

Another World 591

Chapter 591 - The Icefield

The Beast King looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, you should know that you're gambling. If you bet wrong, then you'll be forfeiting your life."

Zhao Hai forced a smile and said, "Your Majesty, we've been pushed to a corner, so why don't we gamble? If we don't get the three artifacts when the Divine Realm comes, we're done for. Even if we aren't killed, we would still become their slaves. And I don't want to live as a slave."

The Beast King knew that what Zhao Hai said was true. It's impossible to know when the Divine Realm would attack, Zhao Hai doesn't need to take the risk. The Beast King thinks that the reason he did this was for the Beastman Race as well as the Ark Continent.

The Beast King stood up and looked at Zhao Hai, "Mister's heart is broader than the Prairie. Let this king offer you his respects." Then he gave Zhao Hai a bow.

Zhao Hai quickly stood up and said, "Your Majesty, there's no need to be too polite. With your Majesty's agreement, I'll prepare for two days before leaving for the Northern Icefield."

The Beast King nodded and said, "Alright, since Mister is settled on this matter, if Mister is able to bring back the Beast God's Spear from the Northern Icefield, then I shall bestow Mister with the position of the Beastman Race's Foreign Prince. Even if the Beast King changes in the future, your position would still remain."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I thank His Majesty. Your Majesty, please arrange a warehouse for me. This time I've brought over some ironware from the Dwarves."

The Beast King nodded, then he called for the guard and had him arrange the warehouse. Zhao Hai gave the Beast King a bow before leaving with the guard.

After depositing the ironware, Zhao Hai followed the guard back to the Beast King's study. The Beast King then invited Zhao Hai over to a meal before letting Zhao Hai leave.

At this point, Zhao Hai's goals had been achieved. He believed that the Beast King trusted Billy's letter, and would take this matter seriously. The Beast King would certainly make proper arrangements.

After returning to his shop, Zhao Hai began to prepare for his expedition to the Northern Icefield. Since all that he would need is in the Space, Zhao Hai had a meal with Ah Tai's family first before taking a rest in the Space.

Zhao Hai only stayed in Beast God City for two days before leaving. The Beast King also sent a secret letter to the White Tigers, Polar Bears, and the Hawk King, who were stationed near the Icefields, commanding them to treat Zhao Hai with hospitality. He also told them what Zhao Hai was about to do in the Icefield.

The Beast King didn't tell them that Zhao Hai was going to retrieve the Beast God's Spear in order to deal with the Gods, that information must be kept confidential. The Beast King only told them that he had sent Zhao Hai to the Icefield in order to retrieve the Beast God's Spear.

The Beast King sent the letter two days prior to Zhao Hai's departure. Therefore, when Zhao Hai reached Hawk King mountain, he was immediately warmly received by the Ice Hawk King.

Although their cooperation had just started, the Hawks had gained a lot of profits. Since Zhao Hai was also going to the Icefields in order to retrieve the Beast God's Spear, this made the Hawks look at Zhao Hai in a much better light. They immediately regarded him with more respect compared to before.

Beastmen respected heroes, not to say about Zhao Hai retrieving the Beast God's Spear, his courage alone made him a hero in the eyes of the Beastmen.

Zhao Hai didn't stay in Hawk King mountain for too long, he only stayed there for one day. Moreover, he also deliberately told the Hawk King that no matter what happens to him, the milk wine cooperation would still continue, so the Hawk King wouldn't have to worry.

When the Hawk King heard what Zhao Hai said, he couldn't help but respect him much more. In his opinion, this was equal to Zhao Hai handling the matters after his death.

When leaving the Hawk King mountain, Zhao Hai sat on the back of a Blood Hawk and headed directly to the Northern Icefield. He didn't bother to visit the White Tigers and the Polar Bears. He wants to quickly settle the matters in the Icefields and then look at the other Forbidden Areas to see if he can get something from them.

After crossing Hawk King mountain, Zhao Hai received the Blood Hawk and retrieved his Blood Ghost Staff. He had the staff transform into a white v-shaped object and invited Laura and the others over as he sat inside to explore the Icefield.

This was the first time that Laura and the others had seen the transformation of the Blood Ghost Staff. It was too mysterious, they curiously explored the inside of the somewhat red and somewhat transparent room that they were in.

This room wasn't very big, it was about 40 square meters. This room that was made by the staff has the ability to see the outside from the inside. However, there was a tint of red in it, it was like seeing through a red tinted glass.

Zhao Hai didn't fly too high. Although he can just let the Blood Ghost Staff fly while they enter the Space and look through the monitor, they didn't do it. Zhao Hai wanted to personally experience the scenery of the Icefield.

The outside was a world of ice and snow, but the inside of the room was actually very warm, one cannot feel even a point of coldness. Zhao Hai retrieved some furniture such as some table and chairs as they sat inside and drank while looking at the scenery.

The Northern Icefield looked like a huge stretch of desolate land. There wasn't anything in it except ice and snow. Zhao Hai hadn't met a single living being ever since entering the Icefield.

The place was indeed worthy of being called an Icefield. Zhao Hai looked through the monitor and discovered that beneath the layer of snow, there were actually at least ten thousand years worth of ice deposits. The ice was very thick, the snow on the surface seemed to be a small film in comparison to the ice beneath it.

After some time, Laura sighed and said, "This place is indeed so beautiful, however, it is also very cold. It seems like there aren't any products that we can get here."

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "That's not necessary. You see that land? Although it seems like there's nothing there, if you look carefully, you will find that there's something white on top of it. That isn't snow, but a living creature."

Laura and the others focused their eyes on the area that Zhao Hai pointed to. And indeed, there was a very thin, thinner than paper, layer of white below the snow. It might look like snow, but if one carefully looks at it, one would discover that it was different. It was like a type of moss, a lifeform.

Megan said in disbelief, "Is that really a lifeform? That's very weird, how can it survive in this environment? Brother Hai, let's go down and take some of that stuff."

Zhao Hai faintly smiled and said, "Alright." Then with an intention, he had the Ghost Staff descend. After that, Zhao Hai retrieved the Staff.

Retrieving the Ghost Staff essentially made the group come in contact with the Icefield. Because of this they flew slowly towards the area. The moment Zhao Hai retrieved the staff, the group immediately felt coldness envelop their bodies. This coldness was different from what they had felt during wintertime. This cold seems to have an essence, it's like water, squeezing down on their bodies.

One must know that Zhao Hai and the others were already 9th rank experts, their vitality was extremely strong. Even if one doesn't mention their vitality, their equipment were made to withstand cold and heat. Normal changes in temperature usually doesn't affect them.

However, the Northern Icefield was different. The coldness present there threatened to freeze their blood, even their minds were starting to slowly come to a halt.

When Zhao Hai discovered this, he immediately moved and had the Blood Ghost Staff cover them, immediately removing the coldness in their bodies.

Laura and the others were panting. Lizzy couldn't bear it and said, "What was that coldness? I'm 9th rank right now, but I was actually about to be frozen. With this low temperature, is that thing really alive?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly as he cleared the snow in front of him. The snow was thick and also quite hard. While Zhao Hai was stepping on it, Zhao Hai felt that it was no different from standing in stone.

After clearing some layers of snow, Zhao Hai stopped. Then with an intention, he retrieved a patch of land and absorbed it to the Space. The group entered as well.

It didn't take too long before a prompt was heard, "Special lifeform discovered. Lifeform can survive in extremely low temperatures. Extracting the life form's properties. Increased the Host's resistance to cold."

Then Zhao Hai threw the patch of land on the ground before turning to the others and said, "I'm not mistaken, that thing is really alive."

Laura and the others looked at the patch of land that was thrown on the ground by Zhao Hai. After it fell, none of the snow fell down, it seems like the ice and snow was harder than stone.

Zhao Hai looked at their expressions and smiled faintly, "So what do you think? You still want to go and sightsee?"

When they heard this, Laura and the others couldn't help but shiver. Laura said, "It's fine, let's just stay in the Space and have the Blood Ghost Staff fly outside."

Zhao Hai smiled at the staff. To be honest, he didn't want to go out of the Space. The scenery looked good, but it wouldn't take a long time before he would get bored of it.

The group sat down in the living room as Zhao Hai retrieved a bottle of rice wine. After the group drank a cup, they couldn't help but let out a long breath. The cup of wine made their bodies warmer, the coldness had finally started to leave their bodies.

After placing her glass down, Megan let out a long breath and said, "That was scary, too scary. Indeed worthy of being one of the Five Forbidden Areas. Even 9th rank experts would freeze to death here. I think that this place is much more frightening than the Carrion Swamp." Laura and the others nodded in agreement.

Seeing their reactions, Zhao Hai smiled and said, "We're just unprepared this time. If we had, then wouldn't we know what we are going to encounter? And since we haven't seen any Diamond Ape corpses, then it means that it's possible to get into a deeper part of the Icefield. I want to go further until we spot some of them. After we do so, we'll be able to gain some insights on where the Beast God Spear is."

Laura knit her brows as she said, "Brother Hai, do you really think that there are any Diamond Apes left? This is the Icefield, how could that be possible? It's impossible for those apes to be all 9th ranks. The coldness of the Icefield would be enough to freeze them solid. How would they be able to survive?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "You shouldn't underestimate the potential of people. Think about it, our Human bodies are much more inferior to the Beastmen, yet here we are having close to equal military power. Even if we cannot beat the physique of the Beastmen, we can breach the gap through cultivation. Not to say about the original Royal Race of the Beastmen. For a long time, the Diamond Apes had the seat of the strongest, it would do them disservice if we compare them to the current Royal Tribe.

Laura thought for a moment and then said, "Alright, then let's go look for them. I really want to see what the Diamond Apes looked like."

Zhao Hai smiled and then controlled the Blood Ghost Staff to continue flying in the Icefield. But to Zhao Hai's disappointment, they didn't meet any other living being aside from the white moss. They saw some ice cold bodies on the surface, but these were already here for a long time, their bones were now made of stone.

Zhao Hai didn't care about it and just controlled the staff to search the Icefield. In any case, they were in the Space, so there was no reason for them to stop searching.

After two days of looking at the Icefield, the only moving people that Zhao Hai can see were some Polar Bears doing their own thing. Zhao Hai made sure that the staff goes unseen as he continued to search.

After two more days of searching, Zhao Hai still hasn't seen anything besides the white moss. Aside from that moss, the only thing that he constantly saw were ice and snow.

These past couple of days of searching, Zhao Hai solidified his belief that some Diamond Apes have to have survived. And even if some of them died, he should still be able to spot some of their corpses. But until now, he wasn't able to spot a large number of bodies.

The search went very tasteless, but Zhao Hai insisted. He didn't believe that he cannot find a single clue about the Diamond Apes. Even if he didn't, he was still sure that he would be able to see another kind of life form. It was impossible for the Northern Icefield to only house those white moss, there should be other beings living here.

The reason why Zhao Hai had such confidence was his experience back on Earth. Even in the most unforgiving environments of the planet, there were still lifeforms that managed to survive. The North Pole and the Antarctic of the Earth was just like the Icefield, so he firmly believed that other life forms was present here.

Chapter 592 - Discovery

The Northern Icefield was much bigger than what Zhao Hai had imagined. He reckoned that the place was much larger than the Carrion Swamp. Even after investigating for ten days, Zhao Hai still didn't have a substantial harvest. What he saw were only some frozen bones, but those had already been ruined by the winds of the Icefield, making them incomplete. Because of this, Zhao Hai has no way to know what race of people those bones belonged to.

But Zhao still insisted on pushing through, watching the screen everyday. Laura and the others had stopped doing so long time ago. The scenery in the Icefield was very monotonous, it might even drive people crazy.

There was only one thing that they can see here, and that was the plain white landscape of the Icefield. Aside from that, there was virtually nothing.

Zhao Hai stared at the screen carefully, he didn't want to miss anything. He just took some rest from time to time.

