cai'er to carefully look into their backgrounds as well as the situation of their families. He wanted to make sure that they wouldn't have any connections to either Great Nobles or the Radiant Church. If there's a hint of the two criteria on them, then Zhao Hai didn't go and send an invitation.

But even so, the group that allied with Zhao Hai weren't the minority. At the same time, these merchants also have a lot of shops outside the city. So when they left, they caused unrest towards the other merchants who were left behind. Moreover, as days passed, more and more Beastmen came to Beast God City, and their gazes were going less and less friendly. A lot of merchants have already retreated, especially those with Great Noble backing, they can still afford the loss. Those who still stayed were also preparing their things to leave.

Naturally, Zhao Hai wouldn't let this opportunity go. He immediately had Ah Tai go and contact these people and made them sell their goods over to him. And of course, the price that he bought wasn't as good as what he gave Milton's group.

These merchants knew that Zhao Hai was using the fire in order to get their goods. However, they had no choice but to agree. At the very least, they can still recover some of their losses. If they don't agree with Zhao Hai, then they'd be left with no money.

And Zhao Hai would pay them using crystal cards. These cards aren't very rare in human lands, but in the Prairie, they were uncommon. For those merchants, these crystal cards were very attractive.

Every merchant who came to the Prairie to do business wasn't a fool. They knew very well how cost-effective crystal cards were compared to bringing along large amounts of Argali. After Milton and the others left, Zhao Hai's business became better. Everyday, more and more merchants came to Zhao Hai to sell their goods.

The prices that these goods were sold at were much lower than their selling price in the Human lands. Since Zhao Hai had a lot of spare cash in hand, then he would naturally jump on this opportunity to get cheap goods.

A month after Zhao Hai arrived in Beast God City, the Beastmen finally issued their expulsion order. Ordering all Human merchants to leave Beast God City within three days, otherwise, the Beastmen would become impolite.

With the issuance of this order, the Human Merchants knew that it was the end. In the past, they chose to not sell their goods over to Zhao Hai, but now they were very anxious. All of them immediately sold every goods they have over to Zhao Hai at a very low price. Then after receiving the money, they immediately left.

The Beastmen in Beast God City had seen Zhao Hai's conduct, but they didn't say anything. In all honesty, the Beastmen didn't hate these merchants who bring their goods over to the Prairie. Because of this, they chose to not attack them, and instead just drove them away.

On the other hand, Zhao Hai's three flags made the Beastmen very shocked. This was the first time that they have seen a Human bearing a Beastman tribe's King's Flag as well as a Friendship Flag.

Three days later, no other Human was present in Beast God City aside from Zhao Hai's group. This made the Beastmen look at Zhao Hai and the others strangely. It was very much like when Humans notice a very strange creature among them.

Zhao Hai didn't care about any of these. The reason why he stayed this time was to wait for Wales and the Black Bear Tribe to arrive in Beast God City.

Wales and the others didn't let Zhao Hai wait for too long. Ten days after all of the Humans left Beast God city, the Black Bear Tribe arrived.

When Zhao Hai heard that the Black Bear tribe had come, he immediately went to greet them at the gate of Beast God City. While waiting on the gate, Zhao Hai saw a cavalry unit in the distance. When Zhao Hai focused his eyes, he could see that all of the cavalry were mounted Black Bear Beastmen. Their numbers reached 30 thousand, and their movements were filled with great cadence. This cavalry unit completely blotted out the ground, making it black. This scene could make one feel overwhelmed.

However, this cavalry unit didn't enter Beast God City but stopped just around five li away. Only a few hundred Beastmen separated and continued on to the city. Before long, the group arrived in front of the city gates.

From this group, Zhao Hai can recognize the Black Bear Patriarch as well as Lieben. At this time Lieben was holding a flag in one hand, this was the war flag of the Black Bear Tribe.

Zhao Hai quietly stood on his place as he observed the group gradually slowing down. As soon as the Black Bear Patriarch arrived at the city's gates, Zhao Hai immediately stepped forward and offered his greetings, "Zhao Hai has met the Black Bear Patriarch."

The Black Bear Patriarch went down from his mount and stretched out his arms before grasping Zhao Hai's shoulders and saying, "I knew you wouldn't leave. Hahaha. When I go finish what I need to do, I'll go find you, let's go have a drink." Then he gently shook Zhao Hai before letting go.

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Alright, then I'll go prepare the food and drinks to welcome the arrival of the Patriarch."

The Black Bear Patriarch nodded and said, "Alright. Little Hai, I still have matters to attend to. I'll be leaving first, I'll find you at your place later." Then he turned around and rode his mount before heading towards the city. Zhao Hai also led Ah Tai to walk back to Magic Lily Shop.

At this time, Ah Tai was looking utterly shocked at Zhao Hai. His contact with the Beastmen wasn't short, but he haven't seen a Beastman being so warm towards a Human before. The Beastmen being good guests wasn't false, but there were Beastmen who had been able to learn how to deal with Humans from a long period of being in contact with them. For example, if you want to do business with the Beastmen, you need to go visit them in their tribes and sell them the product there. You shouldn't expect the Beastmen to take the initiative and come to you.

The Black Bear tribe was a big warring tribe. And they had been in contact with Humans for a long time. However, with how they were deceived by a human in the past, they were one of the more hostile Beastmen when interacting with Humans. It was virtually impossible for these Black Bears to be able to warm up to a Human.

