

## **Another World 571**

### Chapter 571 - Whip

Although Humans are very powerful, much powerful than most races, they were also prone to infighting. Because of this, a lot of their historical records disappeared.

However, Dwarves were different, they were extremely united. Therefore, their historical records were much more complete compared to the Humans. So Juno didn't even trust the historical records of the Humans.

Juno frowned and said, "But there seems to be no problem with the Elves' Tree of Life. Also, there hasn't been any signs of the Forbidden Areas being conquered. I don't think the things in your book would happen."

Billy bitterly smiled and said, "I also hope so. Otherwise, huge troubles would come."

Juno sighed and didn't say anything more. He also knew that there was nothing they could do right now. They can just have their ears open to news about the Elf's Tree of Life.

Juno looked at Billy and said, "What are you planning to do with Zhao Hai in the next days?"

Billy smiled and said, "Didn't I tell him that I'd take him around? Although he discovered the Divine Artifact, the prophecy hasn't been confirmed yet. We naturally cannot just follow him."

Juno looked at Billy and said, "If we confirm that the Elves' Tree of Life has problems, would you really follow him?"

Billy's eyes reflected his resolve as he nodded and said, "We shall. If we really confirm the prophecy, then my Dwarf Race shall follow him."

Juno bitterly smiled as he shook his head. Although Billy was his old friend, he cannot understand why Billy would be so resolved to fulfill a prophecy. If the Dwarf Race really followed Zhao Hai, people might see them as a joke.

Zhao Hai didn't know about these, he was currently with Laura and the others as they followed the guide to a mountain cave. When they arrived, the Dwarf stood on its entrance and said, "Mister, if you need anything, don't hesitate to call me. You can also stroll around, it doesn't matter."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he expressed his gratitude to the Dwarf. When Zhao Hai and the others entered the cave, they couldn't help but stare. The interior was actually decorated very well.

The whole cave was covered in wooden boards whether it was the walls or the ground, you can't even see any part of the mountain inside. The whole room was also designed to be suitable for Humans. Even the supplies inside were very carefully prepared for their daily needs.

Laura and the others looked around, they didn't expect the place to be like this. The cave was separated into three rooms; a living room and two bedrooms. Because the place was all decorated with wood, it had the appearance of a historical dwelling.

Since the sun cannot penetrate inside, the rooms of the cave were all furnished with magic lamps. The lamps were quite good, their light was very gentle, it wasn't too dazzling.

Laura and the others explored the area before they returned to the living room. Laura smiled and said, "This place is really good. Compared to the Beastmen, this accommodation is much better. It seems like the Dwarves are doing much better compared to the Beastmen."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Naturally. The Buddha Empire doesn't dare suppress the Dwarves too much. For them, Dwarven products are too important. Moreover, since the Dwarves' income is much higher than the Beastmen, they wouldn't need to contact other Humans for a long time."

Laura nodded and then said, "Brother Hai, I think that the Dwarves are easy to speak with, they even allowed us to stroll around. Do you think we can get to the Elves through the Dwarves?"

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly and shook his head, "I don't think so, I think we first need get the trust of the Dwarves. We need to give them the milk wine tomorrow. Also, I didn't expect them to drink so much. The next batch of delivery is enough to supply the entire mainland."

Laura smiled and said, "You need to get busy. Although they aren't as many as the Beastmen, they still had about the same population as a Human empire. With their reputation of drinking, it would be hard to supply them with milk wine."

Zhao Hai nodded, "It looks like we needed to prepare more machines so that Grandpa Green can speed up the production of rice wine and beer. It also seems like the Dwarves preferred beer more."

Laura was puzzled, "Really? Their tastes are surely strange. But it's still a good idea to get more machines. Our current production in the winery is just not enough. We also have a shortage of manpower, but I think we should get more people when the lands are fully cultivated."

Zhao Hai agreed, "I also need to have Lin send the second batch of slaves sooner. As long as we have more slaves, our shortage of manpower would be saved."

Laura nodded, then she smiled and said, "Brother Hai, why don't we just have the Undead help work in the wineries? Wouldn't they count as manpower as well?"

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly and said, "We could, we have a lot of undead at hand. But if we want to stabilize the clan, depending on the undead is not a good idea. Also, we have new slaves in the Wasteland. I don't think they would feel good if they see countless undead working."

At this time, a knock could be heard outside. Meg immediately stood up and opened the door to see a Dwarf standing outside. The Dwarf looked at Meg and bowed, "Please, tell Mister Zhao Hai that the Patriarch is inviting him over for a meal."

Zhao Hai went over and then smiled to the Dwarf and said, "Alright, then please." Then he went out of the cave and followed the Dwarf.

The Dwarf lead them to another cave. The cave was very big, making Zhao Hai and the others stare blankly for a moment. Inside the cave were a lot of tables. Beside the tables where Billy and Juno were present, the other tables also had Dwarves in them.

Seeing Zhao Hai come, Billy immediately came to welcome him, "Mister Zhao Hai, please come over. I'll also have to invite the madames to please sit on that table." He pointed to the table next to them. The

table was filled with Dwarf women, with empty seats among them. It seems like those spots were prepared for Laura and the others.

Laura and the others also knew about customs, so they didn't decline and after thanking Billy, then went and sat down on their table. Then Zhao Hai went to sit with Billy.

After having settled down, Dwarf women immediately came to serve the food. Zhao Hai also paid attention to the female Dwarves. They weren't tall, at about 1.4m in height. But their statures were very good, they looked quite skilled in the crafts, their skin might be brown, but they look dull of vitality. One could see that they were quite healthy.

Zhao Hai also inspected the dishes on the table. They're very good, there were some meat as well as vegetables. There were even some dishes that Zhao Hai cannot recognize, it seems like these were unique to the Dwarves.

Then Billy poured Zhao Hai a glass of liquor. This liquor was actually Zhao Hai's milk wine. Ever since milk wine appeared on the continent, the Dwarves had been buying them in bulk. Since they wanted to entertain someone like Zhao Hai, naturally they cannot serve him potato wine.

After pouring wine for himself, Billy raised his glass to Zhao Hai and said, "I'll represent the Dwarf Race to welcome Mister Zhao Hai. I hope that our cooperation would become smooth in the future."

Zhao Hai also raised his glass and smiled, "That is for certain." Then they drank the wine. Billy immediately turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, please have a taste of our dishes, I hope you take a liking to them."

Zhao Hai wasn't polite, he immediately took his knife and fork and tasted the dishes on the table. The dishes of the Dwarves tasted very good, Zhao Hai cannot help but nod and said, "This is very good. It's different from Human dishes, but it's very delicious."

Billy laughed and said, "It's good that you liked it. Mister Zhao Hai, I heard that when you visited the Divine Palace, you said that the Divine Artifact isn't ordinary. I want to ask if you can really feel it?"

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't think that Billy would ask him about this. However, he also knew that it wasn't impossible to hide this matter. It was because Juno as well as the Dwarf guide had already heard him saying this. Therefore, he didn't conceal the truth, he nodded and said, "Of course, there's no problem."

Then Zhao Hai wrinkled his brows and said, "How should I describe it? When I first saw the hammer I also thought that it was ordinary. However, immediately after that, I felt a huge pressure coming from it. I thought that the pressure was coming from the Great Hall, however, it actually came from the hammer. Moreover, I felt that it seems to be like an expert, even more formidable than 9th rank experts."

After that, Zhao Hai put out his hand and unraveled Mu'er who was on his waist and showed it to Billy, "This whip came from my Brother, the Herculean Bull Patriarch, gave to me. It's called the Beast King's whip, it's a very powerful weapon. Without even using Battle Qi or Magic, it can contend against 9th rank experts. But I can feel that the hammer at your Great Hall is much more formidable than this whip.

Billy stared at the the whip on Zhao Hai's hand. He received the whip and took a closer look at it. He had never seen this whip before, but he can feel a pressure coming from it. It might not be as strong as the hammer, but Billy can feel that it was there.

Not only Billy, but Juno was also inspecting the whip. Like Billy, Juno also felt the pressure from the whip. Juno felt like he wasn't looking at a whip, but instead a powerful living creature that was a 9th rank expert.

## Chapter 572 - Asking for Help

For a weapon to feel like this made Juno startled. He had not come across such a matter.

But when Billy looked at the whip, his two eyes shined, after some time, he gave the whip back to Zhao Hai and then said, "I'll be impolite and ask Mister, does this whip have an Artifact Spirit?"

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't expect Billy to know about the existence of Artifact Spirits. But since he knew that there was no point in hiding anything from Billy, he nodded and said, "Yes."

Billy was moved, he stood up and pulled Zhao Hai outwards. Before he walked out, he instructed the Dwarves, "Bring the food to my room, I have a matter to discuss with Mister Zhao Hai. Old friend, you go with us as well."

Juno naturally followed Billy and Zhao Hai. He also wanted to know what this was about. Laura and the others were also puzzled as they looked at the three, but they didn't go and follow.

Before long, the three people arrived at Billy's room. This was Billy's personal room, not a place for him to work in. The room was a standard room for Dwarves. It wasn't very big, it had a living room, a bedroom, and a small comfort room, it seems like it was used for washing.

After the three had sat on the living room, Billy immediately looked at Zhao Hai and said, "The Artifact Spirit of the whip, can it materialize?"

Zhao Hai gawked, Mu'er can indeed materialize, but he hasn't shown Mu'er's form to an outsider before. But Billy was knowledgeable, knowing not only about Artifact Spirits but also materialization.

After weighing the pros and cons, Zhao Hai decided to show it to Billy. Billy immediately pulled him over to his room as soon as he found out about the Artifact spirit, so naturally he didn't want other to know about it. Zhao Hai trusted Juno as well, Juno wasn't someone who would reveal people's secrets.

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Yes."

Billy's expression turned even more serious, his beard seemed to shake. Then he looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, can I ask you to let me see the Artifact Spirit?" His voice seem to be out of tune.

Zhao Hai didn't understand why Billy was so moved. But he knew that Billy treated this matter seriously, therefore he nodded and said, "Alright." Then Zhao Hai held the whip and said, "Mu'er come out."

Just after Zhao Hai's voice fell, Mu'er's figure slowly appeared on top of the whip. As usual, Mu'er had the appearance of a little boy. After he materialized, Mu'er immediately bowed to Zhao Hai and said, "Young Master, you called me."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "This is the Dwarf Race's Patriarch Billy and this is Hurricane Family's Patriarch Juno, go give them respects."

Mu'er turned to look at Billy and Juno and then bowed slightly and said, "Mu'er has seen the two Patriarchs."

Billy and Juno looked at Mu'er, Juno hasn't seen this matter before, but Billy was startled, he didn't expect Mu'er to be intelligent. It can actually talk like a Human with them, this was out of his imagination.

In the Dwarf records regarding Artifact Spirits, it said that Artifact Spirits had gained Spiritual Wisdom. It can listen to their master's words, but it was impossible for them to be intelligent. Therefore, the appearance of Mu'er made Billy, who was quite knowledgeable in this area, quite startled.

After some time, Billy recovered, however his shocked face was still facing Mu'er. His mouth opened and closed repeatedly, as if he didn't know what to say.

At the same time, Juno was also shocked at Mu'er, he didn't think that a whip can actually speak with them. He hadn't heard of such a matter.

Zhao Hai looked at Billy and smiled faintly, "Patriarch Billy, you hadn't said anything. Is something wrong?"

