

Another World 581

Chapter 581 - Banquet

Knock *Knock* *Knock* Three knocks were heard before the three woke up from their thoughts. Billy looked at the door and said, "Who is it?"

A voice was heard from outside, "Patriarch, the banquet for Mister Zhao Hai has been prepared."

Billy couldn't help but pat his head. Because of the weight of their conversation, the three had forgotten about the banquet.

So Billy immediately responded, "Alright, we'll be heading there soon. You go first." Then the person outside complied as he retreated.

Billy turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Sending Dwarves to your territory wouldn't be a problem. How many people do you want to be sent there?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "The more the better, but there aren't a lot of iron back in my place. After all, my main products are crops and processed goods. The thing that is abundant there is liquor."

Billy laughed and said, "That wouldn't be a problem. Also, you being the prophesized person is very good for us. Don't forget, the prophecy stated that you would be the King of all and the hero that would save us all."

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly and said, "I can be fine as a hero, but I don't think I can handle being the King of all. It's those bastard Gods' fault. We didn't do anything but they dare to disrupt our lives? Such bastards."

Zhao Hai normally watches out for the words that came out of his mouth. But he let that rule off this time. This matter had truly filled him with anger, he couldn't bear but scold the perpetrators.

Billy laughed loudly as he said, "Good, you curse quite well. Those Gods really aren't very good people. Right, don't go away soon. Let's drink a lot this time. No matter what, today's a happy day."

Zhao Hai had no choice but to nod. Juno smiled as well. Then the three of them walked out of Billy's office. However, Billy didn't lead them to the Dining Hall, instead, he brought them to the Divine Palace.

The scene made Zhao Hai stare. The Divine Palace's square was very big, it was more than 100 thousand square meters. And yet, the square was chock full of tables right now. A lot of Dwarves were already sitting down while women were serving them dishes.

Upon looking at this scene, Zhao Hai couldn't help but turn blank. He had seen Beastmen banquets before. But he hadn't seen a thing such as this before. He didn't think that the Dwarves would also have such large banquets like this.

Zhao Hai discovered that Laura and the others were already at the square. Moreover, they were already sitting down and chatting with Dwarf women.

Billy didn't say anything as he pulled Zhao Hai to sit at a table that was already reserved for them. At this time, they were served with special dishes of the Dwarf Race.

Zhao Hai looked at the situation before he turned to Billy and said, "I have a lot of liquor. Can I serve them here to drink?"

Billy laughed and said, "That'll be great. Quickly take them out." Then he stood up and announced, "Today, we celebrate this banquet in order to honor our Dwarf Race's new Foreign Elder. Elder Zhao Hai is also very happy, so he had prepared some liquor for everyone to drink!"

Just as Billy's voice fell, a resounding applause was heard in the entire square. Zhao Hai didn't delay as he faintly smiled and waved his hand took out some liquor bags, each no less than 100 jin in weight.

Zhao Hai stopped as soon as it reached 500 bags. The Dwarves currently present here numbered about 10 thousand people. If he didn't take these many out, then a shortage of liquor might happen.

After Zhao Hai took out his liquor, Dwarf women immediately took them and served the liquor on the various tables present. Looking at how these Dwarf women were carrying two bags of liquor quite casually, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile bitterly. It seem like even the women of the Dwarf race

contained astonishing strength. They can certainly take up weapons and fight as soldiers. Such a race cannot be underestimated.

However, Zhao Hai wasn't given enough time to dwell on his thoughts. Even if the dishes were already served, nobody ate even a single thing. All of them were holding their wine cups as they looked at the direction of Billy.

Billy stood up and raised his glass as he said, "Today is a good day for our Dwarf Race. In nearly 300 years, we haven't managed to invite a new Foreign Elder. Mister Zhao Hai accepting to be our Foreign Elder is a huge honor to our race. Together, let's give a toast to Mister Zhao Hai!"

All the Dwarves stood as they held their wine glasses up and loudly said, "To Elder Zhao Hai."

Zhao Hai wasn't expecting this reception. He also discovered a difference between the Dwarves and the Beastmen. In the Herculean Bull Tribe, announcing him being a Foreign Prince was very straightforward. After drinking three glasses, everything was over.

But for the Dwarves, they held a lot of terminologies in their announcements. They seem to say that they invite someone to be their Foreign Elder. It wasn't an appointment or anything of the sort, it was very polite.

Zhao Hai raised his wine as well as he returned the gesture, "Becoming a Foreign Elder of the Dwarf Race is a huge honor for this Zhao Hai. I will certainly serve the Dwarves well!" Then he lifted his cup and drank all of the liquor in one go!

Then without any words left to say, Billy and the other Dwarves shouted, "Cheers!" Then they downed their liquor as well.

After drinking one cup, Billy poured himself a second cup as he lifted it again and said, "This second cup is my respects for Mister Juno. Mister Juno has been my friend for a long time. Even if he hadn't help us Dwarves greatly these past years, he brought us Mister Zhao Hai. To express our gratitude, I want to dedicate this second cup to Mister Juno. He is a genuine friend to our Dwarf Race!"

The other Dwarves, who had also refilled their cups, also said, "To Mister Juno!"

Juno hastily lifted his glass and replied, "The Hurricane Family shall always be a friend to the Dwarves, Cheers!" Then the place became busy as the people downed their wine glasses.

After drinking this liquor, Billy turned to Zhao Hai and said, "You can offer this third cup. After that, all the formalities will be done."

Zhao Hai nodded, and then he lifted his wine glass and said, "I want to thank Mister Juno for bringing me here. I also thank my Dwarf brothers for inviting me to be your Foreign Elder. This Zhao Hai wants to share this cup with all of you, cheers!" Then he finished the wine in his cup.

Since the other Dwarves were aware of the ceremony, they didn't sit down after the second cup. So after they heard Zhao Hai's toast, they also cheered loudly before they sat down and indulged on the dishes on their tables.

After the people sat down, only then did Zhao Hai discover that the Dwarves had drank three full glasses of wine. Although their glasses aren't very big, the liquor that they drank was still of a higher degree than normal. One should know that if one survives drinking just one glass of this liquor, one's capacity was already deemed to be not bad.

This fact made Zhao Hai figuratively perspire. These Dwarves are truly huge drunkards, Zhao Hai was now doubting whether he can supply them with enough liquor. But on the positive side, the dishes that these Dwarves made tasted very good.

The meal went down in a stellar manner, a lot of Dwarves happily ate and drank. And after the banquet finished, Zhao Hai and the others immediately returned to their own room.

After returning to their room, Zhao Hai immediately drank a cup of Spatial Water. Due to the upgrade, the Spatial water had become much more effective in detoxification. So Zhao Hai's drunkenness was almost instantly cured.

Laura and the others drank a cup as well. Then after the group flashed to the Space's villa, Zhao Hai told them about the prophecy of the Dwarves.

Laura and the others didn't make any noise as Zhao Hai talked to them. Only after the story did Laura comment, "I think that the probability of Brother Hai being the person in the prophecy is very high. Brother Hai already recognized the Divine Artifact, we still don't know about the Tree of Life. Of the Five Forbidden Lands, the Carrion Swamp is already under our control. If we analyze this disaster, then it might very well be related to the Divine Realm. What I think Brother Hai should do right now is to solve the five Forbidden Lands first, that wouldn't be very difficult, given our current prowess. If Brother Hai unites the five lands, then Brother Hai would take the seat of King of all as stated in the prophecy."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile bitterly and say, "I actually prefer all of this to not happen. But from what I can see, it seems like this matter would be inevitable. Alright, no need to think about these for now. In any case, we still need to prepare everything. In the following days, we'll trade our goods with the Dwarves before we leave for Golden Island. After that, we can then head to the prairie and see the Beastmen's Divine Artifact while Patriarch Billy collects news about the Elves. If we fix the other two Divine Artifacts, then we can have a sort of guarantee for the future."

Laura nodded, "I agree. Our opponent will be God-ranked experts. These three Artifacts also have some understanding of the Divine Realm. So we can prepare for the time when the God's would come."

Megan nodded as well, "They're Gods after all, they're not people to be underestimated. Since those three Artifacts have battled Gods in the past, then they would prove to be useful for our cause."

Zhao Hai nodded, "If we fix those three Artifacts, then we can immediately go to the other four forbidden areas and conquer them. If there are good things there, then we might even upgrade the Space."

At this time, Lizzy knit her eyebrows as she said, "Big Brother Hai, can we tell this matter to father? Wouldn't it be better if he knew about this?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "It's currently not the time to do that. If we tell father-in-law now, then it would be possible for other people to know about it. If the Radiant Church finds out, then we would be in big trouble."

Lizzy nodded, she knew that what Zhao Hai said was true. From the ancient times to the present days, there weren't any secrets that an Emperor can keep for themselves. Therefore, talking to the Emperor right now wouldn't be a very good idea.

Zhao Hai sighed and said, "It seems like we don't have anything else to do right now. In the meantime, let's head back to Iron Mountain Fort and let Grandpa Green and Grandma Merine be 9th ranks first. After that we can let Grandpa Kun, Rockhead, Blockhead, Shun, and Shue take turns."

Laura nodded but said, "No need to be anxious. After all, we still have a large number of 9th ranks in the Space. Right, Brother Hai, I think we should check up on the Processing Machine and see if it can make potions that can make 9th ranks into God-ranked experts. Wouldn't it be great for us if that is possible?"

Zhao Hai stared, he had forgotten about this point. He immediately said, "I had Cai'er look over it yesterday. Cai'er, how was it?"

Just after Zhao Hai's voice fell, Cai'er immediately appeared in front of Zhao Hai. She faintly smiled and said, "Young Master, rest assured, I already planted some plants that can make God-ranked experts in the Farming Ground. However, there are still some other plants that cannot be grown. But when the Space reaches level 55, all of those can be cultivated. Since the Space is still level 52, I can only put aside the seeds of those plants. When time comes, I shall immediately cultivate them. The Young Master doesn't need to worry too much about it."

Upon hearing Cai'er, Zhao Hai laughed and nodded, "Good, Cai'er. Having you really relieves me of some worries"

Cai'er smiled and said, "Thank you, Young Master. Also, Young Master, I can now eat. Please bring me some good food next time."

Zhao Hai laughed and replied, "That's not a problem. Just tell me what you'd like to eat, your Young Master wouldn't treat you unjustly. But isn't your main body a plant? Isn't it just fine if you don't eat?"

Cai'er smiled and said, "I get envious of people sometimes. Even if I don't need to eat, it doesn't mean that I can't."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Alright. Rest assured, I'll certainly bring you some food next time. Right, I think there are still a lot of delicious food in the warehouse. You can eat some snacks from there in the meantime" Then Zhao Hai waved his hand as he withdrew some snacks from the warehouse and gave them to Cai'er.

Although Cai'er was the Space's manager, she wasn't able to touch the Warehouse, that place was under the sole control of Zhao Hai. She doesn't have the authority to access it.

Seeing these things that she hadn't ate before, Cai'er began to munch on the snacks like a happy little child. Laura and the others smiled, they seem to see Cai'er's actions quite cute.

Seeing Cai'er happily eating, Zhao Hai became happy as well. He turned his attention away from Cai'er as he faced Laura and said, "It seems like the Space needs to reach level 55 as soon as possible. Otherwise, we would be on a disadvantage in the war against the Gods."

Laura gave a sigh and said, "We're already at quite a great position. If we go to the Elven Forest as well as the other Forbidden Areas, then wouldn't we be able to reach that level by then?"

Zhao Hai bitterly smiled, he didn't think that it would be that smooth. One must know that the higher the Space's level was, the harder the next step would be. Now that the Space had reached level 52, levelling up to 55 would be very difficult.

This time, he used God's Blood, but it only upgraded the Space by three levels. Where could he find something much stronger than God's Blood in the future?

But at the very least, they now have a target, which was good. Zhao Hai smiled bitterly as he turned to Laura and said, "Let's go to the backgrounds and explore them. After all, we still haven't seen them yet."

