

Another World 561

Chapter 561 - Kristen?

Laura asked, "Brother Hai? When did the Ocean Waves Dynasty offend us? How come I can't remember?"

Zhao Hai coldly snorted and said, "Did you forget? When we chased Grand Duke Lionheart, wasn't the ship that was supposed to save him came from the Ocean Waves Dynasty? The ship may have been snatched by the Church or maybe borrowed. But still, the matter wasn't that simple."

When Lizzy heard Zhao Hai, her face sank down as she said, "So it's the Radiant Church. Is there a collusion between the Church and Ocean Waves Dynasty?"

Zhao Hai sneered and said, "That is not impossible. The Radiant Church had just suffered a huge loss and had to let go of their grasp of the Aksu Empire. And naturally, they wouldn't show all of the cards that they had. I think that the Ocean Waves Empire have already been colluding with them from the start. If the Radiant Church's plan in the Aksu Empire succeeded, then the church would be controlling the northernmost and southernmost nations in the Human domain. If they gain enough strength, they would launch a war against all of the nations in the middle, attacking them from two fronts. With that method, it would be possible for them to unity the entire Human territory."

Lizzy and the others couldn't help but stare in confusion, Laura looked at Zhao Hai and said, "How could they have such a huge courage? And how could that be possible? Not to say the Rosen Empire, but the Buddha Empire and the Lyon Empire aren't very easy to deal with either."

Upon hearing this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but sneer, "Not easy to deal with? Remember, where was the first place that I had an initial clash with Lionheart? It was in the boundary between the Rosen Empire and Aksu Empire. The garrison guarding the fort there are all people of Grand Duke Lionheart. If all of their plans went by smoothly, when the Aksu Empire launches its attack, those defenders would not only refrain from fighting, they might even surrender at the very first sight of the enemy. This would make the Rosen Empire's strongest barrier vanish. I think that the Radiant Church also had the same arrangement in Lyon Empire and the Buddha Empire. The ambition of those people are too big."

Laura and the others thought about it and couldn't help but get what Zhao Hai was saying. If what Zhao Hai said was true, then the ambition of the Radiant Church was truly too great.

Laura looked at Zhao Hai, puzzled, and then asked, "Brother Hai, how did you think of these?"

Zhao Hai chuckled and said, "I just thought about this since I've always felt that the Radiant Church aren't careless people. But their recent approach in Aksu Empire was simply too simple and crude. But now that I had seen these ships, everything connected in my mind."

Laura then turned his gaze towards the monitor and said, "Then why are they dealing with the Hurricane Family? Isn't this act too unreasonable?"

Zhao Hai laughed out loud, "Why? The Radiant Church is now being suppressed by everyone. But if they already have some relationship with the Ocean Waves Dynasty, then they can utilize that nation's strength. Moreover, they are now working in the dark, making it much more difficult to deal with them. And it seems like they had changed their approach. Instead of enticing Nobles into their religion, they were now going after the Nobles that were in opposition to their belief, Nobles who they have enmity with. Now think about this, compared to the Buda Clan and the Calci Family, isn't the Hurricane Family much easier to eliminate?"

Laura and the others nodded to Zhao Hai's words. They think that what Zhao Hai said was right. Although the Hurricane Family was also a millennium-old clan, their reputation wasn't very widespread because of the temperament. If one based it on influence, they can't compare to the Buda Clan and the Calci Family.

Moreover, the Calci Family and the Buda Clan's fighting with the Radiant Church was already quite known to the Continent. If the Radiant Church deals with either the Buda Clan or the Calci Family at this time, then the people of the continent would surely know that it was the church who had done it.

But if they deal with the Hurricane Family, nobody would be certain that it was them. The fight between the Radiant Church and the Hurricane Family was very muted to the other people in the continent. Therefore, if the Radiant Church were to move against the Hurricane Family, it wouldn't bring too much attention to the continent. And since the Church would make sure that nobody survives, nobody would know that it was done by them. These must be the thoughts of the people in the Church.

Naturally, all of these were just Zhao Hai's guesses, they still needed to be confirmed. Therefore, Zhao Hai had the Haven approach the battlefield as soon as possible. They must save the people of the Hurricane Family. At the same time, they would deal with the attackers from the Ocean Waves Dynasty and turn them into undead, haring the truth from their very mouths.

The Haven has now been very well modified, it's speed has become quicker while its defensive strength had increased. After all, this was Zhao Hai's flagship, and he was the Buda Clan's patriarch, his status was much more different from before. So if he uses any ordinary battleship, he would become a laughing stock among the people.

In a few short minutes, Zhao Hai was finally close to the battle. There were a total of seven ships present. Six five-master battleships and one ironclad freighter. For six battleships to attack a single freighter, it seems like they aren't giving the freighter any chance to survive.

The six battleships were surrounding the freighter and was blasting it continuously with Magic Cannons. There seems to be Mages on the ships, and from time to time, they would send some spells towards the other ship. The colorful magical attacks made the scene look like a huge fireworks event, very beautiful. However, this beauty represented death! The seven ships weren't close to each other. It seems like the six assailants weren't willing to confront the freighter in close combat. They wanted to use magic to completely destroy the ship. This tactic was also the best way to eliminate a target at sea.

Zhao Hai didn't think about it too much as he made the Haven go straight to the battleships. When the six battlefields became aware of Zhao Hai's presence, two of them detached from the group and approached him.

The three ships were quickly getting close with each other. And when they were near, a voice was suddenly heard, "The ship over there, listen. We are the Hurricane Family's pirate group. If you don't go the other way, then we would be forced to be impolite."

Upon hearing this statement, Zhao Hai couldn't help but laugh and said, "Funny, this is too funny. It's the first time I've heard such a joke. For a Hurricane Family pirate group to attack a Hurricane family freighter, Hahahaha, this must be the most hilarious thing that has happened in the continent. Listen, know your limitations and get the hell out of this place. Otherwise, I would be the one who will be impolite."

The other party wasn't expecting Zhao Hai to be aware of the Hurricane Family's identity. They were now in a disadvantage, keeping up this facade had now become much more difficult.

While the two people exchanged words, their ships were still getting closer with each other. And as Zhao Hai's ship was about to be attacked by the other ships' cannons, Zhao Hai immediately released a lot of undead on board those ships.

The people on the battleships didn't expect Zhao Hai to be able to release undead at such a distance, and they were completely caught unprepared. Additionally, Zhao Hai's undead were very strong. Because of this, what happened in the battleships after can only be described as a massacre. Before the people on the two ships were able to react, they were already slain by the undead.

The people on the other four battleships weren't aware of this. In their minds, although the three ships were not far from each other, close combat would still be impossible. At this distance, the only suitable way for engagement would be long distance attacks.

After eliminating the people from the two ships, Zhao Hai immediately turned them into undead. After that, he immediately had the two ships open fire towards the Haven.

Naturally, this attack was under the control of Zhao Hai. He wanted to have the others think that they were still fighting. This would deceive the other four battleships into thinking that the two ships were still on their side, naively allowing Zhao Hai's new fleet to enter their encirclement.

As the three ships slowly approached the battlefield, the other four battleships didn't feel anything wrong. And after Zhao Hai entered their circle, he immediately released massive amounts of undead onboard the other four battleships.

The fate of the four ships couldn't compare to the first two ships. They didn't even expect Zhao Hai's attacks. A lot of them weren't even aware that they were already dead.

Immediately, the four ships stopped firing. This made the people on the Hurricane Family freighter feel somewhat strange. And while they were confused, they suddenly heard a voice from the ship that just arrived, "Friends from the Hurricane Family, hello. No need to fear, I've already taken care of the enemy. May I come on board?"

The people of the Hurricane Family stared, although they didn't know the other party, they were still confident about their combat effectiveness. Therefore, their leader said, "I don't know who friend is, but we shall welcome you to our ship."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and then had the Haven slowly approach. Then he had a springboard extended to reach the Hurricane Family's ship. After that, Zhao Hai led Laura and the others to board the ship.

The Hurricane Family's ship was very damaged. There were also a lot of injured crew onboard, waiting to be treated. Zhao Hai smiled and then waved his hand as a bunch of Light Magic flew out and landed on the wounded, effectively curing their wounds at an observable rate.

At this time, the party that was preparing to welcome him stopped. Their face turned ugly as they looked at Zhao Hai and said, "I Mister from the Radiant Church?"

Zhao Hai turned his head to the one who spoke, this person was quite beautiful, she had brown hair and light green eyes, a fairly sharp face and snow white teeth. Although she might not be very beautiful, one could feel a very attracting aura while looking at her.

But when Zhao Hai looked closely at this person, he couldn't help but be surprised. He was very familiar with this face, this face belonged to none other than Kristen Stewart, an actress quite known for her role in a movie called "Twilight".

One must say, that among the actresses, Kristen wasn't the most beautiful one. She just has a very attractive aura in her. Quiet? Smart? Elegant? These words might not fit someone like her.

Because Zhao Hai quite liked the movie, he was able to recognize her face at a single glance. This girl looked very much like Kirsten.

Zhao Hai couldn't help but deeply sigh, his luck was truly fantastic. First was Taylor, then Megan, then Keeley, and now there was Kristen. The heavens were really looking after him. Being able to meet these people back on earth wasn't an easy thing.

However, Zhao Hai had detected some vigilance in the woman's expression, so he immediately answered, "Sister might have misunderstood, but I'm not a person from the Radiant Church. Hasn't sister seen my ship's flag?"

The she heard Zhao Hai, she couldn't help but turn her head towards the Haven's main mast and seeing the Wild Dragon Flag fluttering freely above the blood soaked sea.

When she noticed the flag, she couldn't help but gawk. Her brain seemed to stop for a short moment. She seem to have seen this flag before, but she just couldn't remember when, or even where.

At this time, she overheard a person's voice exclaiming, "Heavens, is that the Buda Clan's Wild Dragon Flag? Are you from the Buda Clan?"

Upon hearing the person, the girl couldn't help but look at Zhao Hai in confusion as she asked, "You're from the Buda Clan? But how can you use Light Magic?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Who says my Buda Clan can't use Light Magic? Let me introduce myself, my name is Zhao Hai Buda, the current Patriarch of the Buda Clan."

The girl stared at Zhao Hai, seemingly forgetting her courtesy. This wasn't surprising since Zhao Hai was a well-know Dark Mage in the continent. Seeing a Dark Mage using Light Magic was even more surprising than seeing a tree planting itself.

Zhao Hai didn't comment of the girl's expression, instead, he beckoned towards Laura and the others and said, "These are my wives, Laura, Meg, Megan, Lizzy, and Ni'er."

Seeing Laura and the others giving her a salute, the girl finally responded, with her face red in embarrassment she performed her own salute and said, "Kristen Hurricane has seen Patriarch Zhao Hai as well as the madames."

After both sides exchanged greetings, Kristen then turned his head to Zhao Hai and said, "Patriarch Zhao Hai, I must express my greatest gratitude to you. If not for you, then we might have fallen to the other party's attack. These pirates are really too hateful."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Sister Kristen doesn't need to mind it too much. I just gave a small helping hand. Now that those battleships are under my control, Sister doesn't need to worry about it anymore."

Although Kristen didn't know how Zhao Hai was able to control those battleships, she didn't dare to ask him how. She knew that if Zhao Hai wanted it to be known, then he would tell her eventually.

Kristen then gave Zhao Hai a salute and said, "No matter what, I'd like to thank Mister. Mister, please come sit with me in the cabin." She said that as she gestured her arm as an invitation.

Zhao Hai didn't become polite, he accepted the invitation and led Laura and the others to walk with Kristen towards the cabin.

The ship's cabin wasn't very big, only about the size of a normal living room. After the group had sat, the room immediately became quite crowded.

1. Here we goooo hahaha

Chapter 562 - Confirmation

A servant came in and served them something to drink. Because the battle didn't take too long, and since the other party were using long-ranged weapons, the damage on the Hurricane Family's freighter wasn't very serious.

The group sat down as Kristen dictated the events before the attack. Although the Hurricane Family was constantly low-key and rarely did business, it was inevitable that they would have to trade some goods with the others. However, their trades weren't on the scale as large as that of the other Great Clans.