In fact, Zhao Hai's trip didn't have much of an impact to his usual operation. After all, he has the Space, he can return to the continent at any time. He can still handle his businesses as well as the Buda Clan's matters.

The Buda Clan's matters were already on track, so Zhao Hai didn't really need to manage it too much. The Buda Clan wasn't the same as the other families that were centralized on their patriarch. Zhao Hai's matters were now mainly taken care of by Laura and the others, leaving him with very little to do.

The feelings of Laura and the others towards each other were also very good. And they also knew about Zhao Hai's personality, so there was no jealousy present that was common in noble households, saving Zhao Hai lots of worries.

Actually, this was partially due to the Space. The Space can slowly change a person's thinking. And since Zhao Hai was the host, people would slowly see him much more favorably.

Laura and the others also underwent this change and were now centered around Zhao Hai. Because of this, they didn't become jealous of each other.

But in the end, this change was vastly slower compared to the Space subduing the 9th rank Magic Beasts. Because of this, nobody knew about it, even Zhao Hai.

On Zhao Hai's 12th day in the Icefield, he was still staring at the blank landscape. Zhao Hai was also starting to get tired at this point.

At this time, a strange thing attracted Zhao Hai's attention. It was a piece of rock, just an average piece of rock.

If this rock was placed on other places, then it wouldn't be very strange. However, this was the Northern Icefield, rocks were foreign existences here.

Zhao Hai looked at the the rock while the staff slowed down. He directed his focus in order to inspect what this rock was.

The monitor seems to understand Zhao Hai as it enlarged the rock's image. It even allowed Zhao Hai to see the entire thing.

When Zhao Hai saw this rock, he couldn't help but get shocked. He couldn't be blamed, the rock's form resembled an animal that he knew, a giant ape.

The bodies of giant apes are very huge. Aside from Little Jin, all of the other apes were very enormous, especially those who didn't break through.

This ape in front of him, however, had a much bigger build. From the looks of it, this ape was about ten meters in height, it looked like it had a body that defied common sense. But the ape was now sealed in ice.

Upon looking at this ape, Zhao Hai immediately related it to the Diamond Ape Tribe. He knew the Beastman custom of having their unique magic beast. Moreover, he also asked the Beast King about the Diamond Ape tribe's magic beasts, so that he can track the Beast God's Spear much easier. Since he was doing it for the Beastmen, the Beast King didn't hide anything from him. The Diamond Apes were the sole race in the Prairie that didn't have any mounts. But even if they didn't have a mount, they still have their beast relatives by their side. These beasts not only provide the Diamond Apes with great strength, they also increase their defensive power. This ability also made true that they share their life and death with the Diamond Apes. Once their master dies, these Magic Beasts would perish as well.

Because of this symbiotic relationship, the spiritual connection between the magic beasts and the Diamond Apes gave them even more benefit and higher power than the other Beastmen. And in turn, this strength made the Diamond Apes the Kings of the Beastman Race.

Zhao Hai looked around but cannot see a corpse of a Diamond Ape. This made Zhao Hai feel odd, if a diamond ape died here, then there should certainly be a Diamond Ape Beastman present. Why can't he see one?"

While Zhao Hai was puzzled, Cai'er said, "Young Master, the Diamond Ape is in this thing's belly."

Zhao Hai stared, then he focused the monitor to look at the diamond ape's belly. Upon looking, Zhao Hai couldn't help but get shocked. It was because in the internal organs of this diamond ape, there was actually someone, a Diamond Ape.

Zhao Hai clapped his hands as he laughed loudly. He was happy because he had finally found something in the Northern Icefield after a long time. He had finally found a Diamond Ape corpse, and in a good condition at that!

Zhao Hai's excitement certainly alarmed Laura and the others. They immediately went to the living room and looked at the monitor.

It didn't take a long time for them to gawk at what they had seen. They also expressed their happiness, every one of them was very excited.

Zhao Hai gave a smile, then a white flash appeared as the Diamond Ape was observed inside the Space.

Zhao Hai didn't place the corpse inside the villa, but placed it outside. Then he led Laura and the others to it.

The diamond ape was sealed in a bunch of ice, the same applied to the Diamond Ape inside its body. The diamond ape was curled up, so with it was no wonder that it looked like a rock from far away.

Although it was already dead, the diamond ape still looked very fierce. Its imposing aura was very astonishing. One could see for frightening it would be too meet it when it was still alive.

Laura and the others gathered around the body of the diamond ape. They didn't find the corpse strange, after all, Zhao Hai had millions of them. They were already used to it.

After looking at the corpse, Laura turned to Zhao Hai and said, "I didn't expect the Beastmen to have such a race. Compared to Little Jin's tribemates, these fellows were much more larger, they looked more frightening as well."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "They were once the rulers of the Prairie, people who made the other Beastmen bow. So it was certain that they were fearful. Alright, let's melt them first before turning them into undead."

Then Zhao Hai waved his hand as water from the Hot Spring was slowly sprinkled on the ice. However, Zhao Hai didn't expect the ice to be so hard. Spraying Hot Spring water to the corpse had become just like spraying water into glass.

Zhao Hai stared, then he waved his hand once more as he fired a Fireball towards the ice. Only after that did the ice start to melt.

Zhao Hai released more fireballs in order to melt the ice. He also paid extreme attention to his movements in order to not burn the corpse.

When the two bodies seem to have thawed, Zhao Hai waved his hand as a mass of black mist surrounded the body. He wanted to turn the diamond ape as well as the Diamond Ape beastman into undead.

But to his disappointment, the diamond ape as well as the Beastman in its belly remained unresponsive, it didn't turn into an undead.

This startled Zhao Hai, his Dark Magic had always been effective to all corpses, why did it not work on this diamond ape? Zhao Hai was puzzled as he re-cast his spell, which still ended up in failure.

Zhao Hai was confused, so he knocked his staff onto the corpse, discovering that it was still hard as a rock. It seems like it had been frozen for a long time that it had been petrified.

This made Zhao Hai feel relief, he stored the corpse and then returned to the villa. Then he released his staff once more and searched for other diamond ape corpses.

Completely different from the more than ten days of nothing, Zhao Hai had suddenly come up with diamond ape corpses one after the other. Zhao Hai discovered that these corpses were also sealed in ice, with the Diamond Ape beastman inside the bodies of the diamond apes. At the same time, all of them were also petrified.

In the next three days, Zhao Hai found about a thousand diamond ape corpses. All of these corpses were the same, they all contained a Diamond Ape inside. Moreover, the corpses seem to extend in a straight line.

While looking at these corpses, Zhao Hai couldn't help but picture a scene. The Beastmen's most powerful race, exiled to the Northern Icefields, facing the brutal environment. All of them were fueled by this obsession of retrieving the Divine Artifact. All of them were undergoing this journey of death.

In the days before, it seems like they hadn't discovered how to take care of their dead bodies. But in the place where Zhao Hai saw the first diamond ape, it seems like they already found out a method, It's a special way of burial in which they would bury the Beastman inside their soul beast.

Chapter 593 - Volcano

Although deaths have appeared among them, the Diamond Apes that have survived still pushed on. Some people might die, but their pride as the Royal tribe of the Beastmen gave them the motivation to not back down. They just buried their loved ones before resuming on their death march.

This scene jolted Zhao Hai, the Diamond Apes were truly worthy of being the Kings of the Beastmen. With such determinations, it wasn't a wonder why their status was too great.

Laura and the others were similarly shocked, they cannot believe how an entire race would share the same obsession. They clearly knew that they would die, but they also knew that they were duty-bound to not come back, the Beast God's Spear was just too valuable.

Zhao Hai calmed himself before having the Blood Ghost Staff proceed forward. With the number of corpses that he received getting more and more, he didn't have the time to try turning them into Undead. He wanted to bring these corpses to the Prairie and give them a proper burial. They belonged to the Prairie, and it was proper for them to be buried there. In Zhao Hai's mind, they already had the qualifications to do so.

Ten days after discovering the first Diamond Ape corpse, Zhao Hai had already stored about 10 thousand Diamond Ape corpses. The majority of these corpses were the elderly and children.

Zhao Hai didn't explore other places right now, the trail of corpses were already his guide. As long as he follows them, then he would surely reach a destination.

After a month of flying around, the Diamond Ape corpses had already numbered to about five hundred thousand. This wasn't a small number.

Most large tribes in the Prairie had about 1 million members. And for a huge warring tribe like the Tiger race, it might even be less. The more powerful the race, the more difficult it would be for them to multiply. Less powerful tribes, on the other hand, had great fertility.

Since the Diamond Apes were the strongest at their time, then it would be impossible for them to have very large numbers. By the time he reached 500 thousand corpses, Zhao Hai can no longer see elderly and children among them. Most of what he acquired at this point, were young and able men.

One must know that although Zhao Hai took a long time to collect these corpses, he was someone who was flying in the Icefield. Now imagine the state of these Diamond Apes, how long did they have to walk this way without stopping, how long did they kept their resolve? Zhao Hai doesn't dare to imagine it.

It was very difficult for Zhao Hai to think about how these Diamond Apes were able to survive in such a climate. Their ability to penetrate this far into the Icefield was a monument to the tyrannical strength of their race.

After three days of flying, Zhao Hai discovered from the monitor that some black spots were spotted at a distance. He immediately enlarged the image and couldn't help but get shaken. This was because he had discovered a mountain, but what's most surprising in this mountain were the trees that were present. How could fully grown green trees be present here?

This might not be strange in the continent, but what shocked Zhao Hai was the fact that it was here, in the Northern Icefield. There was almost nothing here aside from snow and ice. Who would've thought that a mountain would be present here, and with a tree growing on it.

Zhao Hai immediately commanded the staff to fly to the mountain, while simultaneously collecting the corpses along the way. The number of corpses that he had received has now numbered to about seven hundred thousand.

Because he was still storing the corpses, Zhao Hai took a little over two days before he arrived at the mountain. At the same time, Zhao Hai discovered that the area close to the mountain was devoid of any Diamond Ape corpses.

This fact made Zhao Hai excited, it was just like what he had thought, the Diamond Apes didn't die out. The tree in the mountain represented the fact that there was warmth present there, which would in turn allow a person to survive. It was possible for the Diamond Apes to thrive on this mountain. The absence of corpses in the surroundings meant that the surviving Diamond Apes had already retrieved them.

Zhao Hai was elated, he immediately had the monitor focus on the mountain. He wanted to know what this mountain was and see if there were people present.

Upon further investigation, Zhao Hai discovered something that made him excited. There were roads paved in the mountain! It was artificial, moreover, there was evidence that some people had walked on them.

With his excitement still present, Zhao Hai immediately came out of the Space and turned the Ghost Staff into a shuttle before flying towards the mountain.

After he came out, he had discovered that the temperature near the mountain was quite high. It had the same temperature as the middle of the day in the continent, no wonder a tree can survive here for so long, it was actually very warm.

The higher one gets to the summit, the temperature gets warmer. Moreover, traces of activity can be seen, the roads looked to be constantly maintained, but Zhao Hai cannot see a single person yet.

When Zhao Hai was halfway up the mountain, he couldn't help but stare. What he saw looked like a city. A stone wall was present, although it wasn't very high, it was certainly something that a person had built.

Then Zhao Hai saw something move, it was a person. He immediately opened the monitor to look, and there he saw a leather-clad Diamond Ape Beastman.

Zhao Hai flashed into the Space and carefully looked at the city using the large screen. The city was not very big, it can probably house about 100 thousand people. The outer walls were made of large stone, it had a height of 20 meters, and a thickness of 10. On the walls, Diamond Apes can be seen on sentry duty while wearing their leather armor. Every Diamond Ape was next to their diamond ape partner, a beast

10 meters in height. These diamond apes were either sitting or lying down. They looked very docile, but Zhao Hai didn't doubt their fighting prowess.

Another thing that made Zhao Hai surprised were their weapons. The weapons that the Diamond Apes were using were actually made of wood, they seem to have no ironware.