Laura and the others nodded. They also wanted to see the contents of those backgrounds. The pressure has been great to them recently, they needed a short time to relax themselves in some new scenery.

Especially now, after knowing about the matters with the Divine Realm. They felt that their nerves were already quite stretched out to the point of collapse.

The group played around inside the backgrounds for quite some time. They also found the houses inside those backgrounds and rested inside. The rooms were very good, it had quite the modern touch to it, which made Zhao Hai and the others enjoy their stay.

The next morning, Zhao Hai and the others appeared inside the room in the mountain that Billy had prepared for them. Just as they came out, a Dwarf arrived and immediately bowed to Zhao Hai's door and said, "Elder, the Patriarch is inviting you over to the Dining Hall for a meal."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Thanks" Then the Dwarf smiled before he turned around to leave, looking somewhat shy. Zhao Hai smiled faintly before leading Laura and the others towards the Dining Hall.

Besides Billy and Juno, there were no other people present in hall.

Zhao Hai didn't care about this and just sat with Billy and Juno. Laura and the others sat on another table as Dwarf women served them their meals before leaving.

After Zhao Hai had sat down, Juno gave a smile and said, "How are you feeling? You've drank the same amount of liquor as the Dwarves yesterday."

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly and replied, "Fortunately, we managed to recover after taking a good night's sleep. But I don't think I can drink that much anymore."

Juno and Billy chuckled, Billy looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Yesterday, I've sent some Dwarves to get plants and Magic Beasts for you. We've also included some special ores in the lot. I hope that those things would be useful to you. We've made a pile of those things outside. You can take them away later. Will you be leaving after that?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "After getting those things, I'm planning to leave and head to the Prairie hoping to see the Beast God's Spear. Right, Patriarch, you should keep a warehouse open for me. I'll be supplying you milk wine every month, it's total quantity wouldn't be less than 1 million jin. When that time comes, I'll be trading them for some ironwares that I would list on a letter along with the milk wine delivery. You can put those things in the warehouse. It'll make it possible for me to come here and fetch them regularly."

Billy nodded and said, "Alright, this is not a problem. I'll keep a warehouse free just for you. At the same time, I won't be telling your secrets to anyone, you can rest assured."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright. I also still need a period of time to research that God's Blood. If we succeed, we would be able to gain a method to make 9th ranks into God-ranked experts. So when the Gods come, we won't be in a huge disadvantage."

Billy knit his brows as he replied, "I'm afraid that this wouldn't be easy. Moreover, after people in the continent reaches 9th rank, they would immediately need to ascend to the Divine Realm, otherwise they would receive Divine Punishment. If we make God-ranked experts, then I'm afraid we won't get much use of them."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "I also know about this. But even if we don't have God-ranked experts, at the very least, we can still have a lot of 9th ranks. We shouldn't forget that it's already been tens of thousands of years before the war with the Gods. But in these tens of thousands of years, the technology in the continent haven't progressed by a lot. However, I think that it would be impossible for the Divine Realm to be unable to come up with new things. It might be possible for them to create a process to weaken the barrier to the Ark Continent. If they send an army to attack, our own forces wouldn't be able to resist."

Billy sighed and said, "Not only the Gods, I'm also quite worried about the Demons. The God's might take a long time before coming. However, the Demons have also been taking their time. I heard that the Five Forbidden Areas were somewhat related to the Demon Realm. If you head to the Five Forbidden Areas, make sure to check for signs of the Demons. Right, since you have explored the Carrion Swamp, is the situation under control over there?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Rest assured, that place is already under control. From what I had heard for Sir Artifact Spirit, the war with the Divine Realm had caused the barrier to weaken, allowing the Demons entry to the Ark Continent. However, I cannot see any connection to the Demon Realm at this time. So you don't need to worry about it."

Juno then felt a connection as he said, "Right, why do I think that the Engraved Ark is connected to the Demon Realm? They don't seem to act like the Radiant Church who wants to control the continent. On the other hand, it seems like they are hell bent on destroying it. Isn't this the main goal of the Demons?"

Zhao Hai stared, he hadn't thought about this possibility. But now that Juno had said it, the Engraved Ark's purpose of destroying the continent's races really did seem like it connects to the goals of the Demons.

Gods are different to Demons. Although the Gods were at war with the other races, they still select which of them to deal with while they sided with the Humans. If Humans become Gods, then it would give them much more fighting prowess. The Gods might even make the Ark Continent a place where they can produce a lot of God-ranked experts.

But Demons were different, what they want was the Ark Continent. From what was heard from Cai'er, the environment in the Demon Realm was very bad, so they had been drooling at the sight of the Ark Continent. They held zero regard towards the people living in it, so it wouldn't be an issue for them to eradicate the entire population. Unlike the Gods, where they want to hold monopoly over the population, the Demons wanted to completely erase it.

Seeing Zhao Hai staying quiet, Juno knew that there might still be some things that Zhao Hai had kept secret from them. Juno and Billy didn't disturb Zhao Hai's thoughts, they stayed quiet and let Zhao Hai ruminate over his ideas.

After thinking about this point for some time, Zhao Hai was convinced that the Engraved Ark had something to do with the Demon Race. But if it was really the case, then the troubles for the Ark Continent had now been increased.

Seeing that Zhao Hai had recovered, Billy immediately said, "What happened? Did you think of something?"

Zhao Hai forced a smile and said, "I did just think of something, I'm afraid that the Engraved Ark might have a relationship with the Demons. When I investigated the Carrion Swamp in the past, I had discovered some ancient records detailing the matters of the Demon Race. When the barrier was damaged, people of the Ark Continent came to know of the existence of the Demon Realm while at the same time, the Demons were also made aware of the Ark Continent. It has been known that the Demon Realm is a very hard place to live in. For the Demons, the Ark Continent would seem like Heaven. It had become their goal to live in here, it became a must for them to occupy the continent. Because of that, the Demons held no interest in the beings that are currently living here. It wouldn't be a problem for them if everyone here were to be eliminated. This is very much like the motives of the Engraved Ark. Therefore, I've felt a very high probability of the Engraved Ark having contact with the Demon Race."

When Juno and Billy heard Zhao Hai's speculations, their faces couldn't help but turn ugly. Juno's earlier inquiry was only a shallow prediction, he wasn't confident in it being true. However, after hearing Zhao Hai, he came to know that this matter was highly possible.

Billy knit his brows and said, "That can't be right. Why would the Engraved Ark help the Demons? All of the people in the continent hated the Demons."

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly and answered, "Don't forget how greedy people can get. They would do anything in order to fulfill their ambitions. If the Radiant Church can brainwash people using religion. Then who can say that the Demons can't do the same? There is nothing strange about the existence of Engraved Ark."

Juno's face became uglier. Others might not know, but he was very clear about how good the Radiant Church was in brainwashing people. His family had suffered because of this aspect. If the Radiant Church didn't have effective methods of brainwashing, then they wouldn't have grown this fast. If the Engraved Ark was really a religion set up by the Demons, then Zhao Hai's speculation might as well be true.

Billy nodded and said, "This Demon Race's secrecy is much deeper than the Radiant Church. It seems like we need to be more cautious of them."

Zhao Hai actually shook his head, "Not necessarily. The reason why the Radiant Church had resorted to their present actions was because of me continually interfering with their plans. Because of them being in the light, they had more room for development. On the other hand, the Engraved Ark being very secretive only meant that they have a lack of members. If this is the case, then the threat of the Radiant Church should be bigger."

Juno coldly snorted as he said, "No matter which one, both of them are very difficult to deal with. Because of Little Hai's actions, the Radiant Church has been pushed back while the Engraved Ark has always been living in the shadows. This is a very bad situation. It may be possible for them to collaborate in dealing with Little Hai, so you need to be careful."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but force a smile as he said, "This is really ironic. On one side are Gods, and on the other are Demons. If they join forces to deal with us, then we're done for."

Chapter 583 - Raising One Level

Zhao Hai has been cursing people a lot recently. He felt very incensed, Gods, Demons, two people who are on the opposite spectrum were pining to occupy the Ark Continent. They might even cooperate in order to deal with its inhabitants. How unfortunate was this situation? How could he be the male lead in this story!!

When Juno heard Zhao Hai, he couldn't help but coldly snort, "Little Hai, you don't need to think that the people of the Divine Realm are good. Although a lot of Humans there are from the continent, from what Iron Hammer said, most of its inhabitants are native. Therefore, we don't need to consider them as people from the Ark Continent."

Billy snorted as well, "These fellows really cannot be considered to be good. Little Hai, I hope you can develop ways to be God-ranked experts as soon as possible. Perhaps when that time comes, we would feel a lot better when outsiders decide to visit."

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly, he knew that what Billy and Juno said was right. The God-ranked experts in the Divine Realm cannot be considered to be one of them.

Juno then looked at Zhao Hai and sighed, "Alright, let's not talk about these anymore. Let's eat. After the meal, Little Hai can get his goods then we'll take our leave."

Billy turned to Juno and said, "What? You're already leaving? I thought that you would need to stay for a few days?"

Juno forced a smile and said, "Forget it. I've already been away for too long. Also, I've managed to know a lot of things here. The things that are left for me to handle should be piled up right now."

Billy nodded, "Alright. Dealing with the invaders is the most important thing, I won't be holding you back. Let's eat and then let Little Hai get his goods. At the same time, I'll also be handing over a letter to be given to the Beast King. If Little Hai gives that to the Beast King, the probability of him seeing the Beast God's Spear should increase."

Zhao Hai understood what Billy was trying to do. Although Zhao Hai's standing in the Prairie was already high, he was still a human that Beastmen wouldn't generally trust, especially with the matter of their

Beast God's Spear. But if he had a letter from the Dwarves, in addition to the Elder's command token, everything should go by smoothly.

The three didn't waste a single breath. After having their meal, they immediately proceeded to go outside. When Zhao Hai saw the display, he couldn't help but stare blankly at it. On the ground were more than a hundred types of things. It included about 30 species of unique Magic Beasts, more than 50 types of plants, and more than a dozen kinds of ores. These ores were very rare in the continent, they might not have even seen the light of day before.

However, these nuances aren't important. What was important were the alive plants and animals. For Zhao Hai these things were too useful.

Zhao Hai wasn't polite as he immediately received everything into the Space. A prompt was then heard, most of them about the plants and animals. But around the end, the ores were addressed as well. The ores were indeed rare and special. But because the quantity was too little, it would be impossible for them to be like Pure Iron, able to form their own lode inside the Space. However, the Space informed Zhao Hai that when those ores grow in a few years, each one of them would develop their own vein inside.

Because of the Space's recent upgrades, it had become possible for the ores to grow. In the past, if the amount of ore was this low, then it would be impossible for them to increase. For Zhao Hai, this development was very good news.

But what made Zhao Hai very surprised was the fact that all of these things were able to increase the Space's level by one. This made Zhao Hai gawk.

With his understanding of the Space, it was impossible for these things to make it increase by one level. The current development truly gave him a surprise.

However, after a moment of thinking, Zhao Hai had found the reason why this was such. It was possible that after the God's Blood had been absorbed by the Space, increasing its level by three, there were still some energy left behind but was unable to raise the Space's level. The recent pile was just the final push needed by the Space in order to level up.

Zhao Hai didn't make a big deal out of it. Although the Space had increased by a level, he still needed two levels for something significant to happen. These two levels wouldn't be very easy to get. He just hopes that the Beastmen had good things for him.

After receiving these things, Zhao Hai and the others immediately went to the empty warehouse that has been prepared by the Dwarves beforehand. Actually, this warehouse was just a very huge cavern inside the mountain range. Moreover, this cavern was completely unused, so there won't be any fear of any Dwarves stealing stuff that was inside.

When Zhao Hai was finished inspecting the warehouse, the things that he needed to do in the Dwarf Mountains was now almost finished. Arranging Dwarves for the Black Wasteland would still need some time, it was already quite good that Billy was working on it.

Upon finishing these two matters, the group immediately returned to Billy's office. When they sat down, Billy turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, I've already set up some ironwares for you to bring, but it needs a day to collect. Are you alright with getting them tomorrow?"