For Great Clans to maintain their strength, they needed to have some form of sustaining that strength. Even if the Hurricane Family didn't like to do business, it was unavoidable if they wanted to have their territory run normally. But because their family weren't very good in it, they would just trade the minimum amount to maintain the normal operation of their territory.

This time, Kristen's mission was to trade in Rosen Empire and then go back home. In Rosen Empire, they didn't trade in Golden Island, but preferred Rising Water City instead. Their previous transactions were always done in Rising Water City. Even if Golden Island was on the Rise, the Hurricane Family didn't seem to get attracted to it. They still continued their trade with Rising Water City all the same.

But when they were heading back, six five-masted battleships bearing pirate flags suddenly surrounded them. Although they had the means to fight back, their firepower just cannot compare to the other party. And adding on to the fact the the enemies had battleships while they only had a freighter, if Zhao Hai didn't come, then they would surely be finished.

After Kristen finished talking, Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "We wanted to go visit the Buddha Empire, but we didn't expect to encounter such a thing. But does sister Kristen feel strange? How could pirates get their hands on six five-masted battleships?"

Kristen's personality was the same as that of the Hurricane Family, as long as you don't offend her, then she would treat you kindly. But this didn't mean that the Hurricane Family were fools, on the contrary, they were quite smart people. They just placed this intellect in improving their magic and other things, but not for ambition. This was the general impression of the Continent towards the Hurricane Family.

When Kristen heard what Zhao Hai said, her eyes turned sharp for a moment before she looked at Zhao Hai and said, "What does mister want to say? Please speak."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I suspect that the assailants weren't pirates. Sister Kristen should know, most pirate groups in the seas have Great Clans supporting them. But with the Hurricane Family's background, I believe that no pirate would want to attack you, moreover, pirates with great strength, am I right?"

Kristen nodded and said, "That's right. It's just like mister said, our Hurricane Family has a lot of friends in the continent, and very few enemies."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "What sister said is true. But even if you say there are few, that means that the Hurricane Family still had enemies. And did sister forget that you have one big enemy?"

Kristen stared, then she looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Is mister thinking about the Radiant Church?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "That's very possible. How about this, I'll go call some of those undead on the battleships and ask them. What do you think?"

Kristen seemed to not understand, then she looked at Zhao Hai and said, "You mean, you have turned everyone on those ships into undead? Patriarch Zhao Hai, isn't that bad?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Why would it be bad? I've turned hundreds of thousands of people in the Aksu Empire into undead. Why would I care about these few people?" He then stood up and walked outside.

Kristen looked at Zhao Hai's back with eyes that showed loathing. The Hurricane Family were famously good-hearted people, therefore, they aren't used to seeing Zhao Hai's vicious and merciless actions.

However, she still followed Zhao Hai out of the cabin. This matter can affect the Hurricane Family's future, she couldn't just ignore it.

Zhao Hai didn't care about it too much, he didn't want to get in Kristen's good graces anyway. The reason why he helped the Hurricane Family was because he wants the Radiant Church to have a harder time.

Outside the ship, Zhao Hai recited a few incantations before he waved his staff. Black gas started to appear from the staff and surrounded one battleship. When the gas disappeared, Kristen discovered that there were people standing on top of the ship's deck.

Zhao Hai repeated the pattern and turned the people on the other battleships into Undead. Then he had the battleships approach the Hurricane Family's freighter. Then some of the undead boarded the Hurricane Family's ship.

Kristen had recognized some of these people from the time of the battle. Therefore, she didn't suspect that Zhao Hai sent his undead to pretend.

After the undead boarded the ship, Zhao Hai immediately had them report who they were. The assailants weren't pirates, but instead the navy of the Ocean Waves Dynasty. Ocean Waves Dynasty was the country most developed in the research of the Water element. Because of this, they had the most powerful Navy in continent.

However, even if these people were from the navy, they had nothing to do with the Radiant Church. They only thing that they knew was that they were ordered to attack, nothing more.

But Zhao Hai wasn't worried, he asked these undead about which one of them was the commander of the six battleships. Zhao Hai was already used to the Radiant Church's style, it was impossible for the church to not send someone over to monitor the operation.

It didn't take too long before these people named someone. So Zhao Hai immediately called the person over and interrogated him. Sure enough, he identified himself to be part of the Radiant Church. Moreover, his level wasn't low, he was a Priest. This time, he was ordered by the Radiant Church to deal with the Hurricane Family, however, he didn't know of anything else.

But this information was enough. At the very least, Zhao Hai wanted to let Kristen know that the ones who wanted to deal with the Hurricane Family were indeed the Radiant Church.

Zhao Hai had also confirmed his suspicions. The Radiant Church truly had control over the Ocean Waves Dynasty. Moreover, they had changed their methods into moving in secret.

After the interrogation, Zhao Hai made the undead return to the ships and had them leave. Then he returned to the cabin along with Kristen.

Kristen was frowning, she felt that this matter has gotten quite thorny. Although the Radiant Church has been suppressed, their foundation was still intact. Even if their presence has been reduced, there were still people who worshipped their faith. The monarch of the other countries didn't really see them as a threat. Aside from the Rosen and Aksu Empires, nobody really went full on in eliminating the church. Some Churches were even still present, with Priests preaching in them albeit the much lesser numbers.

Therefore, even if the Radiant Church was now behaving, they were still very strong. Kristen wasn't a fool, she had deduced from the testimonies of the undead that the Ocean Waves Dynasty and the Radiant Church certainly didn't have a simple relationship. It seems to be like what Zhao Hai thought, the Radiant Church had become much more formidable now that they were in the shadows.

Zhao Hai looked at Kristen and smiled faintly, "Sister Kristen, I just want to take this matter to heart. And since the matter is finished, then we would be taking our leave. We still have an urgent matter to take care of in the Buddha Empire."

Kristen gawked and immediately responded. She was lowering her head in deep thought that she wasn't able to talk to Zhao Hai, which was something very disrespectful. When she thought about this, Kristen's face couldn't help but turn red. She hastily stood up and gave a bow to Zhao Hai and said, "I've been unfair to mister. I was suddenly too absorbed in my own thoughts, so I neglected you. I ask for mister's forgiveness. But why would mister leave immediately? Mister had done a great deal of help to us, please stay behind and let us express our gratitude."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Sister is too polite. There's no need to do that, to me, this is but a small effort. Moreover, I also obtained six battleships, this can be said to be my reward. I really do have something to do in Buddha Empire, so sister shouldn't feel bad."

Kristen quickly replied, "What does mister need in the Buddha Empire? My Hurricane Family has some sort of influence there, maybe we can help mister."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I'm travelling to Buddha Empire because I want to go to the Dwarf Mountain and see if I can do business with the Dwarven Race."

Kristen couldn't help but frown when she heard Zhao hai. The Dwarf Mountain held a special status in the Buddha Empire. The Empire needed heavy armors and weapons from the Dwarves. However, they also didn't want the Dwarves to be too strong. So just like the Beastmen, the Humans controlled the amount of trades that would be sent to the Mountain. However, the Dwarves weren't fools, as long as they notice that they had been deceived, they would surely declare war against the Buddha Empire.

So because of this, the Buddha Empire merchants didn't dare to trick the Dwarves. However, the Empire still thought of a method. They wouldn't let the merchants of other countries to contact the Dwarves, ensuring that they would have full monopoly of the Dwarven market.

Since the Empire was restricting trade, only a few merchants were able to make trade with the Dwarves for long term. Even Great Nobles didn't have the opportunity to dictate themselves. Therefore, it was natural for Kristen's expression to turn ugly upon hearing Zhao Hai's words.

When Zhao Hai saw Kristen's expression, he asked, "Sister Kristen? Is there something wrong?"

Kristen didn't hide the truth from Zhao Hai. In fact, this matter was already known by the top level powers in the continent, so there was no reason to keep it a secret.

After listening to Kristen, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile faintly and said, "It doesn't matter. If I can't do it, then I don't really care."

Chapter 563 - Dwarven Ironware

Kristen frowned, and finally made up her mind, "Mister shouldn't rush to leave. I ask you to go with me to our Hurricane Family. Maybe we can help you with your trade with the Dwarves."

Zhao Hai looked at Kristen and smiled, "Alright, then I'll have to bother sister. Right, my ship is very spacious, does sister want to get on board?"

Kristen shook her head and said, "I'll have to decline mister's invitation. We just passed through a big fight. I still have a lot of matter to take care of." Zhao Hai nodded, and then returned with Laura and the others to their own ship.

After arriving at his ship, Zhao Hai ordered the six battleships to head towards Golden Island. At the same time, he also informed Kun about their arrival so that he can take them in.

After completing these, Zhao Hai and the others entered the Space. When they had settled down, Zhao Hai looked at Laura and said, "It seems like going through the trouble of lending a hand was worth it. If the Hurricane Family would really help us in our matter with the Dwarves, then our travel would be much easier."

Laura nodded and said, "That's true, Buddha Empire is very strict regarding Dwarf Mountain. If someone of our status gets in touch with the dwarves, then it would definitely get their attention. Those Buddha Empire fellows seem to think that the Dwarves are their personal blacksmiths. If we directly go to the Dwarves, we might get into huge trouble."

Zhao Hai frowned, "Do the Great Nobles of the continent really don't have anything to say about this? How can they just let the Buddha Empire monopolize the Dwarf Race's business?"

Laura smiled and said, "How could they not have an opinion? It's just that even if the Dwarf business is very profitable, those families don't want to offend the Buddha Empire. The Buddha Empire also has methods to deal with those who wanted to come in contact with the Dwarves. In fact, it is very simple, they would just suppress that family's business in the Buddha Empire, causing that family huge losses."

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't think that the Buddha Empire would do this. However, he has to recognize that with how much importance the Buddha Empire has placed on the Dwarf goods, there would be no way for the other Nobles to get their hands on it. Exchanging their existing business in the Buddha Empire for a one-time transaction with the Dwarves is not worth it.

Lizzy smiled and said, "Not only that, the Buddha Empire might have also been talking to the Dwarves about how malicious the merchants of the other nations were. At this point, the Dwarves would have already been convinced that aside from the Buddha Empire, the others were simply swindlers. Therefore, making it much more difficult for the other empires to trade with them."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "This will make the travel to Buddha Empire much more interesting. It seems like Dwarven Ironware is really fantastic, otherwise the Empire wouldn't be this critical about controlling it."

Laura nodded and said, "It really is. With the same type of weapon and the same iron, Human blacksmiths just couldn't compare to the Dwarves. Human swords might break after one war while the Dwarven swords can last five, not to mention how much sharper the Dwarven swords were. By relying on Dwarf made goods, the Buddha Empire has managed to reach its current status."

Megan nodded as well, "I used to see a Dwarven made steel dagger in my father's study in the past. The dagger wasn't very gorgeous, nor was it eye catching, but it was very sharp, better than those made by a senior Human blacksmith. If you take a Human-made dagger and sliced it with a Dwarven-made one, the Human dagger would surely break into two."

Zhao Hai nodded, "So that's how good Dwarven daggers are. But I want to know how it would compare to something that the Processing Machine makes."

Laura shook her head and said, "I'm afraid Dwarven daggers are stronger. They are handcrafted, repeatedly tempered, so they should be special."

Zhao Hai agreed, then he looked at Laura and said, "I'll go write a letter to Grandpa Kun later. Telling him all about what just happened. I think it would be best for father-in-law and the others to know about this, so that they can make proper preparations."

Meggan nodded, "Right, but wouldn't the Church be evading the Rosen Empire by now? They would be courting death if they do. The hatred for the Church has now reached its peak. Even the commoners were in opposition to them. It would be very difficult for the church to return to the Empire."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "No matter what, being prepared is always good. At the same time, I also want to see how the Hurricane Family reacts to this incident. If the Hurricane Family doesn't spread this out, then we would be the ones doing it. We'll drag the Ocean Waves Dynasty along as well. Let those people from the Radiant Church withdraw even more."

Laura nodded and said, "That's also good. The Radiant Church had always been up to no good, it's too annoying. Even if they are strong, we should just rid of them."

