

Another World 531

Chapter 531 - Evan's Hesitation, Robert's Decision

Evan still hasn't received the information about the Iksa Family. After all, it just happened, if people died, it would be impossible for him to know.

After Zhao Hai returned to Casa City, he directly went to the City Lord's Mansion. Evan didn't expect Zhao Hai to come back this quickly. But he knew that Zhao Hai had a lot of secrets, so he just disregarded it and invited him over to the living room.

After they sat down, Zhao Hai told Evan everything regarding the happenings in the Iksa Domain. Evan was startled, he knew that even if the Iksa Family didn't hold the title of Grand Duke, their might wasn't much worse compared to the Purcell Duchy. But now, their clan was almost equal to being eliminated, the Radiant Church was truly ruthless.

After relaying the event, Zhao Hai didn't immediately ask Evan to spread the information. He looked at Evan's expression first. He knew that Evan cannot just leave his properties here. If he tells everything straight to Evan, even if he didn't understand the choices, Zhao Hai was afraid that he would follow in the steps of the Iksa Family.

Zhao Hai hadn't given up in drawing the Purcell Family into the Buda Clan. The Buda Clan badly needed talents right now. As the Clan gets bigger and bigger, the talents that it needed would also get more and more.

The Markey Family's people were now helping to manage Golden Island. In addition to their prior businesses, not too many of them were free to help the Buda Clan.

The Buda Clan itself had a few number of people. But even if the Iksa Family were added to their numbers, don't forget about the 100 thousand Beastman slaves that were still coming as well as the 100 thousand slaves that he bought from Carson City. With over 200 thousand slaves, how much people does the Clan need in order to manage them? The slaves who became citizens and can now write aren't fit for the job, they still needed prior managerial skills. If the Purcell Family were to join, then their number of talents would surely increase.

However, the Purcell Family's situation was much complex than the Iksa Family. The Radiant Church had already seeped into the Purcell Family. Therefore, even if Zhao Hai wanted to take them in, he still needed to be careful in doing so.

Evan had told Zhao Hai about the existence of Radiant Church fanatics inside the family. However, he didn't tell Zhao Hai how he plans to deal with them, nor did he express his intention to. Maybe Evan wanted a way back if he cannot take the pressure. He may look for the Radiant Church for help, so he decided to keep those people as insurance.

Zhao Hai told Evan about the Iksa Family's situation because he wanted Evan to see what the Purcell Family might become. It was so that Evan wouldn't dream of going to the Radiant Church in the future.

After Evan heard him, his expression changed. He didn't think that the Radiant Church would be this ruthless. If the Radiant Church would deal with him the same way, what would happen to the Purcell Family?

Zhao Hai stayed silent, he just calmly sat there while looking at Evan. He wanted to know what Evan would do. Now that the pieces were laid down in front of Evan, Zhao Hai wanted to know which one the Purcell Family would choose, the Radiant Church or the Buda Clan.

Evan stayed silent for quite some time, he was deciding on a hard choice. He knew that if he chose the Buda Clan, then the Purcell Family would lose everything that they had in the Purcell Duchy. After then, the Purcell Family would become the vassals of the Buda Clan, this was not the best outcome.

But if he sided with the Radiant Church, then he was afraid that the Radiant Church might renege on their agreement. At that time, he would lose literally everything.

Most importantly, this matter wasn't something that he could decide along. Even though the Purcell Duchy had undergone changes and he has now accumulated a lot of influence, he still needed to ask for the Elder Assembly's opinion regarding their stance against the Radiant Church.

In truth, Zhao Hai was now disappointed with the Purcell Family. The way they handled matters was both overcautious and indecisive. Even if Zhao Hai had told them about what happened to the Iksa Family, they were still hesitating.

Evan clearly expressed his support for Zhao Hai since the beginning. But even if the Purcell Family supported Zhao Hai, they still left behind a leeway for themselves. They wanted to support two sides, which was utterly impossible.

Zhao Hai sighed inwardly, then with a serious tone, he said, "Uncle, I'll be leaving this matter for you to think about. I won't be disturbing you. I shall stay here for a couple of days, if you have any matter to tell me about, you can just go to Laura's original place. As long as you go there, I will go and meet you."

Evan didn't expect Zhao Hai to leave, he wanted Zhao Hai to stay here. He didn't know what to say right now and couldn't open his mouth. In the end, he can only sigh and then escorted Zhao Hai out.

He also knew that for Zhao Hai to be able to bring the Buda Clan into this height in just one year, he surely had some fortuitous encounter. He wasn't someone to be underestimated. Zhao Hai certainly knew about what was going on in his mind, therefore Zhao Hai wanted to leave.

Regarding this situation, Evan felt helpless. In his heart, he wanted to aid Zhao Hai. But as a Patriarch, he needed to compromise with the world. A matter that decides the family's fate wasn't something that he can just decide on his own.

After Zhao Hai boarded his carriage and left the City Lord's Mansion, he found a desolate place and then flashed to the Space. He didn't go to Iron Mountain Fort, he just stayed in the Space and looked at the responses of both the Iksa Family and the Purcell Family.

It was assured that the Iksa Family would side with Zhao Hai. From today's events, they had lost all of their 9th rank experts. And with their enmity with the Radiant Church, it was impossible for them to return to the continent.

If they did return, then the Radiant Church wouldn't even need to move. Other jealous Aksu Empire Nobles would certainly be interested in their properties and their lives.

Therefore, the choices that the Iksa Family needed to decide on was simple. It was either to stay in the Black Wasteland or to go to Golden Island.

Zhao Hai knew that the Iksa Family would want to convene in order to decide on this matter. He wanted to have a look about what the Iksa Family decided on.

On the other hand, Zhao Hai can almost correctly guess what the Purcell Family's decision would be. The Elder's Assembly still held great influence, their authority was too big. There were even times where Evan cannot do anything about it. And it would be impossible for these elders to discard all of the properties that the Purcell Family had accumulated just to side with the Buda Clan.

However, Zhao Hai still hoped that they would come up with a satisfactory response. So he wanted to pay attention to their decision.

Naturally, he couldn't let those people take care of spreading the Iksa Family's matter to the continent anymore. Therefore, he immediately wrote a letter and sent it over to Kun. Kun would then hand the letter off to Randolph and then in turn hand it over to the Rosen Emperor. With their combined efforts, it would only take a short time before this matter would be spread around the continent.

While Zhao Hai was thinking about this, the Iksa Family had truly gathered together and discussed what to do. Green was very good towards the Iksa Family, he handed a region of the fort for their own use. The place was still unoccupied, so the Iksa Family can use it in the meantime.

Robert was now accompanied with some core members of his family. Besides Robert, there were ten other people present, Fernand wasn't qualified to participate in this meeting.

Robert looked at the eyes of those present and said, "Our Iksa Family had truly experienced a disaster. We're almost to a point of being extinguished. It was fortunate that Little Hai was able to save us, allowing our further survival. But for Little Hai to save us, he had exposed the Buda Clan's biggest secret. Leaving the Buda Clan would be impossible."

The other people present weren't surprised, they weren't stupid. Even if Zhao Hai hadn't told them about the Space, they can still guess what it was. Therefore, Robert's words didn't startle them, it was completely expected.

When Robert saw their expressions, he couldn't help but nod. These people didn't disappoint him, then he continued, "Little Hai has now given us two choices. First is to stay here, in the Black Wasteland. Second is to go to Golden Island. I want to hear everyone's opinion."

The people present looked at each other and then one of them said, "Patriarch, can't our family divide our members between the Black Wasteland and Golden Island?"

Robert thought for a moment and said, "It should be possible. But from what I can see, our Iksa Family needs to have a focused direction. We can only look and see which situation is better for us."

Then the elder who talked earlier said, "What is the difference between the two places? Now that we know about the Buda Clan's secret, wouldn't Zhao Hai have any methods to silence us? In that case, I think we need to consider those before deciding."

Robert nodded and said, "Naturally there are. Everyone knows about the Black Wasteland. Once we enter the wasteland, then exiting would be difficult. Therefore, he can just leave us to freely live here, nobody would be monitoring us. Moreover, once Zhao Hai brings his slaves here, we can help him manage them. If we go to Golden Island, an undead would accompany us in order to ensure that the Buda Clan's secret get exposed."

The people in the room frowned and felt embarrassed, this matter was surely hard to decide on. Then the elder thought for a while before turning to Robert and said, "Patriarch, your opinion?" Then the other people also turned their attention to Robert, they wanted to hear his thoughts.

Robert wasn't polite and directly said, "I want our family to focus on the Black Wasteland. The Black Wasteland might be inferior to the continent, but everyone here certainly knows what would happen if it were to be cultivated. With so much land, can the Buda Clan manage it alone? The Black Wasteland's size is enough for it to be a country. If we help the Buda Clan set this country up, what do you all think will happen to our Iksa Family once the Black Wasteland get unraveled in the continent?"

As soon as the elders heard Robert, their eyes turned bright. They were smart people, they immediately understood what Robert meant. This outcome was much better than being protected. If the Buda Clan established their country in the future while the Iksa Family was their subordinate, the status that they would have would certainly not be small. Being a Grand Duke might not even be difficult to attain.

After seeing the expressions of these people, Robert continued, "Our situation would be different if we go to Golden Island. If we go there, our actions would be monitored. Even if Zhao Hai doesn't deal with us, we would still be losing our freedom. Even if Golden Island was a big place as well, our family doesn't have any 9th rank experts so we would still need to depend on the Buda Clan. In the end, even if we get

rich, we can only be a Merchant Clan. Therefore, I wanted our Iksa Family to settle in the Black Wasteland.”

The elders nodded, they were convinced by Robert. Then Robert said, “Our Iksa Family isn’t the same as the original Iksa Family. If we want to reveal our faces again, we cannot leave the Buda Clan. Since we would be depending on the Buda Clan either way, why won’t we get power and prestige as well. Why would we only settle on being rich?”

The elder who spoke before nodded and said, “Just as the Patriarch said, I also believe that this is an opportunity for our Iksa Family. Even if our family had been doing beautifully in Aksu Empire, we still didn’t get our hands on the title of Grand Duke, we cannot establish our own Duchy. In my opinion, our time with the Aksu Empire has come to a dead end. But now that we have the opportunity to advance, we should grab into it. If the Buda Clan established their own country in the future, our Iksa Family would surely have a high position. Therefore, I completely agree with the Patriarch’s opinion. We should stay with the Buda Clan and help them develop the Black Wasteland fully.

The other Iksa Family elders nodded as well. This made Robert relax. Since the Iksa Family had decided on their future, they would now fully support the Buda Clan.

Chapter 532 - Angrily Rebukes

Zhao Hai calmly looked at the screen, he wasn’t surprised by the Iksa Family’s decision. He just didn’t expect the Iksa Family to fully dedicate themselves to the Buda Clan. They had fully become the Buda Clan’s vassals.

Most importantly, Robert and the others mentioned the founding of a country. To be honest, Zhao Hai didn’t see himself establishing his own country. He just wanted the Black Wasteland to be a place of freedom, a place very different from the outside world.

But founding a nation? This idea didn’t fit with Zhao Hai. He had always regarded himself as a small person, with a nerd’s personality. He sometimes had a feeling of inferiority and low self confidence.

Even if he had his current status, he was still very careful, which was one of his shortcomings. With his current strength, even if he revealed the situation of the Black Wasteland, which power would dare to

face him? As long as he reveals the Black Wasteland, more people in the continent would go and trust him. This would immediately solve the Buda Clan's manpower problem.

However, Zhao Hai still prefers to be careful. He wanted to reveal it little by little. It's nice to be cautious and sometimes timid. There are times when too much courage can cause a person's downfall.

The words of the Iksa Family made Zhao Hai feel overwhelmed. He didn't know which direction the Buda Clan would step into in the future. He just wants to develop the Black Wasteland for now. He didn't even think about founding his own country.

Zhao Hai also knew that there were many things that compelled him to be what he is today. If there weren't any outside factors, he may have even spent his days comfortably in the Space, along with his wives and family.