Ah Tai can also be considered to be one of those humans who had been able to make transactions with the Black Bears. When the Black Bear Beastmen make transactions, they would always be on guard, as though they were talking to a thief. Very much unlike today, where the Black Bear Patriarch hugged Zhao Hai while at the same time taking the initiative to invite him for a drink.

It was at this point that Ah Tai understood that Zhao Hai's flags should be special. No wonder the Beastmen didn't expel them while all of the other Humans were driven out. None of them even went close to Magic Lily Store during the expulsion. At the same time, many Beastmen also came to greet him, and their attitudes were very enthusiastic.

When Zhao Hai and Ah Tai returned to the store, Zhao Hai immediately instructed Laura and the others to prepare something to eat. At the same time, Zhao Hai had also put out some seafood for them to prepare. He wanted the Black Bear Patriarch to be surprised by his display so that he could get entertained.

Ah Tai's family were not very used to Zhao Hai's mystical methods. They also helped Zhao Hai prepare everything while they waited for the Black Bear Patriarch's arrival.

While they were preparing, a clamour was heard outside. Zhao Hai went out to take a look only to see the Black Bear Beastmen. The Black Bear Patriarch led ten other Black Bears as well as Lieben to Zhao Hai's Magic Lily Shop.

Zhao Hai immediately invited the Black bear Patriarch and Lieben's group to the store's back courtyard. After they entered the tent, Ah Tai immediately served each of them some milk tea.

After the Black Bear patriarch took a sip of the tea, he smiled to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, you've been having a great time recently. I've heard about how you bought all of the goods from the other Merchants. What are you planning to do? Sell them at a high price for profit?"

Chapter 527 - Crazy Aksu Empire

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Not really, I just think that those goods would be wasted when the Merchants leave. You Beastmen won't touch those things, so they can only rot here over time. Since it's a pity, I bought them. Then when the war ends, then wouldn't it be good if I'll sell them to the tribes for a low price? Those things wouldn't be wasted, I would get some profits, and the Beastmen benefit."

The Black Bear Patriarch nodded and said, "That's good, Hahaha. Kid, the things you do really makes me smile. We Beastmen benefit a lot from it."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "That's natural. I'm considered to be Half-Beastman right now. So of course I wouldn't cheat you. Patriarch, please come in, I've prepared some food and drinks inside."

The Black Bear Patriarch nodded, then followed Zhao Hai inside. In addition to the seafood, Zhao Hai also had sister-in-law's barbecue prepared.

There were no words to be said regarding Sister-in-law's barbecue because it was simply too good. But the seafood was something else. Even if the Black Bear Patriarch has been the leader of the Black Bear Tribe for a long time, he hasn't been able to eat seafood before, so he was happy to eat this meal.

Zhao Hai didn't ask about what the Black Bear tribe were planning to do since these were possibly the Beastmen's military secret. If he asks these types of questions, the Black Bear Patriarch might get suspicious of him.

Zhao Hai heard that the Black Bear patriarch has been fooled by a Human before. Because of this, he became even more distrustful of the Humans. Even to Zhao Hai, there were some times where he didn't trust him.

When the Black Bear Patriarch took his leave, Zhao Hai prepared to receive Wales and the others. When he meets Wales, then he would return to the Human territories.

The second day after the Black Bear tribe arrived, the Prairie Wolves came. Zhao Hai received them as well.

This made Ah Tai startled again, he knew about the reputation of the Prairie Wolves. He couldn't believe that Zhao Hai would become friends with them.

Even if he wasn't as polite as the Black Bear Patriarch, the Old Wolf King still had a friendly chat with Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai also invited the Old Wolf King over for a meal.

Naturally, in these two occasions, Zhao Hai didn't serve ordinary Milk Wine, he used his own distilled milk wine. This made the Beastmen very surprised, they have drank Milk Wine for all their lives, but they didn't think that Milk Wine would become this delicious.

Four days after the arrival of the Prairie Wolves, Wales and Buzeer came. The relationship between the two tribes were good, and since the distance from their camps were also quite far from the city, the two decided to come together. Zhao Hai naturally didn't have anything to say about this, he just went and invited them over for a drink.

What surprised Zhao Hai this time was Buzeer going to him and handing their race's friendship flag over.

The Beastmen in the City were now looking at Zhao Hai with strange looks. These Beastmen didn't understand how Zhao Hai, a human, was able to have such a good relationship with their race, especially towards the Dog and Cow-headed race. Seeing how they interact with each other would make one think that they were the same as a family. This really made the Beastmen confused.

In the coming days, Beastman tribe upon Beastman tribe continuously arrived at Beast God City. But what they did was the same as the Black Bears. All of them were left outside while their Patriarchs entered the city.

Although they were cooped up inside the city, Zhao Hai can clearly see every action that they did through the monitor.

The reason why these Beastmen tribes came here and discussed their military plans was because the some Warring Races have their bases here. These were the Lion-headed race, Tiger-headed race, and the Fox-headed Race. Because these royal tribes resided in the City, all the other Beastmen decided to convene their forces here in order to have a common point.

Even if these royal tribes reside in the city, their main camp was in another place. Because of their status, having their main base in the Beastman Race's holy city would startle the other Beastmen. Therefore, they decided to have their camp elsewhere in order to avoid chaos.

After Wales and the others arrived, Zhao Hai welcomed them and then prepared to leave Beast God City. At this point, the Beastmen already knew that there were friendship flags of the Black Bear Tribe and the Dog-headed Race shown in front of Magic Lily Shop, so nobody went to disturb the place. When Zhao Hai left, he also took those flags away with him.