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "That won't be a good idea. If we remove the Church, the targets of the continent would be switched to us. That would make things much more troublesome. The strength that we have been showing is just the same as Great Nobles, which is still acceptable for them. But if we show strength beyond their expectations, then I'm afraid they would unite and deal with us."

Lizzy sighed, "That's true. I don't understand how the people of the continent think, but for me, our current situation is quite good. At least nobody comes to bully us."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "What I'd like is to upgrade the Space even sooner so that we won't be afraid of anyone. Moreover, we can also use a lot of backgrounds, when we get bored, we can just explore a new background. That would be very good."

One could clearly see the look of anticipation on the faces of Lizzy and the others. Zhao Hai had shown them the different backgrounds in the Space's shop, and those backgrounds were indeed very beautiful.

The group continued to chat in the Space for while before they left Cai'er to pay attention to the situation outside. If Kristen were to go see them, Cai'er would immediately send word. But for now, they secretly returned to Iron Mountain Fort.

When Zhao Hai went to the Prairie before, he was actually also planning to get his 100 thousand slaves. However, he didn't expect how much damage the Herculean Bulls had suffered. Now that they needed to recover their strength, having those slaves were indispensable. Therefore, Zhao Hai chose to just leave them there for the time being. After all, he still had his 100 thousand slaves, so it wasn't really a big deal. Moreover, he also decided to get another 100 thousand slaves from Lin, Zhao Hai believed that those would be delivered soon.

The situation in Iron Mountain Fort was very normal. Although it was impossible for the slaves to have a commoner culture, but one day they will, so they were very obedient. If these 100 thousand slaves were to disobey, Zhao Hai's management would have so much problems. But fortunately, the slaves behaved themselves.

Karen was still buzzing around the machines everyday, to the point where Laura was now complaining about it to Zhao Hai.

This time, Zhao Hai went to see how the slaves were doing, and they were doing very good. Majority of the allocated lands were already planted. But Zhao Hai told them that this will be the only year where he would provide seeds to plant. The next year, they would be free to plant whatever they want. Zhao Hai was also planning on buying some seeds in the Space and selling them over to the slaves, using grain as trade.

They stayed for one day in Iron Mountain Fort. The next morning, Kristen sent someone to notify Zhao Hai. After some simple repairs, their ship was now ready to go.

Their travel then on was very smooth. They didn't run into any enemies along the way. The merchants that they passed all shouted in greetings.

One has to recognize how well received the people from the Hurricane Family were. There were several instances where ships from other Families discovered how battered the Hurricane Family ship was and thought that it was attacked. So they stopped by and visited Kristen, they wanted to know who attacked the Hurricane Family.

At the same time, these people were also very enthusiastic regarding Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai wasn't expecting them to be this accommodating, but after thinking about it for a while, he finally understood. All these people were kind to him because of Golden Island.

Golden Island was now the continent's most famous trade harbor. People who go there because of the safety of their transactions, the low taxes, as well as the cheap goods in comparison to other places.

Most importantly, there were a lot of Merchants who were chased by pirates and went to Golden Island to hide, but those pirates didn't dare to move against them. This made the Merchants prefer to involve themselves with the Buda Clan.

Zhao Hai naturally returned the enthusiasm of these people. He exchanged gifts with them and chatted with them for a bit, giving Zhao Hai some special understanding about these nobles from other countries.

Zhao Hai was now in the Lyon Empire's seas. Merchants coming and going here were mostly from the Ocean Waves Dynasty and Buddha Empire, Aksu Empire ships were rarely spotted, the same was true for Rosen Empire ships.

This was normal. Now that the Aksu Empire was still under recovery, there were few Merchants who travelled from there. On the other hand, the relationship between the Rosen Empire and the Lyon Empire wasn't very good. Therefore, it was normal for Rosen Empire ships to avoid this region of the sea.

But Zhao Hai still didn't meet any obstructions in the Lyon Empire. Whether it be the Hurricane Family or the Buda Clan, both of them were powerful families in the continent. Even if the relationship between the Rosen Empire and the Lyon Empire wasn't good, the Lyon Empire's relationship with Zhao Hai was still normal. At the same time, nobody wanted to needlessly offend both the Buda Clan and the Hurricane Family.

After about a month of navigation, Zhao Hai and the others finally entered the Buddha Empire's seas. But they were still very far from the Hurricane Family's territory, they would still need to sail for five days before they arrive.

Inside the Buddha Empire's sea region, the travel with the Hurricane Family people came smoothly as well. In the Buddha Empire, there was almost no reason to offend the Hurricane Family.

The people of the Hurricane Family were not interested in influence. The people from the Buddha Empire were very friendly with them because they weren't striving for power nor profit. The Royal Family also liked to intermarry to their family, which made the other nobles treat them very well. One could say that the Hurricane Family was the most accepted people in the entire Buddha Empire.

However, Kristen wasn't in the mood to think about all of this right now. The group was currently entering the Buddha Empire's largest river, Iron Warhorse River.

According to legend, the founding Emperor of the Buddha Empire has managed to obtain the approval of a unique Magic Beast, an Iron Warhorse, in this river. With the horse as his mount, he managed to make a lot of achievements and finally established the Buddha Empire. After taking his seat as Emperor, he immediately changed the name of the River into Iron Warhorse River.

The territory of the Hurricane Family was along a branch of this river, inside a mountainous area. The mountain didn't have any ores, and its land wasn't fertile. It can be said that this territory was the worst in the Buddha Empire.

However, even after holding this territory for millennia, the Hurricane Family didn't even attempt to expand it one step, nor did they seek help from others. The Family only relied on their family members to excavate the mountainous area and make terraced fields of which Bamboo Rice, oil trees, and green vegetables were planted. They were living in something like a mundane paradise.

In the eyes of other Nobles, this might be an example of not making progress. However, the Hurricane Family seems to like living like this. They were selling a lot of Bamboo Rice, oil products as well as vegetables, but not Magic Vegetables. This made their yearly profits much lesser than the other nobles, but this could still satisfy the family.

But as many years passed by, the Hurricane Family were still a Great Clan. Other clans rose to the top, others fell into depravity, but the Hurricane Family still stayed the same. They just lived their day-to-day lives peacefully, as they did from the very beginning. This made people quite speechless when discussing them.

However, if you think that the Hurricane family was weak, then you couldn't be any more wrong. Because of their innate Wind attribute, the Family had a lot of experts within their members.

The other families might have 7th or 8th rank experts as their Foreign elders, eliciting respect and resources in order to make their strength grow. But it was different with the Hurricane Family. One might see a farmer on the fields, tending to his crops, only to know that the person was an 8th rank expert. You might even see someone peacefully chopping wood, but actually had the strength of 7th rank. There were no other family in the Buddha Empire that was just like the Hurricane Family.

The Hurricane Family's core values is based on being good to others. They had helped a lot of families in the Buddha Empire before, making the entire Buddha Empire nobility grateful to them. One could say that in the Buddha Empire, the Hurricane Family was the most detached family in terms of political agenda.

When the Radiant Church was at its strongest, they wanted to suppress the Hurricane Family because of its non-compliance. But when they came to doing it, they found out that they weren't able to do anything. The Hurricane Family didn't have any businesses aside from their rice, oil, and vegetables. And these things were daily supplies, so they really cannot be suppressed. And when the Radiant Church wanted to use other avenues to deal with them, the Nobles of the Buddha Empire disagreed. In the end, the Radiant Church can only take a step back.

Although Zhao Hai had some understanding of the Hurricane Family, in the end, he was not a person of the Buddha Empire. His understanding of the Hurricane Family was only based on some writings on paper. As to the actual prestige of the Hurricane Family, Zhao Hai has close to no clue.

After travelling for three days in Iron Warhorse River, they finally sailed on a branching body of water known as Blooming Flower River and stopped at a place called the Blooming Flower Lake.

On the east of Blooming Flower Lake, a stone pier can be seen. This pier was Hurricane Family's personal pier. At the same time, this Blooming Flower Lake was also part of the Hurricane Family's territory.

After the two ships stopped on the pier. Zhao Hai discovered that there were a lot of people present. The one leading them was an old man wearing an azure Robe. This old man's robes was neither magnificent nor luxurious. The robe looked just like the robes that low-level Mages used to wear. It didn't have any special qualities in it.

The hair of the old person was white, he had a wrinkled face that made him look like an old Mage that had zero accomplishments in his life. However, Zhao Hai didn't dare look down on this person. Although the old man looked weak, Zhao Hai's intuition was telling him that he was an expert.

After lowering the springboard, Zhao Hai, along with Laura and the others, walked down from their ship. Kristen also disembarked from her own ship. Naturally, Kristen had already sent a message towards the old man, informing him about what happened as well as Zhao Hai's presence.

Kristen went to the old man and gave him a salute. The old man smiled kindly towards her and said, "Good. It's nice that you've come back safely. I told you to not go, but you insisted to. Right, let's not neglect the guests."

Then the old man turned to look at Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai didn't neglect his manners as he bowed and said, "Buda Clan's Patriarch, Zhao Hai, has seen the Elder."

The old man smiled faintly and returned the bow before saying, "Juno Hurricane has met Patriarch Zhao Hai."

Zhao Hai quickly replied and said, "Elder shouldn't be too polite. You're old enough to be my grandfather. No need to give me a bow, I don't deserve it."

Old Juno looked at Zhao Hai and smiled faintly, "Patriarch Zhao Hai has rescued my granddaughter. That's a great service to my Hurricane Family, that's enough to merit a bow."

Zhao Hai smiled, "Elder is too polite. I just did it because of the coincidence, so I helped a little. Not really a big deal."

Juno smiled a little, he didn't want to dwell too much on this topic. So he said, "Since mister has come to my Hurricane Family, then we would of course show you our hospitality." Juno changed how he addressed Zhao Hai from Patriarch to mister. It seems like their relationship has gone one step closer.

Zhao Hai also noted the change to how he was addressed. He smiled and said, "I'll have to trouble the elder." Then the group went to leave the pier and approached some carriages. The carriages were very

ordinary, something even merchants wouldn't ride on. But from the looks of the Hurricane Family members, it seems like they were already used to it.

Zhao Hai was now very curious about the people of the Hurricane Family. He wasn't expecting that there would be a millennium-old family like this to exist. It made Zhao Hai think about how great it would be if he were to be born into such a family. However, his fate was on the opposite direction.

After the group rode the carriage, it immediately headed towards the depths of the Hurricane Family's territory. This showed Zhao Hai that the Hurricane Family's territory was a mountainous region, no flat lands can be seen. The road that they were going through were all mountain paths paved with stones.

Zhao Hai looked at the lush, Bamboo Rice and oil trees in the mountains. Then he turned to Laura and said, "This place is really good. It's much better than our Black Wasteland."

Laura smiled and said, "Their lifestyle is really astonishing. I didn't think that there would be a millennium-old clan that is like this. I used to hear how the Hurricane Family lived, but I really didn't expect it to be like this."

After crossing two mountains, their carriage stopped. Zhao Hai didn't immediately get down from the carriage, he was busy gawking at the scene.

This village wasn't different than the villages that they had seen in the past two mountains. Stone houses with a stone walled courtyards, of which several fruit trees were grown. Dogs can be seen running around the vegetation and pigs' squeals can be heard. It's a typical mountain village that one can see everywhere.

However, this typical mountain village was actually the Patriarch's residence of one of the most famous Great Families in the continent. This scene made Zhao Hai stare blankly.

At this time, people can be heard walking towards the carriage. This made Zhao Hai recover as he led Laura and the others down. Juno had also reached Zhao Hai's carriage as he smiled, "Mister Zhao Hai, this is where I live. It's quite crude, I hope you don't get offended."

Zhao Hai quickly replied, "This is actually a very good place. I like it very much. I'd have to trouble the Elder to take care of me." Juno smiled faintly and led Zhao Hai to enter the courtyard. Kristen was also following them from behind, while the others went back to their own households.

Upon entering the courtyard, Zhao Hai can see another old person there as well as two children running around like crazy.