At this time, a knock was heard from outside. Zhao Hai immediately retrieved Mu'er as Billy and Juno sobered up. Billy then said, "Come in."

Then Dwarves came in and delivered some tableware and dishes to Zhao Hai and the others before they bowed and left.

After the Dwarves left, Billy had completely recovered his composure. When the three had sat down, Billy immediately drank some liquor before he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Is the Artifact Spirit already present when you acquired the whip?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "It was. But he cannot do materialization at that time, and he wasn't intelligent as well. Later on, I used a secret method to make him materialize and become intelligent."

When Billy heard Zhao Hai, he lost grip of his cup as it fell down to the ground. He looked straight into Zhao Hai's eyes with unbelieving expression as he said, "You, you, you said that you used a secret method to make the Artifact Spirit materialize?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "It's true. Mu'er wasn't like this at first. But after I used my secret method, he was able to materialize and become what he is right now."

Billy stood up, then he walked back and forth. After two laps, he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Can I ask Mister for a favor?"

Zhao Hai stared, he was puzzled as he asked, "Patriarch, please say it."

Billy sat down and looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Mister has also seen my race's Divine Artifact. I suspect that it also has an Artifact Spirit inside. Although the Artifact can also communicate with us right now, it was only limited to simple reactions. I want to ask mister to use his secret method and make our Divine Artifact just like your whip. Can you do this?"

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't expect Bill to request this of him. He thought for a moment and then said, "I'm still not sure if I can succeed, I can only try. If I become unsuccessful, I hope Patriarch doesn't blame me."

Billy became glad as he replied, "That's not strange, not strange at all, so there's no reason to blame you. Mister can rest assured. When can mister do it?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Tonight, bring the Divine Artifact to my dwelling and make sure nobody disturbs me. If I succeed tomorrow, then it's good. If I don't, no matter how much time I'm given, I'm unlikely to succeed."

Billy was elated, "Good, Mister can rest assured, I'll have everything prepared immediately." Then he didn't say anything else as he went outside.



Seeing the excited Billy, Juno turned to Zhao Hai and smiled, "Little Hai, you're really good, helping the Dwarves so much. But what is this Artifact Spirit?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "This Artifact Spirit is actually a unique kind of spirit. It's just like Lich that has been summoned by a Dark Mage. Because it has some kind of soul, it held resentment and reason. Artifact Spirits manifest in weapons, after a very long time, that weapon would slowly form its own consciousness which would in turn become a Spirit Body. However, this Spirit Body wouldn't be able to separate itself from the weapon, like how a person's soul cannot leave its body. I have a method to make this Spirit Body more powerful, this is how Mu'er appeared."

Juno nodded, Zhao Hai explained it to him in terms that he could understand, but he still couldn't feel how formidable these Artifact Spirits were. Therefore, the two just stayed and drank as they chatted along.

Meanwhile, Billy has actually been very busy. He used haste in inviting the elders of the Dwarf Race, then he expressed Mu'er's existence to them and telling them about his plan.

Like Billy, the elders were moved, the Divine Artifact was very important to the Dwarves. If the Divine Artifact can manifest its Artifact Spirit, then the Dwarves would benefit a lot from it.

The elders immediately agreed to Billy's plan. They believed that Billy wouldn't deceive them with regards of this matter. Seeing the elders simultaneously agreeing, Billy immediately had them group up inside the Great Hall. He and the elders bathed themselves and changed their clothes as they prepared to hand their Divine Artifact over to Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai didn't know about any of these, after eating his meal with Juno, he immediately returned to his room. At this time, Laura and the others were already back, when they saw Zhao Hai, they immediately greeted them as Laura asked, "Brother Hai, what happened? What did the Dwarf Patriarch call you for? He looked very worried."

Zhao Hai nodded and smiled, "It's about the hammer in their Divine Palace, that this is the Divine Artifact of the Dwarves. The hammer also had its own Artifact Spirit, just like Mu'er, however, the spirit is very weak. The Dwarves wanted me to have their Divine Artifact be improved to the level of Mu'er. I agreed to try."

Laura nodded and said, "So it's that. So, are you confident?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I'm really not. But I think that the Space would be able to improve the spirit. If we help the Dwarves, then they would surely think of us as true friends. When the time comes where we need to get in contact with the Elves, then they might lend us a helping hand."

Megan smiled and said, "That's great. I really wanted to go and visit the Elves. I heard that all of them were extraordinarily attractive, and they were born artists. I wanted to see what they are like."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Rest assured, we will have the opportunity to do so. I think that the Dwarves are getting prepared right now. I told them to not disturb me this evening, I can't just let them feel like I've done it quite easily."

Lizzy frowned, "But Big Brother Hai, does Mister Juno know?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "He knows, but it's fine. With his relationship with the Dwarves, I don't think that he would tell anyone. If he reveals Mu'er as well as the Dwarves' Divine Artifact, then he would be offending the entire Dwarf Race, he wouldn't want to do that. Also, even if other people knew about Mu'er, they still can't do anything about it, given the Buda Clan's present strength."

Laura nodded, "Brother Hai is right. It's much more important to help the Dwarves and make friends with them. I support Brother Hai's decision."

Lizzy also nodded. Just like Zhao Hai said, even if the other people knew about Mu'er, how many of them would want to offend the Buda Clan? With the Buda Clan's present strength, they aren't afraid of anyone.

## Chapter 573 - Divine Realm?

The skies outside slowly became dark. While the other Dwarves were heading home, they were still clueless about what Billy was planning to do. Billy didn't want this matter to be known to a lot of people, therefore, he didn't announce it.

Zhao Hai didn't walk around, he just stayed in his room while waiting for Billy to arrive. When the skies turned completely black, Billy and the other elders arrived at Zhao Hai's room.

After Zhao Hai asked them to come inside, Billy carefully and with full respect, lowered the hammer towards the table. Then he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, this is our race's Divine Artifact, we must ask for your help."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I'll do my best. Please help me maintain the conditions outside. Laura, you and the others please assist me."

Laura and the others complied and cleaned the table, leaving a big area for the hammer. Upon seeing this arrangement, Billy's group immediately said their goodbyes and then went outside. The group didn't move far away, they just stood at the distance, waiting for Zhao Hai. Naturally, they were also prepared to guard Zhao Hai's dwelling this night.

After Billy's group left, Zhao Hai immediately held the hammer as he flashed to the Space with Laura and the others. Upon entering the Space, a prompt was then heard, "Item with weak Spirit detected, strengthening the Item's Spirit." Then Zhao Hai saw the hammer flash with red light as a figure slowly appeared in front of him.

Zhao Hai gawked, he discovered that the tone of the Space has changed compared to the last time when it upgraded Mu'er. But after he thought about it, the Space had already been upgraded many times, and it also had acquired new abilities and had become more magical, therefore, it was natural for it to change its tone.

The Space was acting like program before, but now it's speech had gotten much smoother. This was good for Zhao Hai, now he was really anticipating how the Space would evolve in the future.

At this time, the figure had almost completed its appearance, which also stemmed Zhao Hai's anticipation. It seems like the hammer's Artifact Spirit was a Dwarf.

The Dwarf looked at Zhao Hai and then said, "Who are you? You're not a Dwarf, why can you awaken me?"

Zhao Hai stared, then he understood that this Artifact Spirit was more advanced than Mu'er, it might also know something. So Zhao Hai immediately said, "Hello, I am a friend to the Dwarves. I have a method to make you materialize, therefore they asked me to help you do it."

The Artifact Spirit nodded. And at this time, a prompt was heard from the Space, "Spirit is not willing to submit to the Host, the Space will subdue it!" And as the prompt ended, a bunch of white light suddenly wrapped the Dwarf Artifact Spirit. The Spirit roared for a moment before it turned silent. After the white light vanished, the Dwarf was seen again, respectfully standing in front of Zhao Hai this time.

Zhao Hai was shocked when he heard the Space's prompt. He wasn't expecting the Space to help him subdue the Artifact Spirit. He stood there in a daze, waiting for the Space to finish.

Zhao Hai looked at the respectful Artifact Spirit in front of him and couldn't help but smile bitterly. If the Dwarves were to know that he had subdued their Divine Artifact's Spirit, won't they get offended?

While he was bitterly smiling, Zhao Hai looked at the Artifact Spirit and said, "What is your name? Do you remember anything?"

The Artifact Spirit respectfully answered Zhao Hai, "Yes, my name is Iron Hammer. My master is the Artisan God Hom. I was sent by master to the lower realm in order to protect the Dwarves."

Zhao Hai stared, he was confused, so he looked at Iron Hammer and said, "Lower Realm? What's that?"

Iron Hammer replied, "Lower Realm refers to the world where beings like humans lived in, the Ark Continent. The Ark Continent is only a plane, a single plane among many in this universe. I came from a place called the Divine Realm. Ten thousand years ago, my master was the most powerful warrior and skilled artisan in the Dwarf Race. When he broke through and reached godhood, he went to the Divine Realm. But in order for the Dwarves to live well, he sent me back and act as the race's Divine Artifact and protect the Dwarves."

Zhao Hai was shocked, he didn't think that this universe would have a Divine Realm, moreover, there were actually Gods.

After some time, Zhao Hai looked at Iron Hammer and then said, "Is there really a Divine Realm? Does that Realm have many Gods?"

Iron Hammer nodded and then continued, "The current elemental density in the continent is very low. But tens of thousands of years ago, it's density was very high. At that time, people were strong, and there were a lot of 9th rank experts. After passing 9th rank, one would reach godhood. As long as one becomes a God, one could break through the space and reach the Divine Realm, where the elemental density is much higher than here. There are also natives in the Divine Realm. They were immediately 5th rank when they are born. When they reach adulthood, they would reach the power of a 9th rank expert. With enough training, it wouldn't be difficult for them to become Gods or even stronger."

Zhao Hai listened to Iron Hammer's words, he really wasn't expecting any of these. Then Iron Hammer spoke again, "In the beginning, these natives looked down on those who came from the Ark Continent, causing both sides to repeatedly wage war with each other. In the end, the experts from the Ark Continent went into an alliance, slowly solidifying their footing in the Divine Realm. Later on, they became connected to the natives through inter-marriages, and they fully integrated with each other. However, a time came when Human Gods and the Gods of other races came into conflict. Humans prepared to have a God of their own to descend and kill the descendants of the other races. But since it was difficult for a God to descend to lower realms, they used Divine Power in order to break the Space, sending that God to the continent. However, my Master and the others found out about the plan of the Humans. But since they don't have a means to make a God descend, they opted to send weapons capable of dealing with that God instead. Therefore, me, along with the Beast God's Spear, and the Spirit God's Bow, were sent to the Dwarves, Beastmen, and Elves respectively, making the three races unite together in order to deal with the Human god. With the three of us, the races fought with that God, injuring him in the process, making him return to the Divine Realm. But since the three of us were heavily damaged, we cannot go back. So we returned to our respective races and became their Divine Protectors."

Zhao Hai and the others were quite startled by all of these. They didn't expect a conflict of this scale to have happened in the continent tens of thousands of years ago.

Zhao Hai immediately said, "How about the five Forbidden Lands and the Demon Realm? Do you know anything about those?"