Zhao Hai thought for a moment, in any case he wasn't really anxious in leaving, he nodded and said, "Alright, then I'll wait until tomorrow before we leave."

Billy nodded, then he turned to his workplace and started to write a letter. Zhao Hai knew that Billy was writing the letter that was to be given to the Beast King, so he didn't disturb him. Instead, he turned to Juno and whispered, "Patriarch Juno, after we leave tomorrow, I can only drop you off in your territory before heading to Golden Island. I still need to prepare for my visit to the Prairie, I'm afraid I won't be able to stay for long."

Juno understood, he nodded and said, "That's not a problem. Dealing with this matter is much more important. After all, we still have a lot of time in our hands in the future."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Certainly there'll be a chance. But there is one thing I'll need your help with. Since my territory is far from the Ocean Waves Dynasty, I wouldn't have a huge opportunity to observe it. It's possible for the Dynasty to have already fallen to the Radiant Church's hands. I'll have to trouble you to keep your eyes on them."

Juno smiled and said, "No problem. We'll handle this matter with care. If we have any information, we'll pass it to Billy and have him place the letter along with the goods in the warehouse. This way, news arrives to you much quicker."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright. About the Gods and the Divine Realm's matter, please refrain from telling anyone about it. We cannot afford to make a stir if this gets spread out. This would only bring us harm."

Juno nodded, "Rest assured, I understand the implications. I won't tell anyone about it. Right, I'm planning to send some people over to Golden Island to do business, can you see to it that they are settled properly?"

Zhao Hai smiled, "That's not an issue. I'll go inform the island's manager about this later. When your people arrive at the island, just tell the people in charge that you're the Hurricane Family. They shall help you get settled in."

Juno patted Zhao Hai's shoulder and said, "Thank you, Little Hai."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "You're too polite. We're now allies, so you're absolutely welcome in my territory. Besides the people of my Buda Clan, only you and Patriarch Billy knew about my secret, even my father-in-law doesn't now. You should also keep that secret from the others."

Juno gave a smile and said, "Rest assured, I'm not that neglectful. But I really didn't expect that the poisonous fog in the Black Wasteland was your doing. Moreover, that poisonous gas can actually harm 9th ranks. No wonder nobody discovered your roots. With that place as a den, nobody would be able to guess it."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "There's no other way. In the past, our Buda Clan was still very weak. If people found out that we're still in the Black Wasteland, they might go and deal with us immediately. And although we have the strength right now, I still don't want to restrict my freedom. There are too many greedy people in the continent. If they came to know the situation of my Buda Clan, then they might develop ideas and might turn their attention away from the Radiant Church. That would bring me a lot of troubles."

Juno smiled bitterly, he knew that what Zhao Hai said was true. Now that the matter with the Divine Realm must be kept in secret, the only thing that can shift people's attention was the news that the Buda Clan was occupying the entirety of the Black Wasteland, and had made it possible to be cultivated. This news would definitely would cause a huge reaction. In the end, there would be a lot of eyes that would be turned towards the Buda Clan.

The area of the Black Wasteland was too big, and it held a large amount of now arable land. This land of pure wealth would surely cause people to develop greedy thoughts.

The reason why people of the continent were suppressing the Radiant Church was because the church had threatened their rule, posing a threat to their interests. If a huge piece of meat such as the wasteland suddenly appears in the continent, people would take their attention off of the Radiant Church, and then shift towards the Buda Clan.

While they were talking, Billy had already finished writing the letter. He didn't use paper for it, but instead processed skin of the Iron Beast. The Iron Beast had a lot of uses aside from it being a good material for leather armor. Because of this, the significance of the Iron Beast to the Dwarves was just like what the Argali was to the Beastmen.

Billy rolled up the beastskin and then sealed it. He handed the letter over to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, take this letter to the Beast King. He should be able to recognize that the seal is from our Dwarf Race. I wrote everything about the Divine Artifacts here. I believe that after reading the letter, he should be able to agree to your request."

Zhao Hai received the letter and nodded, "Alright, I also think that he would agree. My relationship with him is very good, there shouldn't be any more problems."

Chapter 584 - Also Wants to Marry?

Zhao Hai was currently standing on the Haven's bow with Juno. Although they look like they were appreciating the scene of Iron Warhorse River, their minds were on something completely different.

The didn't have the mood to enjoy the scenery. The Gods and the Demons had given them enormous pressure. It was like they had mountains stacked on their shoulders, making it hard for them to breath.

Two days had already passed from the time that they had left the Dwarf Mountains. In the two days that they were hurrying along, even if they already have a plan to deal with the Gods, they still thought of the matter with a heavy heart.

After some time, Zhao Hai sighed and said, "Since the Dwarves had already started to prepare for war, it seems like the Black Wasteland would need to do the same."

Juno sighed as well as he said, "Not only you, we'll be preparing as well. What a pity, our Hurricane Family's domain is too small. Moreover, we don't have any good produce in it. Preparing for the future would be quite a problem."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Grandpa Juno doesn't need to worry. As long as you keep your eyes on the Radiant Church, it's already enough of an effort."

Juno sighed, "That's the only thing that we could do. We'll have to pass the other matters on to you. Also, Billy needs to convince the Elves to be our allies, otherwise, it would be troublesome."

Zhao Hai nodded, "I'll also head to the Prairie and talk to the Beastmen. I hope that they can agree based on my merit. Right, let's not talk about this anymore. Grandpa Juno, what business are you preparing to do in Golden Island?"

Juno smiled bitterly and said, "The usual, basic goods. Our Hurricane Family hasn't done much business all these years, so we really don't know anything else."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "How about this. If you really want to do business in Golden Island, you can approach the administrator there. His name is Kun, he's my wife Laura's Grandpa. I'll tell Grandpa Kun to help you set up a business that can turn a profit."

Juno smiled and said, "Thank you. Our people really aren't very suitable for business. In the younger generation, the only one with an eye for business is Kristen. When we send people to Golden Island, she'll be placed in charge."

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly inside without changing his outside expression, he just nodded and said, "Alright, I'll help them get settled in. However, they might not regularly see me in the island. I'm mostly on other places all year round. If they need anything, they can just ask Grandpa Kun for help."

Juno didn't say anything but just nodded. He knew that Zhao Hai had already guessed his intentions. Juno wanted to send Kristen to Golden Island in hopes that she can marry Zhao Hai.

If Juno wasn't aware of the matter with the Divine Realm, then it would be impossible for him to have such an idea. After all, the Hurricane Family doesn't seek profit, so it wouldn't be in their best interests to be married to the Buda Clan.

But now that he knew about the Gods, he couldn't help but develop this plan. From what he had felt from Zhao Hai, Juno can faintly sense the might of the Buda Clan. Getting good relationships with the Buda Clan would immensely aid the Hurricane Family in the future.

Moreover, Juno somewhat believed the prophecy of the Dwarves that Billy had told him. If that was indeed true, then Zhao Hai would become the saviour of the entire continent. If he didn't use this early opportunity to establish a connection with Zhao Hai, then he wasn't worthy of being the Patriarch of the Hurricane Family.

Although the Hurricane Family wasn't known for its ambition, no Great Clan can completely survive without it. The reason the Hurricane Family was able to survive was because they had maintained their current status. In the Buddha Empire, the Hurricane Family wasn't the biggest Clan nor was it the smallest. Their status in the empire was just average, attracting the goodwill of the Imperial Clan as well as the other Nobles. Their unambitious ways made it possible for them to maintain their status and interests.

However, with the looming threat of the Divine Realm, the situation had changed. If people from the Divine Realm came, the continent would certainly fall into chaos. In this case, rankings and status would be useless, only strength can decide everything.

Because he clearly knew about this point, Juno wanted to arrange Kristen to marry Zhao Hai. Having Kristen do business in Golden Island was the first step.

But Juno a wise old person. He already saw the relationship between Zhao Hai and his wives. And seeing that Zhao Hai's wives were already very attractive, Juno didn't directly offer Zhao Hai the marriage. He wanted to make Kristen go to Golden Island first to do business and maybe have a few interactions with Zhao Hai. Juno hopes that the two might develop feelings for each other in the near future.

Zhao Hai telling Juno that he wasn't in the island most of the time was akin to informing Juno that he was aware of his plan. Zhao Hai wanted to express that there was almost no chance of any marriage happening. But although Juno got Zhao Hai's message, he still wanted to give it a try.

Zhao Hai looked at Juno's perseverance and sighed. He had already lived for quite some time in the Ark Continent, so he now understood the thoughts of the people living here. Because of this, he found Juno's decision to be understandable. But Zhao Hai wasn't planning on marrying Kristen.

Therefore, he told Juno that he cannot stay in Golden Island for most of the year. So even if he were to get in contact with Kristen, there wouldn't be a lot of chances to do so.

After another day of sailing, Zhao Hai and the others had finally arrived at the Hurricane Family's port. The reason why they were able to come back quickly was because they were travelling downstream. Therefore, the ship's speed was very quick.

Zhao Hai didn't stay for long, a short time after Juno disembarked, he immediately set sail. And after the ship has sailed, he immediately went to the Space along with Laura and the others. It was time to increase their ranks.

After arriving at the Space, Zhao Hai first went to Iron Mountain Fort to bring Green and Merine over. Then he went to Golden Island to call Kun, Blockhead, and Rockhead. Karen joined the group as well.

Green and the others had no idea why Zhao Hai took all of them to the Space. After the group had sat in the villa, Zhao Hai immediately informed them about the information that he had acquired while he was with the Dwarves. The Divine Realm, the Radiant Church, the Engraved Ark, all of it was told to the others.

Quite some time after they were shocked by the news, Green looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Young Master, do you mean that the Radiant Church was tasked by the Divine Realm to control the continent? And the Engraved Ark was tasked by the Demon Realm to destroy it?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, “Yes, it seems like so. Although I’m not completely sure that the Radiant Church wanted to control the whole continent, we are certain that their intentions aren’t good. If they can control the continent, then they would definitely enslave everyone in it.”

Kun’s face sank as he said, “This matter is too troublesome. Do you have any plans for it?”

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and then told them about the God’s Blood as well as the Space levelling up. After Zhao Hai ended his report, Green and the others immediately expressed their happiness. For them this was really good news.

Green laughed and said, “This is fantastic! I’ve waited for this day! Hahaha. I must become a 9th rank expert immediately.”

The others were happy as well, everyone except Karen. He seems to not care about it, he turned to Zhao Hai and said, “Little Hai, give me more blueprints. I’ve discovered how marvelous those ideas were just in my small time researching them. Although those didn’t have any Magic Formations, they can actually mimic a formation’s effects. I’m preparing to combine those with Magic Formations, as long as it succeeds, then it might lead to something that can change the continent.”

Zhao Hai was simply speechless about this madman father-in-law of his. When others heard that they can become 9th ranks, they immediately became happy. It was only Karen that didn’t care about it and instead only asked for more blueprints.

When she heard what her father just said, Laura couldn’t bear it as she said, “Father, leave the matter of the blueprints to another time. You can now be a 9th rank expert, aren’t you happy?”

Karen nodded and said, “Of course I’m happy. However, I’m much more interested in Little Hai’s blueprints. If we can use Magic along with those machines, we can make a lot of extraordinary things. We can make machines that do our work for us, we can make carriages that can run by themselves, we can use a new type of energy to power our lamps. These things can immensely help the entire continent’s living conditions.”

Zhao Hai stared blankly at Karen, he really underestimated this father-in-law of his. Zhao Hai didn’t expect Karen to come up with these things, it was surprising.

After some time, Zhao Hai recovered as he looked at Karen and said, "Father-in-law, let's deal with being a 9th rank first. If you become a 9th rank, your lifespan would be lengthened. Then, you would have more time to do research. What do you think?"

When Karen heard Zhao Hai, he thought about it for a moment before he nodded and said, "Alright, let's deal with that matter first. But if I become 9th rank, you better give me those blueprints."