Laura and the others sat beside Zhao Hai, so they also heard the words of Robert and the others. They didn't think that Zhao Hai would actually make his own country, they knew Zhao Hai's disposition very much. Zhao Hai wasn't an overly ambitious person, everything he does was only to done in order to improve the Buda Clan's living conditions. And unlike people who were hell-bent on contending for the world's supremacy, Zhao Hai was just a man who wanted to live comfortably. This point was already made clear to them long ago.

Seeing that Zhao Hai had not spoken for quite some time, Laura couldn't help but talk to him, "Brother Hai, what are you thinking about?"

Zhao Hai turned his head to Laura and smiled bitterly, "I was thinking about Robert and the others' words. I didn't expect them to want me to establish my own country."

Laura smiled, "In fact, the Iksa Family's words are right. The Black Wasteland is very large and relatively closed off. It is entirely possible for us to establish our own country here. We talked about that before, do you remember?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly, "Laura, you know how unambitious I am. What I said before was just an analogy. I really didn't intend to make my own country."

Laura smiled, "I know, but Brother Hai, you should know that the Iksa Family was only willing to wholeheartedly side with us because they believed in the Buda Clan's potential. In their minds, the Buda Clan would certainly establish a country in the future, and it would become the most formidable country in the continent. Because of that, they decided to join us. Brother Hai, there would be a lot more people who would throw themselves under us in the future. But if we don't achieve the goals that they imagined, they would be disappointed with us."

Zhao Hai frowned, to be honest, he didn't like this idea. However, what Laura said was right, a lot of people wanted to follow the Buda Clan because they believed in the clan's potential. If he didn't express any ambition, he would be letting those people down.

Nobody wants to remain obscure, especially the Iksa Family, who were once a Great Family of the continent. They don't want to hide forever. They will help the Buda Clan for one purpose, and that was to gain a higher title when the Buda Clan gets very strong. At that time, their reveal would be very spectacular.

After thinking about this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but sigh, he nodded and said, "Right, we should think about this issue. In the future, the Buda Clan would have more and more members. It would come to a point where a Clan system wouldn't be able to work. The only way forward is to establish our own country."

Laura nodded, "But the country that we will build would be different from the others. It would be one that has our ideals and heart put into it."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Right, we should build one that would be our own. But this matter would have to wait, it still isn't the right time. Moreover, establishing a nation needs huge investments. The Black Wasteland is still very empty, we still have a lot of things to do."

Laura nodded, "Making a country isn't easy. One problem that we have is the fact that Iron Mountain no longer produces Iron. We need to think of solutions for this thing."

Zhao Hai nodded, "We do need to solve that. But we don't need to be anxious about that right now. I think that the Iksa Family would also help us with this preparation."

Laura nodded, then she turned her head to look at Megan and Lizzy and said, “Megan, Lizzy, what do you think?”

Megan and Lizzy looked at each other. To be honest, the two of them were very startled right now, they didn’t think that Zhao Hai would be discussing this matter. Establishing a country was a huge matter.

However, they still felt excited. They had never thought of establishing a country before. This idea was too crazy and too exciting!

Megan then said, “That’s good, great. We should make our own country. This idea is really good.”

Lizzy had the same sentiment, she couldn’t hide the excitement on her face as she nodded. Seeing their expressions, Zhao Hai couldn’t help but sigh inside, they didn’t know how difficult it was to make a country.

Zhao Hai slowly shook his head, he knew that this matter would be in the far too distant future. The Black Wasteland severely lacks people, making a country here would be impossible.

Zhao Hai changed the scene towards the Purcell Family. Then Zhao Hai became surprised because the Purcell Family didn’t meet inside their conference room, but in their living room instead. Elders weren’t the only people there, even Ruyen was participating as well as the other younger generations of the family.

The scene had been like this for quite a while. The room was in total chaos, the elders were talking while Evan had an ugly expression. It looks like the decision that they’d settled on wasn’t something that Zhao Hai would like.

Zhao Hai knit his brows, then he turned his head to Cai’er and said, “Cai’er, what did they just discuss? ”

Cai’er replied, “Evan proposed that the Purcell Family should leave the Purcell Duchy behind and go with the Buda Clan. He said that it would be the best for the family if they were to re-establish themselves in Golden Island. However, the elders didn’t agree. What they wanted was to reconcile with the Radiant Church.”

Zhao Hai frowned, Cai'er continued, "The elders stated that the Purcell Family came to this point because they had helped us, making them have a falling out with the Radiant Church. If they didn't help us in the past, they the Radiant Church wouldn't have targeted them, and the Purcell Family would have no problems."

At this time, a voice was suddenly heard. It was a woman's voice, when Zhao Hai and the others turned their attention back to the monitor, they saw that it was Ruyen.

Ruyan stood up and said loudly, "All of you shut up! Did you hear what you just said? Reconcile with the Radiant Church? How would you do that? Don't you know how the Radiant Church does things? If we rely on the Radiant Church, the final result would be them annexing our Purcell Family. Is that what you people want to see? Are you really from the Purcell Family?"

After Ruyen talked, an elder coldly snorted and said, "Ruyen, I don't think this is the place for you to talk. How can you be sure that the Radiant Church would annex our Purcell Family? And going to Golden Island? If we go there, we would be depending on the Buda Clan to survive, is that good? What? Do you also want to marry Zhao Hai? Stop dreaming, he's now the Rosen Emperor's son-in-law. He wouldn't take a liking towards someone like you."

The elder's words made Ruyen pale, she was angry right now, "If Zhao Hai didn't take care of the Radiant Church, we would have already been eliminated by Boris. But now, you wanted to rely on the enemy, you really have no courage. You are not worthy to be a person of the Purcell Family."

Another elder talked, "Ruyen, speak cleanly. And who did you call an enemy? And how do you think we got this enemy? It's because of Zhao Hai. If it weren't because of Zhao Hai, then we wouldn't be offending the Radiant Church. Then our Purcell Family wouldn't have reached the point that we're in today."

Ruyen coldly snorted and said, "If it weren't for Zhao Hai, would our Purcell Family survive from our previous food shortage? You remember how the food prices were supposed to inflate? Who do you think is behind all that? It's Boris, he had always wanted to eliminate our Purcell Family since a long time ago. If it weren't for Zhao Hai and Laura, then our Purcell Family would find it hard to survive that time. You fools, always living in your fantasies. Do you really expect the Radiant Church to help us? They just want an excuse to infiltrate our family and gain control. Even a fool can see it. But now you people really wanted this to happen, this is making me sad for the family."

Zhao Hai stared at the fuming Ruyen. He didn't expect Ruyen to take his side. But what she said was true, it seems like he had underestimated Ruyen, she's actually not just a fragile vase.

Chapter 533 - The Final Decision

Laura was similarly surprised that she said, "I didn't think that Ruyen would have that side of her. When I saw her before, she seemed like a fragile little miss."

Zhao Hai didn't say anything and just quietly stared at the screen. After Ruyen's speech, the elders immediately went to refute. In any case, the elders only wanted one thing, and that was to reconcile with the Radiant Church and not to depend on the Buda Clan.

Seeing this situation, Zhao Hai couldn't help but sigh, "It looks like there has been no good result. It seems like the Purcell Family has finally come to an end."

Just as Zhao Hai imagined, Evan wasn't able to change the Elder Assembly's final decision. When the elders and the others left, Ruyen remained and looked at her tired father, "Father, you should know that siding with the Radiant Church would mean the end of our Purcell Family. The Radiant Church has been doing well, they even have the Aksu Empire in their hands. However, this would also increase the vigilance of other nations. At this time, going to the Radiant Church's side wouldn't be a good idea."

Evan sighed and said, "I also know about that, however, it's useless. If the Elder's Assembly is determined, even the Elder Origin Sword Saint wouldn't be able to do anything about it. Alright, no need to talk about this. I'll go talk to elder Origin Sword Saint about this. I'll have him follow you and the younger generation to go towards Golden Island. You shall establish your branch of the Purcell Family there. No matter what happens in the Duchy, at the very least our Purcell Family can survive."

Ruyen stared, she looked at Evan and said, "Father, isn't this bad? We are still too young. Even if Elder Origin Sword Saint is with us, it would be very difficult for our family to recover again."

Evan shook his head, "That's the only thing we can do. No need to talk about this any longer, you go and leave."

Ruyen couldn't bear to look at Evan, so she turned around to leave. Evan sat alone in the room for quite some time. Then he sighed, stood up, and headed outside.

While looking at the screen, Zhao Hai knew that Evan would certainly approach Origin Sword Saint. The Purcell Family had reached a point between life and death. Seeing from the elders' reactions, it seems like they had already been bought by the Radiant Church. The reason why the Radiant Church wasn't able to fully infiltrate the Purcell Family was Origin Sword Saint. The prestige of Origin Sword Saint was vastly renowned in the continent. Even if the Radiant Church were to send 4 or 5 9th ranks, they still wouldn't be confident in stopping Origin Sword Saint from escaping.

The Radiant Church had already lost so much 9th rank experts. If they were to lose more in the Purcell Duchy, then it would be impossible for them to move any more freely. Therefore, they chose to buy out the Purcell Family's elders.

Zhao Hai turned his head to Laura and the others then said, "It looks like it can only be like this. Cai'er, pay attention to the state of the Purcell Family. After they are ready, tell me and I'll go pick them up. Let's go see Uncle Robert." Laura and the others nodded, then they went back to Iron Mountain Fort along with Zhao Hai.

The sky has already turned dark, but Iron Mountain Fort still stayed bright. It was because Cai'er emitted a faint light to illuminate the building. Therefore, even if it was already dark, people can still be seen walking around the castle.

Zhao Hao and the others directly went to the part of the fort where the Iksa Family were staying. Since this place was an old castle, there aren't a lot of courtyards inside. Zhao Hai can only divide an area for the family to live in.

Zhao Hai and the others arrived at the part of the castle before long. When they were seen by a person from the Iksa Family, they were immediately led towards Robert's room.

While inside his room, Robert received the notification that Zhao Hai was waiting outside. The two spoke briefly before they entered the living room.

After having sat down, Zhao Hai looked at Robert and said, "Uncle Robert, have you become familiar in living here? Do you have any other needs? You can just send your requests to Grandpa Green."

Robert smiled and said, "I've already been familiarized with the place. This place is good, in fact, it is very good. If I told other people about the state of Iron Mountain Fort, I think that nobody would believe me."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "That is good. I might get busy in the following days. I have already prepared to release your family's demise to the entire continent, letting the people know about the Radiant Church's ruthlessness. Uncle Robert, do you have any disagreements about this?"

Robert shook his head and said, "Why should I disagree? Go let the people in the continent know how terrible the Radiant Church is."

Zhao Hai nodded, and said, "Rest assured, I wouldn't make the Radiant Church have any better days. You should take a rest here in Iron Mountain Fort and get acquainted with what is happening here. If you want to go to Golden Island, then we need to wait until the situation outside calms down a bit. After that, I will have someone send you to the island."

Robert shook his head and said, "Little Hai, no need. The family has already reached an agreement. Starting today, the Iksa Family would be a vassal of the Buda Clan. We are willing to help the clan in managing the Black Wasteland."

Zhao Hai acted surprised as he stood up and said, "That's fantastic. Thank you, Uncle Robert. Thank you so much. But I still hope to have some people in your family head to Golden Island and do business for your family. Or they can also help us manage the island. Do you agree?"

Robert looks at Zhao Hai and smiled faintly, "You don't need to inquire me about this. We shall go send some of our members to do business as well as help you manage the island. In any case, Golden Island is after all a goose that lays golden eggs."

Zhao Hai laughed and said, "Alright, then that matter is decided. But you still need to rest here for a few days. I've already arranged for your stay, you don't need to worry about anything. Right, since you're staying in Iron Mountain Fort, you need to get acquainted to the place. I'll tell Grandpa Green tomorrow and have him take you for a walk around the fort so that you can learn as much as possible about the place."

