

Magic Era 111

Chapter 111: Master Alchemist

In fact, William Merlin himself was an accomplished Great Alchemist. Although he wasn't an expert in alchemy arrays, he could still understand array designs.

One of the uncrumpled draft papers on the refining table just fell into his sight, his eyes widening open in response, prompting him to glance at Lin Yun with horror filled eyes. That wasn't a look you would use on a normal human being, it was as if William was looking at a monster.

William's mind was simply blank as he stood there in a daze. He was so shocked he couldn't even keep his mouth closed.

'Master, that's a Master Alchemist!'

Many unusual things had happened ever since he came to Thousand Sails City, and he finally had the answer.

How could Mafa Merlin easily rebuild the Gilded Rose, how could Mafa Merlin spend over a million golds at the Black Horn Auction, how could Mafa Merlin have a good relationship with numerous peak characters in Thousand Sails City, how could he maintain a good relationship with Leader Lys...

This was all because Mafa Merlin himself was a Master Alchemist!

'Master, he is really a Master Alchemist...' William stood there with a dull expression.

'I have a Master Alchemist younger cousin!'

Inexplicably, William Merlin was actually proud.

But once the pride washed away, it was replaced by growing fear.

Because William Merlin suddenly recalled how arrogant he had been in front of this Master Alchemist. He ordered such a Master Alchemist to help him with his luggages. And then he made a move on this Master Alchemist and was slapped twice.

Recalling these events, William's legs shook, he subconsciously supported himself with the side of the refining table. 'This is too frightening, I have been so arrogant in front of a Master Alchemist. Yet I'm still alive, was I blessed by the Merlin Family's ancestors?'

'Oh, right, that Faleau told me I should thank Leader Lys for saving my life...'

'I thought he was just mocking me, but it looks like Leader Lys truly saved my pitiful life. Not to mention a Great Mage, even a High Mage can't avoid death after making a move on a Master Alchemist.'

'Among all the High Mages from Okland, who is foolish enough to provoke a Master Alchemist? If a personage like that became unhappy, they could ask an Archmage for a favor, and what could a High Mage do at that time?'

'Fuck, I was quite bold!'

While William Merlin's legs kept shaking, he gritted his teeth as he cursed at himself.

"Talk, what the hell is going on." Lin Yun noticed William Merlin's appearance, and after staring for a long time, he couldn't help but remind him.

"I..." William opened his mouth, but found out that his voice was weird. He laboriously gulped before opening his mouth again, and managed to say with some difficulties, "Can I take a seat?"

"..." Lin Yun rolled his eyes at him, thinking, 'Isn't that too much of a change?'

"Sit..."

After hearing Lin Yun's "sit", William cautiously sat on a chair next to the refining table, but he didn't dare sitting too comfortably, his posture straight, not even leaning his back on the back of the chair.

As for the reason...

It was because the Master Alchemist was still standing!

"Good, talk now." Lin Yun didn't have the time to analyze William Merlin's thoughts, he straightforwardly asked him as soon as the latter sat.

"I... I only wanted to ask, do you... Do you possess a Nether Iron Vein?"

"Excuse me?" Lin Yun squinted, looking at William unfriendly.

After all, the Bone Plane was Lin Yun's true foundation.

The Bone Plane's fertility was well-known even during the peak of the magic era. One look at his last trip there was enough to prove this. He got a hold of an Obsidian Flower, a ticket to smoothly progress to Artisan level, and that was without mentioning the harvest of materials and loot.

If a small place like the black wasteland had a heaven defying existence like the Obsidian Flower, then what would there be outside the black wasteland? What else does the Bone Plane hold in store for him?

Furthermore, the Sage Chapter in Lin Yun's hands needed a large amount of Soul Fire.

That was an important item able to increase the efficiency of the Magic Array!

The Bone Plane was crucial to Lin Yun. If he lost the Bone Plane, he would become unable to get the Book of Death, the magic materials would be nothing more than an illusion of the past and the Sage Chapter in his possession would never display its true might.

Lin Yun wasn't willing to bear this kind of loss.

Lin Yun had been trying all kinds of ways to increase his power ever since he returned from the Bone Plane, not hesitating to use the dangerous Obsidian Flower Sap to make a Magic Tool. The reason behind this: The Monchi Family's and the Black Tower's attention.

Now, William's careless words made Lin Yun vigilant.

At that instant, Lin Yun even thought that William Merlin might already know of the Bone Plane's existence. Why else would he ask about the Nether Iron Vein?

In that situation, Lin Yun's first thought was to silence William.

"No no, don't misunderstand!" Noticing the killing intent in Lin Yun's eyes, William almost peed himself, "Listen to me please, I only came to talk about cooperation, cooperation!"

"Sorry..." Seeing William's frightened expression, Lin Yun calmed down, his reaction had truly been a bit too fierce.

He had obtained a large amount of Nether Iron and magic gems from the Spatial Magic Tool of that High Mage, he had then delivered those to the Gilded Rose and turned them into alchemy items.

The amount of items flooding the market was so high that it would be hard not to attract attention.

It seemed reasonable that people could guess about him having a Nether Iron Vein from these items.

"That's right, I have a Nether Iron Vein, what about it?" After thinking about it, Lin Yun decided to admit it. In any case, he would have enough mining puppets next month to start mining that Nether Iron Vein. At that time, there would be more items entering the market and concealing it from others would be impossible.