Zhao Hai helplessly nodded, he was really speechless about Karen's ideas. He replied, "Father-in-law can use the Blood Pond in order to become a 9th rank now. Grandpa Green, Grandpa Merine, Grandpa Kun, Blockhead, and Rockhead, can you wait for a day or two? We need to decide which one goes first. People still need to cultivate for some days to become 9th rank. If all of you do it at the same time, nobody would be left to manage Iron Mountain Fort and Golden Island. That wouldn't be good."

Chapter 585 - Invited by His Majesty

Green nodded and said, "Alright, Iron Mountain Fort and Golden Island needs to be taken care of. Otherwise, things would go chaotic. I think we need to do it in batches. We'll have Rockead and Blockhead go first. Then when they're done, we can have them replace Brother Kun. Then after Brother Kun, Blockhead and Rockhead can go to Iron Mountain Fort in order to replace me and Merine. Shun and Shue can cultivate immediately."

Nobody disagreed with Green's proposal. In any case, the Space had now levelled up, it doesn't matter to them if they delay being 9th rank for a couple of days.

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, we'll do it just as what Grandpa Green said. Also, after you go back to Iron Mountain Fort, do find some loyal slaves, and then teach them cultivation. Now that the Spatial Water can increase practice speed, we won't need to worry about making experts. Select some people from the Giant-horned bulls as well. If we have members from their tribe get strong, then it'll be good for us."

The way Beastmen and Humans cultivate is very different. For Beastmen to cultivate successfully, they would need a strong soul beast to be their partner. And with the Space's recent upgrade, a lot of magic

beasts had now become high-grade. So if the Giant-horned Bulls used Space-grown bulls, they would certainly rank up easily.

Green nodded and said, "Alright. Actually, there were already people who had entered my eyes. I've known slaves, about 100 of them, that would fit your description. They've now become commoners, and are very loyal to our clan. I'll have them be the first batch to be cultivated."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Good, then I'll leave this matter to Grandpa's judgement. Right, everyone, let's take a look at some of the backgrounds in the Space. The sceneries are quite good."

Green and the other complied, then Zhao Hai took them to the newly obtained backgrounds. The views on those places were indeed very good.

After having looked at the ten backgrounds, Zhao Hai and the others returned to the villa. Then Zhao Hai took out some water from the Blood Pond for Laura and the others to drink. Green, Merine, and Kun, on the other hand, left the Space.

Laura and the others were quite nervous. The effects of the Blood Pond water wasn't like Zhao Hai's Space, promoting him instantly to 9th rank. After drinking the water, they still need to cultivate in order to rank up.

When Laura and the others drank the Blood Pond water, they immediately felt the intensity of the energy that was present inside. They felt their entire bodies heat up as their Battle Qi became agitated. For them, it felt like their bodies had been broken down.

They felt that their skin was about to be blown away. It seems like their bodies cannot handle the enormous energy that was just ingested.

Laura and the others didn't dare to let this go on, so they immediately used their own cultivation methods to practice. But since Meg was a Mage, the energy didn't wander around her body as it immediately went straight to her head. Meg felt an influx of pressure in her mind, making her almost lose her consciousness. However, Meg knew that she couldn't faint at this time, therefore she endured.

Meg gave it her all in order to stay sober. At the same time, she also called upon the elemental laws and slowly digested the energy that was present.

The other people were practically doing the same thing. Seeing that there seems to be no accident, Zhao Hai couldn't help but sigh in relief. He knew that the most dangerous time was the moment the water was ingested.

Now, although their expressions were still in pain, it had slowly turned into calmness. Seeing them going stable, Zhao Hai smiled and then went out of the Space to return to the Haven.

The Haven was still cruising along Iron Warhorse River, it still hasn't entered the sea. Zhao Hai wasn't worried about this as he just enjoyed the scene on the two banks of the river. This Iron Warhorse River was indeed worthy of being called the most important river of the Buddha Empire. Whether it be a city or a village, all of them had piers connecting to the river. At the same time, ships were constantly flowing through it, the scene was extremely lively.

While looking at these people, Zhao Hai couldn't help but sigh. Ignorance is really bliss. These average people didn't need to worry so much. They may get sad, but they can just recover in just a short time. It was impossible for them to have such huge burdens. But this was part of life, Zhao Hai has his advantages and troubles, while the commoners had their own matters as well.

In the past, back on Earth, Zhao Hai couldn't understand how people from higher statuses in life would get into drug addiction, and some even committed suicide. Zhao Hai couldn't fathom why those people could end up in such a state. Was the pressure on them really that great?

But after arriving at the Ark Continent, especially after knowing about the Divine Realm, Zhao Hai came to understand how much pressure and stress people from high status can have.

This pressure felt like a mountain constantly crashing into your body. Ever since he got the information, Zhao Hai had always felt that his nerves were constantly being stretched out. Zhao Hai was afraid that he might snap one of these days.

After thinking about this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but sigh once again. He looked at the people at both banks and couldn't help but feel envy. Zhao Hai had always wanted a simple life, but it seems like that life was getting farther and farther away from him.

At this time, the Haven had reached a region near a big city. However, Zhao Hai didn't plan to stop, he knew that after this city, it would only take two more days before they can reach the sea. Therefore, Zhao Hai planned to go through the river as fast as possible.

However, Zhao Hai didn't expect there to be an iron chain lock in front of him. It seems like its main purpose was to block the Haven from passing.

Zhao Hai gawked, he didn't say anything and just had the undead stop the ship. He went to the ship's bow and then looked at the blockade.

On both sides of the iron chain lock were two five masted battleships. The emblems on the two battleships emanated a faint yellow tint and had the image of a heavily armored soldier.

Zhao Hai was very familiar with this emblem, this was the Buddha Empire's Imperial Badge! The people who were blockading the river was actually the Empire's navy!

Zhao Hai stared, he didn't know what the other party wanted. But he didn't worry much about it, so he just stayed put and waited for the other party to make the move.

Just as expected, just as the Haven came to a full stop, a person suddenly appeared on one of the two ships. Behind him were people who were wearing Heavy Armor as well as people with Magic Robes. After appearing on the ship, the man said, "Is this the Buda Clan's Patriarch Zhao Hai's ship?"

Zhao Hai looked at the other ship and replied, "This is Zhao Hai. May I know why you are blocking the river?"

The man replied and said, "I've seen Mister Zhao Hai. I am the Buddha Empire's Vice Admiral Ironwood. His majesty is inviting Mister Zhao Hai over to the capital. We'll have to apologize for causing mister any trouble."

Zhao Hai stared, then he knit his brows. He knew that he has to go, otherwise, he wouldn't be giving the Buddha Empire any face. That action would definitely offend the Empire, so after thinking for a moment,

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, I'll have to ask the Vice Admiral to lead the way. I'll have my ship follow you afterwards."

Ironwood's voice was heard, "Then we'll be escorting mister." After that, they released the chains and slowly hoisted it up. Then the ships turned around and sailed in front of Zhao Hai. Zhao Hai didn't delay and also followed behind the ships.

Their current location wasn't very far from the Buddha Empire's Imperial Capital, Iron Knight City. As long as they take a branching river not far away from here, then it would only take less than a day before they arrive.

Constructing Iron Knight City in such a place was due to the Empire's first King. When he was struggling, he had met his Iron Warhorse Mount in the exact spot where Iron Knight City was built. Wanting to commemorate his meeting with his mount, the old Emperor decided to establish a city in this place, making it the capital of his Empire. He also made a statue of his mount, erected in the middle of the city's largest square.

Iron Knight City was placed at the largest branch of Iron Warhorse River. The volume of ships passing through this branch can only be trumped by the main river. There were more than a hundred piers here. With a variety of ships in it, including five-masted ships. There were a lot of people in the place as well, one could say that the city is the busiest hub in the entire Iron Warhorse River.

Zhao Hai stood on the Haven as he looked at the city getting closer and closer. Zhao Hai couldn't help but force a smile, the Buddha Empire truly had given him good face. The Haven was sandwiched between two five-masted ships. Even if he wanted to escape, he wouldn't have any avenue to do so.

But Zhao Hai didn't care much about it. Rosen Empire was the most powerful nation of the continent, and he was the Emperor's son-in-law while at the same time being the Patriarch of the Buda Clan. He believed that the Buddha Emperor was not planning to do anything bad to him.

The three ships slowly stopped in front of a pier. The undead prepared the springboard as Zhao Hai disembarked from the ship. On one of the two Buddha Empire ships, five people came down. Three of these people had full body armor, while two of them wore magical robes.

After the five disembarked, they immediately went to welcome Zhao Hai. The five arrived in front of Zhao Hai as a robust man in the front gave a bow and said, "Ironwood has seen Patriarch Zhao Hai."

Zhao Hai looked at this Ironwood. This fellow easily surpassed two meters, he had a silvery white armor that seems to be made from high purity iron. Zhao Hai felt strange when he remembered that this person was a Vice Admiral. If he wore a full armor, then wouldn't he have a hard time if he fell to the water?

But Zhao Hai still gave a smile and returned the salute, "I've seen Vice Admiral Ironwood. For this Zhao Hai to have a Vice Admiral escort him to the capital should be a capital offense."

Ironwood quickly replied, "We don't dare. His Majesty gave us explicit order to treat the Patriarch with hospitality. It's us who have been disrespectful to Patriarch Zhao Hai. Please do accept our apology."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Vice Admiral didn't do anything wrong, so there's no need to ask for forgiveness. I'll also ask f the Admiral for forgiveness in behalf of my wives. They're quite busy cultivating inside the ship. I'm afraid that they wouldn't be able to visit His Majesty together with me."

Ironwood replied, "The Patriarch doesn't need to be polite. Since your wives are busy, then we cannot disturb them. The Patriarch can rest assured, I'll have people standing guard here in order to maintain your ship's tranquility.:

Zhao Hai gave his gratitude to Ironwood, "I thank the Vice Admiral. I think we should be going, I don't want to make His Majesty and the others wait for so long."

Ironwood smiled faintly and said, "We're just in time. Follow me, Patriarch." Then he led Zhao Hai to exit the pier. Naturally this pier was used exclusively by Nobles. This was the reason why this place was hardly populated and was very clean.

When Zhao Hai and the others left the pier, they were immediately met by a horse carriage. The carriage was very stylish, it also sported the Imperial Clan's emblem.

Zhao Hai immediately knew that this carriage wasn't something that anyone can just ride on. At the very least, the person that can ride this should be a prince.

Sure enough, Ironwood smiled at Zhao Hai and said, "Patriarch, this is His Majesty's personal carriage. I didn't expect his Majesty to send his carriage for mister to ride on. It seems like the matter is quite urgent. Patriarch, I'll have to ask you to please board the carriage."

Zhao Hai expressed his gratitude before boarding the carriage. Ironwood followed Zhao Hai in as well. The inside of the carriage was quite luxurious. Thick beastskin were draped on the chairs, making sitting very soft and comfortable. The temperature inside the carriage was carefully moderated as well. At the same time, one couldn't feel any shaking inside. It seems like this carriage was very special.

There were also some things inside this carriage that Zhao Hai had found to be familiar, like the magical stove with a kettle. After Ironwood boarded the carriage, he immediately heated the water for them to drink.

Seeing Ironwood's thick hands handling the drinks very delicately made Zhao Hai feel funny. In fact, Ironwood's movements were very quick. Before long, the tea was already prepared.

The flavor of this tea was mellow compared to the ones that Zhao Hai had drunk before. Ironwood handed Zhao Hai a cup of it and then said, "To thank mister for coming, let me offer you this cup of golden tea. This is a high-quality good rarely purchased in the continent."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "It's also the first time that I had drunk this type of tea. It's flavor is also very good. Right, Vice Admiral, if I may inquire, what was the reason for His Majesty deciding to summon me?"

Ironwood smiled and said, "In all honesty, I also don't know. But from His Majesty's expression, he looks like he was happy. Mister's reputation had already spread throughout the continent. And since you came to the Buddha Empire, how couldn His Majesty miss this opportunity to meet you?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "That's an unwarranted reputation. If we consider everything, it's my fault for not sending prior word to his Majesty when I decided to visit the Empire."