Iron Hammer nodded and said, "I know. The Five Forbidden Lands were originally major dwelling places of the races in the continent, they were also protecting a magical formation. When the God descended to the lower realm and waged war with the races, these major cities were destroyed. But along with their destruction, the formation was also destroyed, connecting the Ark Continent with the Demon Realm. The Demon Realm is another place, it's living conditions were very bad. When the people from

the Demon Realm discovered that the conditions in the Ark Continent were very good, their greed immediately seeped in. They sent an army to the Ark Continent to invade it, but was also repelled by the joint alliance of all the races. When the Demons retreated, the cracks on those major cities were still left behind, making the barrier on those places quite thin. This would explain the times where some creatures from the Demon realm would emerge from those places, making it their territory.”

Zhao Hai nodded and then said, “If the barrier between the Demon Realm and the Ark Continent is easily passed through, they why is the barrier to the Divine Realm so difficult to break? Are the people in the Divine Realm not strong enough?”

Iron Hammer shook his head and said, “Not necessarily. Each place has its own unique rules. The Ark Continent is also the same, here, the rules state that God ranked experts cannot stay for a long time. It would be impossible for Gods to stay here for more than six months. This rule made it easy for people to leave the continent and head to the Divine Realm compared to going back. Because of this, not only would it be difficult for person to descend from the Divine Realm, it would also be difficult for them to stay. But since the Demon Realm is on the same level as the Ark Continent, the barrier between the two of them is thinner. However, God ranked experts of the Demon Realm were also similarly restricted by the Ark Continent’s rules. Therefore, only experts below God-ranked were able to come and invade the continent in the previous war.”

Zhao Hai nodded, “So as you say, the Demon Realm is not like the Divine Realm but the same as the Ark Continent? Also, if the Ark continent doesn’t allow God-level experts to stay, why are you still here?”

Iron Hammer replied, “We’re only weapons, not experts. People would need to use us first in order to display our power. The stronger the person, the stronger the power we can display. During the war, 9th rank experts needed to join up in order to use me to go against the God-ranked invader.”

Zhao Hai nodded, he now had more understanding about this matter. Iron Hammer was actually from the Divine Realm. Zhao Hai looked at Iron Hammer and said, “Do you have any information about the Divine Realm that you can tell me?”

Iron Hammer nodded and said, “Young Master, the Divine Realm is divided into 13 regions, the largest of which is the central continent. Then remaining 12 continents were placed around the central continent and they were named; Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces Continents. The way that people from the Divine Realm cultivate is much different that the Ark Continent. The main practice in here is related or offshoots of Magic and Battle Qi. But in the Divine Realm, the people practice Origin Force, which is much more formidable compared to Magic

and Battle Qi. Moreover, the weapons that were used in the Divine Realm all had their own Artifact Spirits, one could also remotely control them, increasing their might.”

Zhao Hai nodded, but his mood was heavy. It seems like there are more formidable people in the Divine Realm compared to the Ark Continent. If those people from the Divine Realm were to invade, what would he do?

Most importantly, Zhao Hai was worried. If he goes to the Divine Realm in the future, will the Space still be able to protect him?

After thinking about this, Zhao Hai felt that he needed to increase his strength more. He immediately looked at Iron Hammer and said, “Iron Hammer, when you’ve been on the continent, did you come upon any good things?”

Iron Hammer nodded and said, “I have. The last battle with that God-ranked expert was actually here, in Dwarf Mountain. There is a place deep in the mountains where the God was injured and had his blood spill out. Blood of a God-ranked being is very precious, its full of energy. If ordinary people touch it, they would explode. Therefore, that place has become a forbidden area for the Dwarves.”

Zhao Hai’s two eyes lit up. If people explode when interacting with that energy, then what would the Space’s reaction be?

The Space needed a lot of things to be upgraded. Zhao Hai still wasn’t sure if a God’s blood would be able to level up the Space. But even if it can’t, it would surely bring a lot of benefits to its environment.

Moreover, after Zhao Hai listened to Iron Hammer’s testimony, he suddenly remembered the time when Zhao Wen first entered the Space. Zhao Wen told him that she became a 9th rank expert shortly after drinking some kind of red liquid. Could the liquid that Zhao Wen had drank be the blood of a God-ranked expert?

However, Zhao Hai changed his mind. If Zhao Wen did drink the blood of a God-ranked expert, then she should have already exploded. People weren’t able to withstand that kind of energy, much less a Blood Devouring Mosquito.

But Zhao Hai also thought of another possibility. It might have been a God-ranked expert's blood, but it might be a diluted version of it. This would explain how Zhao Wen was able to withstand such energy.

The more he thought about it, the more Zhao Hai was convinced of his theory. If this was indeed true, then the more he was eager to get it. Perhaps they can find a way to make 9th rank experts with this method.

After thinking about these, Zhao Hai turned to Iron Hammer and said, "Iron Hammer, you stay here and protect the Dwarves. They still don't know that you have submitted to me. Right, as far as the matter with the Divine Realm is concerned, do refrain from telling the Dwarves about it for now, understand?"

#### Chapter 574 - Eternal Friend

Iron Hammer nodded and said, "Yes, Young Master, I understand."

Zhao Hai also nodded and said, "Protect the Dwarves properly, don't let any trouble come to them, I don't want to worry. Just tell them that the Gods had sent you as a weapon to protect the Dwarf Race, no need to tell anything about the Gods, understood?"

Iron Hammer nodded, "Young Master can rest assured, this one would surely not tell anyone."

Zhao Hai gave a nod and then released Mu'er and told him, "That's great, I'll be resting now. Mu'er, stay with Iron Hammer for a while, tell him about the Space."

Mu'er complied, then Zhao Hai and the others returned to the Space to rest. Zhao Hai wasn't afraid that Iron Hammer would reveal the Space. Iron Hammer was already subdued by the Space, so it was impossible for him to betray it.

The night passed by silently as Zhao Hai and the others took a good rest inside the Space. On the other hand, Billy and the others were wide awake, all of them were anxiously guarding Zhao Hai's cave, not allowing anyone to approach it at this time. They were afraid that an accident might happen. This matter was truly very important to their race.



The next morning, Zhao Hai and the others got up and washed themselves before they reappeared inside the cave. After taking care of the layout of the room, Zhao Hai opened his door and allowed Billy and the others to come in. Upon entering the cave, the Dwarves were nervously looking at Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai smiled faintly as he held Iron Hammer in both of his hand and said. "Good fortune truly follows the Dwarf Race. I ask Patriarch Billy to take a look."

Billy's hands were shaking as he received Iron Hammer. Then he bowed to Zhao Hai, "Mister's great kindness would surely go unforgotten by our Dwarf Race. I ask mister to take a rest first, we'll take care of the Artifact ourselves." Zhao Hai nodded. Then Billy and the others left the room.

With Iron Hammer in his arms, Billy, along with the other elders, returned to the Divine Palace. Right after placing Iron Hammer on its place and asking all unrelated people to go out, Billy went to Iron Hammer and respectfully said, "I ask Sir Iron Hammer to come out!"

After his voice fell, Iron Hammer slowly appeared in front of the Dwarves. "Dwarf Patriarch, I've always been conscious all these years, so I know about all the Dwarf's matters. However, I wasn't able to materialize until now. Let me tell you about my origin. I am the Artisan God's weapon, tens of thousands of years ago, when he was about to ascend, he was worried about the well-being of the race, so he decided to leave me behind to protect it. But I was injured in a war, so I can only recuperate in my hammer form, cannot come out. I'm fortunate that someone with skill managed to assist me. But the thing that I can still do is protect the Dwarves, I can't do anything else for you."

The reason why Iron Hammer dared say this was because in the war tens of thousands of years ago with the descended God, the historical records of various nations have vanished. This was the reason why the Dwarves didn't have any record of Iron Hammer's appearance in their race. The only thing that they know was that Iron Hammer was their Divine Protector. Therefore, Iron Hammer told this fact to Billy which would also make the latter not ask about any matters in the Divine Realm.

He can tell Billy that he came from the Divine Realm, but he didn't want to tell them about the Divine Realm. At the same time, Billy and the others didn't dare to ask anymore. Iron Hammer is their Divine Artifact, so they treated Iron Hammer with the respect that they would give their God. They wouldn't dare to scrutinize the words of their Divine Protector.

Billy and the others respectfully nodded. Then Iron Hammer said, "I've already talked about this next matter with Mister Zhao Hai. He helped me in a big way this time, so I decided to give him a gift. The things in the Forbidden Land would be given to Mister Zhao Hai."

Billy stared, naturally he knew about the Forbidden Land in Iron Mountain. That place was a red pool which stench of blood. As long as a person gets in contact with that liquid, they would explode and perish. Therefore, it was named Forbidden Land. How could the Artifact Spirit give such a place to Zhao Hai?

Iron Hammer looked at Billy and said, "That thing is useless to the Dwarves. But Mister Zhao Hai has uses for it, so I decided to just give it to him. Mister Zhao Hai also needed some special Magic beasts and Plants, we must make sure that our Dwarf Race helps him in this matter in the future. There's no other way for us to repay his benevolence."

After Iron Hammer told them about these, he looked at Billy and said, "Alright, you still have a lot of things to do as a Patriarch. As long as the Dwarves don't experience a huge difficulty, I won't be coming out. You can now retreat." Then his body slowly vanished into the small hammer.

Billy and the others were fully obedient towards Iron Hammer, so they also turned around to leave. Although they were extremely happy, they also knew that this matter needed to be known to as few people as possible. If a lot of people knew about Iron Hammer, then it wouldn't be good for the Dwarf Race.

Billy and the others returned to their conference room to work. Billy strictly instructed the other elders that they absolutely should not tell this matter to others.

After discussing this, Billy sat there and looked at the elders and said, "For the Divine Artifact to materialize is all thanks to Mister Zhao Hai. We should also keep this matter from the others, otherwise, we would be doing Mister Zhao Hai a disservice. Moreover, I'll be sending word later telling everyone that Mister Zhao Hai is our race's genuine friend. Everyone should respect him, does everyone have any ideas?"

The other elders shook his head, they don't have any other opinion. Zhao Hai has truly helped them out. They already see Zhao Hai as a true friend.

Seeing that nobody disagreed, Billy continued, "Good, I'll spread the word later on. Right, have people collect some special Magic beasts and Plants as well. Since Mister needs these things, then we should do our best to help him out."

The other elders agreed, then they turned around to leave. Billy also changed his clothes as he walked to Zhao Hai's room. When he was outside Zhao Hai's cave, Billy felt hesitant, he thought that Zhao Hai was very exhausted of what just happened, so it was possible that he was resting at this time. He didn't know if disturbing Zhao Hai would be appropriate this time.

At this moment, Zhao Hai opened the room and walked out, he looked at Billy and said, "Patriarch Billy, come in."

Billy gave Zhao Hai a small nod before entering Zhao Hai's room. Upon entering, Billy was about to give Zhao Hai a bow before Zhao Hai stopped him hastily and said, "Patriarch Billy is too polite, there's no need to do so."

Billy looked grateful at Zhao Hai and said, "We're very lucky this time due to Mister's help. Otherwise, Sir Artifact Spirit wouldn't be able to materialize. Our Dwarf Race would be forever grateful to mister."

After Zhao Hai invited Billy to sit down, he smiled and said, "Patriarch is too serious, I just happen to have this ability, so since I was able to help, there's no reason to not do so. Patriarch doesn't need to take it seriously, I also see the Dwarves as my friends. Helping a friend is no big deal."