Robert nodded, "Alright, then I'll be troubling Housekeeper Green." Zhao Hai smiled and said, "It's not much of a trouble. Uncle Robert, I'll be leaving first. I have something to discuss with Grandpa Green." Robert nodded and then escorted Zhao Hai out.

After Zhao Hai got outside, he immediately returned to the Space and went to Golden Island. He must go see Kun and ask about the letter that was handed over to him.

Golden Island was now very prosperous. A lot of merchants were passing in and out of the harbor. With the amount of arrivals coming to the island, they were even compelled to make a new harbor.

Golden Island's tax rate was very low, and pirates were also coming here to trade, which in turn attracted merchants. This situation showed that Zhao Hai's initial strategy was correct. This freeport did indeed become very popular.

Kun was reviewing some documents at this time. Although he had the help of the Markey Family, he was still very busy. With the amount of things needed to be done in the island, it was evident that they still lacked manpower.

Zhao Hai wasn't polite, he directly opened the door and walked in. When Kun saw Zhao Hai walk in, he immediately placed his pen down and laughed, "Little Hai, you returned. You really make this old man smile. Why did you come, you want me to take a rest?"

Zhao Hai laughed and said, "Can anybody work harder than you? With how you work, nobody would believe you if you say that you're old. Laura has a lot of things to do as well, don't even mention me."

Kun snorted and said, "Don't you dare deceive me. What do you guys really do? Forget it, don't tell me. But you can't forget about my state here. There's a serious shortage of manpower here. We need to solve it as soon as possible."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Don't worry, some people will come soon. I think you already know about the Iksa Family. Some of them will come to the island soon. You'll be able to relax then."

Kun released a breath of relief, "That's good. I've been very exhausted these days. You might not know, but Golden Island now has more than 5 thousand shops. It's already quite exhausting dealing with these

shops. But there's still the new roads that needed to be constructed, and there the new harbor as well. All of these things really do make me tired."

Zhao Hai smiled, he didn't have anything to say about this matter. He can only continue, "Grandpa Kun, have you sent the letter to the Calci Family? This matter needs to be passed to the continent as soon as possible."

Kun nodded and said, "I've already handed it over to the Calci Family, no need to worry about this. The Radiant Church had fully destroyed themselves this time. This information was enough to make all the Royals and Great Nobles hate them. It wouldn't be too long before they collapse."

Zhao Hai coldly snorted and said, "Not necessarily. Even if all that happened, the Radiant Church still had the Aksu Empire in their control. In the end, they can still preach inside the empire, that wouldn't be necessarily bad for them. Even if the Nobles and commoners of the Aksu Empire object in the future, the Church should have already acquired enough fanatics to not care about what happens."

Kun nodded and said, "I really didn't expect that the Aksu Empire would come under the control of the Radiant Church. The Church really has a lot of good methods. From what I can see with the Markey Family, if we hadn't exterminated them, they would eventually fall into the Radiant Church's hands."

Zhao Hai sighed and said, "The Radiant Church uses religion as a tool to control the people little by little. People would think that it was harmless at first, but when they finally notice, it would have already been too late."

Kun nodded and said, "How about the Purcell Duchy, how is the situation there? Did the Beastmen already arrive? When will they attack?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "It seems like the Purcell Family's elders were already bought out. They fully resisted the idea of asking the Buda Clan for help. As for the Beastmen, I really don't have any information. But I think it wouldn't take a long time. After all, the Prairie is already out of food."

Kun nodded then he said, "Right, is there any way to pull some people from the Purcell Family?"

Chapter 534 - Seeing Marriott

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "That would be very difficult. Now that the Aksu Empire is under the control of the Radiant Church, I suspect that they already have people inside the Purcell Family. If we were to get some of them, then it would be very likely that we would get some of the Radiant Church's people as well."

Kun frowned and said, "What should we do? Both the Golden Island and Black Wasteland is in badly need of people. If we miss this opportunity, where can we get people?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Grandpa Kun, don't forget that war is approaching. In addition to the amount of dead, the number of slaves would increase as well. Their prices would be cheap because they aren't trained. Additionally, I can also turn the deceased into undead and have them take command of the people in the wasteland. This should somewhat solve our problem with manpower."

Kun sighed and said, "It looks like we can only do it like this. You have ordered 100 thousand of slaves before, but since the situation has become tense, I think the slave trader wouldn't be able to send them any sooner."

Zhao Hai nodded, "You don't need to worry about this too much. After waiting for the war to settle, Brother Wales would be delivering 100 thousand slaves over to me. Moreover, I can also exchange some more slaves from the other Beastmen tribes. With those slaves, I think Black Wasteland would have no problems with numbers."

Kun nodded, "I hope that happens. Right, Little Hai, a couple of days ago, a Slave Merchant approached me. He wants to make a shop in the island. What do you think?"

Kun knew that Zhao Hai didn't have any favorable impressions towards Slave Merchants. Therefore, he wanted to ask Zhao Hai if he agrees. Zhao Hai thought for a moment before saying, "I agree. In any case, even if they don't have a shop here, we still need to buy some slaves. If they have shops here, then that would make our lives much easier."

Kun nodded, "Alright, I'll go send the approval. What are you planning to do next? Will you go back home or would you visit the Purcell Duchy?"

Zhao Hai replied, "There aren't a lot of matters to take care of back at home. I don't need to take personal command as well. On the other hand, I needed to pay careful attention towards the Purcell Duchy. The family has prepared to have Origin Sword Saint escort their younger generation to come to Golden Island. I still need to receive them while at the same time see how the Purcell Family develops and understand the Radiant Church's next move. The church is our biggest enemy, we have to pay close attention."

Kun nodded, he also thinks that what Zhao Hai said was right. But he still frowned and said, "I think monitoring them from the Space is enough, no need to personally go there. When the war between Humans and Beastmen comes, do not participate. If you do so, trading with the Beastmen would be more difficult in the future."

Zhao Hai nodded, "I will not only refrain from helping the Humans, I would even help the Beastmen instead. Since the Aksu Empire had become the Radiant Church's, they certainly wouldn't let their territory get ravaged by the Beastmen. Since it was definite that the Church would move, I don't want the Beastmen to suffer a lot. The Beastmen hold grudges very seriously, if they lost too much, then I'm afraid they would wage war every year. And I can't let the Radiant Church have that."

Kun knit his brows, then he sighed. He didn't say anything, to be honest, since he was a native to the Ark Continent, he was in disagreement with Zhao Hai's method. Helping another race to deal with one's own was something that he didn't approve of.

However, he had to recognize that the Radiant Church was the Buda Clan's greatest enemy while Zhao Hai was very close friends with the Beastmen. Considering the Buda Clan's future, it was a no brainer that Zhao Hai would help the Beastmen.

Zhao Hai also knew about Kun's thoughts. However, in Zhao Hai's eyes, the Beastmen were more lovable than the Humans. This wasn't Earth, Zhao Hai didn't need to worry about any ethnic differences here. In Zhao Hai's mind, his true race were the Chinese back on Earth. To him, the Humans in Ark Continent were just another intelligent race. Therefore, supporting the Beastmen instead of the Humans didn't give him even a bit of pressure.

Zhao Hai wanted to continue the topic, he looked at Kun and said, "Grandpa Kun, after the Calci Family and the Rosen Empire passes the information about the Iksa Family, you should also use the Markey Family to spread it around. The continent must know about it in the shortest period of time."

Kun nodded, "Rest assured, I have this matter prepared already. Right, Little Hai, you should go find the people from the Shelley Family. The Shelley Family is the continent's biggest Hotel businessmen. Their information network had penetrated the entire continent. Even with the suppression of the Radiant Church, their businesses were still able to thrive. So it shouldn't be a problem for them to pass this information over. This would certainly be achieving twice the result with half the effort."

Zhao Hai thought for a moment before nodding, "Alright, I'll go head to the hotel." There was now a Shelley Hotel in Golden Island, and it was currently the highest structure ever built. The Architecture was also top notch. And naturally, its business was doing very well.

Most importantly, Zhao Hai came to know that the manager of this hotel was Marriott, the manager of Sky Water City's Shelley Hotel. When Golden Island became open for business, he immediately arrived and became the hotel branch's manager.

Zhao Hai's business with the Shelley Hotel had been going on all these time. The Fire Fishes, the vegetables and the Milk Wine had become the hotel's selling point. Therefore, it was already assure that the hotel would help Zhao Hai.

Although the Radiant Church had been suppressing the hotel, this didn't affect its business too much. From the years of doing business in the continent, the family had made various dealings with Great Clans and Royal Families. They used money and benefit to weave their large net, therefore, they weren't afraid of the Radiant Church's attack.

On the contrary, thanks to the Haven products, the hotel's business had been going better than before. The suppression of the Radiant Church was only a superficial thing to them.

The reason why Lionheart was able to prevail while dealing with the Shelley Family was because he was in the Rosen Empire and was supported by the Rosen Royal Clan. Otherwise, Lionheart might have already been dealt with a long time ago.

The Shelley Family was extremely good in doing business. Just considering business prowess, they were a lot stronger compared to the Markey Family. The only reason why the Markey Family was able to rise faster was because they used shady methods. They would marry into some Merchant Family, establishing ties with them, and then had all of their successors killed off. This would essentially make all of that family's assets belong to the Markey Family. It can be said that compared to the Shelley Family, the Markey Family were using despicable methods to gain wealth. But in terms of talent, they were way behind compared to the Shelley Family.

It was because of these reasons why Zhao Hai was able to extinguish the Markey Family in one fell swoop, this method cannot be used against the Shelley Family.

After many years of spreading out, nobody knew the exact number of the Shelley Family's members. How about the experts of the family? Nobody knows. Additionally, there were a lot of people who had been helped by the Shelley Family. If people were to really deal with the Shelley Family, the family can just invite countless experts to deal with the enemy.

All of this was because of one rule made by the Shelley Family. No matter who it was, once they enter the hotel, the hotel would completely guarantee the safety of that person. Once the person leaves the hotel, the hotel wouldn't be in charge anymore.

This rule might look like nothing. But if someone were to offend a person and was then chased, he can always enter the Shelley Hotel and feel assured that the hotel would protect him. Once this person manages to get away, they would definitely be grateful towards the Shelley Family.

If the person was an ordinary man, then it might not be a big deal. However, what if this person was an expert? What if he becomes strong later on? Then he would definitely want to repay the hotel. This way, the Shelley Hotel had amassed quite a number of people who would come and help them. Additionally, even if these people wanted to repay, the hotel might not even agree. They might also use their power to help the person to improve. This way, even if the Shelley Family had limited strength, nobody can really gauge how big their backing was.

But the real reason why the Shelley Family was able to survive all these years was their choice to handle their matters in a very low-key manner. Generally, they wouldn't participate in any fights or struggles, minimizing the amount of enemies that they would acquire while making friends everywhere.

Zhao Hai was sitting in his carriage as it headed towards the Shelley Hotel. Although it was already evening, the hotel was still brilliantly illuminated. The place was very busy, it quickly became a landmark on Golden Island.

The carriage that Zhao Hai was using right now was a carriage commonly used in the island. It wasn't very beautiful, compared to the other carriages on the island, it was a bit bad.

Zhao Hai arrived at the front door of the hotel and then went down from his carriage along with Shun. Shue stayed at the naval base while Laura and the others simply didn't come.

As soon as Zhao Hai's carriage arrived, a person from the hotel immediately came and bowed to Zhao Hai, "The hotel welcomes the arrival of Mister. I ask Mister to come with me." Zhao Hai nodded and then walked towards the hotel.

Inside the hotel's hall were a lot of people. There were groups of two or three standing there and chatting. After the attendant guided Zhao Hai in, he immediately asked, "Does Mister want a reservation or a meal?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "I'm here to see Manager Marriott. Is he in?"

The attendant stared, one must know that Marriott held great influence in this hotel. And since the Shelley Family and the Buda clan were in good terms, the hotel was extremely cared for by the Buda Clan. There were a lot of people who approached Marriott and asked him to help them say a few good words to Zhao Hai for them.