Kristen entered the courtyard and immediately ran towards the old person as she held her up, "Grandma, I've missed you." The old woman looked at Zhao Hai and then back to Kristen as she said, "Good girl. Right, go invite the guests over inside."

Zhao Hai looked at this old woman and immediately knew that she was an expert as well, at least 7th rank. Zhao Hai hadn't seen an 7th rank Mage like this old woman before. Moreover, she was a millennium-old Patriarch's wife.

At this time, Zhao Hai also entered the room with Juno. The living room was quite big, when he entered, he can see wooden chairs and tables inside, looking like they were already antiques. The items inside gave off a serene and deep aura.

After the group sat down, Kristen got them something to drink. Then Juno looked at Zhao Hai and smiled, "Is Patriarch Zhao Hai not too familiar with a crude place such as this?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "Not at all, I'm quite used to it. A year ago, I lived in a similar condition. It's even much worse than here. Hahaha. Even the place that I'm living in right now is not much better than this."

Juno smiled and said, "Our Hurricane Family had been living like this for as long as I can remember, so we're already quite used to it. Right, I heard that Patriarch Zhao Hai's purpose this time was to contact the dwarves, am I correct?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I did come to do some trades with the Dwarves. But I'm quite unfamiliar with the place as well as the people here. I'll have to ask the Elder for help."

Juno smiled and said, "Patriarch doesn't need to be polite. You've rescued Kristen, such great kindness needed to be repaid. If I can help you even for a little bit, then I would be very happy."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Elder is really too polite. I feel quite uncomfortable receiving such remarks from a respectable person like you."

Juno just smiled and said, "Alright, no need to talk about this. I'll have to ask Patriarch Zhao Hai to stay here for a few days since I'll need to arrange this matter. After I take care of it, I will personally accompany you to Dwarf Mountain. I believe that those old Dwarves would still give me some face."

Zhao Hai stared blankly before he immediately said, "I've dared to cause the Patriarch too much trouble, I'll have to deeply apologize."

The Old man waved his hand and said, "It isn't a big deal. I happen to have several good friends among the Dwarves. Patriarch Zhao Hai doesn't need to be too polite. Right, I'll have to ask Patriarch Zhao Hai to rest in his room first. In a while, I'll be inviting you over for dinner." Zhao Hai complied, and then he led Laura and the others out.

After walking out of the house, they saw that Kristen was already there waiting for them. However, Kristen was very different compared to the first time that they've met. In the past, Kristen was wearing a long skirt, with her hair fairly unkempt. But the present Kristen was now wearing ordinary clothes, she also had her hair into a braid, she looked just like an adorable neighbor.

Kristen gave a small bow and said to Zhao Hai, "Patriarch Zhao Hai, please come with me." Then she led Zhao Hai towards a nearby building.

After arriving at the building, Kristen turned her head to Zhao Hai and said, "Patriarch, this is the place that Grandfather has arranged for you. It looks quite simple, we hope that Patriarch doesn't get too offended."

Zhao Hai entered the room. It wasn't that big, the inside was divided into two; the living room and the bedroom. If one carefully looked at it, one could see that the room was spotlessly clean.

Zhao Hai turned his head to Kristen and then said, "Sister Kristen is too polite. This place is very good, it's very much to my liking. Thank you very much."

Kristen smiled and said, "Patriarch is too polite. Then I'll leave patriarch here so that you can take a rest. If Patriarch needs anything, don't hesitate to tell me."

Zhao Hai nodded, then Kristen turned around and left. Meg and the others also came inside as they evaluated the house.

Laura smiled and turned to Zhao Hai, "Brother Hai, I didn't think that the Hurricane Family would be living this humbly. It's really too strange."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I also didn't think that the famous Hurricane Family would have this kind of lifestyle, it's completely out of my expectations. With how strong they are, they still chose to live such lives, they have my utmost admiration."

Laura smiled and said, "They really do make people admire them. But I feel like our situation is quite similar to the Hurricane Family. We have the strength to rule a nation, but we chose to live our current lives. Maybe we are pursuing the same life as them."

Chapter 565 - Taking a Vacation

Laura and the others understood Zhao Hai by now. Zhao Hai was a person with little ambition. If he wasn't compelled to upgrade his Space, they wouldn't have reached their current status.

At this time, a voice was heard from the courtyard, Zhao Hai then allowed Megan to open the door. What they saw were people coming into the courtyard. There were two middle-aged people and in their sides were two seemingly 20-year old men.

Kristen was standing in between the two middle-aged people, acting like a spoiled child. Zhao Hai deduced that these two people might be Kristen's parents.

Sure enough, when Kristen saw Zhao Hai open the door, she immediately spoke some words to the couple. The two looked at Zhao Hai and walked over and together they said, "We thank Patriarch Zhao Hai for saving our daughter's life, please accept our gratitude."

Zhao Hai quickly returned the gesture and said, "This one wouldn't dare, it's just a small help."

At this point, Juno came as Zhao Hai was talking to Kristen's parents. He smiled faintly and then said, "It's good that you're back, let's invite Patriarch Zhao Hai for a meal."

Kristen's father immediately nodded and then turned his head to Zhao Hai and gestured his hand, "Please accept our Hurricane family's invitation. Patriarch Zhao Hai, Ladies, please." Zhao Hai complied, and then he led Laura and the others as he followed the Hurricane Family to the dining room.

Although Kristen's home wasn't a castle and their yard was not big, they still had a place specifically used for dining. However, its furniture weren't up to par with the other Great Nobles. The chairs and tables looked like they were used for many years. Although it was much better than commoners' homes, it was much worse compared to nobles.

Juno was there waiting for Zhao Hai and the others in the dining room. After the group sat down, Juno's wife immediately had the dishes served.

After seeing the dishes, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile. This Hurricane Family surely is very interesting. They're chosen to live this kind of village life, they lived with ordinary old furniture, and the way they received their guests was the same as how country people receive them.

When Nobles eat meals, they would generally choose relatively good food, the more expensive the better. But country people were different, vegetables, fish, and meat were already good food. The Hurricane Family seems to embody this philosophy as well.

This was the first time that Laura and the others had this kind of food, so they felt very curious. On the other hand, Zhao Hai wasn't, instead, what he felt was warmth. Back on Earth, he had eaten meals like this all the time.

Juno repeatedly offered Zhao Hai the dishes, and Zhao Hai didn't decline. He ate the meal as he chatted with Juno, the meal was very relaxed and comfortable.

Zhao Hai discovered that the Hurricane Family people were very nice to speak to. Moreover, they don't talk like other nobles. You don't need to worry about your words, afraid of offending them. They also didn't go and probe your background, the Hurricane Family just wanted to talk about day to day activities.

After having eaten their meal, the group went to the living room and sat. Kristen's mother had served them something to drink. Kristen and the ladies, as well as Kristen's grandmother, left the room, leaving only Zhao Hai and Juno inside.

After taking a drink, Zhao Hai looked at Juno and said, "Elder, I just want to ask. What do you want to do about the recent matter?"

The matter that Zhao Hai meant was naturally the attack on Kristen. He wanted to know how Juno wanted to deal with it. If Juno doesn't want to make a move, then there would be no need for Zhao Hai to touch the Radiant Church. Otherwise, if he made a move this time, claiming that the Radiant Church attacked Kristen but the Hurricane Family doesn't have his back, then he would be placed in an awkward position.

If the Hurricane Family wanted to deal with the Radiant Church, then Zhao Hai can lend a hand, revealing this matter to the entire continent, making people raise their vigilance.

After Juno heard Zhao Hai, his eyes immediately shined as he said, "Does Mister mean the attack on Kristen? I'm still quite not sure, but it's for certain that I won't let this matter go. Mister Zhao Hai should also understand that even if the Buddha Empire was afraid of being controlled by the Radiant Church, suppressing it, the Church still has their presence inside the Empire. If we deal with them now, they would definitely fight back. And that would not be good."

Zhao Hai nodded, he knew that Juno was right. Seeing Zhao Hai nod, Juno continued, "Therefore, I want to spread this matter in the meantime, letting everyone be on guard against the Radiant Church. I think that as long as the continent knew about this, then they would definitely think of ways to deal with the Radiant Church."

Zhao Hai nodded again and then said, "This action is also good. Dealing with the Radiant Church couldn't be done in a single day. If the Radiant Church's attack on Kristen were to spread, the people would surely dread the church. In the future, it would be much more difficult for the church to attack individual people. Moreover, Great Nobles would also start suppressing them even more. Soon enough, the Radiant Church wouldn't be able to take advantage of any situation."

Juno nodded and said, "This is the only thing that we could do right now. But I can also be sure that the Radiant Church wouldn't let our Hurricane Family go with just this. Although our Hurricane Family doesn't have enemies, it doesn't mean that nobody can bully us."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Elder should already know about my Buda Clan's enmity with the Radiant Church. If Elder needs anything from us, feel free to send word."

Juno laughed and said, "Alright, if our Hurricane Family goes to war with the Radiant Church, then we would certainly ask the Buda Clan for help."

When Zhao Hai heard Juno's words, he couldn't help but feel elated. Juno had already regarded the Buda Clan as allies, and for the clan, this was a great thing.

However, Zhao Hai can also see that Juno doesn't want to specifically state this alliance. But it still made Zhao Hai happy, having a potential ally was already very good.

In the next several days, Zhao Hai and the others lived in Juno's residence. The farmers woke up very early, although Zhao Hai and the others don't wake up very late, they were still much worse than them.

Moreover, from these past several days, Zhao Hai also understood that the performance of the Hurricane Family towards him was not deliberately done. This was because in Zhao Hai's stay in Juno's residence, he can see that the Bamboo rice being planted and taken care of were all done with care. The other farmers who were around Juno's residence were also greeting Juno every single day. It was quite obvious that this was their day to day life.

After observing for several days, Zhao Hai discovered that the Hurricane Family was quite a loose family. They don't look like they share a common family, but just their surname. The people in the family generally lived on their own. Although they had a Patriarch, his authority wasn't as strong as in the other

Noble families. Every year, the Patriarch would go and collect the taxes, but this tax would also be circulated back into the family.

Compared to the other Nobles, the position of Patriarch in the Hurricane Family was more of a rallying position than a position of power.

However, if one were to say that the Hurricane Family was dispersed, then they would also be very wrong. The Hurricane Family still had their faith in the Wind God, and each person was fully devoted to the belief. Although they live separately, once a ceremony was required, all of them went in as one. They were more solid than any average Noble family.

Zhao Hai had lived for five days in Juno's residence. And he spent this five days mostly outdoors. He was going all around the mountain and looking at the Bamboo Rice as well as the Oil Trees. He also chatted with the villagers and came to know them by name.

Regarding Zhao Hai's actions, Juno couldn't help but be surprised. Juno has also heard about Zhao Hai's background. He was a playboy from his younger years, but when their clan suffered disaster, he suddenly encountered a fortuitous encounter and managed to make the Buda Clan into what it is today.

However, Juno also thought that Zhao Hai didn't know about the habits and customs of a village. After all, Zhao Hai lived in a major city in the past. He may go outside at the very least, once every year. But this one time might only be about business, or to fight another person. For him to be able to get comfortable in a village was impossible if he didn't live in one in the past. So how was he very familiar with it right now?

Zhao Hai was obviously very used to it, moreover, he looks like he has lived in a village for majority of his life. This made Juno confused. Actually, what made Juno most surprised was the conduct of Zhao Hai's wives.

With their identities, Juno had always thought that they were going to be delicate ladies, just like princesses. Compared to their previous living arrangements, this village setting of the Hurricane Family was too simple and crude.

However, Laura and the others were acting pretty normal, they can actually move on their own. They also weren't very curious about crops like the Bamboo Rice or the Oil Trees. In fact, it was the opposite, they knew a lot about the Bamboo Rice and the Oil trees, this was very surprising for the old man.

Although Juno was very surprised about Zhao Hai's group, he didn't attempt to probe them or ask. In the recent days, Zhao Hai was also not talking about the matter with the Dwarves, nor about the matters with the Buda Clan and the Radiant Church. Zhao Hai seemed to enjoy his current state, one could see the joy and bliss reflected on his face.