Their weapon looked like a thick wooden club, this club was no thinner than Zhao Hai's arm. Moreover, it looked pitch black, but its appearance looked very sturdy.

Zhao Hai also noticed that the Diamond Apes seemed to be quite anxious. They were constantly looking for something in the distance. This made Zhao Hai feel strange, he didn't understand why the Diamond Apes were anxious. Are there any enemies on this mountain? Even if there were, with the fighting strength of the Diamond Apes, what were they afraid of?

Zhao Hai also noticed that there were no gates on this wall. The whole stretch was made as solid as possible, there was no way out.

He was confused with such an arrangement. Even if the Diamond Apes had their giant partners to carry them, wouldn't leaving the city be very inconvenient? Why would they do this?

While he was inspecting the walls, he discovered that there were traces of fighting present on it. The traces were very strange as well, some of it looked like it was caused by wild beasts, some looked like traces that a blade or a sword might make.

Then Zhao Hai shifted his gaze towards the city. The houses on this city were made of stone, and were of two stories, the lower one probably housed the diamond ape beasts. On the upper floor, there were some hay mats on the ground, each one occupied by a person. Anything else that was inside the houses were either made of stone or wood.

The city was quite lively, there were small Diamond Apes frolicking around the streets. Women of the Diamond Ape tribe were making leather armor, the elderly were making wooden clubs. These clubs looked just the same as the weapons that they were using. Some of the children used these clubs while learning how to fight.

Zhao Hai looked to another part of the mountain and discovered some magic beasts that were being raised. The beasts looked just like the blue eyed rabbit, but they were evidently bigger, about as big as a pig. There were a lot of these beasts, and they were partitioned by wooden fences.

After further inspection of the mountain, Zhao Hai finally discovered how these people were able to live in this place, and why trees were growing here. It was because the mountain was actually a volcano, an active volcano. The crater on its summit was constantly spewing steam.

Because the thermal energy of the volcano was negated by the cold environment, it had allowed the Diamond Apes to survive in it. It seems like this place was where the Diamond Apes had ended up in.

But Zhao Hai can also see that the overall strength of the Diamond Ape tribe had been damaged severely. Their entire race was now reduced to about 100 thousand people, and that was including the old and weak. Moreover, they seem to have met an enemy here, otherwise the guards on the walls wouldn't be looking so anxious.

Zhao Hai took a closer look at the mountain. The area of this volcano was very huge. There were also places where traces of people can be seen. At the same time, he also found out that there wasn't only one mountain, there were actually 13 peaks. The outer parts of this group of mountains was the only one with traces of activity.

Zhao Hai turned to the other peaks and discovered why they were virtually unexplored. The place was too hot, the only lifeforms that were able to survive here were fire element plants. Most importantly, the volcano seems to be unstable, like it could erupt at any time.

However, there weren't a lot of lifeforms that could be seen on the other peaks. There were some fire element magic beasts, but Zhao Hai can see that their levels weren't very high. So naturally, these beasts weren't the enemies of the Diamond Ape tribe.

After looking through the huge mountain, Zhao Hai decided to meet the Diamond Apes in order to acquire some information. If they had found the Beast God's spear, then it was good, but if they haven't, a heading would still suffice.

Zhao Hai flashed out of the Space and then released Alien. He watched from inside the undead's body as it slowly crawled towards the mountain.

Before long, Alien had arrived in front of the Diamond Ape tribe's city. While inside Alien, Zhao Hai looked at the city with his own eyes. Just as Alien was halfway up the mountain, the people on the walls started to spot him. The Beastmen immediately took into action, the giant apes stood up, seemingly ready for combat.

Zhao Hai couldn't help but stare when he saw what just happened, he immediately had Alien stop and then loudly introduced himself, "Beastman brothers, don't panic. I'm not an enemy, I didn't come to attack you."

Zhao Hai's words took the attention of the people on the walls. When his voice was heard, the Beastmen were shocked. Then they looked at each other in utter disbelief.

Zhao Hai understood the reactions of these Diamond Apes. They were in this place for over 5000 years. 5000 years wasn't a short period of time, and in those years, they didn't have any contact with the outside world. Otherwise, the Beastmen wouldn't be clueless about their situation. Now that they heard someone else talking to them, they couldn't help but doubt their ears.

However, Zhao Hai didn't say anything else. He wanted to see what the reaction of the people on the wall would be and judge whether the enemy of the Diamond Apes were beasts or people.

While thinking about these, Zhao Hai walked out of Alien's body. He appeared in his Magic Robes and staff. After going out, he stored Alien back into his body.

Upon seeing Zhao Hai come out, the Beastmen couldn't help but see the excitement. Zhao Hai looked at the Beastmen on the walls and couldn't help but smile. He could imagine what these people were feeling right now.

He had no worries as he walked up to about only 12 meters away from the wall. Making the people see him clearly.

Zhao Hai looked at the wall and the Diamond Ape beastmen that were present, The Diamond Apes stood still at the walls while looking at Zhao Hai, their bodies seem to be trembling.

Then Zhao Hai gave a salute to the Diamond Apes and said, "Beastman Brothers, I'm called Zhao Hai. I came from the Beastman Prairie."

An elderly Diamond Ape's face looked emotional as he suddenly shouted in grief, "It's been 5000 years! My Diamond Ape tribe..." Then he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, please wait a bit, I'll immediately have someone come over and get you."

Then he gave an order to a Diamond Ape, who then brought his diamond ape down the wall and appeared in front of Zhao Hai.

The Diamond Ape beastman was more than 2 meters tall, from Zhao Hai's eyes, they seem to be 3 meters. Zhao Hai looked at the Beastman and smiled, "Zhao Hai has seen Beastman brother."

The Diamond Ape returned the courtesy and said, "Human Brother, did you really come from the Prairie?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "I did."

Then the Diamond Ape asked, "Can sir please tell me what the Prairie looks like?"

Zhao Hai stared, but he immediately thought that since the Diamond Apes have survived for 5000 years here, the current generation were people who hadn't been to the Prairie before. So in their minds, the Prairie was a foreign place. To them, the Prairie was a place of legend, a beautiful place, their origin.

When Zhao Hai was about to answer the Diamond Ape, the elderly Diamond Ape shouted loudly, "Little Six, what is taking you long? Don't ask mister any questions yet, quickly take him here."

When this Little Six heard the old man, he embarrassingly scratched his head and said, "I've been unfair to mister. I actually forgot about my taks. Mister, please sit down on my Liwa's shoulders. We'll be taking you to the city."

The Liwa that the Diamond Ape mentioned was naturally the gigantic ape right beside him. Zhao Hai looked at the diamond ape that was standing there like a human. It towered at a height of ten meters, it was a true colossus. For it to be called Liwa was actually very intriguing.

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "Alright." Then Little Six beckoned to the diamond ape as it squatted and extended its hand towards Zhao Hai.

The hand opened up as Zhao Hai stood directly on it.

Then the ape placed Zhao Hai on one of its shoulders before placing Little Six on the other. Then it stood up and crawled up the wall.

It didn't take a long time before the ape had climbed up the wall and placed Zhao Hai back down. The old Diamond Ape then arrived in front of Zhao Hai and said, "Human friend, I am Patriarch Tess of the Diamond Ape tribe. What is your purpose in coming here?"

Zhao Hai gave respects to the Patriarch before he smiled faintly and said, "Patriarch, I've received a task from the current Beast King to retrieve the Beast God's Spear inside the Northern Icefield. I didn't expect the Diamond Apes to still be living here, if I bring this news back, I'm sure the entire Beastman Race would be very shaken."

When Tess heard Zhao Hai, his face couldn't help but turn gloomy as he said, "My tribe is deemed to be criminals. If we return to the Prairie, we would certainly not be popular. Mister, please come with me and discuss this matter some more."

Zhao Hai complied and then walked together with Tess towards his house. The people of the Diamond Ape tribe came over and surrounded Zhao Hai. He seemed to be regarded as an attraction, Zhao Hai couldn't help but smile bitterly.

Before long, Zhao Hai and Tess finally arrived at a house. This house was quite ordinary. It didn't have much of a difference compared to the other Diamond Ape houses.

Below the house were seven diamond apes, four big and three small. The three small apes followed Zhao Hai and Tess inside the house, the others were driven out.

Tess welcomed Zhao Hai to the second floor to see his family. Tess' family was quite simple, he and his wife were a couple, and then he had a son and a daughter in law as well as three grandchildren.

Zhao Hai exchanged greetings with the family before they sat down. Then Tess turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, did you just say that you were sent to the Icefield by the Beast King in order to search for the Beast God's Spear?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Yes. My relationship with the Beastmen is quite good. In the entire continent, it was impossible for this matter to be revealed. Because of this, the Beast King gave me an order to retrieve the Beast God's Spear inside the Icefield."

Tess then sighed and said, "In the past, my tribe has lost the Divine Artifact in this Northern Icefield, which was a serious offense that we had committed. In the end, the tribe was sent into exile here. It has been 5000 years since the first Diamond Apes were recorded to have penetrated the Northern Icefields, with a resolve to die here if they couldn't retrieve the Beast God's Spear. In the end, only 5000 members were able to reach the volcano and had settled here. We still haven't given up in looking for the Divine Artifact. But it has not been very easy these past thousand years. We don't know when it started, but ice beasts had started to desperately attack us. Because of them, we were forced to bunker up and defend, causing the retrieval of the Divine Artifact to be delayed."

The only thing that Zhao Hai knew was how serious the losses of the Diamond Apes were. Stored in his Space, there were about 700 thousand Diamond Ape corpses. Surviving with 5000 people was just short of being extinct as a tribe. Only after 5000 years of development did they had manage to recover and become 100 thousand. One could clearly see how severe the price they had paid just because of the Divine Artifact.

But Zhao Hai didn't think about these now, from what he heard from Tess, the Beast God's Spear was still lost. It was still somewhere inside the Northern Icefield.

Zhao Hai quickly responded, "Patriarch, what were these ice beasts and ice people that you were talking about? I've seen some traces of attack on your walls, were they the cause of it?"

Tess sighed again and replied, "That's right. According to the records of my tribe, these people appeared more than 1000 years ago. I don't know what they are, but their bodies were all made up of ice, may they be in the shape of a person or a beast. Despite the composition of their bodies, they can still move freely. They didn't seem to be intelligent, but they were very difficult to deal with. If you don't break their heads, they would not die. Fortunately, the volcano had somewhat weakened them. Otherwise, our tribe would have already been exterminated a long time ago."

Zhao Hai stared, it was the first time that he had heard of such a life form. He looked at Tess and said, "Patriarch, did you say that their bodies are all made of ice?"

Tess nodded and said, "Right, their entire bodies are comprised of ice, we're sure of it because their bodies were somewhat transparent. When they are killed, they would immediately turn into water. They don't look like a lifeform, but their fighting strength wasn't very weak."

Zhao Hai knit his brows, this was the first time that he had heard of this detail about the Northern Icefield. It was indeed worthy of being called one of the Five Forbidden Areas.

Tess looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, has come at a tricky time. I estimate that in the coming days, those ice beings would attack. At that time, I think mister would understand after seeing them with your own eyes."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright. I have also been travelling for a long time, I really need a good rest. I apologize to the Patriarch for disturbing your city."

Tess smiled and said, "Mister is too polite. You're our first visitor for more than 5000 years. Naturally, we would need to entertain you well."

Zhao Hai nodded, then he looked at Tess and said, "Patriarch, while on the way here, I've discovered a lot of Diamond Ape corpses. I have brought those corpses with me, how would you want those to be processed?"

Tess stared, then he stood up as his expression changed, "Did Mister really bring those corpses?"

Zhao Hai also stood up as he nodded, "I did. To be honest, I'm very astonished by it. There were about 700 thousand corpses in total. If I didn't have a Space equipment, then I simply couldn't bring them with me. Patriarch, I really admire your tribe. For your tribe to still strive up to this point, I believe that you have already been redeemed."