Then in front of the Beastmen, Zhao Hai called over his Blood Hawks before riding them and then shot straight into the sky. This surprised a lot of Beastmen. They didn't expect that the Humans would already have their own aerial mounts. For the Beastmen, this wasn't good news.

When he reached a place beyond the eyesights of the Beastmen, Zhao Hai and the others immediately flashed into the Space. Then from the Space, they went to to the Purcell Duchy.

The Purcell Duchy was in full preparation mode. They had already received the news that the Beastmen were getting ready to attack the Human lands. Moreover, this attack was not a small pillaging party. With how strong the full might of the Beastman Race was, the Purcell Family was not confident in resisting them.

Zhao Hai sat in his carriage as he calmly looked at the residents of the Purcell Duchy. Although the Duchy was fully prepared, Zhao Hao still felt strange. The Purcell Family had been in full defensive mode

this time, however, Zhao Hai cannot see any other troop from the Aksu Empire. This situation is too unbelievable.

This move of the Beastmen wasn't planned in secret. The Beastmen made sure to announce their attack, and a pretty large announcement at that. In that case, it was impossible for the Aksu Empire to be unaware of the situation. So why didn't the armies of the other Nobles come to support the Purcell Duchy? Did they think that the Purcell Family can single handedly block the Beastmen army?

The location that Zhao Hai appeared in was a remote place in Casa City. At the same time, the carriage that he rode in was a very ordinary one, so no one noticed him.

People were starting to leave Casa City right now, but most of them were low-ranked nobles. They took their own belongings and had their entire families leave the City. At the same time, the commoners of the city stayed put. This was because they didn't know where to go if they left.

Almost all of the commoners' properties were inside Casa City. If they leave the city, they would become refugees who had nothing. When they arrive at other cities, they would have nowhere to live. And if they didn't starve to death, they would still become slaves.

The commoners were hoping that the Duchy's army would be able to drive the Beastmen away. However, they didn't know that this feat was almost impossible to achieve.

When Zhao Hai arrived at the Grand Duke's mansion, he immediately had Shun send a letter. In his trip to the Prairie this time, Zhao Hai didn't bring Shue and Shun. Instead, he left them at Iron Mountain Fort and instructed them to help Green prepare the place. This was because Zhao Hai was planning to receive some refugees into the Black Wasteland.

However, when Zhao Hai went to Casa City, he immediately called Shun and Shue over. If Zhao Hai didn't have the two, then he wouldn't have someone in hand and things would be very inconvenient.

After Shun delivered the letter, it didn't take a long time before the mansion's housekeeper came out and invited Zhao Hai to enter through the back door.

When Zhao Hai arrived at inside the mansion and went out of his carriage, Evan was already waiting to welcome him. Evan walked towards Zhao Hai and laughed, "Great, Little Hai. You really are a good kid. The Buda Clan is now at the height of its power, you're actually making Uncle envious."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Uncle is too polite. Rest assured, I'm not only here to see how the Beastman attack the border."

When Evan heard Zhao Hai, his smiling face immediately vanished. He turned his head to Zhao Hai and said, "Let's go in and talk in the living room." Then he welcomed Zhao Hai inside and sat with him in the living room. He also had a servant serve them some tea. At the same time, a guard was present to guard the door.

After sitting down, Evan sighed and said, "My Purcell Family is done. I'm afraid that we're already doomed."

Zhao Hai knit his eyebrows and said, "Uncle Evan. When I came here, I noticed that some nobles are fleeing. At the same time, I didn't see any other armies beside yours. Did the Aksu Empire decide to not support you?"

Evan answered through clenched jaws, "Don't talk about those bastards with me. Ever since the time you helped me, those bastards of the Aksu Empire started to embarrass me, but I endured. This time, when I received information about the Beastman attack, I sent over a letter to the capital, asking for support. But I didn't expect those bastards to decline. They told me that the Empire has been short on supply and assembling an army would take a long time. They said that if the Beastmen attack before the reinforcements arrive, then I would have to continue resisting. They are basically telling me to drive my heart straight into a Beastman sword. Those bastards aren't humans."

Zhao Hai frowned, he didn't expect that the Aksu Empire would actually do this. Are they really going to play around with an Empire's subject's life? Why would they do this?

Zhao Hai frowned and then looked at Evan, "Uncle Evan, did they really say that? Do they not know that the Beastmen are planning to ravage the Aksu Empire? Have they gone crazy?"

Evan sneered, "Since the continent knew, how could they not? The commoners outside now have a massive dislike towards the Radiant Church. However, those bastards at the capital still regard the

Radiant Church as an honored guest. I even heard that some Noble Families were receiving priests of the church like how they receive Dukes.”

Zhao Hai cannot believe what he just heard. What was a priest? They were the lowest position in the Radiant Church. If they were compared to Noble titles, then they would be the lowest third-class Baron. Why would they receive priests as though they were Dukes? Are they insane?

Chapter 528 - Life Combustion

Looking at Zhao Hai’s expression, Evan couldn’t help but smile bitterly, “Can’t believe it? But that is the truth. This isn’t something found only in the capital as well, even here in the Purcell Family, there are people who completely devoted themselves to the church. These people have gone fanatical, they would even sacrifice everything that they have for the sake of the Radiant Church.”

Zhao Hai looked at Evan, he seemed to understand what was going on. These people were surely brainwashed by the Radiant Church.