Five days passed by in a blink of an eye. And on the morning of the next day, Zhao Hai and the others got up early, combed their hair, and washed their face before going to the dining room to have breakfast. Breakfast in the countryside was very simple, and since they were already familiar with Juno, they didn't need to act too polite.

Juno was already waiting for them in the dining room. After the group sat down, Juno smiled to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, you should prepare yourself. We'll be departing for Dwarf Mountain today."

Zhao Hai stared, then he nodded and said, "Alright. Actually, there's no need to prepare anything, I'm ready to go anytime." To be honest, he wasn't actually thinking about leaving this village life, he was enjoying himself here. The five days that Zhao Hai spent here was the most comfortable he had been in the past year. It seemed very much like a vacation, making Zhao Hai very reluctant to leave.

But as it seems, it looks like the vacation has ended.

Chapter 566 - Frightened

Standing on the deck of the Haven, Juno's facial expression was very calm while Zhao Hai was there standing at his side. They were now navigating back in Iron Warhorse River.

The Hurricane Family's five-master ship had received some damages in the fight, so it was now under repair. Therefore, when they departed this time, they used Zhao Hai's ship.

Not only did Iron Warhorse River span the entire Buddha Empire, it was also quite deep and very wide. The river was an important lifeline for the Buddha Empire's prosperity.

The end of the river was a place not far from the Dwarf Mountains. This was very convenient for Zhao Hai, as they were now heading towards the Dwarves.

They had been sailing for four days after they left the Hurricane Family's territory. In about three days, they should reach the end of the river.

While looking at the river's scenery, Juno sighed and said, "It's been quite a few years since I've left the territory, I don't know how those old folks were doing. Little Hai, this trip to the Dwarves, I can only be responsible for introducing you to them. You must know that the Dwarves are very stubborn. If they decided to not trade with you, then nobody's words can change their minds. Right, what kind of things do you intend to trade with them?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "They're Dwarves, naturally I'd want their metalwares. I intend to trade them with liquor in exchange."

Juno stared, then he laughed and said, "Good, that's a great idea. Those fellows do indeed love drinking. If you give them great wines, they would surely do business with you. Right, what liquor are you selling? Is it Milk Wine?"

Zhao Hai's best selling liquor was also made known to Juno. Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Yes, but I intend to trade them with a higher quality Milk Wine."

Juno smiled and said, "That's good. There's no better business with Dwarves other than liquor. I've also tried your Milk Wine, they're very good. Especially that higher quality one, it's fragrant."

The higher quality milk wine that Juno mentioned was actually the Milk Wine made from cow's milk. This was because cow's milk was much mellower compared to argali milk. Making it's flavor much better, therefore, making a much better wine. Of course, the sellers needed to differentiate and describe the difference of the two, otherwise, the other Nobles wouldn't be able to tell the difference.

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Grandpa Juno, if you like, I'll have a batch given to you. In any case, those are my products. Me giving them away wouldn't be a big deal."

Juno smiled and said, "Alright, after we head back, you leave some behind for me. By now, I find the other wines quite tasteless. I must say Little Hai, you've been living a great life on board your ship."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I'm not really that comfortable. As you can see, I always move around, doing things here and there."

Juno smiled and said, "No need to underplay yourself Little Hai, just let this old man complain here for a little bit. Right, Dwarves are generally good people. But don't go and deceive them, if they find out, they wouldn't be able to let you off easily."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Rest assured, I already know this. I quite understand their character, after all, they seem to be like the Beastmen."

Juno smiled and said, "Alright, just be good. Also, Dwarves can take jokes, you can even tease them about their height, and they will never get angry. However, if you say something bad about their metalwares, they will immediately get enraged. Doing that is not a good idea."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Alright, I'll remember that. I will certainly watch my mouth. In fact, most of these ironware would be supplied to the Beastmen. If not for their needs for weapons, I wouldn't be coming here."

Juno nodded, the reason why he reminded Zhao Hai about this point was because he was afraid that Zhao Hai would undercut the price by intentionally saying that the Dwarf goods are no good. If that happens, Zhao Hai would definitely be offending the entire Dwarf Race.

However, when Juno heard that Zhao Hai wanted to get the majority of these ironware for the Beastmen, he immediately became curious. The Milk Wines that Zhao Hai had been selling was definitely related to the Beastmen. What made people confused was that the Milk Wine that Zhao Hai sells were much better than those of the Beastmen. It was actually a peculiar thing.

Juno looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Do you have a good relationship with the Beastmen?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I'm friends with the Cow and Dog Race. I have good relationship with the Black Bears and I also have some deals with the Hawks recently. As for the other races, I don't have too much contact with them."

Juno nodded, then he smiled faintly and said, "The Radiant Church had just made a huge blunder back in Aksu Empire. Does this matter have something to do with you?"

Zhao Hai stared, then he shook his head and said, "I don't. I only received rumors about the matter with the Radiant Church and the Aksu Empire. I don't know any of the specifics. You should know that me and the Radiant Church don't really look eye to eye. So it's quite impossible for me to know about their matters. My scouts don't have supernatural activities to know about their secret plans. Also how could the Radiant Church let untrusted people know about specific things?"

Juno nodded, he believed Zhao Hai's words. The Radiant Church attached great importance to this matter, otherwise they wouldn't have sent a red robed Archbishop to manage their operation. However, this defeat still baffled a lot of people. Nobody knew how the Beastmen found out about the Radiant Church's plan, causing the Church to lose a lot.

Even if the continent was confused, there weren't a lot of people who suspected Zhao Hai. The continent knew about the enmity between Zhao Hai and the Radiant Church. The Radiant Church naturally knew about this, so they should be on guard against Zhao Hai.

At the same time, the Buda Clan was also still an emerging Clan, their background was insufficient. Moreover, Zhao Hai also had a falling out with the entire Aksu Empire, almost no family in the Aksu Empire was on his side. Although his relationship with the Iksha Family and the Purcell Family was good, the Iksha Family was already gone before the Beastman attack while the Purcell Duchy was turned into sacrificial paws by the Radiant Church. Therefore, there would be no way for Zhao Hai to find out about anything.

Because of this, after the war, no matter how strange the Radiant Church's defeat was, nobody had any thoughts that Zhao Hai would have a hand on the Church's demise.

When summarizing the reasons of their failure, although the Radiant Church had turned their internal and external arrangements inside out, they still didn't place any suspicions towards Zhao Hai. In their minds, even if the Buda Clan was strong, their information gathering aspect was still very weak.

It was impossible for the people of the continent to even come up with the existence of the Space. They were still stuck in thinking about the normal modes of gathering information.

But still, Juno's question made Zhao Hai break into a cold sweat. It was great that they had prepared an excuse for this. He didn't want any other people to know that he had used the Beastmen to deal with the Radiant Church. The lesser people knew the better.

The people of the continent might be repulsed with the Radiant Church, but they still think of them as fellow Humans. If they came to know that Zhao Hai sided with the Beastmen in order to deal a blow to the Radiant Church, then they might make Zhao Hai into the number one enemy of the Humans.

It was also good that there were only a few Beastmen who knew about Zhao Hai's hand in the matter. The general populace only believed that there was a mysterious person that helped them. After all, when Zhao Hai visited the Beastman camp, he donned the disguise of another person.

If there were people to suspect, then it might be the Engraved Ark. This organization was very mysterious, moreover, they wanted to subvert the Ark Continent. Such matters was what they might possibly do.

Juno had just blurted this question out thoughtlessly and didn't take it to heart. But even if Zhao Hai told him that he used the Beastmen against the Radiant Church, he still wouldn't say anything. After all, if the Beastmen were to attack the Aksu Empire, they would be dealing a huge blow against the Radiant Church.

And with their recent attack to his Granddaughter, Kristen, Juno was even more unsupportive towards the Church. Juno had a lot of children, but the one he favors the most was Kristen's father. He already set his heart on having Kristen's father as the future Patriarch of the Family. However, the one Juno loved the most was Kristen. Therefore, the Radiant Church attacking Kristen had managed to touch Juno's bottom line.

The Hurricane Family were good-natured people, but this didn't mean that they would just endure. In their early years, the reason why the Hurricane Family was able to hold on to their territory was because they also punched back. If the Hurricane Family fully mobilized this time, their might would not be worse than the other millenium-old family. They weren't even behind in terms of their wealth. It was only because of their ancestral doctrine that they maintained this kind of life.

In fact, even if Juno said that it was not the time to deal with the Radiant Church, he already sent some people towards the Churches of the Radiant Church inside the Buddha Empire. Nobody from the Radiant Church was spared.

Being a good person didn't mean that you didn't have any temper. If people hit your left face, you turn back and hit their right. If one doesn't fight back, it didn't mean that you have great values, it also means that you are without spine.

The reason why Juno told Zhao Hai that he didn't want to move against the Radiant Church was because he didn't want Zhao Hai to know. Juno knew about how big Zhao Hai's enmity with the Radiant Church was. If Juno told Zhao Hai, then it was inevitable that Zhao Hai would help, elevating the matter by another lever. In the current case, the matter was still under Juno's control.

Chapter 567 - Dwarf Iron Mountain

While the ship was sailing along Iron Warhorse River, they could spot three-masted and five-masted ships sailing with them. These ships had displaced a lot of water, showing people how much cargo they were carrying.

They were already not far from the pier for Dwarf Mountain. From the direction these ships were heading, it seems like they were all packing a lot of iron and iron goods inside.

When people mention Dwarven ironware, they might think of weapons. But in reality, there were a lot of ironware that were from the Dwarves. Everything that can be made out of iron was also made by the Dwarves.

Moreover, Dwarves don't only create things from iron, they also use a variety of metals as well. Their gold and silver items also held some fame in the continent, but not as much as their ironware.

Weapons that Dwarves produce might be crude and simple, but the products they make from precious metals were absurdly magnificent, looking like they were art. Even Elves cannot be compared to how innately skilled the Dwarves were in this aspect.

Like what was heard, the Dwarves had been hollowing out huge portions of Dwarf Mountain. At the same time, they also knew that the mountain would run out of iron eventually, so they also started to recycle some iron. Iron was easy to reuse, the Dwarves can just remelt some discarded iron products to make new ones.

Because of this, whether ships were heading or leaving Dwarf Mountain, all of them had iron in their cargo.

Zhao Hai also knew about this practice of the Dwarves, but they don't need a lot of people to bring them iron. Right now, they already have Merchants, specifically tasked to get them some scrap iron. One could say that the development of the Dwarves were much better than the Beastmen.

Before long, the Haven slowly came to a stop at the pier. The pier was very big, the ships that were moored along it were a lot. Zhao Hai also noticed that of the ships present, almost all of them were owned by Buddha Empire Nobles, he couldn't spot any ships belonging from the other nations.

But what intrigued Zhao Hai the most about this pier was the pier managers. These people were very short, the tallest of them was only about 1.5 meters. However, their figures were very sturdy, they wore iron armor while everyone of them carried a hammer at their back.

This hammer wasn't the same as the weapons of Ancient China. This hammer looks like it was used to hammer iron, but it's very big, they seem to weigh a couple of dozen jins each.

In addition to the hammer, the Dwarves also wore iron armor. The amount of load that each of them carried was at minimum about 100 jin. But from their appearances, it seems like it didn't bother them, showing how formidable their strengths were.

This was the first time that Zhao Hai had seen a Dwarf. These people had brown hair and a full beard on their faces, they also had a slight blush on their cheeks, probably from all the drinking that they had done.

After the ship stooped, Zhao Hai walked down from it along with Juno. Before long, two Dwarves approached them, the two bowed slightly to Zhao Hai and Juno and said, "Are you two doing business?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Dwarf friend, this one is Buda Clan's Zhao Hai. I came this time to do business. Since this is my first time, I have been accompanied with the Hurricane Family's Patriarch.

When the Dwarf heard Zhao Hai that the person beside him was the Hurricane Family's patriarch, his face immediately changed to respect as he bowed to Juno and said, "So it turns out to be Patriarch Juno. We've been very rude, please come with us."

It seemed like they had ignored Zhao Hai's self introduction. Zhao Hai can only stare blankly for a moment before bitterly smiling.