However, Marriott was a man of principle, so he didn't help those people and decided to live in private. He would generally decline visitors. Any ordinary person cannot even see him. One should make an appointment first if one wanted to meet him.

The attendant didn't recognize Zhao Hai. So when he heard that Zhao Hai wanted to see Marriott, he froze. This was because everybody who wanted to see Marriott would need to make an appointment first. Wanting to see Marriott through the attendants was a useless method.

However, the attendant managed to recover immediately as he said, "Sir, the manager is extremely busy. If mister wants to meet the manger, mister needs to file for an appointment. If you have no appointment, it would be very difficult to see the manager."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "It doesn't matter if he is busy. Just go tell him that Zhao Hai wants to see him. I'm sure he can find time to meet me."

Zhao Hai's remark not only silenced the attendant, it silenced the entire hall as well. It must be said that in Golden Island, it was normal if people didn't know who the Rosen Emperor was. However, not knowing Zhao Hai was definitely impossible.

Therefore, everybody present knew who Zhao Hai was. When they heard Zhao Hai say his name, all of them looked at him with awe. The attendant even appeared very excited, he immediately replied, "Alright, I'll go call the manager right away." Then he ran towards the offices.

After the attendant ran away, a humming sound was heard as the people in the hall were talking with one another. Some of them even wanted to approach Zhao Hai, but they were afraid of being disrespectful. Therefore, these people just stayed where they are and took occasional glances at Zhao Hai.

Seeing the actions of these people, Zhao Hai immediately gave a short bow and said, "Everyone, since I have some matters to discuss with Manager Marriott today, I won't be able to accomodate any of you. But in the future, I hope we can have a meal together."

The people present immediately returned the salute. At this time, Marriott walked out of his office and then went towards Zhao Hai and bowed to Zhao Hai, "Sir Marquis has arrived. I apologize for not being able to welcome you."

Zhao Hai laughed and said, "I must say, Brother Marriott, you're being overly polite. What relationship do we have, why do you need to say all these fancy greetings? Go, go, let's go and have a drink. I wanted to drink so badly."

Marriott laughed and said, "Alright, then come in." Then he led Zhao Hai into his office.

After Zhao Hai entered the office, a nearby Noble immediately turned to his friend and said, "That was Zhao Hai Buda? The Buda Clan's Patriarch? That's what he looks like? I heard that he is a God of Slaughter, how can he be so friendly?"

His friend smiled and said, "You don't know, but I heard that Zhao Hai is very special. He is only ruthless to his enemies while he is extremely kind to his friends. You can see it from Marriott, he is only a manager of the hotel, but since Marquis Zhao Hai used to know him, the Marquis acted very friendly when they chat with each other."

The Noble nodded, then his face expressed his regret, "Why didn't I get to know him before he became a Marquis, who knows where I could have been right now."

His friend laughed and said, "Continue dreaming....."

Chapter 535 - Overly Popular Bread Fruit

Zhao Hai and Marriott entered inside Marriott's personal reception area. Although this hotel had just finished being constructed, this reception area was still luxuriously decorated, it even looked much better than back in Sky Water City.

After they sat down, Marriott looked at Zhao Hai and smiled, "Little Hai, why'd you find time to see me today? Do you need something?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I want your Shelly Family's help in a matter."

Marriott smiled, "Don't be polite, just tell me."

Zhao Hai laughed and then said, "Haha, alright, take a look at this first." Then he handed a stack of papers over to Marriott. The stack contained the events that happened to the Iksa Family. Every detail was carefully written in those papers, this was the thing that Zhao Hai had prepared before.

Marriott received the stack of papers and then carefully read them. Marriott was a very calm and smart man, he grew up in the Shelley Family since he was a child, so he had certain understandings about different struggles in the continent. However, what the Radiant Church did was really quite excessive even to him.

Although only the Iksa Family's matter was written on the stack of papers, Marriott had already speculated that there was a problem with the Aksu Empire. Otherwise, such a situation wouldn't have happened. If this was truly the case, the problem was much bigger than he had imagined.

After some time, Marriott placed the papers down and then looked at Zhao Hai, "Is this real? How did the Aksu Empire respond?"

Zhao Hai sighed and said, "Of course it's true, the Iksa Family is now with me and in a very safe place. The Aksu Empire didn't have any reactions to what happened. Not only did they not respond, they still went on and dealt with the Purcell Family. The elders of the Purcell Family have now been bought out, restraining the Purcell Family from cooperating with my Buda Clan. Because of this, I suspect that the Aksu Empire had now come into the control of the Radiant Church."

The conclusion that Zhao Hai reached was the same as the one that Marriott had in mind. Therefore, Marriott nodded, he agreed with what Zhao Hai said.

Then Marriott looked at Zhao Hai and said, "What do you think about this?"

Zhao Hai snorted and said, "The Radiant Church had been too rampant. They actually dared to control a big Empire. Later on, I'm prepared to hand this information over to father-in-law, making him spread the message to the entire continent. The Markey Family shall help with this as well. So I hope the Shelley Family can also aid me in releasing this information. We need to let the continent know what kind of organization the Radiant Church really is."

When Marriott heard Zhao Hai, his eyes turned bright and then deeply looked into Zhao Hai's eyes, "Alright, Little Hai, we'll be giving you a hand."

The reason why Marriott agreed immediately was because the Radiant Church was also suppressing the Shelley Family quite recently. Even if the family had withstood and was not afraid of the Radiant Church, they cannot deal with the Radiant Church just like how they did with Grand Duke Lionheart.

Zhao Hai laughed and said, "Alright, then that matter is settled. However, don't release the information immediately. When it's time, I'll have Grandpa Kun inform you."

Marriott nodded, "Then that's settled. Right, do you want to stay and have a couple of drinks?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "I can't, I still have some other things to do today. I need to head back and deal with those. Moreover, I'll be leaving Golden Island immediately."

Marriott nodded, "alright, then I won't stop you. But the next time that you come here, you must drink a couple of glasses with me." Zhao Hai nodded with a smile, then turned around to leave. Marriott escorted Zhao Hai to his carriage before returning back to the hotel.

After entering the hotel and greeting the guests, Marriott returned to his own room and wrote a long letter regarding the Iksa Family as well as Zhao Hai's request. He then had it sent to the Shelley Family's headquarters, he wanted to know the family's thoughts on this matter.

Marriott has promised Zhao Hai that he'd help, so he wouldn't renege on his words. Moreover, he also has the authority to make such a decision. But he still need to inform the family about this matter, this still needed to be discussed.

The Shelley Family was the Buda Clan's ally, it wasn't a problem if they wanted to help. However, there are many ways to lend a hand, the problem was how to do so.

When Zhao Hai returned to the naval base, he immediately went to the Space to have a rest. Nothing new happened in the Purcell Duchy, Ruyen and the others were also not yet ready.

Honestly, Zhao Hai didn't want to make contact with Ruyen. First, it was because of the previous events. He feels very embarrassed if they were to meet. The second was because Ruyen had annoyed him before, he didn't want that event to be repeated in the future.

The next day, Zhao Hai silently paid attention to the Purcell Family. At the same time, he was also observing the events back in the Beastman Prairie.

The Prairie was now fully prepared. They needed to attack the humans no matter how much they had prepared. Because of the food shortage, they needed to go into action, therefore, they didn't have the time to store up some rations. The only thing that they can do was bring along some Argali while they advanced.

Argalis weren't quick, so they affected the march of the Beastmen. Moreover, the Argalis would go ill once they enter Human territories. It was because of this reason why Beastmen would generally prefer to have rations.

But unfortunately, they didn't have the time to prepare rations, they simply didn't have time.

In this fight, each race prepared their own food and weapons. Then everybody arrived at a certain place before they set out in order to pillage the human territory.

It was because of this solidarity that the Beastmen weren't afraid of fighting all out. Naturally, if their losses were too high, they would retreat. After all, a race with small numbers would generally be swallowed up.

Seeing how prepared the Beastmen were, Zhao Hai reckoned that it would take less than a month before they arrived at the border of the Purcell Duchy. At that time, the war would truly begin.

He also looked at Ah Tai and the others. Ah Tai's current situation was very good. The Beastmen knew that the shop had close relations with the Wolf, Bear, Dog, and Cow-headed races. Therefore, nobody went to the shop just to cause some trouble.

And there was also one thing that made Ah Tai very popular, it was the Bread Fruit. In this war, the other tribes' food can only be Argali. It was because it was the most convenient thing they could bring at current time.

However, the Prairie Wolf Tribe, Black Bear Tribe, Dog-headed Race, and the Cow-headed Race had some Bread Fruit. The Bread Fruit was extremely convenient. One could immediately eat it as soon as it was opened, it didn't even need cooking.

It was the first time that the other Beastmen saw such a fruit, this made them jealous. And when they heard that this fruit was provided by Magic Lily Shop, all of them became impolite, especially the huge Warring Clans, they immediately went to purchase some from Ah Tai.

Among them were the Tiger Clan that Ah Tai intended to contact. There were also a lot of tribes inside the Tiger-headed Race. The one that Ah Tai wanted to come in contact with were the Bali Tiger Tribe.

The Bali Tigers weren't the biggest tribe in the Tiger-headed Race. But they were deemed to be the most attractive among them. Their appearance also had the general tiger stripes, but the way the stripes were arranged made them very beautiful.

But they should not be underestimated just because they were attractive, their fighting strength wasn't weak at all. Among the Tiger-headed race, they can be ranked along the middle parts.

Because Ah Tai had prior inquiries with the Bali Tigers, they were the first ones who had gotten some Bread Fruit.

For the Beastmen, this Bread Fruit became very important in this war. The fruit was both convenient and can last a long time. It was not only their convenience that attracted the Beastmen, the most important thing was that the fruits weren't Argali. Argalis were the most treasured commodity of the Beastmen, so they want to save them as much as possible.

The reason why the Beastmen didn't bring some Bamboo Rice was because it was very inconvenient. Not only were they hard to bring, they don't last long either. More importantly, with how much the Beastmen eat, they would need to bring large amounts of pots in order to cook the rice. This would further hinder their advance.

On the other hand, the Bread Fruit can be eaten immediately after it was opened. It expands as well, making one fruit enough for one Beastman. For races with small appetites like the Wolf-headed race, one fruit could sustain two people. Therefore, the Bread Fruit became the Beastmen's number one choice for war rations.

Ah Tai didn't become polite, Zhao Hai had instructed him to use this opportunity to establish his reputation. But he wasn't prepared to sell too much Bread Fruit. If the Beastmen approached him, he would tell them that Zhao Hai only left him no more than 300 million jin of Bread Fruit.

300 million jin might sound like a lot. But for the entire Beastman Race, it was just akin to pouring a cup of water towards a burning carriage, it was utterly insufficient.

Ah Tai was also smart, he directly asked the Black Bears to come forward and be the ones to inform all of the Beastmen about his meager 300 million jin supply of Bread Fruit. If they wanted to buy some, they needed to divide the amount among themselves.

The Beastmen didn't embarrass Ah Tai. Moreover, even if the Beastmen always get in disagreement with each other, they were unnaturally in one mind when it came to war. Therefore, the big Warring Clans acquiesced and divided the Bread Fruits among themselves.

Later on, they had found out that the Prairie Wolves had the most supply of Bread Fruit. This made them force the Prairie Wolves to sell some their fruits and trade them for Argali.

The Wolves agreed to this arrangement, they had bought the Bread Fruits for gold, but it was now exchanged for Argali. For the Prairie Wolves, this trade was very cost-effective. In normal times, if they took some gold to other Beastmen to trade for Argali, they would be seen as idiots. Therefore, the Wolves didn't hesitate and agreed immediately. They left some Bread Fruits for themselves and then sold the other ones.

Chapter 536 - Purcell Family's Tragedy

The Prairie Wolves weren't wealthy, so now that an opportunity has arrived, they certainly wouldn't let it go. At this time, they were actually feeling regretful. They regretted that they turned down the prior 1 billion jin of Bread Fruit that Zhao Hai intended to give them. When they heard that they were about to head to war, they kept the 300 million jin and declined the remaining amount. If they knew that this situation would happen, they wouldn't have declined the 1 billion jin.