When Tess heard Zhao Hai, he couldn't help but stare for a moment before he suddenly cried and said, "Ancestors, can you hear this? Someone said that our crime has been redeemed, you can now rest in peace." Tess' wife, son, and daughter-in-law stood up as well.

Zhao Hai knew that the Beast God's Spear was a huge thorn in the hearts of the Diamond Apes. He said that in order to somewhat appease their hearts. But him saying this was not without foundation. He truly thinks that the Diamond Apes have already paid enough for their crime.

After some time, Tess' mood slowly calmed down, then he turned his head to Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, may I be able to see my ancestors' remains?"

Zhao Hai nodded, then he walked outside as Tess' family immediately followed him behind. Upon arriving outside, Zhao Hai discovered that the place was full of Diamond Apes, they were all looking at him curiously. Zhao Hai smiled faintly, he felt like a monkey in a zoo, being gazed upon by onlookers.

Tess looked at the faces of these people and said, "Everyone, come to the city's wall with me. Mister Zhao Hai just told me that he had brought the remains of our ancestors. Join me in bringing respects to them!"

Upon hearing Tess, the surrounding Diamond Apes turned silent for a moment before an uproar came about. They immediately passed the news around, and before long, every person in the city came to know about it.

Zhao Hai knew how the Beastmen regarded their ancestors. For Zhao Hai to bring their ancestors' bodies with him was already a huge gesture of kindness towards the Diamond Apes.

Zhao Hai didn't waste time. As he got on the wall with Tess, and then down again to the area outside, he immediately released the petrified corpses.

Tess looked at the corpses on the ground as tears came flowing out of his eyes. He gently walked towards one of the corpses, and then as he was sobbing he said, "This is indeed my ancestors' remains. At that time, because they were afraid that the corpses would disintegrate in the harsh environment of the Icefield, they decided to place the bodies inside their companions. The skin of a diamond ape would slowly petrify as soon as it dies, allowing it to protect what was inside its body. Since they were hurrying along, they can only resort to this method of burial."

Zhao Hai only released about a hundred corpses before he stopped. The area outside the wall was too small, it was impossible to release every single corpse. Therefore, he just released a hundred before turning to Tess and said, "Patriarch, the corpses are just too many. I cannot place them all down here, what do we do?"

Tess looked at the remains and sighed, "I'll have to trouble mister to bring the remains down the mountain and then release them into the Icefield. After we give our respects, then we would be cremating them."

Zhao Hai then asked, "Cremate? How come I couldn't remember any ritual of cremation among the Beastmen?"

Tess nodded and said, "That's true, there wasn't a ceremony of cremation among the Beastmen. But our Diamond Ape clan decided to do it as a form of gratitude to the life that was given to use by this volcano. Since the time we settled here, we had changed our death ceremonies into cremation."

Chapter 595 - Cremation

Zhao Hai nodded, he can understand their decision. They thought that they were about to be eliminated and then suddenly a place like this appeared that can allow them to live. In this case, it wouldn't be strange for them to grab the opportunity. Not wonder, even for the Beastmen to have not done cremation before, they decided to do so right now.

But Zhao Hai thought about it and decided to remind Tess, he opened his mouth and said, "Patriarch Tess, my Space is very big. If I can find the Beast God's Spear, I can bring these remains back to the Prairie. How about burying them back there?"

Upon hearing Zhao Hai, Tess couldn't help but stare, he turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Is mister telling the truth? Is it possible for you to take these remains back to the Prairie?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "It's true."

Tess looked at the remains, and then he looked back at the mountain. He sighed lightly and then shook his head, "Forget it, we'll go through with the cremation. My tribe would still look for the Beast God's Spear. But I think we don't have a place to return to anymore."

Zhao Hai looked at Tess and said, "Patriarch, I came this time to seek the Beast God's Spear, and I'm confident in being able to find it. If I retrieve the Divine Artifact, then can't you return to the Prairie by then?"

Tess looked at Zhao Hai and then smiled bitterly, "Mister, to tell you the truth, what's the point of our tribe returning to the Prairie? Our Diamond Ape tribe has a magnificent past, we were once the Royal Clan of the Beastman Race. But our entire tribe has been exiled here, and was now reduced to 100 thousand members. Even if we return to the Prairie, what can we obtain? Can our small tribe of 100 thousand people survive there? Won't the present Royal Tribe see us as a threat? Mister, to be honest, we do long for the Prairie, but at the same time, we are also afraid to return."

Zhao Hai was shaken, he didn't think that Tess would have thought this far. Are they really the Beastman tribe that was known to be straightforward? This was a wise old man who had already seen the world.

Zhao Hai knew that what Tess said was true. The status of the Diamond Apes was too awkward. They were the previous Royal tribe, and was now reduced to a small tribe of 100 thousand members. Even if they have formidable fighting strength, what would they bring when they go back to the Prairie? The other Beastmen were already used to being under the rule of the Lion and Tiger races. If another Royal tribe returns, then things would get complicated.

Because one couldn't exist along with the other, it was inevitable that a war would happen. Once their status was placed on the line, the Lion and Tiger races wouldn't give the Diamond Apes any opportunity. Therefore, being suppressed and eventually withering away was a possible outcome for them.

Zhao Hai sighed, he didn't say anything more, he turned around and then stored the remains back into the Space. He then led the people of the Diamond Ape tribe down the mountain. When they reached the flat icefield, Zhao Hai immediately released all of the corpses before silently going off to the side.

Tess and the other members of the Diamond Ape tribe carried on with their rituals. Their ceremony was very simple, they killed some magic beasts and then made some rituals on bended knees. There weren't a lot going on. However, the Diamond Apes wept upon seeing their people who have died. These were their ancestors.

After some time, Tess went to Zhao Hai as he bowed and said, "We thank mister Zhao Hai. We'll have to ask mister to please take these remains to the summit."

Zhao Hai nodded and then received the corpses again. Then together with Tess and the others, they began to walk towards the summit. The higher they went up, the higher the temperature became, but that didn't matter. When Zhao Hai arrived at the summit, he saw a huge crater. It was round, and was spewing white gas into the air, one could even see faint signs of fire here and there.

Zhao Hai looked carefully and saw that under this crater was a magma pool. The magma inside was tumbling around, but it doesn't look like it was about to erupt.

Under the request of Tess, Zhao Hai dropped the bodies into the crater as the Diamond Apes resumed their ceremony. Then they returned to the city, Zhao Hai was led by Tess back to his home.

When they arrived back home, Tess' wife and daughter-in-law went to prepare for dinner while Tess, his son, and Zhao Hai sat on the living room. Tess looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, can you tell us briefly about the current state of the Prairie?"

Zhao Hai didn't decline, he nodded and then spoke up. He had a complete understanding of the Prairie at this point, so it wasn't a problem for him to tell them.

Actually, even after 5000 years has passed by, there weren't a lot of developments in the continent. Even the magic system remained virtually unchanged, the same was true for the Beastmen. The only thing fairly new was the fact that the Beastmen can now use the soul of their beasts in order to cultivate. They had also learned how to look for appropriate beast souls as well as appropriate mounts.

But one shouldn't look down on this achievement, the Beastmen had done a lot of tests in order to achieve this point. In turn, it managed to increase their overall strength. Just imagine the difference between beastmen riding common bulls versus beastmen that were riding their exclusive mounts.

Five thousand years was quite a long time, even some of the Beastmen had changed their weapons in this period. But all of these 5000 years of change wasn't recorded on the Diamond Ape tribe's books.

Tess' wife and daughter-in-law were already done making their meal, but Tess was still not willing to move. He was too deeply focused on Zhao Hai's narration.

Only after his wife had called him several times did Tess woke up from his stupor, he looked at Zhao Hai embarrassingly and said, "I've been unfair to mister, let's go have a meal first."

Zhao Hai nodded with a smile, then he went along with Tess' family to the dining room. The place wasn't very big, and the inside only had ordinary wooden furniture. All of the things inside were either made of wood or made of stone. It was nearly impossible to see any ironware. If there were 1 or 2, those ironware were still heavily damaged due to prolonged use.

Zhao Hai didn't laugh at them, after all, Beastmen weren't good in handling iron. Moreover, from the looks of it, there weren't any iron deposits that can be seen in the vicinity. And even ironware was already considered to be a miracle if the Diamond Apes were able to bring them along in the first place.

However, one couldn't just devalue these people, they still had some sort of talent in them. From what Zhao Hai can see, the things in Tess' house that used wood or stone were made very well. They were very smooth to the touch and even the stone knife looked very sharp.

They used a stone pot and a stone slab in order to cook the food. They didn't have much of a flavor, but it still tasted very good. And most importantly, they also had their own wine here. When Zhao Hai asked, the wine was made from a fruit that can be found in the mountain. The fruit had a sweet taste, it was very good.

After having eaten their meal, the group returned to the living room. Then Zhao Hai resumed talking to them about the matters of the continent. The Beastmen, the Humans, all of those things were told to Tess.

Although Zhao Hai's narration wasn't comprehensive, he still finished talking deep into the night. Only after Zhao Hai was done did Tess and the others noted that it was already very late. They immediately prepared a room for Zhao Hai, asking him to rest.

After Zhao Hai entered his room, he immediately flashed to the Space. Even if it was late, Laura and the others were still not asleep, they were currently in the living room, chatting.

Seeing that Zhao Hai has arrived, Laura immediately smiled and said, "Brother Hai, you finally came back. You look very tired, Haha."

Zhao Hai smiled bitterly, he was far more than tired. He felt that his throat was about to emit smoke, moreover it was also very painful. If he didn't treat it, then he might not be able to talk tomorrow.

Zhao Hai immediately drank a cup of Spatial Water. After feeling well, he turned to Laura and said, "I can't help it. Tess is too enthusiastic. Why haven't you gone to rest, did something happen?"

Zhao Hai already told Laura and the others that he had something to do outside, so they can just rest ahead of time. But it appeared to be useless, the women didn't listen to him.

Laura smiled and said, "Something did come up. Brother Hai, you seem to have forgotten since you've been focused on the Icefield for one month. We think it should be time for the Buddha Empire to get the first batch of magic beasts."

Zhao Hai stared, then he couldn't help but smack his own head, "I forgot. Good, please arranged for it. Right, did the fleet from Golden Island arrive?"

Laura smiled and said, "They're already on the coastlines of the Prairie. I'll have them stop for a couple of days before going back. After all, 4000 beasts aren't that much. If we make them stop there for too long, people might get suspicious."

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Alright, I'll hand this matter off to you. It would be best if the beasts get as minimal contact with the Space as possible. If they get promoted inside, then it would be very troublesome."

Laura and the others couldn't help but chuckle. Others were afraid that their magic beasts wouldn't be able to improve. Only their group were an exception, they were actually afraid of their magic beasts levelling up too quickly. If this was revealed to the outside world, people would kill them.

After some time, Lizzy turned to Zhao Hai and said, “Big Brother Hai, does the Diamond Apes really not want to return to the Prairie?”

Zhao Hai nodded, then he told them about the worries of Tess. After listening to Zhao Hai, Laura and the others couldn’t help but nod. They understood Tess’ worries. This matter was quite common, after all, no race wanted to give up their authority.

If it was the past Diamond Ape tribe, then it wouldn’t be a problem since they possess tyrannical strength. But now they were reduced into a small tribe, they don’t have the ability to rule anymore.

Chapter 596 - Hiring Oneself

The political struggles of the Beastmen were much more worse than the Humans, and Laura and the others had experienced these things. Therefore, when they heard what Zhao Hai had said, they immediately knew what was going on.

Lizzy knit her brows for a moment before her eyes suddenly lit up, “Big Brother Hai, so you’re saying that it would be impossible for the Diamond Apes to return to the Prairie? If that’s so, then how about inviting them over to the Black Wasteland?”