Ironwood smiled and said, "The Buda Clan is a Great Clan of the Continent. For Patriarch Zhao Hai to visit the empire himself, how could it be disrespectful? After all, there are also a lot of businesses that the Empire can cooperate with Mister."

Chapter 586 - Banquet in the Great Hall

Zhao Hai didn't refute Ironwood's words. There were only a few people on the continent that didn't know about the Buda Clan's goods. The clan was now a very famous Merchant Family.

The Buda Clans wasn't that reputable before, but now that they had absorbed the Markey Family, nobody dared to neglect them.

The Markey Family was originally one of the biggest Merchant Clans of the continent. Their factories and connections were something that only few can compare to. Although the Markey Family had shrunk its influence and changed its philosophy, it didn't negatively affect them. Conversely, it actually made them even more famous.

In the past, the Markey Family had been very overbearing in doing business. Although they had worked with a lot of people, these people didn't necessarily like the family. It was only because of the family's potential and the benefits that these people chose to cooperate with them.

On the other hand, the present Markey Family was actually acting very fair. Because of this, they had gained immense popularity. Although their business had shrunk, the money that they had acquired by selling Haven Products as well as their current structure made their everyday profits stay the same.

At the same time, the Buda Clan holding Golden Island made it so that people in the continent wanted to win the clan over. Because of the special location of Golden Island, it had quickly become a major marine hub, it immediately became very lively. Therefore, almost every family in the continent decided to do their business there.

The reason this profitable situation stayed tranquil and devoid of problems was the background of the Buda Clan. In the recent months, the Buda Clan had made a lot of world-shaking events. They had shown that they had more than one 9th rank expert in addition to Zhao Hai being a very powerful Dark Mage. It was said that their military strength surpassed that of a Duchy. In this situation, there were only a few people who would dare to offend them.

Now that the status of the Buda Clan was very high, even Empires would need to think twice before provoking them.

Due to all of these reasons, Zhao Hai believed Ironwood's statement that the Buddha Emperor might do business with him.

While they chatted, the carriage finally arrived in Iron Knight City's Imperial Palace. The carriage didn't undergo inspection as it immediately entered the outer courtyard. Then the two disembarked from the carriage and walked towards the palace.

At this time, the skies had already turned a bit dark. However, the Imperial Palace had already lit their magic lamps ahead of time, making the place bright as though it was still daytime. Under the lead of a eunuch, Zhao Hai and Ironwood then proceeded to the inner courtyard.

The Buddha Imperial Palace looked quite similar to the Rosen Imperial Palace. The ground was paved with stone that shone with a tint of blue as it was illuminated by the lamps.

There were quite a lot of trees all around, but none of them were quite big. This was also something common to Royal Palaces. Although trees were allowed to grow, they were very regularly trimmed, making them unable to fully develop. This was done in order to prevent assassins from hiding in those trees to wait for ambush.

Under the court eunuch's leadership, they finally arrived at the Imperial Palace's Great Hall. Zhao Hai couldn't help but stay silent before entering the hall, this was because he had heard clamoring inside. This made Zhao Hai very curious, what was this place? And who would dare to be noisy inside the Imperial Palace?

Before long, they arrived in front of the Great Hall's door. Upon seeing them arrive, the two eunuchs guarding the entrance immediately announced, "Vice Admiral Ironwood and Patriarch Zhao Hai has arrived!"

The voice of the eunuch sounded high-pitched, however, it still resounded inside the Great Hall. When the announcement was heard, the people clamoring suddenly became quiet. Then a voice was heard from another eunuch, "We invite Patriarch Zhao Hai and Vice Admiral Ironwood inside"

Only then did Zhao Hai and Ironwood enter the Great Hall. Upon entering, Zhao Hai paused. There were a lot of people inside, they should be the Nobles of the Buddha Empire.

With his familiarity with palaces, Zhao Hai knew that the Emperor was holding a banquet. No wonder sounds were heard outside.

Zhao Hai saw a throne present on a meter-high platform in the far end of Great Hall. It was entirely made of gold and was also inlaid with a lot of gemstones, it looked very beautiful.

Sitting on the throne was a person who seems to be quite young, maybe only about 40 years old. However, the person's stature looked very big. From what Zhao Hai can see, this person was more than two-meters in height, he should be as tall as Ironwood. Although the person was wearing his Imperial Robes, even it cannot hide his enormous body.

This person's skin had darkened and was like bronze, one might even see reflections on his skin as light hit his face. Although the beard on the person's face was arranged very neatly, one could still feel a sense of overwhelming aura in them. Zhao Hai was almost certain that this person cultivated Battle Qi, otherwise his body wouldn't have reached this state.

Zhao Hai understood that this person was the Buddha Empire's Monarch. Ironwood took a step forward and bowed, "Ironwood has seen His Majesty!"

The person nodded and said, "Stand up, no need to bow, take a seat."

Ironwood replied, "I thank his Majesty." Then he retreated before sitting in an empty seat.

Zhao Hai then went forward and gave a small bow, "Zhao Hai Buda gives his respects to His Majesty."

The Buddha Emperor looked at Zhao Hai and chuckled, "Mister Zhao Hai is too polite. Mister coming to the Buddha Empire is our greatest honor."

Zhao Hai straightened his body and then smiled faintly, "Zhao Hai came to do some business but didn't inform His Majesty. This one should be punished."

The Buddha Emperor waved his hand and said, "What is mister saying? Mister is an honored guest in my Buddha Empire. Mister, have a sit beside me, then we'll go have a meal." Then a eunuch issued a command before a team quickly assembled a chair and table right beside the Buddha Emperor.

The seat and table was naturally much inferior compared to the Emperor's. However, sitting this close to him was already a monument to Zhao Hai's status.

Zhao Hai expressed his gratitude before moving to the table that was prepared for him. After sitting down, the court eunuch immediately offered Zhao Hai a glass of fruit wine. At this time, the Buddha Emperor, "Serve the food." Then eunuchs came in to the Great Hall to serve a variety of dishes, they also came in with additional jugs of liquor.

After the food and wine were served, the Emperor lifted his glass up and said, "Mister Zhao Hai's arrival today is my Buddha Empire's pride. Let's offer mister Zhao Hai our hospitality!"

The Buddha Empire Nobles immediately lifted their glasses and said, "To mister Zhao Hai!"

Zhao Hai quickly replied, "This one doesn't dare. This Zhao Hai is thankful for His Majesty's toast" Then he drank his glass of Fruit wine, it tasted very good.

The Buddha Emperor drank from his glass as well. Then he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, let me personally offer you a cup."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Thank you, Your Majesty." Then he drank another glass.

After drinking the wine, the Buddha Emperor then said, "I don't know why mister visited this time, is it for business?"

Zhao Hai whispered inwardly, "I knew it". He knew that the Buddha Emperor would ask him about this matter. In fact, it was impossible for the Buddha Emperor to know about his trip to the Dwarf Mountains. The Emperor's question was only for formality.

Zhao Hai didn't take long before replying, "Answering his Majesty's question. I came this time to do business with the Dwarves. I heard that they loved wine, and I happen to have a liquor business. Therefore, I came this time to see if I can sell them some."

The Buddha Emperor's eyes flashed for a moment before he replied, "Oh, did the transaction go smoothly?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Very smooth. But my business with the Dwarves wasn't that big. I only traded for some ironware."

The Buddha Emperor smiled and said, "If mister sells those ironwares to the Rosen Empire, then mister would definitely gain a hefty profit. Let this Emperor congratulate mister in advance."

Zhao Hai gave a smile and said, "His Majesty misunderstood. I indeed have people to sell these ironwares to, but they aren't in the Rosen Empire. In fact, the Rosen Empire didn't have a huge demand for ironwares. Although the ironware I got was made by the Dwarves, they are still ordinary products. And with my transportation cost, I don't think these ironwares would sell well in the Rosen Empire."

The Buddha Emperor stared, then he asked, "Oh, if Mister isn't selling them to the Rosen Empire, then where would mister be taking them?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I know Your Majesty has already heard this, but I have some business dealings with the Beastmen. The Prairie had a severe lack of iron, so I'm planning on bringing these ironware to the Prairie. Moreover, when I made a deal with them regarding liquor, I also agreed to their proposal of trading them with iron. And since I'm also quite curious, I went to the Dwarf Mountains and see if they have some to spare."

The Buddha Emperor nodded and said, "So it's for the Beastmen. Mister's contacts are indeed very broad. I didn't expect that you'd supply the Beastmen to this extent. That's fantastic."

Zhao Hai said, "My time trading with the Beastmen was quite short, however, I've managed to help them at times, making them trust me in doing business. And now, after the war, the Beastmen didn't have much need for food, but instead, what they wanted was iron. I originally traded grain with them, but now I can only trade for some ironware. To tell you the truth, I won't be gaining too much with this

transaction. The operating costs alone would cut a huge chunk of the profits. But since I made an agreement with them, I had no other choice but to do it.”

The Buddha Emperor can only smile faintly as he replied, “Mister and the Beastmen’s relationship is indeed very good. After the war, there weren’t a lot of Human Merchants who can come to trade in the Prairie. On the other hand, a big business such as ironware was actually given to mister. It’s quite obvious how trustworthy mister seemed to them.”

Chapter 587 - Magic Beast Business

Zhao Hai smiled and said, “Your Majesty thinks too highly of me. The Buda Clan only does business fairly, that’s why the Beastmen decided to trust us.”

The Buddha Emperor faintly smiled, “Mister doesn’t need to be too modest. Actually, I invited Mister over because I also have a business matter to discuss.”

Zhao Hai stared, then he immediately replied, “Your Majesty can tell me.”

The Buddha Emperor nodded and said, “When our Empire started, our crowning glory was our cavalry. At that time, we were unmatched in the continent. But in the recent years, the Magic Beasts that we had reared were very weak. Moreover, their numbers had shrunk more and more. This is an important matter for the Empire. Therefore, I’m here to ask mister to see if you can buy some Magic Beasts in the Prairie for us. What does mister think about this?”

Zhao Hai stared, then he immediately thought that the Emperor was describing the situation of their breeding grounds. Probably because of the unfavorable conditions, their Magic Beasts have started to dwindle in numbers while degrading in quality. For a cavalry-oriented nation, this was a fatal development. At this time, there were close to no Merchants that were trading in the Prairie aside from the Buda Clan. Therefore, the Buddha Emperor decided to invite Zhao Hai over and propose this business of Magic Beasts.

Zhao Hai thought for a moment and then asked, “What Magic Beasts does Your Majesty want to buy? There are a lot of Beastman races, and each of them had their own unique magic beasts. However, the way these races protect their magic beasts is very strict. For ordinary tribes, maybe this business might

go through. But if it involves Warring Races, then the situation would be different. I'm afraid even your name wouldn't suffice."

The Buddha Emperor didn't get angry at Zhao Hai's words, instead, he just nodded and said, "Mister is really a straightforward person. This Emperor wasn't deceived. Mister, I mainly want some bull or horse magic beasts. Can mister agree to that?"

Zhao Hai thought for a moment and replied, "I won't hide the truth from your Majesty. My relationship with the Cow Race is very good. If his majesty wanted some bulls, then I can guarantee that I can buy you some. However, for horse magic beasts, I'm still not quite sure. I didn't have any dealings with the Horse Race before, so I'm not confident in assuring your Majesty about their magic beasts."

The Buddha Emperor gave a nod and said, "Mister's words already gave me relief. I want to ask mister to buy at least 5th rank magic beasts. The more the better. The same goes true with the horse magic beasts. I'll buy as many as mister can supply. I also won't blame mister if you cannot manage to buy some."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, rest assured your Majesty, I can at least guarantee the supply of bull magic beasts. As for the horses, I can only give it a try."

The Buddha Emperor held his wine glass up and said, "I'll have to thank mister for the trouble. Rest assured, this Emperor wouldn't treat you badly in terms of price."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Your Majesty is too polite. I'm originally a merchant. Your Majesty giving me this huge business means that you trusted me. Your Majesty can also rest assured that I would give you a fair price."