But it was always too late to regret, they can only settle on their gains this time. On the other hand, the one who gained greatly was Ah Tai. Not only did he establish a relationship with the Bali Tigers, he also managed to promote the Bread Fruit. In the future, the fruit would certainly become popular in the Prairie.

Zhao Hai also knew about this development. Although he had countless amounts of Bread Fruit in the Space, he wasn't planning to take those out right now. If he gave them the Bread Fruit, the Beastmen would stop attacking the Human territories. Zhao Hai wanted the Beastmen to wage war right now.

It wasn't because Zhao Hai hated them, it was because he doesn't want to wipe the buttocks of the Radiant Church. This incident was caused by the Radiant Church, so even if a lot of civilians were to die, Zhao Hai wanted the Radiant Church to remember this lesson for a long time.

The Radiant Church was his enemy, and Zhao Hai wasn't a saint either, so he certainly wouldn't help the Radiant Church. This war, for him, was a very good thing.

Since there weren't any problems with the Beastmen, Zhao Hai shifted his attention to the Purcell Duchy. It wasn't only the Purcell Family that he was looking at, he also focused on the other people in the Duchy. He wanted to see what the Radiant Church would do. And he also wanted to see which ones were the spies of the Radiant Church.

The Space's functions were now quite formidable. Since he already had the map of the entire continent, it was natural that he also had the map of the entire Purcell Duchy. Because of this, it was very easy for him to monitor the Duchy.

After two days of surveillance, Zhao Hai finally found some people of the Church. These people were experts, but they weren't 9th ranks. 9th rank experts aren't cabbages that can just be plucked, the Radiant Church had painstakingly trained them for years, so they cannot just send casually send them.

Among the people that were sent, there were some 8th ranks mixed in. The majority of them were 7th and 6th ranks, which numbered around 2 thousand. The 8th ranks, on the other hand, only amounted to about 500. One could see the Radiant Church's strength just from this exhibition.

Besides these people, there were also armies of the families surrounding the Purcell Duchy. As soon as the Purcell Family falls, they would immediately come and occupy the Duchy.

Seeing this situation, Zhao Hai understood that the Aksu Empire definitely wouldn't let the Purcell Family off. The family would have to be sacrificed to the Beastmen, completely eliminating the Purcell surname from the continent.

After thinking about this point, Zhao Hai cannot help but have a taunting smile on his face. His ridicule was of course meant for the elders of the Purcell Family. For a meagre benefit, they took their entire family to its demise.

Fortunately for the Purcell Family, they had two smart members. At the very least, Evan and Ruyen's minds were in the right place. Zhao Hai also knew that these elders might have not acted out all for the sake of benefits. They might have also thought about the Purcell Family. However, they didn't really understand the Radiant Church, therefore they managed to make this mistake.

The Purcell Family elders might be selfish, but they weren't fools. They knew that they only had their current power because of the Purcell Family. If the Purcell Family were to vanish, then they would become nothing.

The reason why they rejected the idea of moving to Golden Island was because they received some promises and benefits from the Radiant Church. At the same time, they were also afraid of losing their current status.

If the Purcell Family were to move to Golden Island, the place was the Buda Clan's domain and wasn't the Purcell Family's. When they arrive there, they wouldn't be able to have the influence that they had in the Purcell Duchy. Because of this, they went all out in opposing to move to Golden Island. They had held into the hope that the Purcell Family might be able to keep the Purcell Duchy.

Another two days later, Zhao Hai saw that Ruyen and the others have prepared themselves. So he immediately left the Space and flashed to the Purcell Duchy. There were now a lot of commoners who had left and some were still on the process of leaving. The Purcell Duchy were now having food problems, if they didn't leave, they would die of starvation.

But these commoners didn't have any resentment towards the Purcell Family. The family had always been good to them, the prices in the Duchy weren't high, the taxes were kept low, and most importantly, cases of them bullying the commoners were very rare. Also, their schools were cheap as well, there were commoners who had their children attend these schools. This made the Purcell Family very popular among the commoners.

Although these commoners didn't know about high-level affairs, they can still roughly guess that the Aksu Empire had already given up on the Purcell Duchy. Which made the commoners even more dissatisfied towards the Empire.

The reason for that was Zhao Hai's continual propaganda. He let the people of the Aksu Empire know that the Beastman's attack to the the human lands this time was caused by the Radiant Church.

Now that the Beastmen were coming, the Aksu Empire actually didn't send any troops to support the Purcell Duchy, this made the commoners very discontented of the Empire.

Then there was another news that came to the Purcell Duchy. It stated that the Radiant Church had become honored guests in the Royal Capital. The nobles were respectful to them, even the Emperor was very polite when interacting with them.

This information was just like a blasting fuse, making all of the Purcell Duchy commoners furious towards the Aksu Empire's Royal Clan. It was already known that the Beastman attack was caused by the church, but they actually didn't do anything about it. Instead, they even accepted the church as honored guests. They didn't even send some reinforcements to the Duchy, stating their neglectful stance towards the commoners.

At this time, the Purcell Family had also taken action. They sent some people from the family and organized the commoners in leaving the Duchy. This was because the Duchy would soon become a battlefield.

These commoners weren't willing to leave, however, the Purcell Family urged them to. The Purcell Family knew that they don't have the ability to keep these commoners safe. They couldn't even guarantee the safety of their own family, so how could they guarantee the safety of these commoners.

The commoners understood as well that the Purcell Family won't provide any help even if they stayed. Some of them had friends and families in other places, so they chose to go there. For those who didn't have both friends and families, they still needed to leave the Duchy.

When Zhao Hai arrived at Casa City, there weren't a lot of people left inside. Zhao Hai didn't care about any of these and just took his carriage towards the Grand Duke's Mansion.

Zhao Hai already expected the commoners to leave, but he still paid attention to them. When the commoners were leaving, the Radiant Church didn't act too hard on them. This may be because the Church knew that their current actions were already excessive. If they were to act hard on these commoners, the other commoners of the Aksu Empire might feel discontented with them.

Seeing that these commoners were safe, Zhao Hai felt relieved. Although he wanted these commoners to go to the Black Wasteland, he understood that this situation wasn't realistic.

When Zhao Hai's carriage entered the back gates of the Mansion, he saw Evan already waiting for him there. Evan was now used to the mysterious appearance and disappearance of Zhao Hai.

He had sent people in Casa City to look for Zhao Hai, only to know that Zhao Hai wasn't inside the city. But when Zhao Hai's carriage heads to the mansion, the guards at the city gates were always not aware of his arrival, this fact made Evan very confused.

Most importantly, Zhao Hai always came at the right time. With a slightest bit of trouble, Zhao Hai would appear. Like this time, they had just finished preparing and haven't informed Zhao Hai yet, but he actually came to the mansion.

After inviting Zhao Hai to sit down, Evan looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, since you came, I think you already know that we are ready."

Zhao Hai nodded, "I do, but not only that. I also must tell you that the Radiant Church had sent 2000 thousand experts as well as 500 8th ranks. At the same time, there were also armies on the surrounding borders of the Purcell Duchy. All of them are waiting for the Purcell Family to fall before they charge and secure the territory."

Evan made a ridiculing smiled and said, "I've already guessed this for a long time. Those guys surely wouldn't let us go. It is a pity that the people in our family are still living in their fantasies. But fortunately for us, Elder Sword Saint agreed to my opinion. He will be bringing Ruyen and the others to follow you. Later on, I'll have to depend on you to look after Ruyen."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Rest assured, I shall looked after them. If there's an opportunity later on, I shall help them regain the Purcell Family's status."

Evan let out a long breath and then said, "I'll be depending on you. If you think that they're worth helping, then help them. If they're not, then as long as you let them live a happy life, I would be able to rest assured."

Zhao Hai looked at Evan and then said, "Uncle Evan, you should come as well. If you're present, I believe that the Purcell Family would reappear much more beautifully."

Evan shook his head and said, "That's a bad idea. Everybody can leave, but not me. I am the Purcell Family's Patriarch. If I leave, then the Purcell Family would certainly come to its end. I'd rather die in battle here. I will not leave."

Zhao Hai sighed, he knew that any more urging would be useless, Evan was adamant on staying.

Chapter 537 - Final Request

Evan has his own pride, Zhao Hai understood this, he had his own pride as well. Therefore, he didn't say anything else after Evan expressed his intention to stay. The only thing he could do right now was to look after Ruyen.

Seeing that Zhao Hai didn't say anything, Evan knew that Zhao Hai had understood him. Then Evan looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, I want you to promise me one thing."

Zhao Hai looked at Evan, then he couldn't help but sigh inwardly. He can probably guess what Evan was about to say. But this request would place Zhao Hai in an awkward situation.

Looking at Zhao Hai's frown, Evan knew that Zhao Hai wouldn't immediately agree. He couldn't help but sigh and said, "Little Hai, Uncle is begging you. This would be my last request."

Zhao Hai knew that Evan was already thinking that he would die. Even if Evan wasn't killed by the Beastmen, the Radiant Church would still not let him off. The Radiant Church knew about his relationship with Zhao Hai. The church might let the other insignificant members of the Purcell Family go, but they definitely wouldn't spare Evan. Another reason was because Evan was the Purcell Family's Patriarch and was in total opposition of the Radiant Church, his existence would make the church's plans to control the Purcell Family very hard.

Zhao Hai sighed, then he looked at Evan and said, "Uncle, tell me, I'll listen to it."

Evan looked at Zhao Hai and said, "You should have already guessed it. I want you to marry Ruyen. Little Hai, marrying Ruyen is not only for her sake, but also to my Purcell Family. After this event, the family would surely decline. These people are still too young, if you don't have a connection with them, it would be very hard to let them follow you. I will pass the position of Patriarch to Ruyen so that they would listen to your words. I believe that under your leadership, the Purcell Family would grow much better."

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly, he already expected Evan's request. He was engaged with Ruyen before, then when the Buda Clan met their misfortune, Ruyen wanted to break their engagement. And adding on to Ruyen's reputation, Zhao Hai has no reason to marry Ruyen. His current identity was now beyond Ruyen's level.

However, he had no other way but to consider Evan's request. Evan already expects to be killed, he already knew that he would die. With how Evan helped their family in the past, Zhao Hai couldn't just decline his request.

Evan looked at Zhao Hai's reaction, he was afraid that Zhao Hai would decline. He didn't lie, in fact, he only wanted Ruyen to marry Zhao Hai. It didn't matter what happens to their relationship in the future. As long as this connection exists, people would still give the Purcell Family a little bit of face.

And as he said, the people who would follow Ruyen were the younger elite generation of the Purcell Family. But they were still too young and full of vigor. With the disaster of the Purcell Family, those youths would certainly panic. Even if Ruyen had the title of Patriarch, it wasn't certain that they would follow her. But it would become a completely different matter if Zhao Hai was present.

Who was Zhao Hai? He's the Buda Clan's Patriarch, the son-in-law of both the Calci Family as well as the Rosen Emperor, he's also the lord of Golden Island, and was deemed as one of the most powerful Patriarchs in the continent. These statuses were enough to make one shake upon meeting him. As long as the Purcell Family establishes a connection with him, the family would have hope for the future.

In fact, it wasn't only Zhao Hai who can safeguard the family's future. There's one other person who can, and it's Origin Sword Saint. He's a 9th rank expert, as long as he appears, people will certainly behave.

However, Origin Sword Saint has his own matter to take care of, so he couldn't always take charge. In fact, Evan also had a small worry about Origin Sword Saint. The Saint wasn't young anymore, nobody knew how long he has left to live. If he died, and the Purcell Family wasn't able to produce another 9th rank, then the family would be over. They would never recover in the future.

If Ruyen gets married to Zhao Hai, everything would be different. The Buda Clan had more than one 9th rank expert under their wing, everyone in the continent knew this. If the Buda Clan doesn't fall, then even if Origin Sword Saint died, the Purcell family wouldn't be afraid of anything with the Buda Clan as its backer.