Religion was a very fearful thing. It can make people do a lot of crazy things, Zhao Hai just didn’t think that the Radiant Church’s influence can go this far.

Evan looked at Zhao Hai’s expression and sighed, “Without the Empire’s support, how could our measly forces resist the Beastman attack? My Purcell Family is surely done after this event. But the most pitiful in this situation are the commoners, they will be the ones who will suffer the worst.”

Zhao Hai frowned, he knew how complex the present situation of the Purcell Family was. He can help these people from the city by taking them into the Black Wasteland. He can even take the entire Purcell Duchy with no problems. However, the trade-off would be his secret being exposed.

Most importantly, the current situation of the Purcell Family was even more complex than he had imagined. If the Purcell Family really did have some Radiant Church fanatics, then he cannot bring the family into the wasteland. It would be hard to say what the church can do to his territory. Even the might Beastman Race weren’t able to escape the movements of the church.

Evan looked at Zhao Hai and calmly said, "Little Hai, I only need to ask you for one thing. I want to have some members of the Purcell Family join you in returning to Golden Island. If our family can survive this crisis, then they can return. If we can't, then I can only request you to take care of them for a couple of years so that the Purcell Family name can survive."

Zhao Hai looked at Evan. He knew that Evan had already thought of the worst possible outcome. He wanted to leave a seed for the Purcell Family.

Zhao Hai didn't decline, he nodded and said, "Alright, I can assure you of this. But Uncle, I also have one thing to ask. Can you check for me and see if there are people who are willing to leave with me to Golden Island? You should know that our Buda Clan is short on people right now. And if the Beastmen attack, these commoners would definitely be killed. But make sure that they are innocent and are not affiliated with the Radiant Church."

Evan nodded and said, "This is not a problem, I can arrange it. There are a lot of people who wants to leave right now, but they just don't know where to go. They don't have any means of survival in other cities, and may even be demoted into slaves. I don't want them to see them like that, so I shall definitely help you with this matter."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Then I'll have to trouble Uncle Evan. I hope that you can take care of this matter as soon as possible. Just have them group up here while I go to see how the Iksa Family is doing."

Evan nodded, "You should go see their situation as well. In consideration for you, the Iksa Family had been helping us as well. I heard that the Empire sent some troops over to their territory. However, it seems like the family was placed under house arrest."

Zhao Hai stared, then his complexion changed, "Really? This bastard Aksu Empire, what do they want to do? Have they really become the puppet of the Radiant Church?"

Evan calmly replied, "It's highly probable. If the Empire wasn't, then how could the Empire act like this? This action is equal to offending all the Nobles. In the future, no Noble would listen to them."

Zhao Hai sighed, he really couldn't understand the Radiant Church. What was their purpose in doing this? Did they want to get the attention of the Royals? With the current situation, all of the Royals in the continent would be suppressing the Church.

After watching the sky, Zhao Hai stood up, then he turned to Evan and said, "Uncle Evan, since it's still early, I'll head to see the Iksa Family's situation. I'm afraid that they're currently in danger."

Evan nodded, "Little Hai, you go leave from my family's secret passage. I've already had few days to prepare, so you don't have to worry too much about me. Go save the Iksa Family first."

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't expect Evan to allow him to use the Purcell Family's secret passage. This was one of the Purcell Family's greatest secret.

Zhao Hai understood Evan's action, this was Evan's way of telling him that he has his complete trust. However, Zhao Hai didn't need the secret passage, he shook his head and said, "No need to use it. I have my own means."

Evan knew that Zhao Hai has flying beasts, so he didn't say anything. He nodded his head and escorted Zhao Hai to the door and to his carriage before it left the mansion.

After Zhao Hai entered his carriage, he immediately flashed into the Space and went to Laura and the others. Since the women are in the Space, they heard Evan and Zhao Hai's conversation. Laura immediately turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, I just had Cai'er pay attention to the Iksa Family's situation. The family is fine, but they are currently under house arrest. However, we didn't receive any letters from the Blood Hawk."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he immediately got the monitor to display the Iksa Family's situation. The Iksa Family's mansion was surrounded with soldiers. Robert couldn't do anything because he was trapped inside. Fernand's situation wasn't any better, he seemed to be beaten, his body looked like a damp sack.

Zhao Hai looked around and couldn't see a shadow of a Blood Hawk, it might be possibly killed off. It seems like the Aksu Empire sent some 9th ranks to deal with the Iksa Family, otherwise they wouldn't have been able to restrain it.

Moreover, the Iksa Family also had 9th rank experts, so if these experts haven't been dealt with, then it would be impossible for the Iksa Family to be placed under house arrest.

After thinking about this, Zhao Hai immediately had Cai'er scan the place, looking for other 9th rank experts present. Ordinary people might not be able to spot a 9th rank expert, but Cai'er is different. Cai'er's present strength was certainly greater than any 9th rank expert.

After some time, Cai'er finally found some 9th rank experts in Sarte City. Moreover, there were four of them. These four were placed in a position where they surrounded the Iksa Family mansions. Looking at their appearances, it seems like all of them were from the Radiant Church.

Zhao Hai immediately looked at Bell's situation. Bell's people were also placed under house arrest. Zhao Hai knew that Bell might have been exposed, otherwise he wouldn't be implicated in this event. It seems like the Radiant Church was really waiting for him.