The Buddha Emperor laughed and said, "Alright, mister gave me relief. Listening to mister speak doesn't really give me a feeling that you're a merchant. Other Merchants sound so calculating, very unlike mister's refreshing tone."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Your Majesty might not know, but Beastmen doesn't like people that are too calculating. If you squeeze them of profits, the Beastmen wouldn't like you. When I do business with the Beastmen, I always give them a fair price along with good quality products. This is the reason why Beastmen liked doing business with me."

The Buddha Emperor smiled and said, "I see. There are a lot of people who did business in the Prairie, but there aren't a lot of people who think like mister. They always think about how to profit off of the Beastmen. Not knowing that it would actually produce such dislike towards them."

Zhao Hai replied, "That's right. And now that the war with the Beastmen was still fresh in their minds, nobody would dare come to the Prairie. I think this is a good opportunity. If it was before, I wouldn't be as confident about buying magic beasts. But now, I think the beastmen would agree."

The Buddha Emperor laughed loudly and said, "Mister is really wise. Unwise people don't think about the big picture. Mister is truly a person of great wisdom."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I'm not worthy of His Majesty's praise. I'm just a Merchant. Merchants who only chase small profits are not good businessmen."

The Buddha Emperor's laughs got louder as he lifts his wine glass and said, "Talking with mister is truly a unique experience. This Emperor hopes to be mister's friend."

Zhao Hai hastily lifted his glass and replied, "This one is unworthy. His Majesty giving me his regards has already brought huge honor to this Zhao Hai. If Your Majesty needs anything from me, then please don't hesitate to send word."

The Buddha Emperor gave a faint smile as he drank his glass with Zhao Hai. Although they were talking normally, their voices weren't loud enough to be heard by the Nobles below. However, when the Nobles noticed how friendly Zhao Hai and the Emperor were, even repeatedly sharing drinks together, they couldn't help but shake in anticipation.

Some of them knew why the Emperor had invited Zhao Hai over. Now that they saw the two's interactions, it seems like the deal had come through.

The Buddha Empire's cavalry crisis not only affected the Emperor, the pressure was also passed down to the Nobles. Because of this, all of them were hoping that this deal with Zhao Hai would go through.

After the banquet ended, Zhao Hai gave his farewells to the Buddha Emperor. The Emperor then had Ironwood arrange some rooms in the embassy for Zhao Hai to stay in. Zhao Hai didn't decline this invitation. He had noticed that Laura and the others were now awake. He wanted to see them before he took a rest.

This embassy was a place where envoys from other countries would stay. Therefore, the place's interior was very well decorated. Moreover, it was regularly cleaned all throughout the year. Although Zhao Hai wasn't an envoy, his status wasn't low enough to merit him staying in one of the Nobles' place. Therefore, the only place that he can stay in was this embassy.

After entering the embassy and his room, Zhao Hai didn't hesitate before flashing to the Space. When he arrived at the Space, he saw Laura and the others in the living room, chatting.

Seeing Zhao Hai arrive, Laura and the others immediately stood up to welcome him. Laura spoke for the group and said, "Brother Hai, after drinking the Blood Pond water, there were a lot of dirty things that came out of our bodies. However, we didn't become 9th ranks. What's going on?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "That's just fine. Your bodies are just expelling some impurities, there's no need to worry about it. You can just drink some Spatial Water and go back to cultivating. I'm certain that you would reach 9th rank by then. If you feel uncomfortable, you don't need to rush it, you can just take your time."

While he was talking, Zhao Hai also inspected the conditions of Laura and the others. He discovered immediately that their skins had become much more delicate. It looked as delicate as a drop of water.

Zhao Hai knew that the reason for this was the expulsion of toxins from their bodies. They seem to have become much healthier compared to before.

When Laura heard Zhao Hai, she couldn't help but nod and said, "I'm not really feeling uncomfortable with my body. I just feel very weak. I'll rest for the evening and resume cultivating tomorrow."

Zhao Hai gave a smile and said, "Alright, cultivating later or now wouldn't make much of a difference. Right, what's with the situation with Blockhead and the others?"

Laura smiled and said, "They're currently inside the Hot Springs, accompanying father to a bath."

Zhao Hai nodded, "Alright, that's good. When they come out, I'll also have them take a rest. It's not too late to cultivate tomorrow." Laura and the others nodded, then they turned to rest in their rooms.

While Zhao Hai sat in the living room, Blockhead and the others came out, along with Karen. Each of their complexions looked very good. It seems like the Blood Pond water has benefitted them a lot.

After the group sat down, Zhao Hai turned to Karen and said, "Father-in-law, I just listened to Laura about how your bodies felt weak. You can just rest first and continue cultivating tomorrow. What do you think?"

Karen nodded and said, "Alright. Even cultivating makes me feel tired. I'll continue cultivating tomorrow."

Then Zhao Hai turned to Blockhead and said, "You also, go rest and cultivate tomorrow. No need to be anxious about this thing. Don't stress your bodies out, it also needs to take a rest."

Blockhead and the others nodded, then they turned around to return to their room. After that, Zhao Hai called Cai'er over and said, "Cai'er, go count how many 5th rank bull magic beasts we have. The type that's suitable for the Buddha Empire's use."

Cai'er said, "Young Master, didn't you plan to buy the magic beasts from the Beastmen? Why would you sell the Space's beast to the Buddha Empire?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "I'm just asking because I'm planning on having Big Brother undertake this business. But you should know that the beasts in the Prairie doesn't live well in the human lands. I'm planning on buying some magic beasts from big brother and raising them in the Space while selling the pre-existing magic beasts here to the Buddha Empire."

Zhao Hai knew that this magic beast business was very big. Although he was capable of handling it by himself, he just cannot neglect the situation of Wales' tribe. For Wales, this business was very important. The Herculean Bulls had just suffered from a disaster, their strength have been severely injured. If this business goes through, then it would greatly help them in their recovery.

Cai'er nodded and then counted in her mind before saying, "Young Master, there are a lot of bull magic beasts in the Space. But these magic beasts are all common bulls. I'm afraid these would look strange outside."

Chapter 588 - A Series of Promotions to 9th Rank

When Zhao Hai heard Cai'er, he couldn't help but knit his brows. He knew what Cai'er meant. Because the Space levelled up, the Magic Beasts inside were upgraded as well. Therefore, the most common bull present had turned into 5th rank magic beasts. But its form still remained the same.

In the continent, the common bull was one of the most common magic beast. If Zhao Hai took his common bulls and sold them to the Buddha Empire, then they would definitely be identified at first glance. And if the common bulls reached 5th rank, then they would attract suspicion, which wouldn't be good.

Zhao Hai thought for a moment before saying, "So the only thing we can do right now is to get Big Brother's magic beasts to the Space and have them drink some Spatial Water to improve their ranks. Let's just hope that they can survive in Human lands. Otherwise, we can only provide the beasts from the Space."

Cai'er didn't respond. After the Space had been upgraded, even the most inferior magic beasts, like rabbits have become 4th rank beasts. One couldn't see a low ranked beast anymore. Other people were troubled because their beasts were too low ranked. However, Zhao Hai's problem was that he had a lot of high ranked beasts.

At this point, the beasts in the Space can only be processed before being sold out. Otherwise, when people find out that even Zhao Hai's rabbits have gotten to 4th rank, they would immediately assume that he has a way to increase a magic beast's rank. At that point, nobody would be paying attention on the Radiant Church and would instead shift their attention to Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai didn't want to reach that state. Although he now had the strength to conquer the continent, there were still the Gods and the Demons that were in front of him, towering like mountains. Zhao Hai

knew that if he would take any big actions, then the Radiant Church would possibly start their plan ahead of time. At this point, Zhao Hai cannot make any mistakes.

Since he had destroyed the Radiant Church's plans time and time again, then it would be impossible for the church to not pay any attention to him. If he shows any flaws in his action, then the Radiant Church would definitely know about it.

The Radiant Church had been operating in the continent for a lot of years. Although they were being pressured by the Great Clans, they still had people in hiding in sight and were gathering news for the church. They definitely still had influence in the continent, Zhao Hai just cannot neglect them.

Zhao Hai can only hope that when he reaches the Prairie, Wales would have the appropriate magic beasts that he needs.

The next morning, Zhao Hai got on board the Haven in order to leave. The Buddha Emperor also sent out a ship in order to escort Zhao Hai to the sea. Naturally, Zhao Hai didn't decline this hospitality. This was a courtesy that even envoys from other continents didn't get, which also made the nobles of the Buddha Empire very surprised.

The Buddha Emperor did this because he really wanted Zhao Hai to bring him some magic beasts. And another reason was in order to look good in the eyes of Zhao Hai.

The Buddha Emperor had a lot of contact with different merchants. Although these Merchants had high status, the Buddha Emperor found that he didn't like them. On the other hand, Zhao Hai was different, he acted like he wasn't a merchant at all. Because of this, the Buddha Emperor was inclined to give special favor to Zhao Hai.

Monarchs tend to get used to not have any genuine friends, but the Buddha Emperor was quite different. In the past, he was not the most appropriate person for the throne. At that time, he was only the Eighth Prince and was seen as a fool by other people. While the other princes struggled for the throne, he actually ran to the army in order to cultivate.

However, nobody thought that among the princes, he was the one that the old Emperor saw was the most dazzling. In the end, the old Emperor found an excuse in order to deal with the other princes and give all of the power to the Eight Prince, making him the Emperor in the process.

The Buddha Emperor didn't think that he would obtain the throne. He also thought that his character was very inappropriate for the position. His character was too straight, but since he already had the throne, he can only do his best to protect it.

The Buddha Emperor was not a fool. The reason why he didn't join the struggle with his other brothers was because he didn't like killing one another. Naturally, even if he already had the throne, he still stuck with this philosophy.

In the beginning, the other nobles thought that he didn't know anything, therefore they started to suppress him. However, they didn't expect that the Buddha Emperor had experience in the army, and were also in good relations with them. When the nobles were about to make their move, the army suddenly appeared on their borders, and with the Buddha Emperor's own strength, he crushed the ambitions of those nobles.

By personally breaking their resolve, the Buddha Emperor immediately gained huge authority. And from that point on, the empire's nobles didn't dare to underestimate their Emperor.

However, the Buddha Emperor had found out that he wasn't happy even after becoming the monarch. He was used to the army where everyone is in close terms with each other. Quite different from the Imperial Palace, where everyone was out to compete with one another. Even if these people were your officials, you wouldn't want to be intimate with them. This made the Buddha Emperor very lonely.

But when he chatted with Zhao Hai, the Buddha Emperor felt that Zhao Hai was the right person to be friends with him. Therefore, he expressed his friendship to Zhao Hai. Moreover, he didn't do this out of courtesy, he really does want to be Zhao Hai's friend. This was why he sent a ship in order to escort Zhao Hai.

Zhao Hai didn't know about any of these, he wasn't an Emperor, so he couldn't understand an emperor's thoughts. What he only saw was the Buddha Emperor attaching great importance to him.

After the Haven left Iron Knight city, he left the undead behind and then flashed to the Space. Laura and the others had already started to cultivate, Zhao Hai wanted to see them get to 9th rank today.

When Zhao Hai came to the Space, Laura and the others were already cultivating. Zhao Hai looked at their expression and saw that they didn't have the pained reaction from before, this made him relieved.

However, Zhao Hai didn't think that they would cultivate for a long time. After a whole day and night, Laura and the others had finally started to wake up one after another, but now they were all 9th rank experts. Among them, the strongest was Shue. Not only was Shue a 9th rank expert, he also possessed a Divergent Ability, which meant that his shadows were also 9th rank.

But if they rank themselves in terms of threat, Shue wouldn't take the first place, instead it would be Shun. Shun was now a 9th rank assassin. His skills had now become much more formidable, he was now close to being unparalleled in his profession.

Blockhead and Rockhead weren't weak as well. With their mental connection, no 9th rank expert can deal with them working together.

Laura and the others had become 9th rank as well. Although they weren't the strongest, they weren't the weakest as well. After all, the energy of the God's Blood was very potent.