Billy looked at Zhao Hai in gratitude as he said, "Mister is truly a friend. Rest assured, Mister's Buda Clan would be our Dwarf Race's Eternal Friends. Right, I'll have to invite Mister to eat. After the meal, I'll be taking mister to our Dwarves' Forbidden Land. Sir Artifact Spirit told us to give the things in the Forbidden Land to mister."

Zhao Hai nodded and in embarrassment he said, "I'm ashamed to be in front of Patriarch. My family's refining master is truly curious about these things. Since I have Space equipments, I can handle those things. Sir Artifact Spirit also told me that those things are useless to the Dwarves, so I thickened my face to ask for them."

Billy smiled and said, "Mister doesn't need to say anything more. The Blood Pond in the Forbidden Land is truly poisonous. As long as one comes in contact with it, their body would surely explode. Keeping

that thing here is only a disaster waiting to happen. For mister to take them away is akin to helping us erase an evil, this is enough to make us happy. As the matter stands, it's us who have been unfair to mister. If Mister has any need for our assistance in the future, then please don't hesitate to send word."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Then I would take Patriarch's words at heart, this Zhao Hai's gratefulness is endless."

Billy laughed and then said, "Mister should not be polite. Mister, let's walk and have a meal. After that, we'll go to the Blood Pond. I also had the others collect Magic Beasts and Plants for mister. I believe that they could deliver those to mister soon. This is a sign of our gratitude."

Zhao Hai also knew that if he declines or offer something in compensation, he would seem ingenuine and in turn making Billy unhappy. This was one of the differences between Humans and Dwarves. Therefore, Zhao Hai didn't decline, he just smiled and said, "Then I have to thank the Patriarch."

Seeing Zhao Hai receive their gifts, Billy immediately became happy and then said, "Mister is too polite, right, let's get going and have a meal." Then he pulled Zhao Hai towards the Dining Hall.

Laura and the others also followed them out. At the same time, they also met Juno along the way. Billy invited Juno for a meal as well. Although Zhao Hai was his new friend, his many years of friendship with Juno isn't something to be forgotten.

Seeing Billy's expression, Juno knew that yesterday's matter had gone very smoothly. Juno couldn't help but be surprised at Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai seemed to be much more mysterious in his mind. At the same time, Juno also resolved himself to establish a relationship with Zhao Hai. Not only because of him saving Kristen, but also because of Zhao Hai's abilities.

The Hurricane Family was strong by themselves, but the reason why they had their influence was because of their relationship with others. They didn't offend anyone, whether it be the Buddha Empire or the other Nobles, all of them had good relationships with the family. This was the reason why the Hurricane Family can settle down and live with their current lifestyle.

And since Zhao Hai was the Patriarch of the emerging Buda Clan, his power and influence in the continent had become very powerful. This kind of person wasn't someone that Juno doesn't want to neglect.

## Chapter 575 - Forbidden Land

After the group arrived at the Dining Hall, Zhao Hai discovered that although there were still people in the hall, it wasn't as many as yesterday. Moreover, the hall before had young Dwarves in it, but this time, only old ones were present.

After Billy introduced them, Zhao Hai understood that they were the elders of the race. Zhao Hai didn't dare neglect their presence, so he immediately gave them a salute.

The other elders were also very polite to Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai, Billy, and the others were sitting on one table. On the other hand, Laura and the others sat on the another table along with similar aged Dwarves.

This Dwarf custom of also inviting the companions of a guests to a dinner was something that Zhao Hai liked very much.

While the group sat down and ate, the elders kept urging Zhao Hai to drink. However, Zhao Hai didn't want to, drinking during the day was something that he doesn't do. But since he was been given hospitality, he couldn't help but drink a few glasses.

Juno has been watching Zhao Hai getting along with the Dwarf elders. Although Zhao Hai had given the Dwarves a huge favor, there was no change in Zhao Hai's temperament. He was still very respectful to the elders, just like how he acted before. It was as if nothing happened.

This made Juno settle on Zhao Hai. There were very few people on the continent that were like Zhao Hai. One must know that the Dwarves were viewed by other Humans as a different type of people. Because of this, every time a Human interacts with a Dwarf, they would always fish for huge benefits from them. At the same time, Humans were also looking down on the Dwarves. Therefore, general Humans, even if they benefited from the Dwarves, wouldn't act the same as what Zhao Hai was doing.

After eating their meal, Zhao Hai didn't go to the Forbidden Lands along with Billy immediately. He first returned to his room and drank one cup of Spatial Water to sober himself up. Only after that did he come out of his room.

Billy and Juno were currently sitting inside Billy's cave. When a Dwarf led Zhao Hai to the cave, the two who were chatting immediately stood up.

Zhao Hai quickly asked the two to sit down, then he bitterly smiled and said, "I'll be frank to you two, my alcohol capacity is too limited. Since I drank some glasses, I needed to return to my room to drink something in order to sober up.

Drinks for sobering up was quite common in the continent, especially to the Nobles. Offering and receiving hospitality in the Human lands also involved some sort of drinking. Since being drunk is uncomfortable, the people in the continent asked some potion masters to make them something that can sober them up.

Billy didn't care about it, he just smiled faintly and said, "it's no big deal. We Dwarves are already used to it. Haha. Mister, let's head to the Forbidden Land."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright."

Billy nodded, and then he stood up, Juno stood up as well. It seems like he intended to come along with Zhao Hai. Seeing Billy's expression, it seems like there was no problem. This was understandable, after all, Juno was an extremely trustworthy person, and he already knew quite a bit about this matter. Even if one doesn't tell him anything, he would still know of it sooner or later. As the matter stands, it's much better to just tell Juno everything in order to not lose his trust.

Billy led Zhao Hai and the others out of the cave and then walked towards another underground river channel. They sat on a boat and then proceeded to travel along the Iron Mountains.

The Dwarves' Iron Mountains was quite big, but the Dwarves were smart. As soon as they discovered this underground river system, they immediately utilized it to be their transportation channel. When they came to know that this underground system spanned the entirety of the mountains, it became an important line for the entire Dwarf race, which made their travel much more convenient.

The speed of their boat was very fast. After two hours, the group disembarked on a pier. This pier was quite empty and wasn't as busy as the others. There weren't any other ships present here at all. After Billy got off the boat, he had a Dwarf wait for them here and went towards the area where the pier was connected to.

The mountain that the pier was located in was just like any other Dwarf Mountain. It seems like this was where the Forbidden Land was, otherwise, there wouldn't be much absence of Dwarves here.

Zhao Hai was now very amazed at these Dwarves. The map of the Dwarf Mountains were now almost mapped out in the Space. Seeing the display made Zhao Hai feel how extraordinary this race was.

With how long the Dwarves have lived in these mountains, the mountains seemed to become their own underground world. The underground water system looks like an enormous spider web, connecting Dwarves from various mountains together. How much work was needed to do this? Yet the Dwarves were able to accomplish this task, it was unfathomable.

The people came out of the mountain and was placed outside a small canyon outside the mountain. The Dwarves has built some fences made of wood around this canyon. It seems like they didn't want people to go and enter the canyon.

Zhao Hai investigated the canyon. It wasn't very big, about a thousand square meters. The middle of this canyon was a several square meter pool. But the water in this pool was actually blood. Moreover, this canyon didn't have any plants, the stones in this canyon seemed to turn reddish due to the pool's liquid.

Whether it was Zhao Hai or Juno, both of them felt a massive pressure coming from the pool. Zhao Hai even felt that this pressure was something much stronger than Iron Hammer's.

Billy stood at the mouth of the mountain's cave and stared at the canyon before he sighed and said, "I didn't know when this mountain canyon has started to exist. When we Dwarves came here, this place already existed. We immediately named it as a Forbidden Place not just because of the blood pool, but also because of those red stones. Once someone touched those stones, their bodies would turn violent before they died. We also intended to study this place, but our findings always turn out nothing."

After introducing the place, Billy turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, I'll be clear to you. We've dug the places around this canyon and found that there are large volumes of high yield iron ore present here. It's

enough for our race to use for centuries. But because of this place, we didn't dare to exploit that resource."

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't think that the blood of a God-ranked expert would have such a huge energy. Even the stones cannot be touched. Zhao Hai immediately said, "Good, good, this is very good."

Zhao Hai opened the wooden fence and then walked towards the canyon. Billy also followed behind him and said after a while, "Mister, as long as you don't touch those stones directly, you will be alright. However, the pool isn't good. Even if you wore gloves, you would still perish. I ask mister to be very careful."

Zhao Hai nodded, he stood at the canyon and then looked around. The position that he was standing in right now was something like a cut-off point. If one proceeded for one step, they would be stepping on red stone. But as long as his skin doesn't touch it, he would be alright.

Zhao Hai took a deep breath, and then with an intention, he absorbed the land in front of him into the Space, including the stones. He made a margin in his action, just in case the stone can influence those around him, so he also dug up about a meter deep.

Since the canyon was almost composed of Iron Ore, he didn't dare to dig any deeper. Upon seeing that there were no traces of red stones on the ground, Zhao Hai nodded in satisfaction.

On the other hand, Billy and Juno were staring at Zhao Hai with shock. They didn't think that Zhao Hai would be able to do this. Both of them had seen the big world, and they both arrived at the same conclusion, Space-related Divergent Ability!

Divergent Abilities were already very strange things in the continent. But there was one kind of ability that was very difficult to ponder over, and those were Space Divergent Abilities. It wasn't only because this type of ability was very rare, it was also because this ability was far too different from the other abilities, people weren't able to research it.

Sharing this fame with Space Divergent Abilities were Space Magics. Although Space Magic had its own systematic method of practice, people with aptitude for it was extremely rare. Therefore, both Space Divergent Techniques and Space Magic were very mysterious to the people in the continent.



Zhao Hai's method was naturally due to a Space Divergent Ability, this was because Space magic would need incantations in order to use it. Even an 8th rank Space Mage would need to mutter incantations in order to cast a spell.

Billy and Juno looked at each other and saw the shock from the other's eyes. On the other hand, Zhao Hai didn't pay attention to the reaction of the two. In fact, he had the ability to absorb the entire canyon in one go. But since he didn't want a huge reaction from the two, he decided to do it by parts.

After absorbing a part, he took a few steps before he waved his hand and took another piece from the canyon. He did this action for quite some time.

After absorbing land for a few dozen times, Zhao Hai finally arrived at the blood pool. Zhao Hai inspected the pool, it wasn't very big, moreover, it wasn't deep either. However, it still gave people a very strong pressure. Zhao Hai took a breath and then waved his hand, making a Spatial Rift appear. The pool, as well as the ground it was in, was sucked in. Zhao Hai was taking his time with the pool, he even absorbed the ground two meters beneath it. But even with this, Zhao Hai can still see red stones on the pool's floor. After digging for another meter, Zhao Hai can no longer see any of them.

In the end, Zhao Hai had absorbed the pool as well as the canyon's walls. The current canyon was much different than it was before. Zhao Hai seemed to clean the valley up. There were no red stones that can be seen anymore.

## 1. Literally and figuratively

### Chapter 576 - Suspicion

After Zhao Hai completed everything, he finally relaxed. Although he hasn't heard a prompt from the Space, he also knew that this was because he placed the things inside the warehouse. As long as he released them in the Space, a prompt should be heard.

However, Zhao Hai wasn't prepared to do it this time. When the Space detects these things, the prompts would be extremely disturbing. Therefore, Zhao Hai plans to take them to the Space this evening.