Zhao Hai stared, he had not thought about it until Lizzy reminded him. If Tess and the others don’t want to return to the Prairie, then how about having them go to the Black Wasteland? The Black Wasteland was also very huge, he had also planted some grass on the still unoccupied lands. At this point those grasses should have healthily spread.

Wales was still in severe need of manpower right now, so the slaves still cannot be given to Zhao Hai. If the Diamond Apes were to settle in the Black Wasteland, then the current deficit would be solved.

Although they had lived for 5000 years on that mountain, Zhao Hai can see that the Diamond Apes haven’t given up in their tradition of herding. They were mainly focused on herding, there doesn’t seem to be much farming going on. Because of this, having them herd in the Black Wasteland would be quite feasible.

After thinking about it, Zhao Hai couldn't bear but nod repeatedly and said, "That is a good idea. If we can invite them, then we would have an additional 100 thousand people that can help us. Moreover, the fighting strength of the Diamond Apes are strong. Having them with us will give the family another trump card."

Megan nodded and said, "That would be very great. Moreover, Elder Brother Hai, I think Tess would ask you tomorrow about why you agreed to seek the Beast God's Spear. You can use that opportunity to tell him about the matter with the Divine Realm. Then you can see if they would like to come with us. If they don't want to, then that would not be a problem. But I think they would agree, after all, without our help, it would be impossible for them to go out of the Icefield."

Laura smiled and said, "I also think that they would agree. They have lived in this volcano while in constant worry about it erupting. We can help them go live in a new environment, there's no reason for them to oppose to it."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Who knows, maybe they have the ability to return, but they just chose not to. Alright, let's go take a rest. Tomorrow, all of these matters would be settled." Then he walked towards his room while pulling Laura. Laura's face couldn't help but turn red while Lizzy and the others were chuckling.

The next morning, Zhao Hai went out of Meg's room (this is not a mistake, he also went there. Hahaha) Then he went out of the space and returned to the room that was given to him by Tess.

Although one could say that Zhao Hai had practically zero rest, it didn't affect him much since he was now a 9th rank expert. He didn't feel any tiredness at all.

When Zhao Hai returned to his room, he arranged his clothes before going out. He didn't see Tess anywhere, but he didn't care about it. He went out quite early today, this was because he wanted to see get some unique beasts and plants from this volcano. Even if they cannot increase it's level, it can still provide some experience.

Zhao Hai came out of the Tess' house and saw that there were already quite a few people outside. These people had just woke up and were preparing for their work. Most of these people were elderly. Their jobs were quite simple, and it was to sweep the streets of the city. The fighting strength of older people had waned, so they weren't suitable for defending the city. Therefore, the only thing that they could do was this.

Zhao Hai greeted these old people with a smile while the old people quickly returned the courtesy. They were very grateful to Zhao Hai because he brought the remains of their ancestors over, which was also one of their concerns.

After greeting the elderly people, Zhao Hai went to the wall. After seeing Zhao Hai, the guards immediately gave him a salute, of which Zhao Hai returned the gesture. After his salute, Zhao Hai informed them about his intentions before he summoned Alien and went out of the city.

He didn't want to fly here, since it would make the Diamond Apes know about his strength. Therefore, he summoned Alien to be his transport.

Outside of the city was a forest, so Zhao Hai had alien patrol it for a while. Whenever he saw any unique plants and so on, he would immediately absorb them into the Space. Although the prompts kept coming, there was no notification regarding a level up. Zhao Hai already expected this, so he didn't feel anything strange.

Alien was quick, and with the recent promotion of the Space, its might had also gone up. As long they weren't 8th rank, Alien can forcefully catch them and store them into the Space. Because of this, Zhao Hai was comfortable and just sat inside as he left all the work for Alien.

It didn't take a long time before Zhao Hai finished patrolling the mountain that the Diamond Apes were living in. The mountain did have some good plants and animals in it. It might be because it was a volcano, but most of them had the fire attribute. Although the Space didn't level up, it's fire attribute had been increase. This was a kind of success for Zhao Hai.

After touring the mountain, Zhao Hai felt that it was time, so he immediately headed towards the Diamond Apes' city. He figured that it was about the time where most people would wake up.

As expected, when Alien arrived at the city, most people have already got up. Tess was in the wall and had been waiting for his return. Upon seeing Zhao Hai come back, Tess couldn't help but feel relief.

After sharing a breakfast, Tess invited Zhao Hai to the living room. After sitting down, Tess looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, yesterday I asked you about the matters of the continent and discovered that the present relationship between the Humans and Beastmen wasn't very good. Moreover, they

even had a recent war. I want to ask why did the Beast King trusted Mister with the task of retrieving the Beast God's Spear?"

Zhao Hai already expected this question yesterday, so he had thought of an excuse. He told Tess his status in the Prairie as well as him being a Foreign Elder of the Dwarves. At the same time, he also presented a token, it seemed to be made out of beast bone and it had a carving of the word King(王) on it."

Naturally, this wasn't the Beast King's command token, but instead, it was the Beastman Race's Foreign Prince token. The Beast King gave this token to Zhao Hai. In any case, if Zhao Hai can retrieve the Divine Artifact, he would become the Beastman Race's Foreign Prince. And if Zhao Hai failed, then it was probable that he would perish in the Icefield. Therefore, the Beast King giving this token in advance wasn't much of a big deal.

When Zhao Hai showed the Foreign Prince token, Tess immediately believed him. This was because this Foreign Prince token was illustrated in their tribe records. Moreover, this token originated with the Diamond Apes. But they gave this token to a Dwarf Master Artisan instead of a Human.

Tess gave the token back to Zhao Hai and then said, "Mister, you said that something was about to happen in the continent. And the help of the Beast God's Spear was required. May I ask what this matter is?"

Zhao Hai nodded, then he narrated the prophecy of the Dwarf Race as well as Iron Hammer's words. He told Tess about the latest movements of the Radiant Church. He didn't hide anything from Tess since, just like Megan said, if the Diamond Apes doesn't have his aid, then it would be impossible for them to leave the Icefield. And if Tess agreed to his help, then it would be similar to the Diamond Apes being his people, so there was no need to be on guard.

Although Zhao Hai admired the Diamond Apes, he couldn't just have sympathy take the upper hand in this matter. If the Diamond Apes don't agree to move to the Black Wasteland, then Zhao Hai wouldn't reveal the existence of the Space to them. This was because it still wasn't time to reveal the Space.

While listening to Zhao Hai, Tess' brows couldn't help but wrinkle. He didn't think that while his tribe stayed in the Icefield for 5000 years, the events in the outside world had surprisingly developed to this point. Moreover, the Beast God's Spear was now needed more than before.

Zhao Hai looked at Tess' expression and decided to not disturb him. He just sat there quietly as he took a sip of water. Tess turned to Zhao Hai and said, "Is mister completely confident in retrieving the Beast God's Spear?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Almost completely. It shouldn't be a problem. You should know that since I was able to come here, I should have the ability to retrieve it."

Tess looked at Zhao Hai and said, "I heard from mister that you are a Human noble. So you should have your own fief. Mister, I need your help. I hope you can agree to it."

When Zhao Hai heard Tess, he couldn't help but gawk. This was because Tess' statement was equal to him telling Zhao Hai that he wishes for the Diamond Apes to hire themselves to him on their own initiative.

Zhao Hai nodded immediately and said, "Yes, I'm a Marquis of the Rosen Empire. My territory is very big."

Tess looked at Zhao Hai and said, "If my Diamond Ape tribe hires ourselves to mister, does mister have a way for us to exit the Icefield?"

Zhao Hai looked at Tess before he nodded and said, "I do, not only could I take you out of the Icefield, I can also provide you a place to herd on. I can make your children go to school, and also have your own tribe manage by yourselves. But after going to my fief, unless I give permission, you won't be able to go out."

Tess looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Can I ask where Mister's fief is?"

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and said, "The Black Wasteland!"

Tess stared, he looked confused at Zhao Hai as he said, "Mister, did you just say Black Wasteland? That land has someone occupying it?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "I'm the one occupying it. And nobody in the continent except people my family trusted knew that I was able to put it to good use. That's why I said that you won't be able to leave my land without my permission."

Tess looked at Zhao Hai in shock, "Is mister really telling the truth? Are you really occupying the Black Wasteland? Right, can I ask mister how you're planning to take us out of the Icefield?"

Zhao Hai looked at Tess, he smiled faintly and then said, "I ask Patriarch to relax your body. I'll make you know in a moment. Regardless of what happens, Patriarch should not panic." Then with an intention, he moved the two of them to Black Wasteland's Iron Mountain Fort.

Chapter 597 - Red Crystal

Zhao Hai didn't bring Tess to the Space, he just directly teleported themselves to the Black Wasteland. The two appeared inside Iron Mountain Fort's living area.

He'd rather make people aware that he has a Space Divergent Ability rather than revealing the existence of the Space. Although Space Divergent Abilities were rare, their existence were known in the continent. On the other hand, the Space was entirely unique, it was impossible for the continent to have such a thing.

Because of this, Zhao Hai was now very conscious of his conduct. Only those he trusted were able to know about the Space. For the others, the most they can know was him having some sort of Space Divergent Ability.

At the same time, Zhao Hai also didn't want others to know about the current state of the Black Wasteland. He was afraid that the people would attribute the changes of the Black Wasteland to him.

In the past, he didn't want the people to think that he had any skill in refining or alchemy. If people came to know that the Black Wasteland has been improved, he would have no way to justify it.

However, he wasn't afraid of people asking about it right now. In the past he couldn't find a reason. But now that he has the Processing Machine, as long as he provides the materials, it can make basically everything.

Zhao Hai thinks that being low key is good. After all, the area of the Black Wasteland was very big. If people came to know that it was now usable, greedy eyes would be staring at it.

Tess looked around him in shock. He didn't think that he would instantly be transported into another place. He suddenly remembered something written in their tribe records about formidable Divergent Abilities in the continent.

One must know that the records of the Diamond Apes wasn't broken even after they were exiled to the Icefield. They didn't give up in their task of recording everything.

Because of this, the records of the Diamond Apes were as complete as it can be. Therefore, even when being exiled for 5000 years, Tess was still aware of the existence of Divergent Abilities as well as the existence of the most formidable one of them all, Space Divergent Abilities. In the past, even Beastmen were able to acquire such an ability, which explains why it had also appeared in their records.

Tess looked at Zhao Hai with shining eyes as he said, "Was that a Space Divergent Ability?"

Zhao Hai nodded and said, "Right, it's my Space Divergent Ability. Moreover, my ability is special, not only could I do teleportation, I can also make a Spatial Passage. It would allow people to pass through and immediately arrive here, in the Black Wasteland. This gave me the confidence to claim that I can bring you here."

Tess was moved, he couldn't help but say, "Good, fantastic. Thank you so much Mister."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Don't worry about it. We still have to prepare the place where you'll be settling in. Let's head out and see the territory."

Then Zhao Hai brought Tess to the fort's exit. When the Giant Horned Bulls saw Tess, they couldn't help but gawk. The expressions of the Giant Horned Bulls can be understood. After all, it has been 5000 years before a Diamond Ape was spotted in the continent.

The Giant Horned Bulls saw them but they didn't know who Tess was. Although they knew that he was an ape Beastman, Tess was different from those that they had seen before. This made them very

puzzled, explaining how they looked at Tess. Tess hurried towards one Giant Horned Bull, then he said, "Beastman Brother, what tribe are you?"

Tess question made the Giant Horned Bull gawk. Although they were tribes in the Prairie that cannot be classified at first glance, the Giant Horned Bulls were the most recognizable tribe among the Beastman. Their two large horns wasn't something that people can just ignore.

The Giant Horned Bull rubbed the horn on his head, he thought that maybe his horns have shrunk. Otherwise, why would this Beastman ask about his tribe?