Among the group that had become 9th rank, Karen was the only person who seemed unenthusiastic about it. After becoming 9th rank, Karen didn't express his glee, he just left the Space and immediately sank into his research.

Zhao Hai was helpless against Karen's character, he could only go along with Karen's whim. However, he didn't give Karen the blueprints immediately. He asked Karen to try out his new ideas first, and when results come out, only then would the new blueprints get handed over.

Karen didn't care about this, there were still some blueprints from before that he hadn't fully researched. Therefore, after becoming 9th rank, he immediately went back to Iron Mountain Fort to continue.

After the first batch had become 9th rank, Zhao Hai immediately transferred Blockhead and Rockhead to Golden Island and had them take Kun's place. Then Zhao Hai asked Kun to drink the Spatial Water and had him cultivate.

What surprised Zhao Hai was the smoothness of Kun's process in becoming a 9th rank expert. It didn't take a long time before Kun became 9th rank. Although his body expelled some impurities as well, it wasn't as much as Laura and the others.

After thinking about it, Zhao Hai finally found a reason why. Kun had been 8th rank for a long time, so he only needed a small push in order to become 9th rank. On the other hand, Laura and the others had depended on the Space to quickly become 8th rank. They lacked the experience of cultivation, explaining their slow progress.

After Kun finished cultivating, he immediately returned to Golden Island while Blockhead and Rockhead went to Iron Mountain Fort in order to replace Green and Merine. Green and Merine were also 8th rank for a long time, so their progress to 9th rank was smooth as well. Zhao Hai's worries had become useless.

When the two left, Zhao Hai also gave them a lot of Spatial Water. The Spatial Water was to be used to cultivate the 100 slaves that they had already picked. Now that the slaves had regained their status as commoners, they decided to give their all to the Buda Clan, becoming loyal and devoted members of the family. Because of this, Zhao Hai gave them the gift of cultivation.

Zhao Hai wasn't stingy when it came to his people. Since these 100 people were loyal, then it was natural for them to enjoy some benefits. They may even prove useful in the future.

While Green and Merine cultivated, the Haven had reached the sea. At the same time, the Buddha Empire escort ship also left. Naturally, Zhao Hai didn't need to sail on the ship for the entire trip to the Prairie. So he went to the Space and teleported to a place near the Herculean Bull tribe.

Zhao Hai still rode his Blood Hawk when he went to the Herculean Bull tribe. He didn't want the people of the continent to know that he had become 9th rank. He wanted to keep his rank as an ace to be used in the future.

The Herculean Bulls had been living better days recently. With the support of Zhao Hai as well as having suffered no losses in the war with the Humans, they were now slowly recovering.

Zhao Hai only brought Shue and Shun this time. He was already used to bringing the two along with him. Although the two had already become 9th rank, they were still loyal to Zhao Hai. The two of them were very clear about Zhao Hai's true strength.

Three blood hawks descended from the skies as it landed at the Herculean Bulls' main camp. When the Herculean Bulls noticed Zhao Hai, they immediately flocked around him as Zhao Hai gave them gifts before jokingly driving them away.

Zhao Hai was now like a family to the Herculean Bulls, he was now regarded by the tribe members to be one of them. Because of this, Zhao Hai was very comfortable in joking with them.

Wales and the others were inside the golden tent. Zhao Hai didn't give any notice as he directly entered the tent. Wales was doing something inside, Yale was present as well. However, Mendez was nowhere to be seen.

When Wales heard that Zhao Hai came, he was about to come out of the tent as Zhao Hai entered. Wales then laughed as he hugged Zhao Hai and said, "Brother, how did you have time to visit? Did you miss your brother?"

Zhao Hai returned Wales' hug before they let loose. Then after sitting down and had a drink of hot milk wine, Zhao Hai looked at Wales and said, "Brother Wales, I came here this time because I brought business."

Wales replied, "Business? What business? Also, no need to ask permission from me, just take the goods that you want."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I know, but this matter is a bit sensitive. The Buddha Empire wanted me to go to the Prairie and buy some magic beasts for them."

Wales stared, then he knit his brows and said, "They want to buy magic beasts? So it seems like it isn't argali? Otherwise, there's no need for you to discuss it with me. What do those fellows want?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Brother should know about the Buddha Empire's cavalry, especially their renowned Heavy Cavalry. Even facing the Beastmen, those units wouldn't fall behind. However, they

discovered that their magic beasts had been degraded these past few years. This will hugely affect their military strength. Therefore, they asked me to go to the Prairie and buy some 4th to 5th rank bull and horse magic beasts. They want to make those into their mounts.”

Wales knitted his brows, “Brother, how can you agree to this matter? If the Humans get stronger, then it would be disadvantageous to the Beastmen. I cannot sell them these magic beasts.”

Zhao Hai smiled and said, “Brother, you think too much. Even if their strength improves, don’t forget that the Buddha Empire is three nations away from the Beastman Prairie. Even if they want to attack the Beastmen, it would be nearly impossible. Moreover, you seem to forget that the Buddha Empire houses a race that has something that the Beastmen lacked.”

Wales stared, then he looked at Yale as their eyes shone brightly. Then the two looked at Zhao Hai and simultaneously said, “The Dwarves!”

Zhao Hai laughed and said, “Right. It’s the Dwarves. This time, I also went to the Dwarves under the request of His Majesty the Beast King. He wanted me to go to the Dwarves in hopes of purchasing some ironware for the Beastman race. But as you know, the Dwarves are in the Buddha Empire. If we decline the Buddha Empire’s request, then they might make it harder for us to trade with the Dwarves.”

Chapter 589 - The Divine Artifact is Lost

What Zhao Hai said was the truth. The Buddha Empire was very protective with regards to the Dwarves’ ironware. If Zhao Hai starts to massively buy from the Dwarves, then it would certainly be known to the Buddha Empire.

Although Zhao Hai has the Space, enabling him to not need to go through the Buddha Empire in order to reach the Dwarves, one shouldn’t forget that the Buddha Empire would certainly have their own merchants that would do trade in the Beastman Prairie. And these merchants would be very familiar with Dwarf ironware. If these people discover that the Beastman had a lot of Dwarf goods, then they would certainly find out where the Beastmen got it. If at that time Zhao Hai didn’t help the Buddha Empire with their magic beasts, then the Buddha Empire would immediately take action.

If the Buddha Empire pressures the Dwarves to refrain from selling Zhao Hai their goods, then Zhao Hai would be placed in a tough spot. Even if the Dwarves supported Zhao Hai, in the end, the Dwarves were still located inside the Buddha Empire’s territory. If the Buddha Empire were to wage war with the Dwarves, then things wouldn’t be so good.

In addition to being the Foreign Prince of the Herculean Bulls, Zhao Hai was also now the Foreign Elder of the Dwarves. In this case, he would not only need to consider the Beastmen, he also would have to think about the Dwarves. Neglecting people close to him was not Zhao Hai's style. Therefore, he would need to facilitate this magic beast trade between the Beastmen and the Buddha Empire. If this goes through, then the trade between the Dwarves and the Beastmen would go smoothly as well.

When Wales heard Zhao Hai, he couldn't help but knit his brows. At this time, Yale said, "Patriarch, I agree with Little Hai's plan to sell our magic beasts to the Buddha Empire. After all, the Buddha Empire is too far from us, it is near impossible for us to get into a war with them. In the war with the Aksu Empire, the Rosen Empire might have been able to help, but that was only through their navy. For the Buddha Empire, it is impossible for them to directly affect our state in the Prairie. If they were to attack by sea, it would take them an extremely long time to do so, so there's no need to worry. Also, we have a severe lack of iron. If we use our magic beasts to get those, then our Herculean Bull tribe's strength would be greatly promoted. Lowering the chances of us being bullied in the future."

Wales held Zhao Hai and Yale in great regard, so he was completely convinced after hearing the two. After he listened to Yale, Wales nodded and said, "Alright, I'll agree. But Little Hai, you need to supply us with Dwarf ironware."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Sure. I've got some of them with me right now, but not a lot. Moreover, I need to spare some of them for His Majesty the Beast King. So I cannot give a lot of them to you. But rest assured, when I return to the Dwarves, I would get you some more ironware."

Wales knew that Zhao Hai cared for the Herculean Bulls, so he didn't doubt it. He just nodded and said, "Alright, then I'll leave this matter to you. Rest assured, I'll certainly help you with regards to this magic beast matter, whether it be bulls or horses."

Zhao Hai nodded and then said, "Alright, then I thank brother for the trouble. Brother, I have another matter to talk to you about. This is very important, you shouldn't tell this to anyone. Master Yale, the same applies to you too."

The two saw that Zhao Hai's expression had gone serious, informing them that this matter very important, so they immediately nodded. Zhao Hai made Wales vacate the area surrounding the tent, leaving only the three of them in the area. After that, Zhao Hai told them about the Divine Realm as well as the Radiant Church."

Upon hearing this, Wales and Yale couldn't help but frown. They didn't think that the situation would turn out like this. If the Divine Realm was indeed involved, then a huge trouble was coming their way.

After Zhao Hai talked, Wales bitterly smiled and said, "Little Hai, you came this time to see the Beast God's Spear and fix its Artifact Spirit?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Right. This matter is very important. Therefore, I'll be hurrying to Beast God City after meeting you here."

Wales and Yale looked at each other as they forced a smile. Then Wales turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Little Hai, I'm afraid that you would be disappointed on this trip. Our Beastman Race's Beast God Spear has been lost."

Zhao Hai stared, then with surprise he said, "Lost? How could that be possible? That's the Beastman Race's Divine Artifact? How could it be lost? When did that happen?"

Wales and Yale smiled bitterly and answered, "This matter occurred more than 5000 years ago. In our records, the Beast King of that time wanted to conquer the Northern Icefields. He brought a team of ten thousand people as well as the Beast God Spear in this expedition. After that, they weren't heard of again."

"5000 years?!" Zhao Hai called off in alarm. He didn't expect that the Beastman Race's Divine Artifact would be lost for more than 5000 years. Moreover, it was lost in the Northern Icefields.

Yale sighed and then said, "5000 years ago, the position of Beast King wasn't held by the Lion or the Tiger race. But it was held by the the strongest fighting race at that time, the Diamond Ape Tribe. It was the Patriarch of the Diamond Apes that brought the Beast God's Spear to the Northern Icefield. When the Divine Artifact was reported to be lost, the entire race was exiled to the Icefields. They can only return to the Prairie after retrieving the Beast God's Spear. At present, nobody knew about the fate of the Diamond Apes. And since the Diamond Apes are gone, the position of Beast King was then handed over to the Lion and Tiger Races."

Zhao Hai didn't expect the Beastmen to have such a phase in their history. He couldn't help but knit his eyebrows and say, "It looks like I need to head to the Northern Icefield."

When Wales heard Zhao Hai, his expression couldn't help but change, he loudly reacted, "What?! Little Hai, did you just say that you want to go to the Northern Icefield? That's not good, it's too dangerous, you cannot go there."

Zhao Hai knew that Wales was sincere, therefore he smiled faintly and said, "Brother Wales, Elder Yale. I'll lead you to a place, no matter what happens make sure to control your reaction."

Wales and Yale looked at each other before they nodded towards Zhao Hai. And then with an intention, Zhao Hai brought Wales and Yale to the Space.

The Space was Zhao Hai's biggest secret, only people that he trusted came to know about its existence. Since he had contact with Wales and Yale for quite a long time, Zhao Hai had come to trust the two of them, and in addition to the recent developments, Zhao Hai decided to bring Wales over to the Space.

After arriving inside, Zhao Hai then told Wales and Yale about the details of his Space. Then he led them to the Farming Ground, the Bread Trees and then to the Magic Beasts that the Space has raised.

In the end, the three went to the Space's Villa where they saw Laura and the others. The women had already prepared a table for them to eat. After the group had sat down, Zhao Hai lifted his wine glass to Wales and Yale, "Brother Wales, Elder Yale, I have been hiding things from you. Please accept my apology."