Zhao Hai was given a scare when he turned around. Billy and Juno were looking at him as though they were looking at a monster. Zhao Hai recovered and smiled bitterly and said, "Did the two of you guess it?"

Billy and Juno nodded simultaneously. Zhao Hai forced a smile and then said, "Don't worry, I'm not afraid of the two of you knowing. As you have guessed, that was my Space Divergent Ability. But this ability is strange as it doesn't have any attack power. It can only be used like Space equipments, so I didn't bother to tell anyone about it."

Billy and Juno nodded, they didn't hold even a trace of suspicion to Zhao Hai's words. They only knew that most offensive attacks didn't belong to the Space element. If Zhao Hai can use his Space to attack, he would certainly be able to contend against 9th rank experts. In that case, his fame should have been larger than what he had right now.

But Billy and Juno knew that even if Zhao Hai cannot use his Space to attack, he still held a huge advantage compared to the others. However, the two didn't care about any of these. They were now Zhao Hai's friends, it was much better for them if Zhao Hai was stronger.

Billy laughed and said, "Mister can rest assured. Apart from the two of us, nobody would be hearing about this matter. As for this old guy, you don't have to worry a lot about him. He's already this old, so he knows what he should and shouldn't say. For him, having you as a friend is much better than being your enemy. At the same time, Mister has helped us with cleaning this place up. Now, we can mine this huge lode of iron."

Zhao Hai bitterly smiled. For the Dwarves, acquiring new mineral loads was the most important thing. This has become a core principle of the entire race.

Juno also smiled bitterly, Billy said that he was old and experienced. Although it was true, age wasn't really an important factor. In any race, Patriarchs would surely not be simple characters. Otherwise, the current existing races wouldn't have survived.

The three inspected the valley, and when they did not spot any red stones, they left. All this time, the smile on Billy's face was unbroken, Zhao Hai had surely given them a huge hand in eliminating this scourge.

The three returned to Billy's place and after having sat down, Billy turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, get us some good liquors. Today is a very happy day, we need to share a cup of two together."

Juno laughed and said, "You old drunkard, you really are quite shameless when it comes to drinking. Do you really think that Mister Zhao Hai would provide you liquor just like that? Right, since we arrived at this matter, how big is mister's Space? Why do I feel like you have never been on full capacity before?"

Zhao Hai forced a smile and said, "You're quite right, my Space is very big, I really don't know its full capacity. I only know that I can store a lot of things inside. Moreover, I can also carry out some Teleportations. Aside from that, then there's nothing else."

Juno and Billy almost simultaneously asked, "Teleportation? You said that your Space can do Teleportations?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Yes, but it's quite difficult, I need to do a lot of preparation in advance. Currently, my Teleportations can only send me back to Golden Island, I still can't go to other places."

The reason why Zhao Hai revealed this was because he knew that he would be doing a lot of teleportations in the future. Therefore, it's much better to just reveal it right now.

Even if Zhao Hai's tone seemed to express the simplicity of his ability, Juno was still quite envious of Zhao Hai's teleportation. He smiled bitterly and said, "No wonder Mister can have a lot of things while appearing and disappearing every time. For mister to have these abilities, it was no wonder that the Buda Clan can develop to be what it is right now."

Zhao Hai forced a smile and said, "There's no other way. The Buda Clan already had a weak foundation. When my Buda Clan was exiled to the Black Wasteland, my family's housekeeper sold off all of our valuable stuff in exchange for grain, daily necessities, as well as equipment in order to survive in the wasteland. At that time, I was unconscious. When I woke up, I discovered the situation that the Buda Clan was in, which isn't very good. We planned to live like the Hurricane Family, planting Bamboo Rice and Oil Trees in order to survive."

Juno and Billy knew about the Buda Clan's past situation. When they heard Zhao Hai right now, they can imagine the hardships that the Buda Clan had encountered.

Then Zhao Hai sighed and said, "We didn't know that since the Black Wasteland was right beside the Carrion Swamp, magic beast invasions were quite common. Beasts and undead would run out of the swamp and wreak havoc on the wasteland. Because of that we cannot do even a little bit of farming. Because of that, we have to leave the place."

Juno and Billy also heard about the Black Wasteland, but they haven't gone there before. The Dwarves had already left the Black Wasteland for a long time, therefore they don't have any recent information about that place.

Zhao Hai then continued, "Luckily, we managed to leave the place early. Who would've known that the Carrion Swamp's fog would actually invade the Black Wasteland. We wouldn't have been able to get out alive." Then Zhao Hai sighed and then said, "We're also quite fortunate. Back when we were in the Black Wasteland, I've become so depressed that I decided to kill myself. When I went to the Carrion Swamp, I unexpectedly came upon my Magic Staff. The staff not only cured the Water of Nothingness in my body, it also allowed me to use Dark Magic. Even if my Divergent Ability isn't able to attack, the Dark Magic provided me with offensive power, making me create countless undead. Due to this, I was able to establish my reputation in the continent as being a Dark Mage."

The other matters were also known by Juno and Billy. They knew that after that, the Buda Clan started chiseling their name into history. Because of this, they came to admire Zhao Hai even more.

Although, Zhao Hai didn't say where he got his 9th ranks from, they didn't ask him about it. After all, 9th ranks are the Buda Clan or any other family's trump cards. Nobody would want to reveal information about them easily. What Zhao Hai told them today was already giving them enough face.

Juno coldly snorted and then said, "The Asku Empire is indeed made up of fools. Before being controlled by the Radiant Church, they were already the second most powerful nation in the continent. But now, they had actually placed at the bottom of the rankings. I must say, they deserved what they got today."

Billy also coldly snorted, "The Radiant Church gives birth to those mad men. Just because they deem themselves as messengers of God, they wanted to control everything, even the affairs of the Dwarf Race. They didn't know about Sir Artifact's influence in our race. They actually sent someone to preach here, they seem to be unafraid of death."

Zhao Hai forced a smile and said, "Not only the Dwarves, this happened to the Beastmen as well. Last winter, when I was doing business in the Prairie, I met the current Patriarch of the Herculean Bull Tribe, Wales. I met him at that time when he received news that a Prince of their tribe had rebelled and killed the old Patriarch, competing with Wales for the seat. Wales was out when he received the news, so it was too late for him to respond. But who could imagine that the Fighting Bulls would actually take the throne away from him, casting him away after using him. In the end, the Herculean Bulls had no other place to go other than seeking refuge with the Mastiff Tribe."

Juno and Billy weren't aware of the matters in the Prairie. They don't have any way to get information regarding the Beastmen. The grain and fruit oil that Juno produces was mostly given to the Dwarves, therefore they didn't have any contact with the Beastmen.

Not only them, even if other Humans had businesses in the Prairie, it would be quite difficult for them to hear about the matters of the Herculean Bull Tribe. Because of this, when they heard Zhao Hai talk about the affairs of the Beastmen, the two's ears immediately straightened out.

Zhao Hai then added, "When Wales got the news, the Fighting Bulls were chasing after him. At that time, I had a lot of grain in my hands, so I accompanied him to the Dog Race's domain. Using my food, they managed to reinforce their strength inside the Mastiff Tribe's place. When the winter started, the Herculean Bulls started their counterattack, eradicating the Fighting Bulls in one fell swoop and reclaimed the position of the Royal Tribe of the Cow Race. Because they were grateful to me as well as me having a Beheading Blood Oath with Wales, I managed to become the Herculean Bulls' Foreign Prince."

The two never imagined Zhao Hai to be a Foreign Prince of a Beastman Tribe, so they were puzzled before as to how Zhao Hai has a good relationship with the Beastmen. Now that Zhao Hai revealed his identity to them, they now understood Zhao Hai's standing in the Prairie.

Then Billy looked straight at Zhao Hai and said, "Beheading Blood Oath? Did you really have a Beheading Blood Oath with a Beastman?". Zhao Hai nodded.

Juno looked at Billy in confusion as he asked, "What is a Beheading Blood Oath? Why does it sound so ruthless?"

Billy forced a smile and said, "A Beheading Blood Oath is the most sacred pledge that Beastmen can settle on. Beastmen generally won't use it easily. As long as two people have a Beheading Blood Oath with each other, betrayal would cause them to get punished by the Beast God. This pledge is not a joke."

When Juno heard Billy, he felt relief. Now he was fully convinced of Zhao Hai's position among the Beastmen.

Zhao Hai looked at their expressions and then nodded, "Right, it is because of this Beheading Blood Oath and the position of Foreign Prince that I was able to get relationships with the Beastmen. In the end, I managed to get contact with the Beast King and have him agree to having a milk wine partnership with me."

Juno sighed and then said, "You say it like it's easy, but it's actually very difficult. It seems like you don't look down on the Beastmen when you interact with them, this might contribute to how easily they managed to trust you. Most Merchants would want to get more benefits from their transactions with the Beastmen. And the Beastmen weren't fools either, so how can they not notice this aspect? In this case, the Beastmen would surely distance themselves from those Merchants."

Billy sighed as well, "Actually, our situation is fairly similar with the Beastmen. The things that we produce are in demand with the Humans. So every Human Merchant that comes here would want to profit as much as possible, squeezing every bit of benefit that they can get from us. This explains why our Dwarf Race didn't have a lot of friends among Humans. Except this old fellow, the only other person is you, Mister Zhao Hai."

Juno coldly snorted and then said, "Actually, the cause of this matter is the Radiant Church. From what I can remember, the Humans didn't think differently about other races. There were even some Dwarves that would open up blacksmithing shops in major cities in the continent. And their businesses were very good. At the same time, Beastmen would prosper in Human lands, hiring themselves as mercenaries as well as forming a party with Humans in order to hunt Magic Beasts."

Zhao Hai was startled at Juno's words, he didn't know about any of these. Billy then added, "Exactly. I don't know when it started, but the Radiant Church had started to preach that the other races were lower forms of beings and were not worthy to live along the Human race. Their priests didn't treat other races whenever they get wounded, claiming that it would be blasphemous to the Radiant God. Because of these actions, the other Humans slowly started to think that the other races were truly of lower status, slowly driving them away from their settlements. The Beastmen suddenly weren't able to become mercenaries, while the Dwarves were banned from opening up shop."

When Zhao Hai heard Juno and Billy, he couldn't help but stare blankly, then his face changed as he thought about Iron Hammer's words. In the Divine Realm, the Human gods started to wage war with the

Gods of the other races. In the war, the Humans wanted to send people down in order to eradicate the other races. And if the Radiant Church really did what Juno and Billy said, then wouldn't that be like the moves by the Human Gods? If that's the case, then thing had become more complicated.

But Zhao Hai didn't express his suspicion. He had just linked all of these in his head and found some connections between them. If he really guessed correctly, then the Radiant Church would be a huge problem. Their background might be very difficult to deal with.

### Chapter 577 - Level Up

Zhao Hai recalled about the past actions of the Radiant Church and discovered that they were doing things that suppressed the other races. They established their influence and controlled Nobles, these things aren't something that normal Churches would do. Moreover, all of these were done by themselves, without the help of any influence, this was a difficult thing to accomplish.

Any religious sect has its own beliefs, but one should know that ideas are intangible while people are. Without people to believe in them, then a religion would be useless.