Zhao Hai saw the confused appearance of the Giant Horned Bull, so he smiled faintly and said, "Arpurt, don't be surprised. It's true that he cannot recognize you. This person is from the Diamond Ape tribe. They had lived in the Northern Icefield."

The Giant Horned Bull named Arpurt stared blankly, then he muttered, "Diamond Ape tribe, what tribe is the Diamond Ape tribe?" Then after a moment he was suddenly stunned, he looked at Tess with shining eyes as he asked, "The exiled Royal Tribe, the Diamond Apes? Some of you have survived? Oh my god!!"

When Tess heard Arpurt exclaim, he couldn't help but be moved as he said, "I didn't expect that people would still remember our tribe. I am indeed from the Diamond Ape tribe."

Zhao Hai smiled faintly and then said, "Patriarch Tess, these brothers are from the Giant Horned Bull tribe. Last year, they had come across a disaster in the Prairie, their tribe had been attacked. Therefore, we led them here. Now, they had settled in Iron Mountain Fort."

Arpurt looked at Tess with an expression of disbelief, he looked very silly. In fact, who could act normal in such a situation. A race that had vanished for about 5000 years suddenly appearing in front of them, this was inconceivable.

When Tess heard Zhao Hai that Arpurt was from the Giant Horned Bull tribe, he immediately believed him judging by how huge Arpurt's horns were. He immediately looked at Arpurt and said, "Beastman Brother, hello." He didn't know what to say. It seems like he wanted to say a lot, but he just didn't know how to say it.

Arpurt recovered and then looked at Tess and said, "Are you really from the Diamond Ape tribe? Did you really go to the Northern Icefield? How did you manage to survive there?"

At this time, those working in Iron Mountain Fort who had noticed the commotion had already come over. When the people of the Giant Horned Bull tribe heard Arpurt, they couldn't help but stare at Tess in disbelief.

After some time, Green and Merine had come and had the situation be under control. Then Green and Merine invited Tess to the living room while inviting Ares and Aria over. The two were now deemed to be the elders of the Giant Horned Bulls. It would be best if Tess talks to them.

Zhao Hai didn't say anything and just had Ares and Aria bring Tess to explore Iron Mountain Fort. Zhao Hai believed that as they talk with each other, Tess would understand the life at the fort. Therefore, he didn't have to worry.

Sure enough, Tess went out for a long time with Ares. And when he came back, Tess had a meal with Zhao Hai and the others. The face of Tess went red, it was quite clear that he had become drunk.

When Tess returned to the fort's living room, Zhao Hai immediately looked at him and said, "Patriarch Tess, we should head back. If we're gone for a long time, your people would start to get worried."

Tess nodded, he had already asked Ares about the questions that was on his mind, so he was quite satisfied with today's trip. It was already time for them to return.

Zhao Hai led Tess as their bodies flashed and returned to the Diamond Apes' city. They didn't flash inside their room instantly, but instead looked for a place where nobody was present.

Tess looked at the surroundings and knew instantly that they had come back. Then he walked towards his house along with Zhao Hai. Just shortly after they had returned, they had met a Diamond Ape, when the ape saw Tess he immediately said, "Patriarch, you're here. Aunt has been looking for you."

Tess nodded and said, "Thanks." Then he went back to his house along with Zhao Hai. The family still hadn't eaten yet, they were still waiting for the two to arrive.

Seeing the two come back, Tess' wife couldn't help but complain to him several times. She berated him about not coming back in time for meal. But when she saw that they had already eaten, she didn't say anything.

While Tess had them eat their meal, he was sitting on the living room with Zhao Hai. After they had sat down, Tess looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, I still need to discuss this matter with the elders. I hope you can give me some time."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Alright, you don't have to worry. After all, the place and supplies for your tribe would have to be prepared. It'll be fine if we go a bit later. But meanwhile, I'll go head to the mountains and explore to see if there are any rare plants and animals present."

Tess nodded and said, "Mister, do you need someone to guide you?"

Zhao Hai shook his head and said, "No need. I'm just casually strolling around. Do you think there are any beings in this mountain that can threaten my safety?"

Tess nodded and said, "There aren't any formidable magic beasts in this mountain. But the third peak, fifth peak, and seventh peak must not be explored. Those mountains are quite unstable, they might randomly spew out high temperature fire. Mister should be careful, people aren't able to come back after exploring those areas."

Zhao Hai nodded before he stood up and gave Tess a salute. Then he turned around to walk outside. Seeing Zhao Hai leave, Tess immediately headed out and sent word to the various houses of the elders, calling them over for a meeting. They must reach a decision at the shortest possible time.

Zhao Hai didn't really care about any of these. To be honest, he didn't really place great importance to the decision that Tess and the others would make. After all, it was impossible for Zhao Hai to send them to the Prairie using his ability. The only place they can go to would be the Black Wasteland. Otherwise, Zhao Hai would stop caring about them and then going forth to continue his search. The Black Wasteland's secrets cannot be revealed, so it would be careless for Zhao Hai to just have Tess reveal it.

Zhao Hai sat inside Alien as it walked into the forest and headed directly to the second peak. This mountain peak wasn't as tall as the mountain that Tess' tribe were living in. Moreover, it wasn't very far from the third peak. Zhao Hai can clearly see what Tess just warned him, the third peak was actually a

volcano that would erupt once in a while. This was the reason why Tess and the others decided to live on the first peak.

After leaving the first peak, Alien immediately slammed his tail on the ground as it directly flew towards the second peak. The distance between the two peaks wasn't short. If Alien just walked, it would take them a lot of time.

Since Zhao Hai's undead had become 9th ranks, it was natural that they were now able to fly on the air. Which made it even more convenient for Zhao Hai to travel.

The second peak didn't have much things. From what Zhao Hai can tell, this second peak was just like an extinct volcano. It's crater was black and had nothing in it. Zhao Hai stopped caring about it as his gaze turned towards the third peak.

The third peak was very different from the second peak. Zhao Hai can just feel how high the temperature was just from where he was standing. Even at the foot of the mountain, the temperature was still higher than back in the Diamond Apes' city.

Plants were actually very rare in the third peak. The ones who populated the area were fire element magic beasts. Zhao Hai naturally wouldn't let this opportunity go as he received the plants as well as the beasts into the Space. But although he had absorbed a lot, the Space still didn't levelup.

While Zhao Hai was collecting, he proceeded further up the volcano. He was very curious and wanted to look at what's present on top of the mountain.

Before long, he arrived at the summit where the temperature was very high. If one were to drop an egg on the ground, it would definitely turn into an omelette immediately. But this temperature didn't affect Zhao Hai as well as Alien, so they proceeded to go take a closer look at the crater.

The crater looked like a giant stove that constantly spat out fire. Less than 50 meters away from the crater, magma can be seen tumbling about.

Zhao Hai looked at the magma with his eyes as he prepared to get down and observe it. However, he suddenly discovered something that made him stop.

It was a piece of red Crystal, it glittered and was translucent. It was very attractive, the crystal wasn't very far from the crater. Moreover, it was a very big piece.

Zhao Hai curiously looked at the stone as he had a Spatial Rift appear and absorbed the red crystal.

When the crystal reached the Space, a prompt was then heard, "High energy crystal has been detected. Contains a huge amount of heat energy. The energy is stable and can be used. May produce energy equal to 100 thousand watts. This crystal can be reusable. Once it runs out of energy, it can just be placed on a source and reabsorb some energy."

Zhao Hai couldn't help but stare. This energy of this red crystal managed to move him. This thing can actually store a lot, and it can be recharged as well. He can now use it to provide energy in the future, this was a very good thing for the family.

Zhao Hai immediately opened the monitor and asked Cai'er to look at the other mountain peaks and search for other red crystals.

The Space's ability to search was very good, it didn't take too long before they had found more red crystals, whose sizes weren't not small either. Zhao Hai immediately opened a rift and absorbed them into the Space before continuing on his search. But after searching around the three mountains, he wasn't able to find any more crystals.

Zhao Hai then had the monitor look at the other ten mountains. To be honest, the other mountains weren't as suitable for living as the second and first peaks. But on those two peaks, it was impossible to find red crystals easily. Among the crystals that Zhao Hai had already gotten, 60 percent of it was all produced by the third peak.

Chapter 598 - Red Crystal Ore

Originally, Zhao Hai was searching these mountain peaks with the mindset of finding nothing. Since he had some free time, he might as well collect some things here. But now it was different, after discovering the red crystal, he immediately thought about how great this thing would be in supplying energy.

The continent also had crystal stones, and Zhao Hai had gotten samples of these for the Space to absorb. But the Space's evaluation of the crystal was that it was a low-energy consumable, without any way of recharging. This made Zhao Hai disappointed in the crystal.

However, this red crystal was different, after using up the energy inside this crystal, it can be recharged. Most importantly, the energy that the red crystal can store was vastly bigger than the ordinary ones. What can 100 thousand watts do? Zhao Hai didn't calculate it, but he reckoned it would do a lot.

Between the first to third peaks, Zhao Hai had already gathered about 160 red crystals. Together, all of them can reach about 1 billion watts. What concept was this? Zhao Hai had some headache thinking about it before he became happy.

Energy, no matter what kind, was a good. It was something that anyone in the world was vying for. And this red crystal can store a lot. As long as Zhao Hai collects more of it, then he would have a lot of energy available for the future.

Zhao Hai sat inside Alien as it flew towards the fourth peak. The situation at this peak was better than the third peak since it wasn't as hot as the third peak.

However, Zhao Hai was not paying attention to the temperature. He didn't take any plants or beasts either, after all, he had already collected some back at the first three peaks. What Zhao Hai was on the look for at this time were those red crystals.

After scouring at fourth peak, Zhao Hai couldn't help but get disappointed. All in all, he had only discovered about more than 50 red crystals here. These crystals were small as well, about the size of a fist. Zhao Hai also expected these crystals to have differences in size and quality. For example, the first crystal that Zhao Hai had found was as big as a basketball, so it was natural that it can contain a large amount of energy. These fist sized crystals on the fourth peak can carry only about 5000 kilowatts of energy, it had a difference of about 20 times.

Zhao Hai sighed as he received the 50 crystals. Then he proceeded and flew towards the fifth peak, another dangerous place that Tess had told him. Zhao Hai hopes to gain good harvests there.

Before long, Zhao Hai had arrived at the fifth peak. This fifth peak was very similar to the third. Its heat was actually hotter than the third peak. Moreover, it also had more fire element magic beasts.

Zhao Hai didn't pay attention to these magic beasts. His attention was fully in seeking the red crystals. However, the fifth peak seem to have special characteristics. The red crystals in this mountain was buried deep. If Zhao Hai wanted to obtain them, he would need to dig through the mountain.

Fortunately, the monitor can see underground, otherwise, Zhao Hai would take a long time before finding these crystals. Zhao Hai took his time collecting the crystals one by one. The quality of these crystals were higher than the fourth peak. Each of the crystals were about the size of a football. Zhao Hai has yet to see another basketball sized crystal.

The monitor's sight wasn't very deep, it can only penetrate through 500 meters of land. But after arriving at that 500 meters, Zhao Hai can see 500 meters further.

Zhao Hai was now a kilometer beneath the fifth peak. Such a distance wasn't short, but this didn't affect Zhao Hai. He already has magic as well as his earth Divergent Ability. So he wasn't encumbered much at this depth. At this point, the only thing in his mind were those red crystals.

At this time, Cai'er appeared in front of Zhao Hai and said, "Young Master, it looks like there's a mineral lode underneath."

Zhao Hai said, "Mineral lode? You say that there is a red crystal lode?"

Cai'er nodded and said, "Yes, there's a red crystal lode not far under here."

Zhao Hai stared, then he said, "Then let's go there immediately, I want to take a look."

Caier then said, "Young Master, that mineral lode is probably under a lake of magma. But from my analysis, the magma isn't a huge threat to you. But the Young Master would have to keep your focus."