Zhao Hai thought for quite some time, when Evan was about to open his mouth, he said, "Uncle Evan, I can't promise this to you right away. You should know that I'm already married right now. I still need to discuss this with my wives as well as with Grandpa Green. And just like you, I don't only represent myself, but the Buda Clan as well."

When he heard Zhao Hai, Evan can only sigh. Although he felt down, he knew that he cannot force Zhao Hai about this right now.

Evan nodded, "Alright, please consider this matter slowly. Ruyen and the others are now prepared. You take them away whenever you want."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I can take them away right now. In fact, I already have my Spatial Magic prepared. I can deliver them to Golden Island at the shortest amount of time. This is why I can still appear in Casa City even if you can't find me."

Evan nodded, he already guessed something in line with this. He then said, "When they arrive at Golden Island, you must take care of them. I have given the majority of the Purcell Family's riches to Ruyen. I hope they can live even a little bit better."

Zhao Hai nodded, he didn't say anything more and just stood up. Evan stood as well and then the two headed outside silently. Before long, the two of them arrived at a remote courtyard in the mansion. Even if this courtyard was isolated, its perimeter was heavily guarded.

When he entered the courtyard, Zhao Hai saw Ruyen. Ruyen was standing inside the courtyard and stared at the city's walls. He didn't know what she was thinking about, but Zhao Hai can see the sadness in Ruyen's eyes.

After hearing the sounds of footsteps, Ruyen immediately turned her head and saw Evan and Zhao Hai coming in. For a moment, Ruyen's eyes flashed a hint of desolateness.

Ruyen once hated her father. In her mind, her father was incompetent. However, her father actually managed to use an opportunity and snatched the power of Patriarch. Even if she was regretful, she still tried her hardest. Now, some important tasks were even handed over to her.

Zhao Hai, who had changed his name, was also one of the people who she disliked the most. So in order to break their engagement, she even gambled her own reputation, and then succeeded in the end. However, Zhao Hai has now become the Patriarch of one of the most powerful family in the continent. Moreover, he also has gained beautiful wives as well as a Noble status much higher than Ruyen's.

Ruyen had completely lost confidence upon seeing these two people. But she was convinced that she can't be wrong this time. The Purcell Family can survive if they work with the Buda Clan. Relying on the Radiant Church would only bring disaster to the family.

Ruyen walked to meet them and then gave her greetings to Evan and Zhao Hai, "I've seen Father and Marquis Zhao Hai."

Evan nodded, Zhao Hai returned the courtesy, "Lady Ruyen is too polite. I came today to meet you." Ruyen nodded, then she said loudly, "Everybody, gather around!"

Before long, young men and women came out of the rooms of the courtyard. The oldest of them was about to reach 30 years old while the youngest one looks just over 10. They numbered less than 100. One could say that they are the Purcell Family's hope for the future.

When these people came out, they had a slight reluctance on their faces. But when they saw Evan, the expression disappeared as they stood there obediently.

Evan looked at them and said, "All of you are elites of the family. You should already know the family's situation right now, so I won't say anything more. You will follow Zhao Hai to Golden Island today. You are the last hope of the Purcell Family. If the family were to fall today, all of you should establish yourselves in Golden Island and pave road for the future of our Purcell Family. Do all of you understand?"

Everybody simultaneously said, "We understand!"

Evan nodded, "This operation will be headed by Ruyen, you must always listen to her when you arrive at Golden Island, you should listen to Zhao Hai as well. If the family were to survive this ordeal, you may come back here. If we don't, then Ruyen will become the family's Patriarch. You must obey her orders."

These youths couldn't help but look at each other in dismay. They didn't expect Evan to say those words today. Most importantly, they were puzzled about Evan handing the position of Patriarch over to Ruyen.

Evan looked at them and coldly snorted, "Do not think that this is my decision, the Elder's assembly agreed to it as well. Do you think that I'm deceiving you?"

The youths' expressions changed, then they said, "We won't dare!"

Evan gave a nod, "Good. Ruyen, receive the scepter." Then Evan placed his hand inside his robe and put out a scepter. This was the scepter of the Purcell Family's Patriarchs.

Ruyen received the scepter with a serious expression. Then Evan turned his head towards the others and said, "Remember, all of you are the hope of the Purcell Family. If the family suffers disaster, all of you would have the responsibility to revive it. I don't have a lot of requests for you, only that you must stay united. If you are united, you can do a lot more. You understand?"

The youths answered, "We understand!"

Evan then said, "Alright, you shall be following Zhao Hai. Remember, no matter what you see, you shouldn't be surprised. Don't talk to others about it as well. If you do, then I will have Ruyen use her power as the Patriarch and punish you for betrayal!"

Betrayal was a grave offense with regards to a family, it was even punishable by death. So upon hearing Evan, the youths became surprised. Then they immediately focused on what would happen next.

At this time, a shadow suddenly appeared on Evan's side. Then everybody bowed towards the shadow, including Evan, "We've seen elder Origin Sword Saint."

Origin Sword Saint nodded, then he turned to Evan and said, "I'll be handing the family over to you. Remember, even if you die in battle, you cannot lose face for the Purcell Family. Don't worry about the children, I shall take care of them."

Evan nodded and said, "Yes elder, rest assured."

Then Origin Sword Saint turned his head to Zhao Hai and said, "Patriarch Zhao Hai, I would have to trouble you this time."

Zhao Hai was very respectful to the old man. He bowed and said, "Sir Sword Saint is too polite." Then he took out his Magic Staff and muttered an incantation. After some time, he waved the Magic Staff as a rift appeared in front. Then Zhao Hai turned his head to Ruyen and the others then said, "Have everyone line up and enter the rift one by one. Upon entering the rift, you will notice that there will be a fog around you. But don't panic and move around. Just stay inside and before long another rift would appear, then you can use that to exit."

The youths present stared blankly into the rift. Although they had heard about Space Magic, they hadn't actually seen one in person. Now that a spatial rift appeared in front of them, they couldn't help but feel uncomfortable.

Origin Sword Saint didn't hesitate and immediately stepped into the rift. When he entered the others reacted and followed him in one by one. The last one to enter the rift was Ruyen.

After Ruyen walked in, Zhao Hai turned and bowed to Evan. He didn't say anything else and just entered the Spatial Rift. After seeing the rift shrink, Evan couldn't help but feel a little strange in his heart.

At the same time, the people inside the Space were feeling strange as well. They were currently surrounded by a dark mist. But when they saw their other companions, their hearts settled a little bit.

But the most surprised of them all was Origin Sword Saint. One shouldn't forget that he was a 9th rank expert and can scan everything around him using Mind Power. Therefore, when he stepped into the Space, he immediately scanned his surroundings.

And surprisingly, his Mind Power cannot penetrate the dark mist. It was as if they were in a completely different pocket of reality. He hasn't experienced such a situation before, this made him quite surprised.

At this time, another Spatial Rift appeared in front of them. Then they heard Zhao Hai's voice, "Everyone, please head out according to the order that you entered earlier. You don't need to hurry, so don't push each other."

Origin Sword Saint didn't care so much, he just lifted his legs and stepped out. Others followed his lead as they went out of the Space one after another. When they arrived outside, they couldn't help but gawk. This was because this wasn't the Golden Island that they were expecting. They weren't even on land. They were currently at sea, on board a five-masted ironclad ship.

Chapter 538 - The Sword Saint's Shock

The people looked around in surprise. They didn't think that they would be transported into a ship, they expected to be at Golden Island when they came out.

Origin Sword Saint looked around and then turned his head to smile at Zhao Hai, "Patriarch Zhao Hai is really careful. This old man admires that."

Zhao Hai quickly smiled and said, "Sir Saint is too polite. Sir can rest inside a cabin for now. In one day, we shall reach Golden Island." Origin Sword Saint wasn't polite, he nodded to Zhao Hai and then turned around to enter the ship. Then he was led by an undead towards one of the rooms.

Seeing that Origin Sword Saint went in, the other Purcell Family youths quieted down. Zhao Hai looked at them and then turned his head to Ruyen, "Ruyen, an undead will come and arrange a room for you. You go rest first, we'll be arriving at the island tomorrow. We need to do this so that people wouldn't get too suspicious. But rest assured, this region is under the control of my Buda Clan, we are completely safe here."

Ruyen had a complex expression when she looked at Zhao Hai before she said, "Then I'll follow Sir Marquis' arrangement."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Ruyen, you're too polite. No matter what, our two families have been friends for generations. We're also in the same generation, calling me Brother Hai is fine. Don't call me Sir Marquis, it makes me feel like an outsider."

When Ruyen heard Zhao Hai, she couldn't help but stare. Then after looking at Zhao Hai for quite some time, she murmured, "Thank you, Brother Hai."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "You're welcome." Then he waved his hand as an undead came over. He turned his head to the others and said, "Everyone, these undead will be leading you to your rooms. Remember, a room can have up to four people."

The Purcell Family youths were very obedient. They knew the identity of Zhao Hai. Even if he's still young, Evan was already polite to him. The youths also knew that even if Evan held a higher title than Zhao Hai, with regards to their influence in the continent, Zhao Hai certainly held the upper hand.

Although these Purcell Family youths were considered as elites, they wouldn't be able to hold a candle against Zhao Hai's identity. Therefore, when met with Zhao Hai's words, all of them can only follow just like how a child obeys an adult.

A five-masted ship is spacious. And with the crew being undead and didn't need to rest, there was ample room for all of the youths to be accommodated. Settling 100 people wasn't a problem at all.

Then Zhao Hai made sure that Ruyen had been settled, naturally she was alone on her room. After arranging for Ruyen's accommodation, Zhao Hai didn't enter the space immediately. Instead, he went to visit Origin Sword Saint. Just as he was about to knock on the door, he heard Origin Sword Saint's voice, "Patriarch Zhao Hai, come in."

Zhao Hai pushed the door and then went in. This room was specifically prepared by Zhao Hai. There weren't anything much inside it, only a table, and a bed. The room was not large, having those furniture was already enough. The other rooms of the Purcell Family youths, on the other hand, only had two bunk beds.

Zhao Hai gave his greetings and said, "Is Sir Sword Saint comfortable? If you need anything just say it, an undead will come and serve you. I just hope that Sir doesn't get put off."

There were a lot of people in the continent who found the undeads very repugnant. Therefore, when he heard Zhao Hai, Origin Sword Saint faintly smiled and said, "You're too polite. This man is already old, I

can accept almost anything. Right, since Patriarch came to visit, are you here to tell me about your Space Magic?”

Zhao Hai stared, he finally understood that 9th ranks weren't only strong, they were also wily foxes just like this old man in front of him. He quickly replied, “So Sir Sword Saint had already found out.”

Origin Sword Saint nodded and said, “I haven't seen Space Magic, but I'm fairly sure that it isn't the same as what you just did. Moreover, since I reached 9th rank, I can use Mind Power to scan my surroundings, but even my Mind Power was unable to scan your Magic. This feat alone is very outstanding, therefore, I reckoned that it might not be Space Magic, but instead a Space-type Divergent Ability.”

Zhao Hai nodded, “Sir Sword Saint's eyes are truly blazing like torches. It is indeed a Space-type Divergent Ability. I came here to discuss this matter. Sir Sword Saint, please come along with me.” Then a Spatial Rift suddenly appeared right beside Zhao Hai.

Origin Sword Saint looked at the Spatial Rift next to Zhao Hai. He clearly saw that when Zhao Hai made this rift appear, he wasn't whispering any incantations. It seems like the incantations that he did earlier was just a facade for others to see.

Origin Sword Saint didn't say anything else and then stepped into the rift, then he was followed by Zhao Hai. But when the Sword Saint entered the Space, he couldn't help but get shocked. This Space was completely different from what he had in mind. There was a blue sky above as well as green grass below. If it weren't for the villa, Origin Sword Saint might have mistaken it as a part of the Beastman Prairie.

At this time, Zhao Hai appeared by his side and said, “Sir Sword Saint, this is my Space, a Divergent Ability that I had acquired. This is an independent Space, and here, I am a god. The reason for my Buda Clan's sudden rise was this.”