From its establishment up to the present, along with the number of Popes that had passed, how was the Radiant Church able to continually suppress the other races as well as the other churches? One must know that suppressing other religions cannot be done in a day or two, nor was it very easy. For the Radiant Church to do this for quite a long time was quite the mystery.

But if the Radiant Church has a God-ranked expert pulling its strings from behind, then the situation would be different. Although God-ranked experts cannot descend easily, the Artisan God and the others were able to send their Divine Artifacts down. Therefore, it shouldn't be very difficult for these Gods to send a message down, instructing the Radiant Church about what to do.

The more he thought about it, the more plausible his idea has become. However, Zhao Hai still cannot inform Billy and Juno about this matter. If the two knew about this, who knows what their reaction would be? If the people outside knew, then the matter would become much more complicated.

At this time, Billy and Juno were still talking about the Radiant Church, but Zhao Hai was already not listening to them. He wanted to discuss this matter with Laura and the others as soon as possible and hear their opinions.

Billy and Juno discovered that Zhao Hai's state was not right, so Billy immediately asked, "Mister Zhao Hai, what happened?"

Zhao Hai recovered and looked at the two before he smiled faintly and said, "There's no problem, I just feel somewhat tired. I'll go back to rest first, if there's any matter, you can just send word to my room."

Billy and Juno also thought that since Zhao Hai had used his Space Ability, he should be very tired right now. Therefore, Billy replied, "Mister, do you want to be examined by our doctor?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "I'm fine, I'm only a little bit tired. I didn't get a good sleep yesterday, and then I drank today and then used my ability. I'm fairly fatigued right now, resting for a while would suffice."

Billy and Juno nodded, then Zhao Hai turned and left the room in haste. Laura and the others weren't inside the room, so Zhao Hai flashed to the Space and then had Cai'er call them over.

Laura and the others weren't actually inside the Space. They were currently with the Dwarves as they wandered around the place.

Zhao Hai sat in the Space, calmly ruminating over Juno and Billy's words. He also had Cai'er get the information that they had acquired about the Radiant Church as he looked over them.

They had found out that even though the Radiant Church had been amassing a ton of wealth all these years, nobody in the church benefited from it. The Popes and Bishops of the Church didn't use it for themselves. They may use those funds to recruit some Nobles, but the majority of it was used to deal with the other races. Their Popes and Bishops all lived very poor lives, a lot of their Popes died with no money to their name.

This method of the Radiant Church was something beyond common sense. It was impossible for the Church's founders to immediately develop hatred towards the other races, this was something natural.



However, after a few generations, the Church started to hate upon the other races, this matter couldn't be justified.

Because of these generations of effort, the other races started to disappear from the Human lands. Moreover, the Radiant Church had managed to make the religion their monopoly. Although one couldn't see it, the Radiant Church had slowly encroached their control on the other religions.

While Zhao Hai was looking up all of these, Laura and the others returned to the room. Cai'er immediately transported the women to the Space. When they saw Zhao Hai in the villa along with a bunch of documents, they stared. Zhao Hai usually didn't care about these documents, what happened?

Laura immediately stepped forward and then looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Brother Hai, what happened? What are you looking for in these documents? Wait, these are related to the Radiant Church. Did the church cause trouble again?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and waved his hand to make them sit down. Then Zhao Hai told Laura and the others what he heard from Billy and Juno, as well as expressing his suspicions.

While the women were listening to Zhao Hai, they couldn't help but frown. Then after some time, Laura said, "Brother Hai, your suspicion might be true. So what do we do?"

Zhao Hai forced a smile and said, "The only thing we can do right now is to upgrade our strengths. If we spread this news out, people would suspect about the Radiant Church's connection with the Divine Realm. And if those guys knew that we had found out about their background, then they might send in God-ranked experts ahead of time, while our strength is still weak. When that happens, our losses would be very great."

Laura nodded, and then she said, "Right, Brother Hai, aren't you getting some God's Blood today? Did you acquire it?"

Zhao Hai tapped his head and then he bitterly smiled and said, "I forgot about it. I'll introduce those things to the Space right now." Then with an intention, he released the God's Blood into the Space.

Just as it was released, the Space immediately issued a prompt, "Massively energized liquid has been detected, immensely strengthening the water and the soil as well as the abilities of the Space. The Farming ground has been improved, the crops maturity has been reduced by 100 times, the background would be accelerated by ten times. The Spatial Water has also been improved.

The powerful liquid also strengthened the host's body as well as his current rank. The seven Divergent techniques of the host are now: metal, wood, water, fire, earth, crystal, and space has been improved to Advanced level. Host's potential has been further promoted.

The Space has leveled up to 52. Host may use ten ordinary backgrounds, asking the host to try harder.

The undead, phantasmal beasts, magic beasts, and plants in the Space has also been improved. The metals in the Space has now increased its output.

The managers of the Space, Cai'er and Mu'er has also been improved. The Ghost Staff is upgraded and is now renamed to Blood Ghost Staff. Host can now vary its length and form. Host can transform the staff into anything including 108 throwing knives. The host can also fly using the Staff.

Because of the promotion, the Host can also choose one special magic garment that is provided by the Space. Host should choose wisely!"

The bombardment of information made Zhao Hai dizzy. Then, he immediately called Mu'er and Cai'er over. Cai'er's new form made Zhao Hai stare. Before, Cai'er was only as big as a person's palm, but now she was as big as an arm, she also appeared much more lovely. Mu'er's appearance also surprised Zhao Hai. Although he was still attached to the whip, he was now much more solid compared to before, and was now as large as a person's palm. He seemed much more real this time, compared to his somewhat faint form before.

Zhao Hai knew that the cause for their changes was the Space levelling up. So he immediately looked at Cai'er and said, "Cai'er, what's your rank right now?"

Cai'er thought for a moment and then said, "I really don't know. But if I were to talk in terms of the Demon Realm, then even Heavenly Demons wouldn't be able to defeat me, and it might even be possible for me to kill them!"

Zhao Hai asked, "Heavenly Demon? What kind of existence is that?"

Cai'er replied, "Heavenly Demons are the strongest existences in the Demon Realm. Their strengths are much more formidable than 9th rank experts. The Ark Continent doesn't seem to have those kinds of existences, but I can also feel that the plane doesn't allow them to be here. But since my main body is inside Young Master's Space, while the things outside are my branches, I wasn't expelled by the plane."

Zhao Hai understood, Cai'er strength shouldn't be very different from those God-ranked experts. Those Heavenly Demons that she stated seem to be like the Gods in the Divine Realm.

After thinking about this, Zhao Hai's heart couldn't help but be moved. Then he immediately said, "Cai'er, what level do you see me right now?"

Cai'er looked at Zhao Hai and then said, "Young master, your current strength is equal to a 9th rank expert. But even if you have reached 9th rank, you still don't reach the level of a Heavenly Demon." Zhao Hai nodded and then ribbed his chin. Him becoming as strong as a 9th rank expert is already good. If he has achieved God-rank, then the Ark Continent might be unable to accommodate him, kicking him out in the process.

Then Zhao Hai turned his head to Mu'er and then said, "Mu'er how about you? Is your strength the same as Cai'er's?"

Without even waiting for Mu'er to speak, Cai'er disdainfully replied, "He needs to wait a bit more. He had become strong, but not as strong as me. However, dealing with several 9th rank experts shouldn't be a problem for him."

Then Zhao Hai thought about those 9th rank Magic Beasts in the Space, "What about those 9th ranks in the Space? What level are they right now?"

Cai'er smiled and said, "Their potential isn't very good. Although they are stronger than before, they aren't as strong as Mu'er."

When Zhao Hai heard Cai'er, he couldn't help but relax. He was afraid that those 9th ranks would turn into God-rank experts, that would be very troublesome.

But Zhao Hai also understood that those 9th rank experts were unrelated to the Space. The things that the Space prioritizes in strengthening were only itself as well as the Host. For other creatures inside, they can only receive the scraps. Therefore, this outcome isn't really a surprise.

#### Chapter 578 - Ability

Zhao Hai still kept asking questions, "Right, how about the undead? I seem to hear that they had been improved. What are their levels right now?"

When Cai'er heard Zhao Hai, she couldn't help but laugh. Then she smiled at Zhao Hai and said, "Young Master, you are correct. The undead are now 9th ranks!"

Upon hearing this, Zhao Hai, Laura, and the others' bodies couldn't help but shiver. The undeads have turned into 9th ranks? What kind of concept is that? Does that mean that Zhao Hai now has more than 1 million 9th ranks in his hand?

More than 1 million experts? This, isn't this too scary? If Zhao Hai released all of those undead right now, wouldn't conquering the continent be extremely easy?

However, Zhao Hai turned this idea down. If he can't do it in the past, the more he can't be allowed to do it now that he knows about God-ranked experts. If he releases those undead and unify the continent, then the Radiant Church might react and deal with him.

Zhao Hai might be able to neglect the Radiant Church, but he cannot ignore the church's background. Iron Hammer also expressed the existence of the Divine Realm's natives. They were born as 5th rank and grow up to be 9th, with a little practice, they would also reach God-rank. If those people send their members down as well, Zhao Hai's 9th ranks would turn out useless.

Zhao Hai turned to Cai'er and said, "What about the Space? In which way did it improve?"

Cai'er smiled and said, "Young Master, the lands have been improved immensely. Crops that usually take eight hours to mature now only needed 48 minutes to do so. In the past, the background can't accelerate growth, but now it has the characteristics of the original Farming ground. At the same time, the Magic Beasts have been improved. Inferior beasts, have reached around 7th to 8th rank. Advanced beasts have reached 9th rank. Because of the Blood Hawk's special lineage, it only reached 8th rank. However, not only could it carry any person, it can also transport a team of people with no problem. Also, the Magic beasts can now become phantasmal beasts, no matter what type they are, they would be able to turn into weapons or armor. Additionally, we should preserve those Bread Trees that we planted in the background. As soon as ample time passes, those trees would be able to gain sentience just like me."

Zhao Hai was shocked, he didn't expect the amount of changes that happened to the Space. Moreover, eight-hour crops now take less than an hour to mature. Isn't this speed just too fast?

Cai'er looked at Zhao Hai's expression and then said, "Also, Young Master, the Spatial Water has also gotten better. Not only can it detoxify, it can also help the cultivation of people up to 8th rank. But since the Space now has a Blood Pond, even 9th ranks would be able to benefit from it. Young Master can have Laura and the others drink from the pond and make them 9th rank experts."

Zhao Hai knitted his eyebrows and then said, "Wouldn't the energy in the pond be too strong? Are they able to bear with it?"

Cai'er smiled and said, "Young Master doesn't need to worry. Most of the Blood's energy has already been absorbed by the Young Master and the Space. The energy left right now is mild. So there isn't any problem."

Zhao Hai gave a satisfied nod and then he said, "Also, the Space told me that I can use ten Ordinary Backgrounds? What are those Ordinary Backgrounds? And are there things other than ordinary ones?"

Cai'er nodded and said, "Yes, the Space's backgrounds can be divided into four categories. The first one is the Ordinary Background, it looks just like the one that the Young Master has been using. It's just a piece of land, and nothing else, not even special properties. The second kind is the Mechanical Background. This one has things that can be found in a mechanized civilization. The Young Master can enjoy tall buildings in this background as well as its advanced technology. The Young Master can even use cars and airplanes in this place.

The third kind is a Magical Background. This background is pretty much like the Ark Continent, but much more advanced. The Young Master can learn better Magic Formations than the ones that can be found in the continent. There are also floating islands in the sky.