Wales was not someone that was easily offended, moreover, he also knew that this secret was vital to Zhao Hai's survival, so he wasn't angry at all. Instead, he just laughed it off and said, "It's fine. Brother actually has such a good place. Fantastic, your Big Brother would have to depend on you for our food in the future. So how could I be angry with you about this? Come, let's drink!"

Zhao Hai laughed, and then drank his cup along with Yale. Zhao Hai turned to Wales and said, "Big Brother, you've seen the Space's magic beasts. Even the most common of them has exceptional strength. I'm thinking of handing some of the high level ones to you and see if your tribe can find a compatible soul beast among them. After that, we can change your mounts, making the tribe much stronger. What does Brother think about this?"

Upon hearing Zhao Hai's proposal, Wales stared for a moment before he laughed and said, "Good, good. That'll be great. I'll go and see which ones are compatible with us. Right, I think we should exit as soon

as possible. Otherwise, we would be making the others wait. They have already prepared a banquet just for you.”

When he heard Wales, Zhao Hai immediately turned to the monitor. There he saw people outside Wales’ golden tent, preparing a lot of delicious food. It doesn’t need to be said that they were preparing a feast and was only waiting for Zhao Hai and the others to go out.

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, “Alright, then let’s head out to eat. We can’t let the others wait for too long. Let’s take these liquor out as well, let everyone share the good stuff.”

Wales laughed, “Alright, but sister-in-laws wouldn’t be able to come out. Otherwise, the others would get suspicious. However, sister-in-laws doesn’t need to worry, I’ll have Little Hai take some roasted argali later for you to eat.”

Wales was already familiar with Laura and the others. And in addition to the Beastman’s straightforward attitude, they get to crack jokes with each other quite regularly. Laura and the others were also quite used to this.

Laura smiled and said, “Alright, we’ll wait for it here.” Then the group smiled as the three left the Space and headed outside the tent.

Since Zhao Hai had told Wales about the abilities of the Space, Wales was now quite confident in Zhao Hai’s trip to the Northern Icefields. He even hoped that Zhao Hai would come back with the Beast God’s Spear.

If Zhao Hai retrieved the Beast God’s Spear, there would be two advantages that would happen to them. First was the fact that the Beastmen would once more be under the protection of a Divine Artifact. And the other was Zhao Hai getting a much higher position among the Beastman Race. This would hugely benefit Zhao Hai’s future actions in the Prairie.

As the three walked outside, the other Herculean Bulls immediately went and greeted them. All of those present greeted Zhao Hai with a smile. They liked Zhao Hai very much, not only because he was their Prince that helped them go through tough times, but also because he made the Herculean Bulls live the best life compared to the other races in the Prairie.

Chapter 590 - Meeting the Beast King

After staying the whole day with the Herculean Bulls, Zhao Hai brought Wales and Yale back to the Space. He had them pick a bull magic beast that would suit the Herculean Bulls, the one that was the most compatible to be their soul beast.

In the end, they reached a result that didn't make them smile. Surprisingly, the beasts most suited for the Herculean Bulls were actually the stonesskin bull as well as the earth cow. It seems like the choice of the Herculean Bulls' ancestors wasn't wrong.

Unfortunately for them, the stonesskin bulls and earth cows that the Herculean Bulls were using were very low-levelled. The stonesskin bulls are 6th rank while earth cows are 5th rank.

However, those bulls were upgraded inside Zhao Hai's Space. The stonesskin bulls were now 8th rank beasts while the earth cows were 7th rank. These were much higher levelled than the ones that the Herculean Bulls were using right now.

One shouldn't look down on merely two levels. Magic beasts were different from humans and the like. For humans, as long as they had innate talent in cultivation, it wouldn't be impossible for them to be 8th or 9th rank experts. However, magic beasts have an innate ceiling in their ranks. For a stonesskin bull, 6th rank was the maximum rank that it can achieve, it was almost impossible for it to rise by two ranks. Only if they come across a fortuitous encounter would they rank up from 6th rank.

Therefore, these two extra ranks were extremely important for magic beasts. And with the Beastman's cultivation heavily relying on their soul beasts, having these high rank stonesskin and earth bulls were very important to the Herculean Bulls.

If the previous strength of the Herculean Bulls were only described as exceptional, with these stonesskin and earth bulls, their strength can now rank within the top ten in the entire Beastman Prairie.

Being in the top ten was an extraordinary thing. One must know that there were a lot of races in the Prairie. But Warring races only numbered less than a hundred. In the future, only a few would dare to annoy Cow Race.

Zhao Hai left 1000 stonesskin bulls and 1000 earth bulls to Wales while getting 2000 ordinary stonesskin and 2000 ordinary earth bulls in exchange. These bulls would be the first batch that would be sent to the Buddha Empire. At the same time, Zhao Hai also gave Wales some Dwarf ironware before he headed out to Beast God City.

Then Zhao Hai went to Beast God City through the Space. When he came out, he was already on top of a Blood Hawk as it descended down on the city. Ah Tai was already waiting for him there.

When Ah Tai saw Zhao Hai, he immediately went forward and gave a bow, "Young Master, you came. Please board the carriage."

Zhao Hai looked at Ah Tai and smiled faintly, "Ah Tai, you've been working hard, how is the business going?"

Ah Tai smiled and said, "It's fine, the business is doing very well. After our cooperation with the Beastmen, they would approach us first whenever they need to buy anything. We're now the most popular merchant in the Prairie."

Zhao Hai smiled, "That's good. You've been working hard. Doing business with the Beastmen isn't easy. But remember, as long as it's not too much, having some losses is fine."

Ah Tai smiled and said, "Young Master, rest assured, I know what to do. No need to be worried."

Zhao Hai nodded, and then he rode the carriage to Beast God City. When he saw Magic Lily store inside, he couldn't help but feel something different.

Although the store was doing great before, it wasn't that good. Now, when he arrived, Zhao Hai saw that there were a lot of Beastmen inside the shop's tent, looking at the goods that were sold.

Moreover, Zhao Hai also discovered that the Beastmen were very enthusiastic while talking to Ah Da and Ah Er. In the past, it was impossible for this to happen.

Then Sister-in-law invited Zhao Hai over to another tent and asked him to sit down. After being served some milk tea, Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Ah Tai, Sister-in-law, you don't need to get busy in receiving me. I'll only be resting here for a while before going to meet the Beast King. I have something to talk about with His Majesty."

Ah Tai nodded, he couldn't help but praise Zhao Hai in his heart. There were a lot of merchants who did business in the Prairie, and none of them had the luxury to see the Beast King. But Zhao Hai was different, he can actually see the Beast King.

Zhao Hai drank some milk tea for a while before he left. With Ah Tai driving the carriage, Zhao Hai headed towards the Beast King Palace. Since the guards already knew Zhao Hai, they immediately lead him to the tent for registration.

Since the people inside the tent already knew him, when Zhao Hai came in, they immediately stood up and gave a small bow to Zhao Hai. After that, one of them said, "What brings Mister Zhao Hai here?"

Zhao Hai stared, then he immediately replied, "This Zhao Hai requests to see His Majesty the Beast King. I have a matter to discuss with him, I'll have to ask for your help to send word."

The Beastman then smiled and said, "Mister, please wait here. We'll immediately send someone to inform his Majesty. His Majesty has been asking for Mister for a long time."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I've made his Majesty wait. Please do send word as soon as possible." Then the Beastman gave a command as a Tiger beastman rushed to the palace.

Before long, the Tiger Beastman came back and made Zhao Hai follow him. But before leaving the tent, Zhao Hai gave each person inside a bottle of milk wine.

The Tiger Beastmen quickly led Zhao Hai to the Beast King's study. Upon arriving, they were immediately allowed entry by the guard. The Beast King was already in the resting area waiting for Zhao Hai. When he met the Beast King, Zhao Hai immediately gave a salute. The Beast King looked at Zhao Hai and said, "I've been waiting for mister for these past couple of days, you've finally arrived. Does Mister bring any good news?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I have good news for Your Majesty. I've gotten in contact with the Dwarves and got an agreement with the milk wine. They also agreed to sell me some ironware."

The Beast King heartily laughed and then said, "Good, that's fantastic. Mister really helped our Beastman Race. Mister, please have a seat, tell me everything in detail."

Zhao Hai sat down, and then he looked at the Beast King and said, "Your Majesty, when I went to the Dwarves, I got more than some business. I also gained a new status." Then Zhao Hai turned his hand and retrieved a token.

Upon seeing this token, the Beast King's eyes couldn't help but light up. He received the command token and carefully looked at it. After some time, the Beast King nodded and said, "This is the Dwarf Race's Foreign Elder Command Token. I didn't expect mister to become a Foreign Elder to the Dwarves. That's good news."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Your Majesty overpraises. This time, I helped the Dwarves with a small matter. Since they are grateful for it, they asked me to be their Foreign Elder. Right, the Dwarf Patriarch has also prepared a letter for Your Majesty." Then he retrieved Billy's letter and gave it to the Beast King.

The Beast King received the letter and took a look at the seal before nodding. He unraveled the parchment letter and carefully read its contents. While he was reading, the Beast King's pupils couldn't help but contract. Then he focused more on reading the letter.

The Beast King took some time in reading the letter, and while he was doing so, Zhao Hai paid attention to the his expression. Although the Beast King's expression didn't change, the slight changes in his eyes was noticed by Zhao Hai.

After reading, the Beast King placed the letter down and then turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Is Patriarch Billy telling the truth? Can you have me take a look at your whip?"

Zhao Hai nodded, then he untangled the whip on his waist and called Mu'er out. Mu'er gave a bow to the Beast King who then received the whip.

The Beast King asked Mu'er about several matters before nodding. Then he gave the whip back to Zhao Hai before he turned his head to the guard and said, "Make sure that nobody comes in here. If someone comes, tell them that I have no time." The guard gave a bow and then turned around to leave the room.

When the guard left the room, the Beast King turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, is this letter real? Do Gods really exist?"

Zhao Hai answered, "Your Majesty, I wouldn't lie about this matter. This was told to me personally by the Dwarves' Divine Artifact Spirit. If your Majesty wants to prove it, you can make me take an audience with the Beast God's Spear. I can assure you that I can make its Artifact Spirit materialize. After that, Your Majesty can ask him all the questions in your mind." Although Zhao Hai already knew that the Beast God Spear was lost, he didn't want to make it known to the Beast King. This was because this matter was held in extreme secrecy. If he lets the Beast King know that he knew about the Beast God's Spear, then he couldn't prove that he hadn't told this matter to other people. Then the Beast King might not believe him.

The Beast King smiled bitterly and said, "My Beastman Race's Divine Artifact has been lost for more than 5000 years. Even if Mister has the ability, it would be impossible for me to see the Artifact Spirit."

Then Zhao Hai said in great surprise, "Lost? How could it be lost?"

Then the Beast King forced a smile and said, "5000 years ago, the Beast King of the Diamond Ape tribe led ten thousand people to the Northern Icefields along with the Beast God Spear. He wanted to conquer the area but was consumed by it instead. In the end, the entire Diamond Ape tribe was exiled to the Icefield, giving them the punishment of looking for the Beast God's spear."

After some time, Zhao Hai said, "So it was like this. Your Majesty, this one has a small request. I want to enter the Northern Icefield and retrieve the Beast God's Spear."

When the Beast King heard Zhao Hai, he couldn't help but stare at him. Then his expression changed as he said, "That's no good. Absolutely no good. Mister, the Northern Icefield is too dangerous. You cannot go there. If what Patriarch Billy said was true, then Mister would be the saviour of the continent. And as the hero, you cannot perish in the Icefield."

Naturally, the Beast King didn't doubt Billy's words. This was also related to the characteristics of the Dwarves, they never like to lie and hated people who do. Their honesty is very famous in the continent.

Zhao Hai forced a smile and said, "Your Majesty, there's no other way. I think your Majesty already believes Patriarch Billy's statement. So if those three artifacts aren't fixed, then it would be difficult for us to deal with the Gods. And if the Dwarves' prophecy is true, then I should be able to safely go out of the Icefield."