Origin Sword Saint turned his head at Zhao Hai, he was puzzled, then he asked, “Since this is the case, why did you reveal it to me?”

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Because I believe that Sir Sword Saint wouldn't reveal it to anyone. Right, I think Sir Sword Saint can feel it, the energy inside this place is about ten times as much and as active as outside. This is a very good place to cultivate in, my Buda Clan's 9th rank experts are all practicing here."

Origin Sword Saint then asked, "How many 9th ranks does the Buda Clan have? Where did they come from?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Altogether, our Buda Clan has 40 9th rank experts. These 9th ranks came from the Carrion Swamp. They are the same ones that signed an agreement with the Human 9th ranks in the past."

Origin Sword Saint stared at Zhao Hai. He didn't think that the Buda Clan would have that much 9th rank experts. And these 9th ranks actually came from the Carrion Swamp.

Looking at Origin Sword Saint's expression, Zhao Hai faintly smiled and said, "This Space can be upgraded little by little. It wasn't this powerful at the start, but it became stronger and stronger as time passes by. The Carrion Swamp's 9th ranks agreed to stay here because the Space's water can solve the Carrions Swamp's toxin.

Origin Sword Saint understood what Zhao Hai meant. The Carrion Swamp has one of the most powerful poisons in the continent. If it weren't for the poisonous mist, it wouldn't have become one of the Continent's five forbidden areas.

Since Zhao Hai can solve the Carrion Swamp's poison, this made the 9th ranks able to go in and out of the swamp freely, no wonder they decided to join his side. Then when Origin Sword Saint thought about the Black Wasteland's situation, his expression couldn't help but change as he asked, "The Black Wasteland's poison was your making? Did you do anything to the Black Wasteland as well?"

Zhao Hai nodded and smiled, "I did, I transformed it. The soil of the Wasteland can now be planted. To be honest, with the strength of my Buda Clan, overthrowing the entire Aksu Empire wouldn't be a problem. I just don't want to do it."

Origin Sword Saint believed these words. With 40 9th rank experts, destroying the Aksu Empire would be very easy. He just couldn't understand why Zhao Hai didn't want to.

Zhao Hai looked at Origin Sword Saint and said, "Sir Sword Saint should know about the matters of the continent. Nobles, especially Great Nobles, aren't only powerful, they also had their members hold key positions in their respective nations. Although our Buda Clan has a lot of experts, we severely lack good leaders, we don't have any members who held great positions on any royal courts. If we overthrow the Aksu Empire, what advantages would it bring to the clan? If I sit on the throne, then I'm afraid I would just get overturned by the other Great Nobles, and they would be the only ones benefiting from this event. So I might as well let the Buda Clan stay as a Great Noble family. Then we would be able to survive despite our small numbers while at the same time discouraging other people from bullying us. And also, the Black Wasteland is very big, I can just opt to make my own country here. Wouldn't it be interesting if I make my own country instead of snatching one?"

Origin Sword Saint didn't expect this to be the case after he listened to Zhao Hai. But he had to agree that Zhao Hai was right. It wasn't always a good idea to be a monarch. In fact, Royal Families in the Ark Continent are just Great Clans who managed to have other Great Clans become their vassals. At the same time, controlling a country and its nobles involved a lot of matters and intricacies.

The Buda Clan was only a small Family that is very strong. If Zhao Hai had great strength, did it mean that he would find it easy to be a King? Not necessarily. Even if he became a King with his own effort, it was possible for him to be overthrown by the collective might of the other Nobles. This would only end in the Buda Clan's embarrassment.

The Buda Clan's position right now was correct, and Zhao Hai's decisions were the right ones. Origin Sword Saint didn't expect Zhao Hai to have thought about things up to this point. He wasn't blinded by strength, which was a rare thing for people in Zhao Hai's generation.

Zhao Hai turned his head to Origin Sword Saint and said, "I invited Sir Sword Saint into the Space to have you cultivate here. If Sir Sword Saint becomes stronger, it would be very good to both the Purcell Family and my Buda Clan. As for the Purcell Family youths, Sir Sword Saint doesn't need to worry about them much, I'll take good care of them."

When Origin Sword Saint heard Zhao Hai, he hesitated for a bit before he nodded, "Alright, then it's settled, I'll be cultivating here."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "That's great. Later, I'll have someone introduce you to the Space. It would be best for Sir Sword Saint to speak to Ruyen tomorrow. Naturally, you can't tell her about the Space. You can just tell her that you're going into closed door cultivation. Otherwise, they would panic when they notice your disappearance."

Origin Sword Saint nodded.

Chapter 539 - The Emperor's Worries

The next day, the ship arrived at Golden Island. It sailed directly to the military port and docked at the naval base. After arriving, Origin Sword Saint approached Ruyen and told her that he would need to do closed-door cultivation. Ruyen knew that this thing was normal for 9th rank experts, so she didn't say anything.

The reason why Zhao Hai invited Origin Sword Saint over to the Space was not because Zhao Hai was kind. Zhao Hai knew that the more a person stays inside the Space, the more amiable they were towards Zhao Hai. Origin Sword Saint was a 9th rank Human expert, so how could Zhao Hai possibly let this opportunity pass.

Naturally, this didn't mean that he didn't intend to help the Purcell Family. On the contrary, he would support the Purcell Family youths who came to Golden Island. Therefore, for the Purcell Family youths, it wouldn't matter if they had a 9th rank expert to command them or not.

Moreover, the Purcell Family had now entered the same situation as the Iksa Family. But the Iksa Family had the better state, they still had their elites as well as their Patriarch. On the other hand, the Purcell Family now only has their younger generation. Even if they were full of energy, they were still very inexperienced.

In this case, what the Purcell Family needed was not a 9th rank expert, but a stable environment that would make them safe and allow them to grow at a stable pace.

After arriving at Golden Island, Zhao Hai arranged a place for Ruyen and the others to stay in. Then he asked Ruyen whether they wanted to make their own business in the island or help the Buda Clan manage the place.

Naturally, Zhao Hai wouldn't be giving them too much of an authority. He would just have them do ordinary office work, allowing them to accumulate some experience. If they chose to do business, Zhao Hai would provide them a place to set up shop.

Ruyen was an intelligent woman, she knew that this decision would affect the Purcell Family's future. Although Ruyen didn't express it, she knew that the chances of the Purcell Family surviving back in the Duchy was very small. The group in Golden Island might very well be the final hope of the Purcell Family.

It was precisely because of this that Ruyen was thinking carefully about what they would do next. It was at this point that Ruyen admired Zhao Hai. The Buda Clan's past situation wasn't as good as what they were in right now, however, Zhao Hai still managed to rise up in a short period of one year. This feat was too astonishing.

Ruyen thought for a moment before she went to discuss this matter with the others. In the end, they decided that they older people would have to do business on the island, allowing the Purcell Family to have excess income. As for those who had little experience, they would help the Buda Clan in managing the affairs of the island and learn along the process.

Zhao Hai agreed with Ruyen's decision. Some of the group had experience in management, they had helped the family do their businesses in the past. So having them do business was the best choice. This would make them accumulate more experience while earning money for the Purcell Family at the same time.

As for the younger ones, even if they were specifically chosen by the family, they didn't have much experience. They still needed to learn a lot more. So the best choice for them was to help the Buda Clan in managing Golden Island.

Zhao Hai immediately arranged for Ruyen's matters. He also gave Ruyen and the others a patch of land and built a house for them. This was Ruyen's request, she didn't want to always live in the naval base.

Ruyen's appearance was soon made known to the people on the island. These people already knew about the relationship between the Purcell Family and the Buda Clan. Therefore, when they saw the youths of the Purcell Family in the island, they immediately understood what was going on.

Almost all of the Nobles in the continent would do the same thing as the Purcell Family. When they encounter something that they weren't confident in dealing with, they would send some of their younger generation to a safe place. This would save their bloodline and would allow their family to reappear in the future.

And nowhere is much more appropriate than Golden Island. Since the Purcell Family and the Buda Clan were friends, it was natural that the Buda Clan would take care of these Purcell Family youths. Additionally, because of how powerful the Buda Clan was, it was impossible for other people to covet the property of the Purcell Family. Because of this, not only would the Purcell Family live in the island in peace, their trades would also be very positive. Perhaps their rise would come sooner than later.

But after Zhao Hai arranged all of these, he didn't guide them anymore. The business atmosphere in Golden Island was very good. Swindlers and scammers rarely appeared because these practices were banned in the island. If one defrauded another, the Buda Clan would judge them based on their sin and then would be disallowed from entering the island again.

Although Ruyen and the others were newcomers, the people in the island already knew of their relationship with the Buda Clan. Because of this, nobody dared to make a move on them.

The reason why Zhao Hai left them to themselves was so that they could experience hardships themselves. Otherwise, they wouldn't be able to get valuable experience. If everything were given to them on a silver platter, the Purcell Family wouldn't be able to prosper.

What Zhao Hai needs to do now was to pay attention to the situation back in the Purcell Duchy. Almost all of the other nobles in the Duchy had already left. The Purcell Family was now divided, by Evan's decision, Ruyen and the others were sent to Golden Island. The only people left in the Duchy were the direct line of the Purcell Family as well as the Purcell Army. The entire Duchy had turned into a dead landscape, it was almost impossible to see another person there right now.

Zhao Hai also felt helpless regarding this situation, but he couldn't make a move. There were a lot of armies that surrounded the Duchy but none of them even set foot inside. This made Zhao Hai impatient.

Just as Zhao Hai was planning to go to the Duchy, a notification came from Kun. The Rosen Emperor was looking for Zhao Hai and was asking him to return to Carson City.

Although Zhao Hai didn't know the reason, he knew that if it wasn't important, the Emperor wouldn't go and summon him. Therefore, he immediately went to the Space and transported to his castle outside Carson City.

Even if he wasn't always in the castle, it was still kept clean because of the servants that he brought here in the past. Zhao Hai rested inside the castle and then on the next day he sat on his carriage and headed to Carson City.

After Zhao Hai arrived at the Imperial Palace, he was immediately escorted to the Emperor's study. His status was the Emperor's son-in-law, therefore he as his own special privileges inside the palace.

Inside the study, the Emperor was sitting there looking at some documents. Zhao Hai took a step forward and said, "This one has seen Father-in-law."

The Emperor looked up and said, "Come, sit." Zhao Hai nodded and then sat on one side. The Emperor placed the document down and looked at Zhao Hai, "I hear that you have a good relationship with the Beastmen?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "I do. I'm friends with the Cow-headed Race and Dog-headed Race. I also have good relations with the Black Bear Tribe and can also be considered to be an acquaintance of the Prairie Wolf Tribe."

The Emperor nodded and then said, "Do you know the true purpose why the Beastmen are attacking the Human domain?"

Zhao Hai stared, "Does father-in-law not know? The Beastmen wanted to attack because the Radiant Church limited their food. So they wanted to retaliate."

The Emperor frowned, "Is it only this reason?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Father-in-law overthinks too much. The Beastmen are people who are easy to get along with. If the Radiant Church didn't tamper with their food supply and created a food shortage in the Prairie, there wouldn't be any war. Therefore, Father-in-law doesn't need to worry too much."

The Emperor sighed, "I have no other choice but to worry. I heard that the Beastman army this time is very large. If they extinguish the Aksu Empire and decided to continue on to our Rosen Empire, our losses would be huge."

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "Father-in-law, you think too much. The Aksu Empire wouldn't be that easily eliminated. Also, we have the Lifeline Canyon, it wouldn't be easy for the Beastmen to fight over there. But I have an idea, we can stockpile more than a few jins of food. The Beastmen only attacked because of food. If they actually come to us, we can just resist for a short time and then sell them some food for a low price. After that, they would surely retreat."

The Emperor knit his brows and said, "If this happens, then wouldn't it be similar to the Beastmen admitting defeat?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "This is only an arbitrary plan. After all, the situation might not even occur. We are also stockpiling some food until the end of the war because at that time, the Aksu Empire's fields and granaries would surely be left ravaged. The price of food would then skyrocket. Even if it doesn't affect our Rosen Empire, we can still sell them our stockpiled food, it will surely net us a huge sum of money."