The fourth kind is the Cultivation Background. This background is very huge, the Young Master would be able to acquire magical treasures inside. However, the Young Master needs a very high level in order to attain this background.”

For Zhao Hai, who came from Earth, he immediately understood everything that Cai’er had said about these backgrounds.

Zhao Hai thought that if the Space can unlock Cultivation Backgrounds, then how awesome would that be? Would he be able to use flying swords at that time?

Zhao Hai calmed down from his shock. He would no longer worry about bad things happening when he gets a high enough rank. Zhao Hai then looked at Cai’er and said, “How about the Ghost Staff? What abilities did it acquire?”

Cai’er smiled and said, “To be short, the Ghost Staff is now renamed to Blood Ghost Staff. It can now become liquid like water and transform into anything that the Young Master wants. It can also fly, lengthen itself, shorten itself, it can even separate and form 108 flying daggers. Under the command of the Young Master, those knives would fly and attack the enemies. Naturally, the scope of this attack is limited to 10 thousand meters. If the Young Master isn’t in trouble, you can turn it into a vehicle, any vehicle that you can think about. At the same time, since it can fly, the Young Master would have an alternative to using the Blood Hawk when circumstances need it.”

Zhao Hai felt so happy he almost forgot to breathe. This was too good. The Staff had become just like flying magical treasures that were seen in Cultivation worlds. It may even be better than those.

Zhao Hai suddenly thought about the final prompt, something about a Magic garment. So he immediately asked Cai’er about it, “Cai’er can I use that Magic Garment now? I want to see what kinds are available.”

Cai’er complied as she waved her hand, making a screen appear in front of them. On the screen were several pictures of clothes, as well as descriptions for each of them.

Zhao Hai almost fainted when he saw these clothes. Why did he see Superman's clothing first? What does the Space want him to wear outside? This looks too abnormal!

There was also Spider Man's clothes, the Fantastic Four, X-men, along with many others. Everything that Zhao Hai saw made his head dizzy.

Laura and the others also looked at the garments and couldn't believe how people could wear such weird clothes.

After looking for quite a while, Zhao Hai finally made his choice. What he chose was a Magic Robe. However, this Robe seems to be made with unusual materials. It looks like it was made of very soft metal, not only did it have strong impact resistance, it also had anti-magic properties. At the same time, it can also automatically purify the wearer's body. Most importantly, this robe is part of a set, from underwear to the outermost layer. Along with the black underwear, it also had a tight fitting clothes along with gloves and socks. The next layer consists of a long robe. But it wasn't like the Robes that the continent uses that has a belt in it. This one looks like robes worn in ancient China. Then the next layer was a cloak, connected to the body via shoulder armor. The cloak seemed to be made up of bear fur and was locked to the armor using something in a form of animal claws. One could use this cloak to cover the user's entire body, only leaving the head and the shoulder armor to be seen. It also had a pair of black boots. He looked very cool while wearing it.

But what made Zhao Hai choose this set was its ability to transform. In other words, he can momentarily change how it looks from the outside.

From what Zhao Hai saw, this set looked something like a prototype of some highly advanced civilization from novels back on Earth, with slight modifications here and there.

Comparing it from the other choices, Zhao Hai thought that this set suited him the best. So he immediately chose this set and after a flash of light, he was already wearing it.

When they looked at Zhao Hai, the eyes of Laura and the others shone. Zhao Hai looks very compatible with these set of clothes. The long robe, matches Zhao Hai's temperament, making him look very gentle. The shoulder armor gave him a sort of martial aura. The cloak gave him an aura of power and prestige. The black clothing made him mysterious. Having all of this together made Zhao Hai look like a different person.

Zhao Hai was not a specially charming person, he normally just looks like an easily approachable person. But with these clothes on, he looked very different. He seemed to be much more dazzling compared to before, and his entire temperament changed. Those who wasn't here to see him would find themselves doubting his identity.

Zhao Hai was also very satisfied with these clothes. This surprisingly changed how he looks. Moreover, because of his Metal Manipulation ability, he can turn it into a weapon when necessary.

#### Chapter 579 - Elder

Although Zhao Hai's new clothes were made of a special type of metal, it didn't have that feeling of coldness at all. Conversely, they were very comfortable and warm. A warmth that might make you fall asleep, it felt very good.

While Zhao Hai was wearing the clothes, he made it transform into other types of clothing before he stopped and returned to normal. Then he turned to Laura and the others and said, "Do you like these clothes?"

With shining eyes, Laura and the others nodded. They also wanted to have these type of clothing, they can choose what form that they like, so they don't need to change at all. It was very convenient.

Zhao Hai smiled faintly as he turned to Cai'er and said, "Right, now that the Space has been upgraded, are we able to plant some special plants?"

Cai'er nodded and said, "Yes, some can enhance physical qualities while some can help with cultivation."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Alright, you go take a look at the Processing Machine if you are able to make those kinds of seeds. Then plant them on the Farming Grounds and see their effects. See if there are those that are like the Goldmetal Fruit, plants that can give Divergent Abilities. We have to get as many of those as possible."



Cai'er complied, and said, "Alright, rest assured, Young Master. I'll take care of it."

Zhao Hai gave a nod, "Right, I want to see what kinds of backgrounds I can use right now."

Cai'er nodded, then he gave information about the different backgrounds that Zhao Hai can use. Although the backgrounds are ordinary, they were still some differences among them. For example, there were desert backgrounds that would be useless if Zhao Hai was to buy it.

Zhao Hai opted to get backgrounds that can be planted on. They aren't extraordinary, but among them there were mountains, prairies, and there was also one with a mountain with a river on it. In short, there were a lot of varieties of them.

Naturally, Zhao Hai also listened to the opinion of his wives. Laura and the others were very happy when they were given a choice. Before long, the ten backgrounds have been chosen.

After choosing the backgrounds, Zhao Hai turned to Cai'er and said, "Cai'er, how can we use these backgrounds?"

Cai'er replied, "Young Master can just make me manage them. But if you want to go there, you can just do it with an intention. I shall place plants and Magic Beasts on those backgrounds according to their compatibility. Also, the Young Master doesn't need to worry about houses, the ten backgrounds have their own. But no matter which background is in use, the Farming Grounds would still be present. Most importantly, these new backgrounds are different from the original background since they cannot accelerate plant growth."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "That's not a problem. Aren't they just the same as the original background from before? I'll just leave the management of those to you."

Cai'er nodded. And just as Zhao Hai was about to lead Laura and the others to explore the new backgrounds, Cai'er suddenly said, "Young Master, the Dwarves have sent someone to see you."

Zhao Hai nodded, and then immediately brought Laura and the others to their room in the Dwarf Mountains. Strangely, even if Zhao Hai had become a 9th rank expert, he didn't have any imposing aura, his temperament stayed just like before.

Zhao Hai also found out that after crystallizing his body, he can then use the Space to attack his enemy. The root of this offensive attack is the God's Blood. The Space's explanation was that since the energy of the God's Blood has been absorbed by the Space, once it exits it, it can reabsorb that energy and attack the target. Therefore, Zhao Hai can use this method as an attack for his Space Divergent Ability.

But Zhao Hai wasn't planning to use this attack, he also didn't have any idea how to do so. Still, he has his metal, wood, water, fire, plant, abilities for attack, and their powers aren't weak.

Zhao Hai also asked Cai'er to break the crystal bottle that contained the small sun, but Cai'er can't do it. This reassured Zhao Hai, this meant that even God-ranked experts aren't able to break his crystal body. So even if he meets God-ranked experts, he still had a way to preserve his life.

Also, Zhao Hai didn't make Laura and the others drink the God's Blood at this time. Although they can now become 9th rank experts, Laura and the others didn't cultivate for the ten days that they had been with the Dwarves. Them advancing at this time would be strange.

Because of this Zhao Hai didn't make them practice and just brought them along with him outside as he opened the door to see a Dwarf.

When the Dwarf saw Zhao Hai, he immediately gave a bow and said, "I've been asked to invite mister Zhao Hai to the Divine Palace. The Patriarch wanted mister to come."

Zhao Hai stared for a moment before he nodded and walked towards the Divine Palace along with the Dwarf. While walking, Zhao Hai was wondering what Billy intended to do. At the same time, he was compiling everything about the Space inside his mind. And before long, he had finally arrived at the Divine Palace.

Upon reaching the place, Zhao Hai couldn't help but gawk. In the Divine Palace, a lot of Dwarves were present. Moreover, the statuses of these people doesn't seem to be normal. Each and every one of them had fairly white beards and hairs. One would see that they were quite mature members of the race.

Under the guidance of the Dwarf, Zhao Hai entered the Great Hall. But he was still puzzled about the number of Dwarves that were present. It looked like they were having a grand meeting. But what does he have to do with it?

Before long, he was walking in front of Iron Hammer. Zhao Hai can also spot Billy and the elders there, all of them looked at Zhao Hai with a hint of gratitude in their eyes.

Seeing the expressions of these Dwarves while being next to Iron Hammer, Zhao Hai can faintly guess what was going on. It seems like Billy informed these people about Iron Hammer's materialization. The people present here seem to hold special status in their race.

But Zhao Hai didn't say anything. He arrived at Billy's side and gave Billy and the elders a salute. Then every Dwarf present in the Great Hall immediately returned the gesture. It seems like they won't dare to accept Zhao Hai's courtesy.

Zhao Hai also noted that Laura and the others stayed outside the Great Hall, the same was true for Juno. This made Zhao Hai very curious.

After exchanging their greetings, Billy turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Mister Zhao Hai, this time, you had greatly helped our Dwarf Race. Therefore, we decided to give Mister the position of our race's Foreign Elder. I'll ask Mister to accept it." Then Billy bowed towards Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai was actually shocked that he couldn't respond for quite some time. This was because he hasn't heard about this before, so he didn't expect Billy to reach this decision.

Zhao Hai's unresponsiveness scared Juno and the others. Juno knew the Dwarves very well. If the Dwarves wanted you to be their elder, then you better not decline, even if it was out of politeness. Otherwise, the Dwarves would think that you are looking down on them. If Zhao Hai treated the Dwarves like how he treated humans, then their connection might be broken.

Billy not telling Zhao Hai about this beforehand has its reasons. This was the Dwarves' custom of appointing elders. They think that it was much better for the person's reaction to be genuine. If Zhao Hai was informed beforehand, then he would be prepared. But if he was suddenly appointed, they would be able to see from his expression if he really wanted to be their elder.

Actually, this regulation is very excessive, but the Dwarves think that this was good, so they decided to maintain this rule. The Dwarves had also bestowed Foreign Elder positions before in such a spontaneous matter, even Juno didn't know about it.

Zhao Hai quickly recovered, he looked at Billy and then smiled faintly before replying, "Alright, I'll respectfully accept this position. I'll be a Foreign Elder."

This response relaxed the people present. Billy stood up and laughed, "Great! Then I'll have to ask Mister Zhao Hai to pay respects to the Divine Protector and receive our race's elder token."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he turned around to give respects to Iron Hammer before accepting an ancient bronze Command Token from Billy. This token made Zhao Hai stare, since it was made of bronze, Zhao Hai was expecting it to be very heavy. He didn't expect the token to be as light as a feather.

This Command Token looked very simple, a single character expressing command was written on it. At the back of it was Iron Hammer's image. It was a very simple Command Token, but Zhao Hai knew that what this token represented was not very simple.