The Buda Clan was now quite famous in the Continent, however, these Dwarves seem to not know about him. This had two possibilities, it might be because they really haven't heard about Zhao Hai, or they might have taken a dislike towards him.

Juno looked at the Dwarf and calmly said, "This is Mister Zhao Hai, Buda Clan's Patriarch, he is a friend of mine."

Quite ordinary words, but these made the Dwarf stare. Then he turned to Zhao Hai with a look of unfriendliness and said, "Buda Clan? Rosen Empire's Buda Clan?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Is there a problem?"

The Dwarf looked at Zhao Hai and said, "It's been a long time since people from the Rosen Empire has come here. The last merchant from the Rosen Empire sold us moldy bamboo rice."

When Zhao Hai heard the Dwarf, he stared for a moment before he faintly smiled and said, "Really? Is he from the Buda Clan?"

The Dwarf didn't expect this to be Zhao Hai's response. He also understood what Zhao Hai meant. The Dwarf couldn't help but laugh and said, "I like you. Patriarch Zhao Hai, please."

Juno nodded at the side in commendation. If Zhao Hai defended the Rosen Empire merchants, then it would become impossible for him to do any business with the Dwarves. It's good that Zhao Hai's answer made these Dwarves quite delighted.

Zhao Hai also discovered that these Dwarves aren't the same as the Beastmen. Beastmen were direct, but they weren't as smart as the Dwarves. Even if the Dwarves were also direct, they also had more contact with Humans and knew about how to read them.

Zhao Hai's group left the pier along with the two Dwarves, then the Dwarves got the group some carriages. The carriage was fairly big, it was pulled by a Magic Beast that Zhao Hai has not seen before. This one looked like a pangolin, however, their heads looked like a cross between a horse and a bull.

After the carriage arrived, the two Dwarves immediately invited Zhao Hai's group to ride it. The Dwarves then talked with the group while inside. Naturally, the two were much more respectful towards Juno.

Seeing their conduct, Zhao Hai can't do anything but just smile. From what he can see on the expressions of the Dwarves, it seems like Juno held quite a high standing in their hearts.

When Juno noticed that Zhao Hai was curious about the Magic Beast, he smiled and said, "This beast is called Iron Armor Beast, a unique Magic Beast of the Dwarven Race. It's a great complement to them as it is very good at excavating earth as well as digging through mountains. At the same time, through proper training, these can also help the Dwarves find iron ore deposits. However, this Magic Beast also has its peculiarities. Other than the Dwarves, these beasts are unable to be trained by Humans or any other races. Because of this, the Dwarves had always believed that this beast was a gift to them but the Artisan God."

Zhao Hai nodded, he didn't think that this was false. After all, there were a lot of strange things in the Ark Continent. Maybe there were really gods looking at the continent from some other place.

The Iron Armor beast walked very steadily, moreover, its speed was not very slow. It didn't take a long time before Zhao Hai and the others saw the mountain in the distance. This mountain was very different from the Hurricane Family's territory. Back in the Hurricane Family's place, bamboo rice and oil trees can be seen everywhere, but here, Zhao Hai can only spot a single plant that he hadn't seen before.

This tree is very strange, its trunk was very straight and very black. However, it wasn't very thick. On top of the tree were some branches, each branch had about five or six extensions on them. At the same time, there were more than ten leaves on each branch, each leaf was very big, about more than one meter long and were very thin. One could get an impression of a spear upon seeing the dark green leaves. The entire tree gives one a feeling of weight and sharpness.

For a tree to give a sharp feeling was very strange. At this time, Juno opened his mouth and said, "This is called a Spear Tree. Its branch, leaves, and trunk can all be made into spears of high quality. They are also quite heavy, much heavier than average spears. However, they are also very tough, they are one of the specialty goods in Dwarf Mountain.

Zhao Hai nodded, but deep inside he was excited. He really felt that he hadn't wasted his time in coming here. These unique things in Dwarf Mountain are very helpful. Even if they cannot upgrade the Space, he can still acquire them for future use.

Zhao Hai was now anticipating his visit towards the Elven Forest. If the Dwarves, who were famous for the ironware, already had these unique plants and beasts, then what would the Elves, who were famous for their unique plants, have? It was no wonder that Zhao Hai looked forward to his visit.

Dwarf Iron Mountain was very tall, not worse than any other tall mountain in the continent. The mountain was part of a very long mountain range, comparable only to Hawk King Mountain.

Before long, the Iron Armor Beast carriage entered the mountain. Upon entering, Zhao Hai couldn't help but gawk, the scale of this place simply placed the lake chamber back at Iron Mountain to shame.

But there was no water in this mountain chamber, on the contrary, it looked just like a huge factory. Blacksmiths and their furnaces can be seen everywhere. Shirtless Dwarves, were all hard at work, hammering their metals and producing some 'ding' 'ding' sounds along the way. The noise in this place would compel you to shout at someone beside you just to talk to them.

Inside, weapons and various products can be seen everywhere. All kinds of full body armor were also being made. Various Dwarves can be seen loading and unloading goods here and there, however, no Human merchants can be seen inside.

Zhao Hai was actually afraid of the noise inside, he felt like his head was about to explode. But fortunately, it didn't take too long before the carriage went out of the other side of the mountain, bringing them back to the quiet atmosphere once again.

Zhao Hai let out a long breath and then said, "That was too scary. If I stay for a day inside there, then I might get killed by the noise. How can the Dwarves endure it?"

Juno smiled and said, "They don't need for the Dwarves to endure, you didn't notice, but all of them were wearing ear plugs. With those, they don't need to worry about the noise. Inside the mountain, Dwarves wouldn't even open their mouths, they only use hand signals to communicate with one another."

Zhao Hai nodded and then said, "So it's like this. But I find something strange. Why haven't I seen any Human merchants in there?"

Juno smiled, "There are several places in the mountain that Humans can use to interact with the Dwarves clearly. After making clear about their transactions, the Dwarves would carry their orders out by themselves while the Humans would leave the mountain. Otherwise, Humans might become insane if they stay inside for a long time, ."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he turned his head to inspect the surroundings, they were now exiting the first mountain. What was in front of Zhao Hai were a chain of other mountains stretching as far as his eyes can see. On these mountains, Spear Trees can be seen growing with no end in sight.

Zhao Hai knew that this was the real Dwarf Mountain. The area of this group of mountains was very large, it was no less than the entire Beastman Prairie.

Juno looked at the stretch of mountains and said, "Everyone knew about the Dwarf Mountain, but there were only a few of them who knew about the real Dwarf territory. Only friends of the Dwarves can see this scene. If one wasn't someone that the Dwarves trust, then they can only go up to that first mountain."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I'm very lucky to have Grandpa Juno with me this time. Otherwise, I wouldn't have seen such a scene."

Juno smiled faintly and said, "You don't need to be too polite with me. If I don't see you as a good Merchant, then I wouldn't be taking you here. Why did you think I accompanied you personally? If you're not a good merchant, let alone saving Kristen, even if you saved the entire Hurricane Family, I still wouldn't take you here. I treat the Dwarves as my friends, and I can not do any disservice towards them."

Zhao Hai nodded. Laura and the others were quite all this time. They were enthralled by the scenery outside. This time, Juno only brought a few people from his family, they were on the carriages behind. Shue and Shun were also present on one of those carriages.

It didn't take a long time before the Iron Armor Beast entered a second mountain. This mountain was also very big, with a lot of Dwarves being busy inside as well. But there weren't a lot of weapons that can be seen here, most of the things here were iron ores.

The carriage continued to go along the mountain range. Zhao Hai also felt that each mountain that they passed, their altitude seemed to get lower. It seemed like the road that they were on was on a gentle slope.

Before long, the Iron Armor Beast stopped. Then Juno turned his head to Zhao Hai and said, "Let's head out, we still need to ride a boat."

When he arrived outside, Zhao Hai looked around for a moment. This place was beside a mountain. There were a lot of Dwarves present here, loading and unloading their goods towards other Iron Armor Beast carriages.

On the side of this mountain was a pier with boats moored at its side. These boats weren't big, however, they can still fit quite a number of people inside.

The Dwarf that drove their carriage arrived at Juno's side and said, "Mister Juno, please come with me." Juno nodded, and then he led Zhao Hai and the others to walk towards the pier.

After looking at the boats on the pier, Zhao Hai noticed that some of them were loaded with iron ore while some had nothing in them. Naturally, these empty boats were meant for them to ride on.

Chapter 568 - Hammer

Under the guidance of the Dwarf, Zhao Hai and the others got up to ride the boat. While the Dwarf guided them, the other one was responsible for driving.

They traversed the underground quite steadily. While they were travelling, Zhao Hai can notice some magic lights coming from the walls of the river from time to time.

Inside the channel, boats can also be seen travelling in both directions. Their speeds were quite fast for boats, all of them were driven by Dwarves.

By utilizing the brightness from the Magic lamps, Zhao Hai can see that there were also some piers placed on the sides of the river. These piers also had some boats in it. Some of the boats were carrying iron ores, while some had weapons and armor.

Zhao Hai was now admiring the Dwarves, they're really quite formidable. From what Zhao Hai can see, it seems like the Dwarves had scraped out entire mountains, making them into cities. How much skill did this need?

Juno sat on the ship and looked around before he sighed and said, "From the time I came here, nothing much has changed. But I can fairly remember that there weren't a lot of magic lamps before, torches were mostly used back then."

The lead Dwarf smiled at him and said, "Mister Juno, these lamps haven't been replaced in ten years. We happened to find a Magic Crystal deposit not far from the mountain. Otherwise, we wouldn't be replacing the torches with these Magic lamps."

Juno nodded and said, "Your luck is really good. But since you discovered a Magic Crystal deposit, why haven't you sold them?"

The Dwarf shook his head and said, "We can't, there aren't a lot of Magic Crystals in that deposit. The only thing we have is only enough for our use."

Juno nodded. After sailing from quite some time in the underground river, they finally stopped at a pier. The Dwarf then led them to land and had them ride an Iron Beast carriage that was already waiting for them.

After the group entered the Iron Armor Beast carriage, they continued on to their travel along the mountain range. From what Zhao Hai can see in Juno's expression, it seems like they were going to a special place.

Sure enough, when they came out of the mountain, a main road was seen. This road was very wide, it was paved with stone and it was extended from a distant the mountain. But from what Zhao Hai can see, the mountain was just like a tunnel, he can see the other side of it.

Upon entering the mountain, Zhao Hai immediately knew that he had made a mistake. The mountain was very big, moreover, a lot of Dwarf women were very busy inside.

Upon looking, Zhao Hai can see that there were tools for assembling full body armors. These armors were fish scale armors that infantry used. There were fully assembled armors as well as components waiting to be built.

After crossing the mountain, a building appeared not far away from the group. It was constructed like a temple very enormous and was constructed out of iron and iron ore. It was tall, about 20 meters in height, with 18 large stone pillars supporting it. The pillars were thick, each having about 5 meters in diameter.

There was a wide area in front of the building, about 10 thousand meters in diameter. The ground was paved with iron as well, making it very flat. Zhao Hai can see some people constantly cleaning the square.

Juno gave a sigh and said, "This is a sacred land of the Dwarf Race, the Artisan Divine Palace. It was originally a small mountain, but it was hollowed out by the Dwarves. The stones from the mountain became the foundation of the entire palace. Every year, the Dwarves would all come to this place to worship the Artisan God, it's quite a spectacle."

The Iron Armor Beast stopped on the square outside the Divine Palace. Then Juno turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Let's head out, carriages are prohibited in the vicinity of the Divine Palace. We'll give our respects to the Artisan God first before we see my old friends."

Zhao Hai nodded and then followed Juno down. The Dwarf guide was also with them as the group slowly walked towards the Divine Palace. Zhao Hai can see a lot of dwarves in the square, cleaning. They seem to be of old age, judging from their white hair and beard.

Although the Dwarves noticed Zhao Hai and the others, they seem to not care about it as they continued to get busy in their job. Before long, Zhao Hai and the others were already near the Palace Great Hall.