Zhao Hai nodded, he knew how formidable the analysis of the Space was. What Cai'er said meant that the magma wouldn't affect him too much, but he would still experience some troubles.

However, to obtain these red crystals, this small trouble was no big deal. Zhao Hai slowly came out of Alien. Until now, he has been sitting inside its body and didn't enter the Space. If he was in the Space, then he was afraid that Laura and the others wouldn't allow him to go.

Moving forward, Zhao Hai was very focused and was paying attention to the monitor at the same time. He wanted to frequently know what was in front of him. Before long, he discovered that in a place 10 meters below him was magma. Zhao Hai then casted Earth magic on himself while also using his Earth Divergent Ability. He believed that in this way, he can penetrate the earth with the smoothest way possible. He was afraid of making a huge impact at this place since it might cause the volcano to erupt.

After reaching ten meters away from the magma, Zhao Hai stopped and inspected it carefully. After seeing that there wasn't anything special inside, he immediately plunged into it along with Alien.

A dozen of meters away, Zhao Hai popped up and saw that he was in a rock chamber and a magma river. The magma flowed constantly, everything that Zhao Hai saw was red, like molten iron.

Zhao Hai didn't care about any of this as he controlled his fired Divergent Ability and dispelled the heat from the magma before diving down again.

It was fortunate that the magma river wasn't too deep. After Zhao Hai dived for a short time, he had finally reached the bottom of the river. He immediately merged with the earth underneath the magma river. These rocks weren't red crystals, therefore Zhao Hai can use his Earth ability to merge into it, then he relaxed.

Although he can control fire, and the difference between controlling earth and fire was nonexistent, he still didn't want to stay in the magma. The feeling of being immersed in hot rocks was different from being surrounded by earth. The pressure inside the magma was just too great.

After passing the magma river, Zhao Hai dove an additional ten meters before he arrived at the red crystal ores. This ore wasn't very large, it had the thickness of about 100 meters. It also wasn't made up entirely of red crystal, there were also rocks and soil here and there, only a few parts of it were red crystals. However, the crystal ores in this location was much higher than the mountains.

Zhao Hai proceeded to start collecting the crystals in this lode. It was worthy of being called a lode. The crystals were quickly collected with great speed. This lode was not long, probably only spanning a few of

these volcanoes. After collecting all of the red crystals here, Zhao Hai had now over 10 thousand red crystals in his possession.

After Zhao Hai collected the final piece of crystal, he immediately went out and discovered that he was already in the tenth peak. But he didn't care, at this time, there was a piece of red crystal in his hand. This red crystal was not like the other ones. The other red crystals can just be described as fiery crystals, but one could tell at a glance that they were crystal stones. If a person was not knowledgeable, they would just see it as a big gemstone.

But the crystal held by Zhao Hai was more red than the others. It also seemed to have some warmth in it, completely different to the others. The crystal looked just like a fireball.

Zhao Hai absorbed the crystal to the Space, the analysis of the crystal was that it was incomplete, it also has pure energy that would transform the surrounding rocks into red crystals. One could say that this thing was equal to pure iron. It was akin to being a source of red crystals. Zhao Hai buried the crystal underground and maybe it can produce some more red crystals in the future.

Zhao Hai inspected the crystal and couldn't find anything else on it. This was the reason he just buried it in the Space. After all, he already had more red crystals than he could use at the moment.

And while Zhao Hai was flying towards the first peak, he discovered that the temperature on the 13 peaks seemed to have changed slightly. It seems like they weren't as hot as before.

Zhao Hai gawked, and then thought that it might be possibly related to him taking out the red crystal ore. He had dug a lot of red crystals, so no wonder the magma wouldn't be as hot as before.

But most importantly, he had unearthed the red crystal mother. This thing can produce red crystals. But unfortunately, it was incomplete, this somewhat disappointed Zhao Hai.

He was now afraid that the volcanoes would get extinguished, which was disadvantageous to his plan. Although Iron Mountain Fort already had enough equipment to support 100 thousand people moving over, it still needed a few days to prepare. If this volcano turned cold, then he would have to deliver the Diamond Apes ahead of time.

But after Zhao Hai saw that the magma on the seventh peak was still tumbling and didn't have any looks of weakening, he immediately felt relief. Then he had Alien fly towards the first peak.

After Alien landed on the first peak, it slowly crawled towards the city. He was focused on collecting red crystals, so he didn't know what Tess and the others had discussed. If they decided to move to Iron Mountain Fort, then they should be preparing by now.

Moreover, they also said that it would be possible for the ice beasts to attack them these days. Zhao Hai wanted to see these ice beasts, he wanted to see how these things managed to exist.

Just as Alien was about to reach the wall, Zhao Hai stared, he discovered that Tess was already on the wall waiting for him. At this time, Cai'er said, "Young Master, ice beings that Patriarch Tess have described has been spotted on the icefield. There are a lot of them."

Chapter 599 - Ice Beast

When Zhao Hai heard Cai'er, he couldn't help but stare for a moment. Then his expression changed. Alien felt Zhao Hai's change in mood as it directly jumped towards the wall. Alien's sudden movement scared the Diamond Apes.

Zhao Hai came out of Alien's body before he directly went to Tess and said, "Patriarch, the ice beasts have come. There's are a lot of them. Have the people prepare themselves."

Tess couldn't help but stare blankly at Zhao Hai, but he immediately knew that Zhao Hai was a Mage. Moreover, he also heard about Zhao Hai's magical abilities from Ares. Therefore, he didn't suspect Zhao Hai's words. Tess immediately replied, "Alright, I'll go transmit orders to everybody."

Then Tess turned around and loudly said, "Everyone Prepare!"

These two words might be short, but it was already enough. After shouting, Tess turned his head and looked outside the city with a cold gaze.

On the other hand, Zhao Hai was looking at the city. With Tess' command, the city immediately exploded in activity. He saw a lot of people coming out of their houses, while some returned before coming out again in their leather armors. The able bodied immediately approached the walls as the old and women stayed behind. Only the children were hiding inside the houses.

From the time of Tess' shout to this point, it only took 10 minutes. The efficiency of their movement was astonishing.

Zhao Hai looked shocked at these Diamond Apes. The continent had always strived to create an army as coordinated as these. What they thought was impossible was actually achieved by the Diamond Apes. It looks like they were very well practiced in this routine.

Then Zhao Hai turned to look at Tess. Tess was now like a towering colossus that was standing on the city wall. Although he wasn't young, his imposing aura was still as massive as a mountain. One couldn't help but admire his form.

At the same time, the resting beasts on the wall had begun to stand up. These giant apes were very huge, and all of them were currently wearing very fierce expressions.

Zhao Hai discovered that the temperament of the diamond ape beasts had completely changed. When they were lying down or sitting, they didn't have any point of threat to them whatsoever. But now that they had stood up, Zhao Hai saw that they had turned into formidable soldiers.

Most importantly, Zhao Hai also discovered that when these diamond apes were with the Diamond Ape partners, their bodies seem to have formed a connection. At the same time, their strengths have been amplified, they were now at the level of 8th rank.

Although Zhao Hai had a lot of 9th ranks in his hand, he also knew that this due to the Space. But these Diamond Apes didn't have a thing such as the Space, this was them completely relying on their abilities.

It was now that Zhao Hai truly understood how the Diamond Apes were able to rule the entire Beastman Prairie. It was because their innate skill was too frightening.

Even the Tigers would find it impossible to reach 8th rank even after growing up. On the other hand, these young soldiers of the Diamond Ape tribe already had 8th rank in strength. Even the elderly and women on the back of the wall had a lot of 8th ranks among them. This sight was indeed too scary.

Zhao Hai let out a long breath. After experiencing the strength of the Diamond Ape tribe, Zhao Hai knew how they were able to survive at this place. Although they were left with 5000 people in the beginning, they still managed to penetrate this deep into the Northern Icefield.

Zhao Hai wasn't idling when he arrived at the Icefield. After he arrived at the Diamond Ape's city, he immediately had his Blood Ghost staff out and mapped the surrounding areas as well as the path that he had passed through before.

Because he wasn't collecting corpses this time, the staff's speed was increased completely. Actually, there wasn't anything to see in the Icefield, its terrain had remained unchanged for more than ten thousand years. Because of this, Zhao Hai just had Cai'er manage making the map and didn't care about it again. Although he still hadn't mapped the northern part of the Icefield, Zhao Hai was almost sure that this volcano is part of the Icefield's inner area.

Because of this, he admired the Diamond Apes greatly. For them to arrive here was something unfathomable.

Since he hasn't explored the area beyond the volcano, Zhao Hai didn't know the situation there. But he believed that he would find a clue to the Beast God's Spear in that place.

While he was thinking about this, Zhao Hai was suddenly startled awake. He knew that the Ice beasts that Tess had mentioned to him had come. He felt very curious to these beasts and wanted to see them with his own eyes.

On the forest under the city, while flashes started to be seen. Zhao Hai fixed his eyes and focused only to see an ice bull!

It was a bull made entirely of ice. It was about three meters high, had a huge pair of horns, and no matter what part of its body, it was all made of ice. Moreover, it was transparent ice, Zhao Hai can even see the tree behind the cow.

Zhao Hai stared blankly at this thing. He didn't expect a piece of ice to walk. If he didn't meet Tess, he might have thought that it was caused by someone who had an Ice Divergent Ability. Otherwise, such a phenomenon was impossible. If such an expert was present, then there would be more powerful attacks coming their way, and Tess would have met it. But Tess told him that there was no such thing. This only showed that these ice beasts weren't controlled by anyone.

If it was not under control, then it must be made naturally. But can nature really make an ice beast? This idea made Zhao Hai surprised. What environment can allow the natural birth of ice beasts? This matter is too unreasonable.

Zhao Hai turned to Tess and said, "Patriarch Tess, why don't you use long ranged attacks?"

Tess shook his head and said, "It's useless. If you don't destroy their heads, they won't die. They can just retreat and recover."

Zhao Hai gawked, but this wasn't hard for him. He moved his hand as he released several stone golems outside the city. The bodies of these golems exceeded ten meters. Their bodies were red, they didn't look like normal golems.

In the past, Zhao Hai's golems were dark green. But since the Space had absorbed the God's Blood and levelled up, the stone giants have turned blood red. Moreover, their strengths have been insanely increased. Each stone golem was very strong.

After the stone golems appeared, they immediately threw themselves towards the ice beasts. Zhao Hai discovered that the movements of these stone golems had gotten more flexible. Moreover, their speed had also been increased. Their strength must also be greater than before.

These stone golems initially made people feel that they are very bulky. But when Zhao Hai's stone golems moved, they were smooth and powerful, they didn't look very stupid.

The Diamond Apes in the city couldn't help but stare. Although they knew about the existence of Mages, this was the first time that they had seen one fight. When they saw that the more than ten meter high stone golem can fight a Diamond Ape evenly, they couldn't help but feel shock.

But when they saw the stone golems fighting, their hearts couldn't help but feel a breeze of coldness. These stone giants had punches that can send people for a thousand miles. Each punch of these golems was able to break an ice bull. They also seem to know the weakness of these ice beasts since they were always aiming for their heads.

On the other hand, Zhao Hai was completely focused on the ice beasts. From what he heard from Tess, as long as one doesn't destroy these beasts' heads, they would be able to regenerate. Zhao Hai saw an ice wolf blown to pieces by the stone golem without its head getting hit. When the ice wolf passed a puddle of water, the liquid flowed to the body of the ice wolf as it recovered quickly and reentered the fight.

After seeing this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but knit the brows of his head. He discovered how difficult these ice beasts were to deal with. Even if a stone golem can break one or two heads, it still wasn't enough.

However, these ice beasts couldn't do anything to the stone golems. Currently, the bodies of the golems were very hard. Most 8th ranks wouldn't be able to damage their bodies, not to say about these low level ice beasts. From what Zhao Hai has seen, most of these ice beasts had about 6th rank strength. They didn't have much of an attack strength.