This position of Foreign Elder of the Dwarf Race is not worse than being a Foreign Prince of the entire Beastman Race. Such identity was extremely significant.

After Zhao Hai accepted the token, the ceremony for being an elder has been completed. But Zhao Hai didn't say anything.

After Zhao Hai received the elder Command Token, the Dwarves simultaneously saluted, "We have seen the elder!"

Zhao Hai quickly responded, "Please get up." The Dwarves got up as Billy loudly declared "Prepare the banquet, let's welcome our Dwarf Race's new Elder!"

The Dwarves present immediately complied as they turned around to leave. At this time, Billy also invited Zhao Hai back to his residence. After entering his office, the only three people left was Zhao Hai, Billy, and Juno.

After the three sat down, Zhao Hai cannot help but smile bitterly towards Billy and said, "Patriarch, this is too sudden. What would you have done if I refused?"

Billy laughed and said, "This is our race's custom. If you rejected, then it would be impossible for you to become a friend to our race. Even if you help us out big time once more."

Juno looked at Zhao Hai with envy as he said, "You should be happy. Now that you have become the Dwarves' Foreign Elder, you will gain huge benefits in the future. My relationship with Billy has always been good, yet I still hadn't become their Foreign Elder."

Billy smiled and said, "Unfortunately, the matter of Foreign Elders is not something that I alone can decide. The decision must undergo an elder's assembly as well as a meeting with various mining heads. Zhao Hai has helped us hugely this time, so it was impossible for him to not be bestowed the position of Foreign Elder."

Then Billy turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Right, aren't you Humans very modest? When they come across such matters, Humans usually decline first. Why didn't you?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "You forget, but I am also a Foreign Prince of the Herculean Bull Tribe. I have experience in such matters. So I know that if I decline, it would seem like I was looking down on the Dwarf Race. Therefore, I didn't bother to decline first."

Billy laughed, "So you have experience. Hahaha. That's fantastic. Since you've become our Foreign Elder, our race's liquor would depend on you."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile bitterly. He felt like he just had joined a gang of evildoers. He had become their Foreign Elder, but now he was in charge of their liquor.

But he wasn't worried, even if the Beastmen cannot catch up to the demand, Zhao Hai now has ten backgrounds to use. These backgrounds can raise some argali as well as cattle. Therefore, their milk production should skyrocket.

Billy smiled and said, "Don't worry, we won't be taking your liquor for free. We shall trade them with ironwares. But since you're our Foreign Elder, you cannot sell it to us with the same price as outside, it

should be lower. But since we'll also sell you our ironwares for cheap, you wouldn't be able to suffer any losses."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "No problem. But I currently am short on manpower. So I don't have any means to produce a lot of milk wine. Moreover, the Beastman milk wine output is quite limited, therefore, the liquor that I can provide is quite low. It's impossible for me to provide a high volume right from the start."

Billy and Juno nodded, Zhao Hai looked at their eyes deeply before he hardened his resolve and said, "Patriarch, I have a matter to ask your help with."

Billy stared, then he immediately smiled and said, "You're our race's Foreign Elder, you're part of us now. So can tell me what you want."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I want to ask some Dwarves to settle down in my territory. Helping me produce some ironwares. Is that possible?"

When he heard Zhao Hai, Billy cannot help but gawk. Then he frowned and said, "I'm afraid that this is somewhat difficult. You should know that there are a lot of eyes on Golden Island. Seeing Dwarves there would cause too much of a problem."

#### Chapter 580 - Laying the Cards Out on the Table

Upon hearing Billy, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile faintly as he said, "That's not a problem. The place I want to take them isn't Golden Island, but to my Buda Clan's true territory. In there, no other people aside from our Buda Clan and the slaves are present."

Billy and Juno couldn't help but stare upon hearing Zhao Hai. Then both of their eyes shone brightly, it didn't take a while before Juno said, "Did you send your 100 thousand slaves to that place?"

Zhao Hai stared for a moment before he smiled faintly and said, "So you knew, right, the slaves were sent to that place. Not only those slaves but our wineries and factories are in that place as well."

Billy might not be very clear about it, but Juno knew how many products Zhao Hai sold in the continent. Haven products, Beastmen goods, all of them required a lot of processing.

Billy was confused, he looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Besides Golden Island, what other territory did the Buda Clan have? I don't seem to remember the Buda Clan buying other territories in the past two years."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "We don't need to buy any land. Our Buda Clan already has an enormous land, wouldn't it be a pity if we don't use it? Our territory is as large as the Aksu Empire."

Billy and Juno stared, then they immediately reacted. The only territory that Zhao Hai could refer to would be the Black Wasteland. That place was the continent's biggest territory, one that belonged to the Buda Clan.

However, Billy and Juno, along with the people of the continent, knew the current situation of the Buda Clan. The two looked at each other before Juno turned to Zhao Hai and asked, "Little Hai, isn't that area filled with the Carrion Swamp's poisonous mist? How can people live there?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Any poison has its own antidote. Did the two of you forget where my Magic Staff is from? In a sense, our Buda Clan is already somewhat in control of the Carrion Swamp. When the Buda Clan went to war in the past, the 9th ranks that we have are all from the swamp."

Billy and Juno's bodies shook. They suddenly remembered the Dwarf Race's prophecy. One of the five Forbidden Areas has been conquered!

The Divine Artifact has been recognized, and now the Carrion Swamp was under the control of the Buda Clan. Then this meant that they had conquered one of the Forbidden Areas, this was a step to fulfilling the prophecy.

The two looked at each other and saw the shock on each other's eyes. Zhao Hai was looking at them in confusion, he knew that they would be shocked, but their reaction was a little bit strange.

Billy sighed and said, "Heaven's Will, is this the Heaven's Will?"

Juno also sighed as he said, "It seems so. Now we must wait for the news from the Elves."

Zhao Hai was puzzled at the two, so he asked, "What's wrong? What are you mumbling about?"

Billy sighed, then he told Zhao Hai about the prophecy of their Dwarf Race. The prophecy was easy to understand, so there was no further explanation needed. Zhao Hai only needed to listen in order to understand.

Zhao Hai's expression changed, he knew more than Juno and Billy did about this matter. Juno and Billy didn't know about the war between the races as well as the Divine Realm.

Billy looked at Zhao Hai's expression and thought that it was caused by the prophecy. Therefore, he sighed and said, "Now I think that the King that was mentioned was you. It's because you've already fulfilled two aspects of the prophecy."

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly as he sighed, then he turned to look at the two before saying, "In fact, even if I didn't know of this prophecy, I know more than the two of you when it comes to this matter. In the Divine Realm..." Then Zhao Hai told them the things about the Gods that he had heard from Iron Hammer.

After Zhao Hai reiterated everything to Billy, he said, "Actually, I've heard all of this from the Artifact Spirit. I'm just afraid that too many people would know, so I asked him to refrain from telling others. Your Dwarves' Forbidden Land was a place where that God was injured. The blood there wasn't poisonous, it's just that the energy contained in it was too strong, people simply cannot bear it. I refrained from telling everyone about this because I suspect that the Radiant Church has relations to a God-ranked expert. If this matter gets spread around, it might reach the ears of the church. If they do, the Gods might send their people ahead of time, far before we have prepared. The strength of the continent is currently lacking. I'm worried that we might lose big in the confrontation. Therefore, I intend to go back and research the God's Blood and see if I can produce a potion that may improve ranks and train a lot of 9th ranks. If we accomplish this, then we may have a fighting chance against the people from the Divine Realm. I just didn't expect the Dwarves to have this prophecy. It's surely the will of the heavens!"

The heads of Billy and Juno couldn't help but turn blank after listening to Zhao Hai. They weren't expecting this influx of information, it seems like they needed to prepare.



After some time, Billy recovered. He stood up and said, "So it's actually the Radiant Church. I always thought that these people are rotten eggs. So it turns out that they have this motive."

Juno's expression was also ugly as he said, "I think that Little Hai's suspicion is highly probable. The things that the Radiant Church has been doing recently cannot be justified. If they really do have a background, just like what Little Hai said, then this matter has turned quite dangerous. If people from the Divine Realm send people down, then it would be very troublesome."

Zhao Hai sighed and said, "Not only that, besides the Radiant Church, there is also the Engraved Ark. I don't know what kind of organization they are, but it seems like they are hell bent on the destruction of the continent. In the past, when the Divine Realm sent a God-ranked expert down, that person managed to damage the three Divine Artifacts sent down to defeat him. I need to repair those two other Artifacts in order to improve our chances of coming out on top. However, even if I repair those artifacts, I think that it would still be very hard for us, seeing that the Divine Realm already knows that we possess those three Artifacts. When they come, I'm fairly certain that they would bring countermeasures in order to deal with those."

Juno and Billy frowned, their expression weren't very attractive. The matters that were involved in this was just too big. They simply cannot handle this just by themselves.

Zhao Hai looked at the two and said, "I think we're fine for now. We just need to find solutions in order to deal with it. I'm requesting Patriarch Billy to come in contact with the Elves as soon as possible while I go to the Beastmen and see their Beast God's Spear. If possible, I'll go and fix their Artifact. When that time comes, we can get ourselves more leeway. But the most important thing right now is to keep this matter a secret. We can't tell anyone, even the people that we trust. These words would only stay inside this room. What do the two of you think?"

Billy and Juno thought for a moment before they succumbed to the fact that they had nothing to solve this matter with in the meantime. So they can only sigh and say, "Alright, it seems like this is the only thing that we can do at this moment."

Zhao Hai looked at their faces and smiled faintly, "You two don't need to worry too much. Our Buda Clan's potion making is very advanced. Perhaps we can make use of the God's Blood and prepare some potions in order to mass produce 9th rank experts. When that time comes, then we would be able to deal with the attack coming from the Divine Realm."

Billy and Juno couldn't help but bitterly smile, they understood that those words were only said in order to console them. Then suddenly, Billy's eyes shone, he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Mister Zhao Hai, the prophecy included the Five Forbidden Areas. In other words, if mister can conquer those five, then you might come to find some benefits that can help in dealing with this matter."

Juno's eyes turned bright as well, "Right, Little Hai, you might as well do that. If you can do that, then we would have more confidence in confronting the Gods. Do you think you can do that with your current ability?"

Zhao Hai were thinking about their proposals. Actually, he also wanted to explore those five areas, but he just didn't have the time. But after this meeting, it seems like Zhao Hai really does need to explore the Five Forbidden Areas. But before he explores those places, he wanted to go and visit the Elven Forest first.

After thinking about this, Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, I will certainly go if given the opportunity. But I need to see the Beastmen first and see whether I can fix their Beast God's Spear. Patriarch Billy should also get news from the Elves while seeing if they can allow me to fix their Elven Bow. After completing these, I think it wouldn't be too late before I can explore those Forbidden Areas."

Billy nodded and said, "Alright, then it's settled. I'll send word to the Elves as soon as possible. I'll ask for the Elven Bow first before asking about their Tree of Life. If their Tree did indeed dry up or has any problems, then the prophecy might as well be realized."

Zhao Hai and Juno nodded. The hearts of the three felt quite heavy, not because of anything else but the matters of the Divine Realm. These people represent the pinnacle of strength in the Continent. If they go against this legend one day, then they would need a lot of firepower. This was the Divine Realm, they cannot be underestimated.