Zhao Hai looked at the four 9th rank experts. The four of them doesn't seem to have any special qualities, they weren't any different from other 9th rank experts.

Knowing that he couldn't wait for a long time, Zhao Hai immediately flashed and appeared inside Fernand's room. Fernand's current state was very miserable. His whole body was fully wrapped with bandages to the point where only his head was visible, of which was beaten black and blue. Even if his mother was taking care of him, it seems like nobody used Light Magic to heal him. Otherwise, he wouldn't be in such a pitiful state.

Fernand seems to be unconscious right now because he wasn't making any movements in his bed. Zhao Hai looked at Fernand's condition and couldn't help but feel an aching in his heart. In truth, his time with Fernand wasn't that long. Fernand was a playboy as well, someone whom he generally didn't like. The two of them being friends was something almost impossible.

However, fate moves in strange ways, even if the disposition of the two seem to be in conflict, they still became good friends in the end.

Zhao Hai arrived by Fernand's bedside and whispered, "Brother Fernand, Brother Fernand. Can you hear me?"

Seeing that the person on the bed wasn't replying, Zhao Hai immediately used Light Magic. Fernand's face turned much better, then his eyelids moved slightly. When Zhao Hai saw this, he became happy as he said, "Brother Fernand. You're awake."

But it seems like Zhao Hai wasn't noticed. Immediately after Zhao Hai talked, Fernand opened his eyes and then bellowed, "Bastards, my brother will come! He will certainly not let you off."

Zhao Hai stared, Fernand froze as well. He stared at Zhao Hai for a moment before turning over on his bed and jumped off. He threw his weak body towards Zhao Hai and said, "Brother, why have you come just now? I've been bullied to death by those bastards."

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't know whether to laugh or cry, he patted Fernand's back and said, "It's alright, Brother, no need cry. Since I came, I will surely take revenge for you."

It was at this point that Fernand stopped weeping, he anxiously let go of Zhao Hai and said, "Brother, taking revenge isn't a good idea. The other party has several 9th ranks, they managed to kill all of my family's foreign elders. You need to leave quickly."

At this time, a chilly voice was heard, "Leave? He couldn't escape now."

When he heard this sound, Fernand's face paled, his expression was as though a disaster just happened. He looked at Zhao Hai and bitterly smiled, "Brother, it seems like you couldn't get away now. The 9th rank has noticed you."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I've already seen a lot of 9th ranks. It's alright, brother, you come with me. Let's see how great this 9th rank expert really is." Then he led Fernand out of the room.

Outside, Zhao Hai can see the four 9th ranks that Cai'er has spotted before. All of them flew over to the mansion and surrounded the small yard that Zhao Hai was in.

Zhao Hai just stood there and calmly looked at the four 9th rank experts before he sneered, "The Radiant Church really has a lot of good methods. They actually wouldn't stop at anything just to deal with me."

The 9th rank expert looked at Zhao Hai and nodded, "What you said is right. The Pope has given the order to execute you at all costs. The Radiant Church had already expended a lot of people in dealing with you, this time you will certainly die."

Zhao Hai smiled, "It wasn't yesterday that the Radiant Church had started to deal with me, yet I still lived. On the other hand, you have lost a lot of 9th ranks. This really makes me amazed at how much 9th rank experts your Radiant Church has."

The 9th rank looked at Zhao Hai and coldly snorted, "No need to waste your breath. Zhao Hai, you are now our Radiant Church's number one enemy. Until the day we eliminate you, my Radiant Church wouldn't be peaceful. To eliminate you, we wouldn't hesitate to bring it all. Our lives belong to the church, so we shall sacrifice our lives for the Church. Zhao Hai, you shall die today!"

Zhao Hai laughed, "Not necessarily. Do you really think that 9th ranks can kill me? Who do you think you are?"

The 9th rank snorted, "Without perfect preparations, how can we dare to kill you? Do you really think that the Church is clueless about your secrets? Zhao Hai, it's time for you to die." Then several lights came out of the hands of the 9th ranks as they shot into the four corners of the mansion.

Zhao Hai stared as the lights fell before it formed a dome around the mansion.

Zhao Hai didn't care, he can just ask Cai'er to return him to the Space. This transparent dome was unable to touch him.

From his speculation, this dome should be some kind of Magical Formation. It seems like the Radiant Church wanted to deal with him using this formation. Zhao Hai didn't move, he just stood there and looked curiously at the 9th rank experts.

The 9th ranks were whispering words as though they were doing incantations in the sky. While they were murmuring words, one could visibly see their faces slowly turn wrinkly.

When Zhao Hai saw this, his expression changed. He knew that these 9th ranks are consuming their Life Force, it seems like they were prepared to sacrifice their lives with this move.

Zhao Hai looked all around and then turned his head to the dumbfounded Fernand and said, "Brother, immediately inform your family to gather by my side. The Radiant Church is using a strange Magic."

Fernand stared, he didn't care about anything that Zhao Hai said in the end as he immediately said, "Alright!" Then he ran towards the mansion.

But it seems like the wrinkling of these 9th ranks were getting faster and faster until their faces turned pale white. The sense of crisis that Zhao Hai felt was getting more and more pronounced. It seems like these four people aren't simply 9th ranks of the Radiant Church.

These four should have a special method in order to collaboratively use this strange Magic. This Magic should be very formidable, and the Magic Formation surely wasn't a simple one. It seems like it would be impossible to break this dome from the inside.