Although their attacks weren't a threat to the Diamond Apes, their numbers and regeneration abilities definitely were. This made the ice beasts very difficult to deal with.

Zhao Hai didn't use fire magic. Although it would be very effective, the area of battle was a lush forest. If he uses fire to attack, then he might burn the entire mountain.

The stone golems were like an offensive wall outside the city. The ice beasts weren't able to go through for quite some time which made Tess very surprised. The stone golems were surprisingly very formidable.

Zhao Hai stood on the city wall, calmly looking at the battle below. After a while, he turned to Tess and said, "Patriarch Tess, how many ice beasts generally attack? And do they attack for a long time?"

Tess looked at the ice beasts before replying, "Each ice beast attack has about less than 100 thousand ice beasts. Moreover, if these beasts don't die, they won't retreat."

This number made Zhao Hai surprised. He didn't expect that the ice beasts would send so many, a hundred thousand. This wasn't a small number, moreover, they needed to be killed off, which added to the difficulty.

Back on Earth, Zhao Hai saw people doing statistics about military battles. There was a certain percentage of losses before an army chooses to flee. If more than 20% died, then retreat was on the table. If 25% were gone, then people would accept defeat or even flee.

Chapter 600 - Vassal

Naturally, Zhao Hai knew that this mentality wouldn't apply to these ice beasts. These ice beasts didn't have souls from what he had seen. It was possible that they were puppets that don't fear anything, thus not knowing about retreat.

Zhao Hai was most proficient with Dark Magic, and Dark Mages had inseparable relationship with souls.

Because of this, Zhao Hai was sensitive about any movements of souls. Although there were already a lot of dead ice beasts, Zhao Hai still didn't feel any soul in the vicinity. This proved Zhao Hai's speculation that these ice beasts were puppets.

But what made Zhao Hai feel strange was that these puppets didn't have anyone giving them command. They seem to have been moving independently. This explained why they didn't have any attack formation and were attacking by instinct alone, causing their movements to be very disorderly.

These ice beasts weren't weak, if they had some kind of command, their strength would have been increased by about three times. In this case, the Diamond Apes won't be able to block them anymore.

The hundred thousand ice beasts were slowly overwhelming the mountain, they seem to be aiming for the Diamond Apes. The trees on the surrounding were virtually untouched, all of them were going straight to the Diamond Ape city.

The stone golems didn't have any problems in dealing with them, but some ice beasts had started to spill out and headed to the mountain city. This made the Diamond Apes start to act against the ice beasts.

In fact, Zhao Hai had the power to eliminate all of these ice beasts, but he wanted to look at the fighting strength of the Diamond Apes.

It didn't take too long for the Diamond Apes to show Zhao Hai their fighting ability. The bodies of the Diamond Apes suddenly lit up with a yellow light that resembled golden armor. This made the Diamond Apes and their partners become golden armored soldiers. The wooden clubs on their hands also had a layer of golden light on it.

At this time, the ice beast were already upon the city. Then a scene that Zhao Hai didn't expect happened. The ice beasts gathered together and then a white light flashed. When the white light vanished, a huge ice beast was seen outside the city. This ice beast was much taller than the stone golem. Then it roared and rushed to the wall.

When it was a few meters away from the wall, it suddenly jumped. This one jump alone propelled it towards the wall.

However, at this time, two Diamond Apes made their move. Two bangs were heard as four fists hit the head of the ice beast, causing its head to explode and the ice beast disintegrated after.

But that was not the end, the broken pieces of the ice beast suddenly became little ice beasts. Then those ice beasts rushed towards the other Diamond Apes.

The Diamond Apes seem to know about this property, so they didn't go away after dealing with the giant ice beast. The Diamond Apes then started to clash with the ice beasts.

Zhao Hai discovered that these golden soldiers were extremely coordinated. The numbers of the ice beasts were simply useless in front of them.

Moreover, from what Zhao Hai had seen, the Diamond Apes seem to have developed a method to have their companion beasts work in total conjunction with their movements. There were no useless movements between the two of them, it was very flawless. This ability was very scary.

After seeing the Diamond Apes fight, Zhao Hai immediately casted a powerful fire element attack. Then an inferno appeared below the city wall. The ice beasts seemed to flinch. It seems like they fear fire.

When he saw this, Zhao Hai couldn't help but nod. The weakness of the ice beasts were indeed fire element magic. However, Zhao Hai cannot use a larger attack magic than he had just used, otherwise, he would be burning the forest down.

While the Diamond Apes were focused on the fire, Zhao Hai immediately released a large number of undead in the forest and had them eliminate the ice beasts.

One of Zhao Hai's undead can easily eradicate all of the ice beasts, but it would take some time, time which Zhao Hai didn't have. He was currently thinking about how strange these ice beasts were. He had already mapped the entire southern area of the volcano and he couldn't wait to unravel the mysteries of the northern part.

Moreover, Zhao Hai reckoned that Tess had already decided to follow him in leaving the icefield. Otherwise, he wouldn't be waiting for him on the wall.

Because of the undead that Zhao Hai had released, no ice beasts were able to approach the wall and were eliminated in the forest. Because of this, the fight had reached a sudden conclusion. After a couple of moments, no ice beasts can be seen in sight.

This made Tess look strangely at the situation. There was no ice beasts present and Zhao Hai had also retrieved his stone golems. Aside from the traces of the fire magic, it was as though nothing had happened.

However, Tess felt puzzled, he remembered the number of ice beasts that has been killed and was sure that it was not enough. So why did the ice beasts stop coming? This was out of his expectations.

Tess had fought the ice beasts for the entirety of his life. So he was very familiar with the rate of each ice beast attack. Every single time these beasts attack, they would number no less than 100 thousand. When they fought with the ice beasts in the past, they would even need the support of the elderly and the women. So how could the current group of ice beasts be so little?

Zhao Hai looked at Tess expression as he faintly smiled and said, "Patriarch, no need to be worried, there are no ice beasts left."

Upon hearing this, Tess couldn't help but turn his head to stare at Zhao Hai. Then he immediately thought that since Zhao Hai was the first one to discover the ice beasts, then the reduction of ice beast numbers should be because of him.

Tess then sighed deeply as he nodded to Zhao Hai. Then he turned to his tribesmen and loudly said, "We're good, everyone disperse!"

Although the Diamond Apes felt that it was strange, they still dispersed under Tess' command. In the minds of a lot of people was the thought that this was the most relaxing fight they had been in their entire life.

Seeing that everyone has dispersed, Tess then arranged some people to guard the walls before he led Zhao Hai back to his house. After they had sat down, Tess looked at Zhao Hai and said, "Mister, we have reached an agreement. The elders all agreed. Starting today, our Diamond Ape tribe will forever be your followers!"

Zhao Hai cannot help but get stunned after hearing this. One must know that this statement carried heavy implications for the beastmen. The Diamond Apes basically stated that they would become Zhao Hai's vassals starting today. The meaning of vassals for the Beastmen and Humans are different. For the Humans, vassals would still have their own autonomy and independence. As long as they listen to their lord, then they would be fine by governing themselves. But Beastmen vassals are a different matter. Beastman vassals would forever respect and regard their master highly. Moreover, there weren't much of an independence when it comes to their conditions. What they do and how they live would have to depend on what their lord wants. Therefore, when Tess expressed their decision, Zhao Hai couldn't help but gawk.

Zhao Hai looked at Tess and said, "Patriarch, you need to think about it. If you become a vassal to the Buda Clan, you would no longer have autonomy. I just need to remind you of this."

Tess nodded and said, "We already considered it. I'll be frank to Mister, these past few years, the 13 peaks had gotten more and more unstable. And we don't know when they would erupt, but when they do, we would have nowhere to run to. Passing back through the icefield towards the Prairie wasn't something that we are able to do. And even if we managed to return, what would be do then? Our tribe has vanished for 5000 years, when we come back, we won't know what we'll do."

Zhao Hai nodded, he understood what Tess was saying. Seeing Zhao Hai nod, Tess continued, "When you brought me to Iron Mountain Fort, I asked Ares about their situation. You did not lie, you truly do treat beastmen very well. I believe that if we come with you, we wouldn't suffer any loss."

Zhao Hai looked at Tess and then faintly smiled, "Alright, I'll accept the Patriarch's words. Patriarch, have your clansmen prepare. In a few days, I would deliver you to Iron Mountain Fort."

Tess nodded, then he looked at Zhao Hai and said, "If Mister is worried about our living necessities, you don't have to. Our Diamond Ape tribe can handle hardship. The continent would enter summer soon, it would be fine if we don't have houses."

Zhao Hai can feel their sense of urgency as he heard Tess' words. He gave a smile and said, "Patriarch, just wait for a few days. Even if you don't bring anything, you would still be fine."

Zhao Hai didn't lie to Tess, he had a lot of things in his hand. Ever since Wales promised him 100 thousand slaves, he had already amassed materials in order to accommodate them. Of all these things, Zhao Hai gave priority to the thing that Beastmen needed the most, tents.

Tess looked at Zhao Hai and nodded, from what he heard from Ares, Zhao Hai was a man of his word, he wouldn't deceive them. "Alright, then we'll trouble Mister. Also, isn't Mister planning to retrieve the Beast God's Spear as well?"

Zhao Hai nodded, "I would look for it certainly. But rest assured, I'll deliver you to the wasteland first so that you can avoid any more attacks from the ice beasts. After I send you to the wasteland, I can then take my time in looking for the Divine Artifact. I can just return to the continent whenever I want so you don't need to worry about my safety."

Tess already experienced Zhao Hai's Space Divergent Ability, so he didn't doubt Zhao Hai's words. He shifted the topic and asked, "We still have magic beasts in here. How would we deal with those?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "That depends in how you want to handle it. If you want to raise magic beasts in the wasteland, then that won't be a problem. But if you don't want to raise this kind of magic beast, I can trade you some argali, bulls, or other beasts. We'll decide on a fair price. What do you think?"

Tess thought for a moment and said, "We're really not familiar with argali or bulls. We don't have any knowledge on how to raise them. On the other hand, we're quite used to raising these fire rabbits. Can we just raise them in the wasteland?"

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Of course, that's not a problem. But fire rabbits don't sell for much money. If you decide to raise argali, you can get some milk, wool, and skin for money. But since you don't have any experience, I'll give you some argali and bulls to practice on and try to raise them. If you decide to raise them and forgo the fire rabbits, you can approach me and we'll do a fair trade."

Tess felt very grateful to Zhao Hai as he said, "Mister, you're really a good person. Our Diamond Ape tribe didn't have prior relationship to you, but you still decided to greatly help us. Let me express my deepest thanks."

Zhao Hai smiled and said, "Patriarch doesn't need to say anything. You joining my Buda Clan made our overall strength increase. It should be me who says thanks."

Tess didn't say anything. However, he knew that Zhao Hai was just saying this out of courtesy. Ares had told Tess about the Buda Clan's present status in the continent. With the Buda Clan's current strength, having the Diamond Ape tribe join them wouldn't give them much of an improvement.

This fact made Tess more grateful to Zhao Hai. There was no doubt that Zhao Hai had helped them a lot but for little benefit to him. This fact made Tess feel very moved.

Seeing Zhao Hai like this, Tess felt that he had not followed the wrong person. It strengthened his determination even more. Zhao Hai looked at Tess' expression and didn't comment. It was just as Tess thought, with the current strength of the Buda Clan, he didn't need the help of the Diamond Ape tribe.

Speaking of true fighting strength, Zhao Hai already had enough 9th ranks to overrun the entire continent. And to say about herding, he already had the Space to do it for him. The main reason why Zhao Hai helped the Diamond Apes were mainly because of sympathy and admiration.

He sympathizes with the situation of the Diamond Ape tribe, while he admired their resolve. After these many years, they still hadn't given up in their quest to search for the Beast God's Spear. To such a race, Zhao Hai couldn't help but look highly upon them.