The closer you get to the hall, the more of its grandeur that you feel. He didn't know if it was an illusion, but Zhao Hai can feel a pressure inside the hall which made him very uncomfortable.

Zhao Hai and the others then entered the Great Hall upon which they were greeted with its beautiful interior, carvings and art that could be seen everywhere.

However, there wasn't any statue inside the Great Hall, what made Zhao Hai surprised was that the only thing that was present here was a hammer.

Yes, Zhao Hai did not misjudge it, it was a red hammer. It's like the hammers that the Dwarves use, but it was a bit smaller, about a couple of jin less heavy.

This hammer was just too small to be used by the Dwarves. It was even short enough to be called a one-handed hammer. But what made Zhao Hai confused was that this hammer had given him an immense pressure. The pressure was even greater than what he felt when he faced 9th rank experts.

When Juno saw that Zhao Hai was motionless as he looked at the hammer, he couldn't help but stare. He didn't understand why Zhao Hai was staring at the hammer. Juno had visited the Dwarves a hundred times before, and he had also seen this hammer, however, he just can't see anything special about it.

The Dwarf guide had also noted Zhao Hai's expression, which made him gawk, and then his two eyes shined. However, he didn't say anything and just stepped towards the Hammer along with Juno and Zhao Hai.

Under the leadership of the Dwarf, the group paid their respects towards the hammer before they left the Great Hall. After leaving the hall, Juno then looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, why did you stare at that hammer? Did you see anything strange?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "No, I just felt a very strong pressure from the hammer. I've faced 9th rank experts before, but I still wasn't able to feel the kind of pressure that I got from the hammer. I felt that the hammer had a life, moreover, it seems to be much more formidable than a 9th rank expert."

After Zhao Hai finished talking, the Dwarf guide in front turned around and faced Zhao Hai in shock.

The Dwarf looked at Zhao Hai for quite some time before he turned back and proceeded. Zhao Hai and Juno looked at each other in confusion before they followed the Dwarf.

After they went past the Great Hall, they were once again greeted with another big mountain. When they entered, Zhao Hai was astounded by the number of people inside here. These people weren't here for work or to play with iron. From what was seen, it seems like this place was the living area of the Dwarves.

Juno looked at Zhao Hai and smiled, "Don't be surprised, this is the place where Dwarves live. It's almost the same as the village back at home."

Zhao Hai nodded, but he was still somewhat surprised upon inspecting these short Dwarves. Old Dwarves, Middle aged Dwarves, Dwarf children, all of them don't feel any different. Dwarf children were like Human children in the way they play all around the place, the Dwarf women were there doing sewing and knitting while they chat with each other, old Dwarves were sitting in threes or fours chatting away while drinking wine.

Like Juno said, it wasn't very different from any Human village. It was just that the people here were not Humans.

The Dwarf guide then led Zhao Hai and the others to enter the village. But before they went in, they stopped by the guards at the entrance as the guide said, "Please inform the Patriarch, Hurricane Family's Patriarch Juno has come to visit."

Just as the guide's request was said, a voice was suddenly heard, "What? That old man Juno has come? Quick, quick, have him come over."

Along with the voice, a Dwarf also appeared in front of the group. This Dwarf wasn't young, he already had a white beard. The Dwarf was about 1.5 meters in height, and since he was a Dwarf, his build was very sturdy. He had a big pair of hands, each finger was very thick and full of calluses, all of them looked just like withered branches.

When this old Dwarf saw Juno, he couldn't help but laugh as he hugged his old friend and patted him at the back, "You old fogey, I thought you had died. I didn't expect you to suddenly visit. Hahahaha."

Juno was obviously used to being greeted by the Dwarves this way, so he didn't care, instead he returned the old Dwarf's hug and said, "You as well, who thought that you're still alive."

Zhao Hai was on the side, looking at the two old men. They looked just like two bickering children as they chatted with each other. But even so, Zhao Hai can feel the deep friendship that was shared between the two.

After a moment of talking, Juno gestured towards Zhao Hai and said, "This is the Patriarch of the Buda Clan, Zhao Hai Buda. I accompanied him this time since he wanted to do business with you."

Then Juno turned to Zhao Hai and said, "This is the Patriarch of the Dwarf Race, Billy."

Zhao Hai bowed and said, "Zhao Hai has seen Patriarch Billy."

Billy sized Zhao Hai up, then he looked at Laura and the others at the back before he nodded and said, "Since you came with Juno, then you don't need to be polite with me. Kid, come with me, take your group and get some rest at a room nearby."

Zhao Hai didn't decline, then he turned to give a nod to Laura and the others. The group then gave Billy another salute before retreating with the Dwarf guide.

Chapter 569 - Four Types of Liquor

Zhao Hai followed Billy and Juno into a cave in the mountain. The place looked very ordinary, probably something rarely used. On the cave was a big desk along with several bookshelves at the side.

Not far from the cave was a place for rest, with a set of wooden sofas and some tables.

After arriving at the resting area, Billy looked at Zhao Hai and laughed, "Kid, in just one year, you have made quite great achievements. The Buda Clan is now well known. I want to know what business you'll have with us Dwarves."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I have some goods from my Buda Clan. I think the Patriarch also knew about my Clan's Milk Wine."

Zhao Hai knew that most of the other races were very direct, much more direct than humans. Therefore, he didn't waste any words and just said what the other party wanted to hear.

Billy looked at Zhao Hai and then smiled. "I've drank your Milk Wine, it's really good. Is it from your cooperation with the Beastmen?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "The Milk Wine that they make is still incomplete, it still needed further processing. Therefore, I struck a deal with the Beastman and had them supply me with Milk Wine. I'll process those and then sell them to the Human territories."

Billy nodded, "Your quite honest, Kid. Tell me, what do you need?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "i have a peculiar hobby, I like strange plants and unique Magic Beasts. As long as it's rare, I'd want it. I can use my Milk Wine to trade with those things with you, naturally it includes iron wares as well. What do you think?"

Billy knit his eyebrows and said, "This is not a problem. But you should know that Magic Beasts like our Iron Armor Beast are unique to our Dwarf Race. It's not like we don't want to give them away to the other races, but if the Iron Beasts were given to others, they would immediately starve themselves and die. At the same time, unique trees and plants in our mountain will not grow elsewhere. Are you fine with this?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I'm merely curious about those things. I've also done the same with the Beastmen, so I'm quite familiar with the implications. In fact, I have some alchemists back at the clan, they also want to see those kinds of things. Therefore, I'm going out of my way to collect them."

Billy didn't say anything. In fact, there were a lot of unique plants and beasts in the hands of both the Dwarves and the Beastmen. It's not like they don't want to give them away, it's just that they don't have any uses. Because of that, they slowly went forgotten.

Billy nodded, "This is not an issue, these things are practically worthless. If you want to, there's no problem in us giving you a few. Right, what price do you want to sell your milk wine?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "Patriarch doesn't need to worry, I'll sell it at a normal price. The price that we sell at the mainland is what the price that I'll be giving you."

Billy stared at Zhao Hai and said, "Really?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "There's no need to doubt me. If you go to the Beastman Prairie and inquire, you will know that our Buda Clan had always been fair in doing business. Compared to other merchants, the grain that we sell in the Prairie is priced much lower. There's no reason for us to sell to the Dwarves at a high price."

Judging by Zhao Hai's expression, Billy can see if Zhao Hai was telling the truth or not. After thinking for a while, Billy nodded and said, "If this is the case, then it would be good for our Dwarf race. We're living in the mountains all year round, the winds in here is very tough. So tough that we needed to drink some liquor after every meal. If you do supply us with this Milk Wine, then you would be doing us a great deed."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "In fact, I don't only have Milk Wine in my hands, I also have other varieties of liquor. I'll have to invite the two elders to have a taste." Then he waved his hand and took out a few bottles of liquor.

The bottles contained several types of liquor. Among them were the ordinary milk wine, high-grade milk wine, white wine, and finally the beer. Zhao Hai didn't bring out some fruit wine because it was obvious that they didn't suit the palates of the Dwarves.

In fact, Zhao Hai already had prior knowledge about the Dwarves' drinking customs. He understood that they really loved to drink, and that the liquor that they were drinking were quite special. Their liquor was a type made from potatoes that was farmed in the Buddha Empire. Although this potato looked much like sweet potatoes, and its liquor was also the same as the liquors back on Earth. Moreover, its flavor was very mellow, and it also had a distinct fermented fragrance. Most Dwarves are even disgusted by it. This liquor simply cannot be compared to Zhao Hai's.

One can say that this potato liquor had a much worse flavor than fruit wine. But since Dwarves don't like drinking fruit wine, they had no other choice but to consume this potato liquor.

Since Zhao Hai was already informed about these matter, therefore he didn't bring some fruit wine out.

Billy and Juno looked at the four bottles on the table. These four bottles looked very common. Three of them had transparent contents while the last one had black liquid inside.

Zhao Hai opened the bottle containing ordinary milk wine and then looked at Billy and Juno, "This is the ordinary milk wine, I think the two of you had already tasted this. But this wine is divided into several types. What we are selling at large in the mainland had the lowest degree. But this bottle has a higher degree compared to the others."

Each Dwarf table always had glasses for liquor in them, this was something that everybody knew. So Zhao Hai took two glasses from the table and then gave the two some of the ordinary milk wine.

Billy and Juno wasn't polite, they immediately took the glass and drank the liquor. They had prior experience with milk wine, and they knew that it was fierce, therefore they only took a small sip.

After the two took a sip, they felt different. They had drunk the milk wines in the mainland. Those wines were very good to drink, but those cannot be compared to what Zhao Hai served them this time.

After they placed their cups down and nodded, Zhao Hai took the high grade milk wine and poured the two another two glasses of liquor.

Juno had already drank this high grade milk wine before, so his expression this time was quite mild. However, Billy hadn't drank this before. Therefore, after he took a sip, his two eyes couldn't help but light up, he felt that the flavor of this wine was very good.

Then Zhao Hai took the bottle of rice wine and then gave them a glass as he introduced it, "Taste this one, it's something we made quite recently. It's not milk wine nor fruit wine, but it's made from bamboo rice."

Juno and Billy stared at the bottle. Naturally, they knew about bamboo rice, but brewing alcohol from it? This was the first time that they had heard such a concept.

They curiously lifted the cup and drank from it. Although the degree of Zhao Hai's rice wine wasn't very high, it didn't have the milky fragrance of milk wine. Instead, it had a purely wine flavor with a little sweet aftertaste. It was a gentle kind of drink.

After they tasted the liquor, the two's eyes couldn't help but light up. They didn't expect that the liquor that was made from bamboo rice would be this good.

After seeing their reactions, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile. Then he poured them a glass of beer each. When Zhao Hai served them milk wine and rice wine, he only poured them a small amount, enough for a single sip. But this time, Zhao Hai poured the beer until the glass is half full. But even then, the foam at the top of the beer was already quite a lot.

Billy and Juno looked at Zhao Hai in confusion, Zhao Hai slightly knew what was on their minds as he said, "This liquor isn't very strong, it's quite mellow. However, I think you will find its flavor quite interesting. Please have a taste."

Juno and Billy weren't polite, they held their glasses and downed the liquor inside. When the beer entered their mouths, they first felt that it tasted very strange. But then, an indescribable mellow taste overwhelmed their taste buds. After the two drank the beer, they couldn't help but snap their tongues.

While looking at the two, Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "This liquor is made from a rare type of plant grown in the continent. At this point, only our Buda Clan has been cultivating it. However, its production volume into beer is very great."

Billy looked at the cup and nodded, "This final one is really good. It tastes quite nice. Do you have a lot of these?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "It's current output is not very high. My highest output at this time would be milk wine. If you want the other ones, you may need to wait for some time."

Billy nodded, "Then I want some milk wines, this ordinary ones since we Dwarves consume a lot of liquor. But you have to give me a very fair price."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Alright, that's not a problem. Large purchases always merit price deductions. I can sell them to the Dwarves at wholesale price."

Billy gave a satisfied nod, "Good, good. Kid, when can you send the wine?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Right now. How much do you want? I can deliver them right away."