Chapter 529 - Two Choices

Zhao Hai calmly looked at the 9th rank experts as they were quickly getting older. One must know that a 9th rank expert's lifespan was very long. Moreover, from what Zhao Hai saw of their appearance, these 9th ranks can still live for a long time, at the very least 3500 years.

Now they were growing old so fast that it would seem like they were riding a fast car which is running on the road of time. It was as if the time around them were 100 or 1000 times more than normal people.

Zhao Hai's expression stayed calm, his body beneath his clothes had now turned into crystal. He fully trusted the Space, and since it said that his body would become unbreakable upon crystallization, Zhao Hai chose to directly face these four 9th rank experts.

Since the beginning, Zhao Hai had always indirectly battled his opponents. Besides the time when he fought Terry, Zhao Hai had always been in the back, casting spells and summoning undead.

This has something to do with his character. He just doesn't want to directly fight, he thinks that the way that Mages fight was the safest.

But now was not the time to do that, if he entered the Space at this moment, then his secret would have been exposed. In addition, he was still in the Iksa Family mansion, if he entered the Space, he would be putting the Iksa Family in peril.

Although the Space possessed marvelous abilities, it cannot forcibly absorb mindful beings. Therefore, Zhao Hai can only stand there and wait for Fernand to bring his family to his side then have them transported into the Space.

At the same time, ever since Zhao Hai was able to crystallize, his mind changed a little bit. He wanted to try how strong his body was. Even if he cannot withstand this attack, he still had Cai'er and the Space. As long as Fernand's family is in the Space, he can confidently and boldly accept this strike.

Naturally, the attack of the opposite party still needed to be prepared for quite some time. But Fernand wasn't stupid, he knew that every second counts. The other members of the Iksa Family aren't stupid either, when they saw what the 9th ranks were doing, they immediately knew what kind of attack it was.

They were very clear about how powerful 9th rank experts were. Although the Iksa Family still had their secret passage, this passage can only be a decoration in front of a 9th rank expert. After Fernand shouted, all of them immediately convened to Zhao Hai's location.

Zhao Hai didn't have the time to be polite with them, he immediately issued a heads-up, "In a while I'm going to send you to a strange place. But don't worry, some people would be there to receive you. So don't get too startled." Then Fernand and the others made an effort to nod.

Robert's influence in the Iksa Family was very high, so when he shouted at the crowd, they immediately calmed down. One must know that the Iksa Family had a lot of members. It was a miracle to be able to shut them up in a short period of time.

Zhao Hai carefully observed the four 9th rank experts. The lives of these four were soon coming to an end. The wrinkles on their faces started overlapping, the hair on their head were starting to fall, old people spots were starting to appear, even their teeth were falling off.

However, they still didn't stop chanting their incantations. It was as though they didn't have any idea of what was happening to their bodies.

Then Zhao Hai turned his attention to the Iksa Family. Seeing that they were prepared, he immediately brought all of them into the Space.

And just as Zhao Hai sent the Iksa Family to the Space, the four 9th rank experts said their last syllable. Then all of them violently shook before turning into a mist of blood. After then, something appeared on the skies, it seems like there was another sun that appeared. It looked very bright and terrifying.

The light seemed to be like an Energy Ball from a certain novel that Zhao Hai had read back on earth. The ball of light crashed into the mansion. But how strong was this ball of light? Zhao Hai didn't have time to think about this as the attack collided with his head.

Fortunately, Zhao Hai's entire body has now been crystallized. Zhao Hai felt the light hit his head and then his clothes vanishing. It was not only his clothes, the building in his surroundings has been eradicated. The ground, the cyan stones were gone, no need to say about the plants. Everything around him completely vanished.

Zhao Hai just stood there without entering the Space. This was because the ball of light hadn't been able to damage his current body.

And also, he didn't dare open a spatial crack to enter the Space. Even though he wasn't affected at all, Zhao Hai felt how formidable this attack was. If this ball of light were to penetrate the crack and enter the Space, Zhao Hai didn't know what would happen to the people inside. And he didn't want to dare take the risk.

Since this ball of light couldn't harm him, it was much better for him to stay outside. But Zhao Hai didn't know that while he stayed outside, Laura and the others were very anxious for him inside the Space.

Zhao Hai made Laura and the others receive the Iksa Family. The Iksa Family had now reached its end, they can only depend upon the Buda Clan to survive. Because of this, Zhao Hai wasn't afraid of the family betraying him. Moreover, since he was planning to transport the family to Iron Mountain Fort, even if they knew his secrets, it would be impossible for them to pass it on.

When the Iksa Family initially entered the Space, all of them were somewhat anxious. But when they saw Laura and the others, they calmed down. But even if the Space's villa was huge, it can just barely fit

100 people, so it was impossible for the entire Iksa Family to be accommodated there. Laura asked them to rest first before they can be transported to Iron Mountain Fort.

At this time, what Laura and the others were worrying about was the situation outside. Therefore, after they invited Robert into the villa, they surrounded the monitor and looked at the situation outside.

But it was unfortunate for them that the screen was entirely white, they couldn't see anything. After the light vanished, the scene made Laura and the others breathe in a cold air.

The City Lord's mansion has completely been wiped off the map, they couldn't see a single piece left. In the original location of the mansion, a giant hole was left. This hole looked like a crater that a meteor had created, it had a depth of 30 meters.

What made Laura and the others uneasy was the fact that they couldn't see Zhao Hai in that crater. Zhao Hai didn't even leave behind a shadow.