The Emperor looked at Zhao Hai, then he faintly smiled, "Kid, you're really a madman when it comes to money. Hahaha. But what you proposed is good. Even if this stockpile comes unused, it wouldn't bring us any harm. However, I still hope that you'd take the opportunity and contact the Beastman and ask for their bottom line. It would be best to keep them away from our territory as much as possible."

Zhao Hai nodded, "I understand."

The Emperor nodded and then looked at Zhao Hai and said, "How is the relationship between you and Lizzy? Why hasn't she come back to visit me after your marriage? Go have her come home tomorrow. I want to see if you dared to bully her. If you did, I wouldn't forgive you."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and then bowed, "Alright. Father-in-law can rest assured, I'll have Lizzy come here tomorrow. However, since she's quite busy, I cannot tell you the exact time."

The Emperor snorted and said, "I don't care about the time. You must make her come home tomorrow."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but nod. He wasn't lying, Lizzy and the others were truly very busy. They had a lot of matters to work on. But since the Emperor requested it, he wouldn't dare decline.

Chapter 540 - Big Chess Board

At this time, Zhao Hai was focusing his attention on the Purcell Duchy. Naturally, he wouldn't disregard the state of the Aksu Empire.

Presently, the Aksu Empire was studded with people from the Radiant Church. Zhao Hai had also seen that the recent Emperor was already dead. The one sitting on the throne right now was Boris. However, he held zero power in court, the true people controlling the Aksu Empire were from the Radiant Church.

This development was both expected and unexpected for Zhao Hai. He thought that no matter what he did, the Radiant Church would still keep the Emperor's life. Making him into a puppet was a good idea. Zhao Hai didn't expect that they would actually kill the Aksu Emperor.

For several days, Zhao Hai had been looking at the arrangements in the Purcell Duchy. It seems like the crisis of the Duchy was deliberately made. The Empire wanted the Beastmen to ravage the Duchy first before their armies swoop in and eliminate the Beastmen after.

It looks like the Radiant Church wanted to show the continent that they can lead a war as well as rule a country.

And aside from establishing their reputation, they can also openly eliminate the Purcell Family as well as severely wound the Beastmen. When the Radiant Church's reputation soars, sending missionaries to other nations would become much easier.

Their ambition was big, and their plan was good. But they had underestimated Zhao Hai's ability. It was impossible for them to know that Zhao Hai was already aware of their entire plan.

The Rosen Empire also intended to help the Aksu Empire. However, the Aksu Empire wasn't relying on their help in the first place. They wanted to repel the Beastmen independently so that they can establish their might in the continent.

After Zhao Hai found out about these things, he wasn't worried about the Rosen Empire but instead he was thinking about the Beastmen. Fortunately the Beastmen were still in transit towards the border, when they arrive, Zhao Hai would then go and tell them.

The Radiant Church had a lot of things that they prepared in order to deal with the Beastmen. The church had sent some experts to lie in ambush inside the Purcell Duchy. They weren't there to kill the Beastmen, but instead to deliver poison. Even if this poison was not lethal, it can make its victims weak, losing their ability to defend. This was Radiant Church's trump card against the Beastmen.

From the conversations that he heard, Zhao Hai knew that this plan hasn't been going on for a day or two. When the old Emperor was alive, this plan was already underway. The elimination of the Buda Clan was only part of it. They haven't even thought about eliminating the Purcell Family in the past. But since Zhao Hai had become too great of a threat, they changed their plan and decided to destroy the Purcell Family.

On the other hand, the poison was made by a long-term research conducted by the Radiant Church. This stemmed from the observations made by the Human Merchants while they were trading in the Prairie for a long time.

Zhao Hai also heard that if the poison was taken alone, it wouldn't have any effect. It would need to be use along with another drug. In preparation for this day, the Radiant Church had been using the other drug on the food that they had been trading in the Prairie all these years. This drug was something that reacts with the poison and only then would they weaken the victim. The effect would only show itself when those two are present.

The Radiant Church did it this way because they knew that the Beastmen would be bringing Witch Doctors along with them as they marched on to war. When they stop in a place, the Witch Doctor would sample the water supplies present. Once they confirm that the water is safe, only then would the other Beastmen consume it. The Beastmen decided to do this because of their previous fight with the Humans. In that battle, the Humans used poison which crippled a large number of beastmen.

Although the Radiant Church cannot do this again and have the Beastmen take both of the poisons at the same time, but one shouldn't forget that the Beastmen were already eating one of the poisons for

years. As time goes by, the Beastmen would have this drug accumulated in their bodies. As long as they consume the other poison, they would certainly have a reaction. Even if the poison cannot kill them directly, it will sap them off of their fighting strength. After that, the Radiant Church would be able to slaughter as many Beastmen as they want!

This plan of poisoning the Beastmen as well as controlling an Empire was already carried out by the Church more than a decade ago. This dedication was truly scary.

In this plan, the Aksu Empire, Rosen Empire, and the Beastmen became the chess pieces of the Radiant Church. If Zhao Hai didn't appear, the Radiant Church would've been in a better situation than now.

In truth, although they were enemies, Zhao Hai had a huge admiration towards the Radiant Church. If the two of them didn't have any enmity, Zhao Hai might've even considered joining the Radiant Church.

This was an organization that would resort to all means and has the patience and perseverance to get what they want. No wonder they became one of the most powerful influences in a short period of time. They were quite diligent in everything they did.

From Zhao Hai's perspective, the Radiant Church was evil. But in the eyes of the Radiant Church, they were not. In their minds, they needed to eliminate any threat to the church in order to ensure their safety in future.

But it was unfortunate that Zhao Hai was enemies with them. Although he admired the Radiant Church, he needed to destroy all of their plans. Otherwise, Zhao Hai would be the one to suffer bad luck.

After knowing about all of these, Zhao Hai made his move. He secretly snatched the two poisons from the Radiant Church and then brought them to Iron Mountain Fort. After that, he handed them over to Shun's mother, making her help analyze them.

Shun's mother, Suju, was an expert in poisons. While she was in Iron Mountain Fort, she continued on with her research. Now, her skill in making poison has become very good.

After a couple minutes of investigation, the ingredients of the two poisons were already identified. It was true that ingesting them individually wouldn't have any effect. But once they were used together, they would become a strong poison.

After using Spatial Water, Suju confirmed that it did have an effect as an antidote. However, curing the poison would still take some time. Normally, it would be fine to wait, but in the battlefield, time is of the essence.

In the end, Zhao Hai decided to bring the mixed poison in to the Space. The Space can analyze poisons and also produce an antidote. Zhao Hai hopes that the Space wouldn't disappoint him.

And the Space did indeed do what Zhao Hai expected. The Space absorbed the poisons, improved the Space's insecticide, as well as having the Spatial Water cure it immediately. Zhao Hai then brought some of the Spatial Water over to Suju to study. After some time, Suju confirmed that the Spatial Water can now solve the poisons. Moreover, it was very effective.

It was just a pity that they didn't have a microscope right now. If they did, they would be able to study the poisons and the Spatial Water much more carefully. At this time, they weren't able to make their own antidote.

Even if Zhao Hai was somewhat disappointed, he still accepted it. After all, the poison had been solved. This was akin to rendering the Radiant Church's trump card useless. If the Radiant Church wanted to succeed right now, they would need to go through a lot of difficulties.

Of course, the Radiant Church wasn't entirely relying on the poisons, they had also accumulated a lot of experts and as well as the entire army of the Aksu Empire. They were going all out in dealing with the Beastmen, there weren't even some defenders left in lifeline canyon!

The Radiant Church knew that if the Rosen Empire used this opportunity to invade the Aksu Empire, then they would become the entire human race's enemy. Therefore, the church decided to withdraw every soldier stationed in the canyon and had them help fight the Beastmen.

In order to deal with the Beastmen, they even prepared a fleet. This fleet only had one goal; it was to transport a well-equipped army to the interior of the Beastman Prairie and have them wreck havoc

there, forcing the Beastmen to retreat. As long as they managed to repel the beastmen with their own strength, the Radiant Church would win, while both the Beastmen and the Rosen Empire lost.

In such big battles, 9th ranks generally opted to not participate. Most of the experts who would fight were 8th ranks or lower. This was because if 9th ranks participate, not only would they devastate the battlefield, they would also cause a catastrophe for the continent. They may cause other races to come and participate, and in the end, it would become a war of the entire Ark Continent.

But Zhao Hai didn't really expect that this was the case. From what he can see, as long as someone had a 9th rank expert, there would only be a small amount of things that they cannot solve. For example, in this war, 9th ranks would have already been flying all around the place. Zhao Hai didn't think that this time, no 9th rank was willing to make a move. The strength of both armies were now dependent on the lower ranked experts.

However, Zhao Hai came to understand this arrangement. In Ark Continent, 9th ranks are akin to nuclear weapons, one cannot just use them casually. Unless a clan comes close to being eliminated, 9th rank experts wouldn't generally go out. Just like when two countries go to war back on earth. It was simply impossible for them to use nuclear weapons.

Zhao Hai approved of this, 9th ranks cannot simply be sent out. This was because 9th ranks were very strong. An ordinary soldier would just become like an ant in front of a 9th rank's might. If a 9th rank decides to kill ordinary soldiers, then it wouldn't be impossible for them to kill a thousand in one attack. If 9th ranks participate, then the casualties of the war would exponentially increase.

The Radiant Church was fully prepared for this war because they had already anticipated it for a long time.

On the other hand, the Beastmen were poorly prepared. Because of how they needed to move hastily, one could even say that they were in a disadvantageous position in this war.

The Beastmen also knew about this. However, they still needed to wage war. If not for their need of food for survival, they wouldn't be going to battle.

But they didn't know that this war had been orchestrated by the Radiant Church from the very beginning. Each step that lead to this point was carefully calculated by the church.

If Zhao Hai doesn't help, the Beastmen would surely lose a lot this time. They will lose a lot of warriors as well as face the problem of food shortage. At the same time, the Radiant Church was also lighting a fire inside the Prairie. This would certainly make the Beastmen lose their spirit.

The Radiant Church was playing chess on a huge board. They took everything into consideration, aside from Zhao Hai's existence. Zhao Hai disrupted their plans time and time again. Zhao Hai had now become an annoying piece on the board. With how Zhao Hai had been meddling in the church's affairs, he had already become a thorn on their path.

By monitoring the Radiant Church in Aksu Empire, Zhao Hai managed to find out the plans of the Radiant Church. The person who came to the Aksu Empire this time was an Archbishop, a person with a position directly below the Pope. This person was very familiar to Zhao Hai. He was Lindsey Becker's father, the most influential and powerful Red-robed Archbishop of the Radiant Church, Lundi Becker!

In the past, Lindsey Becker went to attack Zhao Hai, only to be turned into an undead in the end. Zhao Hai also acquired a non-directional teleportation scroll from Lindsey's body. This task has been given to him by his father. But Lundi didn't expect his son to get killed, therefore, his enmity towards Zhao Hai was very big.

But Zhao Hai had to recognize how powerful of a person Lundi was. He was one of the key participants when the Radiant Church formulated this plan. Under his influence, the plan slowly unfolded until it came to this point. Once couldn't deny how fierce this person was.

The Radiant Church had attached great importance to this plan. Otherwise, they wouldn't have sent an Archbishop to Aksu Empire to assume command. The only reason why they only sent Lundi was so that the commands would go on smoothly. The Archbishops of the church weren't exactly very harmonious. If a lot of them were sent, they would only fight amongst themselves. Therefore, handing everything over to Lundi was already enough. This also showed Lundi's place inside the Radiant Church.

Naturally, if everything fails, the responsibility would fall into Lundi's hands.

Zhao Hai calmly monitored the movements of the church. He now became a spectator in this game of chess. He was waiting for the right opportunity to destroy the entire plan of the Radiant Church. And this opportunity was not far away!