Billy stared at Zhao Hai and said, "How big is your Space Equipment?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Very big. Moreover, since I already planned to do business here, I also brought a large amount of milk wine along. I want to trade some of these wines into ironwares, then I'll go transport them over to the Beastman Prairie."

Billy nodded and said, "It looks like your relationship with the Beastmen is very good. In the past, our Dwarf race also had some dealings with the Beastmen. But after a few years, and the emergence of the Humans, our contact had been cut off. I didn't expect that you would connect the two races with your business."

Chapter 570 - Prophecy

Zhao Hai didn't know that the Dwarves had business dealings with the Beastmen before, so he smiled and said, "It's nothing great, I just have good relationships with the Beastmen. When I went to the Prairie last time, the Beast King invited me over for a meal since he thinks highly of me. During the meal, I told him that I would be visiting here so he asked me to get some ironwares with me when I come back. Therefore, I'll have to give some ironwares to the Beastmen when I return."

Zhao Hai might be speaking calmly, but Juno and Billy heard things in a different tone. The two of them were aware of the relationship between the Humans and the Beastmen. There were a lot of Humans who can visit the Prairie to do business, however, it was rare for them to even get a glance of the Beast King.

Most importantly, from Zhao Hai's words, it seems like the Beast King still invited him over despite the recent war between the two races. This was enough to explain Zhao Hai's standing inside the Beatman Prairie.

Juno looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, did you really share a meal with the Beast King?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I did, I cannot lie about this matter. After some time, Humans would be coming back to the Prairie to do business. They will surely know about this matter. The reason why I was able to cooperate for milk wine with the entire Beastman race was because of the Beast King's help. Thanks to him sending his Beast King's letters, the Beastmen believed me."

Juno and Billy became surprised as they asked, "Beast King's letters?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Yes, I think that's what they called it. What's wrong? I asked the Beast King for help and he didn't say anything else."

Juno and Billy stared at Zhao Hai for some time before Billy opened his mouth and said, "Kid, do you know what the Beast King's letters represent?"

Zhao Hai stared, "Represent? Isn't it just like notices sent by humans?"

Juno smiled bitterly and said, "You really know nothing, no wonder the Beastman Race helped you. The Beast King just couldn't casually use his letters, they were only sent during important matters. Otherwise, the Beastmen wouldn't hold his words in high regard."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I think it's because of my milk wine business, it's quite important to the beastmen. I even needed the help of the Hawk race in order to collect the massive amounts of milk wine. Otherwise, this cooperation would be impossible to progress quickly."

Juno knit his brows and said, "That's not right, why would the Beastmen believe you easily? The Beastmen had always been on guard against the Human race, why would they help you right now?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Besides being a merchant, I'm also a Foreign Prince of the Herculean Bull tribe. Moreover, I also have the friendship flags of the Dog Race and the Black Bear Tribe. Therefore, they immediately trusted me."

Juno didn't understand this, so he was confused and asked, "Friendship flag? What is this friendship flag?"

Compared to Juno, Billy was more shocked than Zhao Hai, “Did you really obtain a Beastman Friendship flag? How is that possible?”

Juno became more puzzled, “What happened? What is a friendship flag?”

Billy forced a smile and said, “Beastman flags are divided into many types. People who do business with the Beastmen will receive that tribe’s War Flag, however, that flag has nothing of value. The Friendship Flag is different, as long as someone gets a Friendship Flag, that would mark him as a friend to the Beastmen, a genuine true friend. It represents being a friend worthy of them sacrificing their life for. Now you see how important Friendship Flags are? Also, Foreign Prince of the Herculean Bull Tribe? What’s this all about?”

Zhao Hai smiled, “I’ve managed to help the Herculean Bulls in their time of extreme trouble. Also, the current Patriarch of the Herculean Bulls is my Beheading Blood Oath Brother. Therefore, I’ve become their tribe’s foreign Prince.”

Billy forced a smile and said, “Kid, you’re really lucky. No wonder the Beast King is willing to see you and even use his letters to help your business. Your milk wine business affects the entire Beastman Race, if they didn’t trust you then it might not have gone through.”

Zhao Hai smiled and said, “I’ve always been fair in trading with the Beastmen. The price that I sell them grain is lower than all of the other Human Merchants. This also explains why my relationship with them is very good.”

Billy nodded, “Now I believe you. It seems like you’re genuine. I just hope that your business with our Dwarf Race gets to a point similar to your relationship with the Beastmen.”

Zhao Hai smiled and said, “Rest assured, it will.”

Billy smiled and said, “I hope. Right, how much milk wine did you bring? I want a lot.”

Zhao Hai smiled and said, “You want a lot, but I have a lot. I’m afraid you won’t want all of them.”

Billy laughed and said, "Kid, you shouldn't think too high of yourself. You're underestimating the amount of liquor we Dwarves drink. If you want figures, then I'll be taking 10 million jin."

Zhao Hai bitterly smiled, he didn't think that the Dwarves would want this many, he was indeed overconfident. However, it doesn't matter, he already had 1 million jin of milk wine inside the Space. He looked at Billy and laughed as well, "I didn't think that you would want this many. I only have 1 million jin at this time. I can give the remaining amount in the future, what do you think?"

Billy laughed, "Alright, 1 million jin is enough. Right, you need to wait for a few days to get the things that you want. You stay here first, I also need to reminisce with old Juno. Tomorrow, I'll take you to look around. If you need anything just send word and we'll make sure to take care of it."

Zhao Hai immediately became happy as he said, "That's fantastic, I thank the Patriarch."

Billy waved his hand and said, "No need to be polite. You go rest first while I have some people prepare some food. I'll have someone invite you when the time comes."

Then he turned his head outside and said, "Someone come here!" As his voice fell, a Dwarf came in from outside and bowed to Billy.

Billy nodded and said, "Lead Mister Zhao Hai and his wives to their resting area. Prepare a good room for them, he's our friend, don't neglect him."

The Dwarf complied, then he led Zhao Hai and the others to exit. Seeing Zhao Hai leave, Billy turned to Juno and said, "Old foggy, you've really brought a decent person here this time. The Buddha Empire has been pressing our Dwarf Race in the recent years. If we can do business with Zhao Hai, then we might be able to be unafraid of the Buddha Empire."

Juno smiled bitterly and said, "I actually didn't expect him to hold such high status. It seems like the Buda Clan rising up in one year is not a fluke."

Billy laughed and said, "I must say, you really outdid yourself this time. Right, why would you assist him? Does he have relationship with you? From what I knew, your Hurricane Family and the Buda Clan seems to have no past relations."

Juno chuckled and replied, "Your right, our Hurricane Family and the Buda Clan doesn't have any prior relationship. You might not have known, but Kristen had been the one doing business in the Rosen Empire. But this time, she was attacked by the people of the Radiant Church when she was heading back. If it wasn't for Zhao Hai passing by, Kristen might have been ended."

Billy stared for a moment before his eyes turned cold, "Radiant Church? THE Radiant Church? Why would they dare attack Kristen? No wonder I've been hearing about their churches in the Buddha Empire being picked off. Is it your doing?"

Juno coldly snorted and said, "Our Hurricane Family might have been good, but it doesn't mean that we don't have any temper. If we just let the Radiant Church go, then our family would be shamed in the continent. In the future, we wouldn't be able to hold our heads high in the continent."

Billy laughed at Juno's reply, "Alright, that's good. I have known you for so long, even I became angry with this. No wonder Kristen was not here to pick your goods, you actually sent her to Rosen Empire. That's understandable, that place is not very far..."

Juno smiled bitterly and said, "That's why I sent her there. Fortunately, she didn't succumb to the enemies. If she didn't, then I don't know what I might do."

Billy coldly snorted, "The Radiant Church is now quite weak, but they still dared to make this move. I should've given them a lesson. They came here in the past wanting to preach, fortunately, we drove them away."

Juno said, "The Radiant Church came to preach here? Why didn't I know that? There's no news about this in the continent."

Billy sneered, "They kidnapped a few Dwarves in the past and wanted them to come back here and preach in secret. But when they went to give respects in the Divine Palace, the hammer of the temple discovered them and they were all killed. It was later discovered that they were people of the Radiant Church."

Juno replied, "There's such a thing? I thought that the hammer in the Great Hall is just an ordinary one. Does the hammer really have special abilities?"

Billy looked at Juno and said, "I already told you before, that hammer is a Divine Artifact, but you didn't believe me. Hmph"

After Billy said this, a Dwarf's voice was heard from the outside, "Patriarch, I have something to report."

Billy said, "Come in."

Then the Dwarf guide from before came in and stared at Juno. Billy frowned and said, "Ian, what's wrong? Tell me. Don't worry about Juno, he's our friend, we don't need to hide anything from our friend."

Ian immediately said, "Yes, I've been unfair to Mister Juno." Then he gave a bow to Juno who waved his hand. Then Ian turned his head to Billy and said, "Patriarch, I have something to report about Zhao Hai. When Zhao Hai and Mister Juno went to the Divine Palace to pay respects, Mister Zhao Hai said that he had felt pressure from the Divine Artifact. He says that the Artifact is like a fearful existence surpassing 9th rank."

Juno already heard this from Zhao Hai's own mouth, so he wasn't startled by the report. However, when Billy heard Ian's report, his expression changed immediately, he stood up and looked deeply into Ian's eyes and said, "Really? Did he say this?"

Ian nodded, "Yes, Patriarch. If you don't believe me, then you can ask Mister Juno, he was also present at that time."

Billy turned his head to Juno, Juno didn't understand why Ian's words made Billy tense. But he also knew that this wasn't any small matter, therefore he immediately nodded and said, "Zhao Hai did say that, but I think that he was just cracking a joke. But from what I can see in your expression, it seems like Zhao Hai was telling the truth."

Upon hearing the confirmation, Billy sat back on his chair as he bitterly smiled and said, "So the legend came true, I didn't expect that this day would come."

Juno was confused, he looked at Billy and said, "What's wrong? Aren't those just stories?"

Billy waved his hand, making Ian exit first, then he said, "It isn't that simple, you might have seen Divine Artifacts before, but can you feel their might?"

Juno shook his head and said, "I couldn't. I can't even tell that it was a Divine Artifact. So what's wrong with Zhao Hai knowing the might of Divine Artifacts?"

Billy nodded and said, "It's because of this, there's a legend in our Dwarf Race related to that Divine Artifact. What you said in the past isn't wrong, other than our Dwarf Race, no other race can feel that the hammer is a Divine Artifact. Actually, the legend of our Dwarf Race is really a prophecy. The prophecy says that when a person that is not a Dwarf discover the existence of the Divine Artifact, the entire continent will suffer a catastrophe. However, the person who discovered the Artifact would be the one who would save the entire continent. He would be the saviour of all, the King of Kings."

Juno stared at Billy, he really cannot convince himself to believe the old Dwarf's words. Seeing Juno's expression, Billy bitterly smiled and said, "Besides the Dwarves, no other race knows about this. The exact prophecy goes like this, 'Recognition of the Divine Artifact, Wilting of the Tree of Life, Ruling the Five Forbidden Areas, Of which the Day of Catastrophe will arrive. The King of all, Hero of Salvation, he shall arrive. Aid the Hero, and the Continent will be saved.' This meant that when someone other than our Race recognizes the Divine Artifact, and the Elves' Tree of Life starts to wilt, and also when the Five Forbidden Areas gets conquered, a big disaster shall arrive to the Continent. When the King of all appears and saves the continent, our Dwarf Race would have to follow him and help him save all of the races in the continent."

Juno was shocked at Billy's revelation, he said, "Recognizing the Divine Artifact? Drying of the Tree of Life? Conquering the Five Forbidden Areas? Those are related to each other? So you're saying that Zhao Hai is the person from the prophecy? You and the Elves have contact, what is the situation of their Tree of Life right now?"

Billy shook his head and said, "I don't really know. But this prophecy came along with the Divine Artifact when it appeared in our race. Our Dwarf Race's almanac held these words, I don't think that it's written by just anyone."

Juno was speechless. He knew that the Dwarves' history is much longer than his Hurricane Family. Although the Dwarves have moved several times, their solidarity didn't disappear. Therefore, their race's history shouldn't have been falsely written.