When Laura and the others were about to panic, Zhao Hai suddenly walked in from outside. But he already had his clothes changed, what he had on was now an ordinary Mage's Robe.

Seeing Zhao Hai come, Laura and the others relaxed. Actually, Zhao Hai didn't intend to be missing. But since his clothes were fully gone, he cannot just appear naked inside the villa and be seen by the Iksa Family, he wasn't an exhibitionist. Therefore, after he entered the Space, he changed his clothes first before entering the villa.

When he entered the villa, he was immediately welcomed by Laura and the others. They looked at his left and right to see that he was really alright.

Seeing their expressions, Zhao Hai faintly smiled and said, "I'm fine, no need to be worried. But Laura, I'm sorry for destroying the clothes that you gave me."

After he said that, Laura didn't know whether to laugh or cry, "Who cares about the clothes. As long as you're fine, it's alright. Go see Uncle Robert quickly, I don't think his mood is fine."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he entered the villa's living room. Robert and Fernand were waiting for him there, when they saw him, they immediately stood up.

Zhao Hai gave Robert a salute and then asked them to sit down, "Uncle Robert, from what I can see with the situation, there was no way for the Iksa Family to return to the Aksu Empire."

Robert smiled bitterly, "I already thought up to this point. Ever since our Foreign Elders were killed, I knew our Iksa Family is finished. To be honest, if not for you appearing, our Iksa Family might have gone extinct. Not matter what, I must thank you, Little Hai."

Zhao Hai waved his hand and said, "Uncle Robert, you're too polite. If not because of me, your Iksa Family wouldn't have been implicated with this situation. Since you came here, I will be clear to you. This place is our Buda Clan's greatest secret. Nobody except members of my Buda Clan knew about it, even my father-in-laws don't know about this. Now that the Iksa Family know about it, I can tell you that it would be impossible for you to go back."

Robert nodded. As soon as he entered the Space, he felt the difference inside. He was also a Mage, so he was sensitive to energy. He can feel how active the energy inside was, and it was also quite rich, many folds compared to outside. This place was certainly not a simple one.

Zhao Hai looked at Robert and said, "Uncle Robert, I can only give you two choices. First, you'll go to the Black Wasteland. I'll tell you, the poisonous mist in the wasteland was made by me. The Black Wasteland is where the root of our Buda Clan was established. The Milk Wine that we drank before was made there, we also have other factories in that place. In there, you will have absolute security. Moreover, I'm also prepared to buy a massive amount of slaves. If you settle down in the Black Wasteland, I can have the capable people of the Iksa Family help me manage them."

Robert nodded, he thought that this choice was good, but he wonders what Zhao Hai's second choice was. So he asked, "The second choice?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "The second choice is to go to Golden Island. That place is also the Buda Clans' territory. After you head there, you can do administrative work for the Island. But to make sure that you don't pass on some information, I will have to make undeads watch over your day to day lives."

Robert knitted his brows. He clearly knew what Zhao Hai meant, they cannot expose the existence of this place. Therefore, if they go to Golden island, they would always have an undead right beside them and they wouldn't have anything to say about this matter.

If they go to the Black Wasteland, there's no need for the undead. This was because the wasteland was a completely closed off environment, it was impossible for outsiders to come in, while Zhao Hai wouldn't easily allow the people inside to go out. So if they go there, they can move very freely without being monitored.

On the other hand, Golden Island has contact with the outside world. Although the Iksa Family was now on its low point, Robert was still hoping that they can still show their faces to the continent. This would make the people know that the Iksa Family survived, that they still exist.

However, being monitored everyday was very uncomfortable. Robert was now having a hard time making up his mind, he didn't know how to handle this matter.

Looking at Robert's appearance, Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Uncle Robert doesn't need to worry about this right now. I shall first take you to the Black Wasteland later, you can slowly deliberate your decision there. If you decide to stay there, I wouldn't oppose. And if you decide to go to Golden Island, I will certainly bring you there."

Robert nodded, this matter needed to be thought through properly. He cannot stay in the Space for a long time. So after Zhao Hai talked about this matter to Robert, he immediately sent the family into the Black Wasteland.

Robert was now certain that the Space was Zhao Hai's magical property. Otherwise, it wouldn't be able to transfer people everywhere.

There are a lot of people in the Iksa Family but they can definitely be accommodated inside Iron Mountain Fort. Moreover, when they arrived at the fort, Robert and the others were shocked. They didn't think that the legendary barren hills and untamed rivers of the Black Wasteland would have such a

beautiful castle. Moreover, this castle has been producing some of the continent's highly sought after products.

Robert was surprised because the Black Wasteland was already considered to be the continent's most mysterious place by the Nobles. He didn't expect the the Buda Clan would have their roots here.

It didn't take a long time before Robert came to like the place. Most of the people here have marks of slaves, however, they weren't slaves anymore. There were Beastmen here as well, but these Beastmen were strangely full of hospitality and friendliness.

Most importantly, Robert can notice a certain kind of thing within these people. They were all full of vigor, as though they were working hard to have a better life. This kind of vigor was rarely seen in the continent.

When Robert heard Zhao Hai say that the Black Wasteland had been transformed, and that all of the lands can now be cultivated, Robert was once again shocked.

Robert was the Patriarch of the Iksa Family, a well-known family of the continent. Therefore, he had full understanding with regards to the Black Wasteland.

The Black Wasteland was the continent's biggest plain. Although it was placed in the north, and can only be cultivated on one season, it was an undeniable fact that if the Black Wasteland were to gain an ability to grow crops, it would certainly be the continent's largest granary.

If not because of this, the continent wouldn't have spent a lot of time and energy to research the wasteland. This was because its topography was fantastic. Once one was able to grow crops here, their influence in the continent would certainly soar.

What Robert didn't expect was that the place where the continent had spent a long time on researching was solved by Zhao Hai this easily. Robert now understood why Zhao Hai didn't make Golden Island the Buda Clan's main base. Golden Island was an important hub for maritime trade, it can certainly bring a lot of profit to the Buda CLan. But compared to the Black Wasteland, the island was still a long way off. You can't always exchange food with money, but you can always exchange money with food.

After knowing that the Black Wasteland can now grow some crops, Robert almost immediately decided to stay here.

The Black Wasteland was very huge, one could definitely establish their own nation here. With the continual rise of the Buda Clan, the development of the Black Wasteland would become better and better. If the Iksa Clan can be an influential family in the Black Wasteland, their reappearance in the future would be much better.

Robert knew that it would be impossible for the Buda Clan to hide the existence of the Black Wasteland forever. So people of the continent would surely know of the wasteland's situation in the future. Therefore, the Iksa Family can still show their faces to the continent, only this time quite beautifully.

But Robert also knew that this matter wouldn't be easy. After all, the Iksa Family had been enjoying their place in the continent. With how desolate the Black Wasteland seemed, he was afraid that his family members wouldn't be able to get used to it.

Although Robert was the Patriarch, he cannot just ignore the thoughts of his family members. He wasn't a dictator, he needed to listen to the words of the family elders.

On the other hand, Zhao Hai was hoping that Robert's family would decide to stay inside the Black Wasteland. Compared to Golden Island, the Black Wasteland needed managerial talents more.

After all, the Iksa Family was also a Great Clan in the past. Although there weren't a lot of people who came this time, Zhao Hai knew that those present were the elite members of the family.

The plan of the Radiant Church this time was very simple. Since they want to eliminate the Iksa Family, then they surely wouldn't let their elites off. They wanted to sacrifice the lives of four of their 9th rank experts in order to achieve their goal of extinguishing both Zhao Hai and the Iksa Family. Exterminating a Great Clan was both easy and hard. There were two ways of doing so; First, it was to kill all of their 9th rank experts, this way they'll lose their power backing. The second was to kill all of their elites. This would inhibit the growth of the family, and would thus vanish in the future.

The Radiant Church chose to use the two methods to deal with the Iksa Family. They killed the family's 9th rank expert first, then concentrated their effort of eliminating the elites along with Zhao Hai. Therefore, even if there weren't a lot of people who came with Zhao Hai, all of them were elites of the

family. As long as they learn a bit, they would become independent managers. This would be a huge benefit to the Black Wasteland's development.

Because Zhao Hai had such intentions, he decided to show Robert and the others the Black Wasteland first. He believed that if they saw the Black Wasteland, they would certainly feel attracted to it.

Obviously, he succeeded, Robert was moved. The current Black Wasteland cannot be considered to be on the same level as Golden Island. However, since it can now be cultivated, its potential was endless. For Robert and the Iksa Family, being in the Black Wasteland was much more attractive than being in Golden Island.

On Golden Island, they would be safe, yes, but what can they do then? On Golden Island, they can only become a Merchant Clan at most. If they wanted to regain their former glory, it would be impossible to accomplish it in the island.

For Robert, this was unacceptable. They were a Great Clan in Aksu Empire, with a name renowned in the Continent. How could they be comfortable with being a rich Merchant Clan? Therefore, Zhao Hai decided to show them the Black Wasteland's potential, and have them tie their family to the Buda Clan's chariot.

Zhao Hai also asked Robert if they needed anything right now. After all, Iron Mountain Fort cannot be compared to their past situation.

But Robert told him that they were alright. They already have some daily necessities, and they were eating and drinking properly as well. The only thing they were unfamiliar with was the lack of contact with the outside world.

Zhao Hai didn't ask Robert to bring the Iksa Family's properties out. Such words can only make Robert misunderstand and make him think that Zhao Hai wanted to swallow the Iksa Family.

After settling the Iksa Family down, Zhao Hai returned to the Iksa Family's territory. He wanted to see how Bell was doing. Bell's identity might have been exposed, so he cannot stay here. In any case, Bell can also be considered to be one of the powers of the Iksa Family, the Radiant Church wouldn't certainly let him off.

Zhao Hai's fight with the 9th rank experts caused quite a stir. Sarte City was now under martial law.

Zhao Hai turned his attention to the state of Bell's Family. Presently, the family had vanished from Sarte City. It seems like Bell was already ready to leave, but with the 9th rank experts, he cannot leave. Now that the 9th ranks had died, he naturally fled immediately.

Seeing this situation, Zhao Hai felt relief. He believed in the escape route that Bell prepared, that man wasn't a simple person.

Since nothing noteworthy was left to see in Sarte City, Zhao Hai left. He went to find Evan and told him about what happened to the Iksa Family. Then he had Evan release this information into the continent. He must make all of the Clans in the continent know about what happened to the Iksa Family. This was also another form of attack towards the Radiant Church.

What the Radiant Church had done was very excessive, they even had the Aksu Empire under their control. If Zhao Hai spread this information, the other countries in the continent would surely be on guard against the church. Zhao Hai wanted to see if the Radiant Church would still dare to act so rampant.