"That's great, Cousin..." William suddenly felt happy. Due to excitement, he even forgot about his fear of Lin Yun and addressed him as "Cousin". He only realized that it was a Master Alchemist standing in front of him after talking, thus he quickly glanced at Lin Yun and found out that the other side wasn't dissatisfied. He steeled himself and continued, "Cousin, you might not know, but the elders of the Family Elder Council have set an extremely expensive price for that Nether Iron Vein of yours!"

"Oh?" Hearing this, Lin Yun knew that his guess was spot on. The Merlin Family had guessed that he had a Nether Iron Vein due to Thousand Sails City's market.

Lin Yun's expression eased up, they could have a discussion if they wanted to cooperate, he just didn't know what kind of price the Merlin Family was willing to pay.

"The elders promised that as long as you handed the Nether Iron Vein to the Merlin Family, they would acknowledge your status as a direct member of the Merlin Family. Your father and grandfather included. You can even..." The cheerful William started speaking about the conditions.

But as he talked, William found out that with every word, the expression of that Master Alchemist cousin of his turned gloomier and gloomier. Mafa Merlin's face was extremely unsightly when William came to a stop.

William Merlin's heart suddenly tightened, not daring to say the last few sentences.

He carefully looked at Lin Yun, inwardly considering what was wrong with his words.

"Damn, how could I be so stupid!" William was quite smart, after thinking about it, he felt that he should slap himself.

'Fuck, how could I forget...'

'He is a Master Alchemist!'

'Would a Master Alchemist care about the status of direct member of the Merlin Family?'

'In fact, if the family learned that one of their branch descendant living outside was a Master Alchemist, the whole Elder Council might personally visit Thousand Sails City to welcome that Master Alchemist back.'

'After all, even as a peak force of the kingdom, no Master Alchemist appeared in the Merlin Family for two hundred years. And that Master Alchemist is young and frighteningly gifted in magic as well.'

'If he returns to the Merlin Family, he will definitely be appointed as the only heir.'

William immediately understood what was wrong.

But fortunately for him, William wasn't inferior to Faleau when it came to adapting to an unexpected situation. Just as Lin Yun's countenance worsened, William displayed a resentful expression.

"Those old guys are really crazy, to think of using the status as a direct member to get your Nether Iron Vein. Rest assured, I'll argue for you with my father. I'll make sure those old guys take out enough benefits, otherwise, not to mention you disagreeing, even my father and I will reject that!"

"..."

"Oh right, Cousin, you have to keep this Nether Iron Vein a secret. In Okland, I heard that the Black Tower's people were also asking about the Gilded Rose..." The more William talked, the more affectionate his tone was towards his cousin.

"Black Tower?" But those words actually startled Lin Yun when he heard them, "You are saying that someone from the Black Tower is asking about the Gilded Rose?"

"Yes, I heard they were Solan's people."

"Solan?"

"Yes, Solan Monchi, 9th Rank High Mage, the High Mage with the most chances of becoming an Archmage among the Black Tower's High Mages. He has recently entered the Dark Azure Plane and it was said that he will return a year later." After William finished, he seemed to recall something, "Speaking of this, it seems like this Solan Monchi has a deep relationship with Thousand Sails City's Monchi Family."

"Solan Monchi, Monchi Family..." After mumbling, Lin Yun smiled, "I understand..."

Chapter 112: Design

Lin Yun clearly understood...

Not just the reason why the Monchi Family tried so hard, but also why Solan left for the Dark Azure Plane.

Because the Spatial Magic Tool he got from the High Mage in the Bone Plane had been made of Deep Sea Mithril, and Deep Sea Mithril was a material specific to the Dark Azure Plane. In other words, back in the days, that High Mage might have stayed in the Dark Azure Plane for some time.

He may have left some notes in the Dark Azure Plane...

Naturally, these notes shouldn't be very detailed, they would most likely mention the existence of a strange location, without more detailed explanation. That strange location should be the Planar Path, otherwise how could the 9th Rank High Mage already be making a move. That was a 9th Rank High Mage, currently besides Solomon, who could contend against him?

In fact, even that dead High Mage himself might not have known it was a Planar Path.

It had only been a few centuries since the tragedy of the Crimson Tower happened. If the High Mage had known it was a Planar Path, he wouldn't have dared to step on it even if he was hundred times more courageous.

Thinking about it, Lin Yun sighed in relief.

As long as no one knew about the Planar Path, Lin Yun wouldn't feel as pressured.

Nothing could be done about it. A Planar Path, especially one leading to the Bone Plane, is something any powerhouse would be unable to resist. Noscent's finest forces would go crazy over it, not to mention that Lin Yun was only a Great Mage right now. Even if Lin Yun finished forming five Magic Arrays and could contend against High Mages, he wouldn't be able to defend the Planar Path, unless he got hold of the Book of Death...

But fortunately, no one knew that it was a Planar Path yet.

Moreover, Solan just gifted him one year of preparations...

One year was plenty enough for Lin Yun to get hold of the Book of Death.

Hearing the good news William brought him, Lin Yun's mood improved. This older cousin of his suddenly became pleasing to look at.

"Thanks for your reminder, Cousin William."

"D-d... Don't mention it." William suddenly felt overwhelmed with gratitude and a bit of fear at the same time, this was the thanks from a Master Alchemist!

"However, the Merlin Family's conditions..."

"I understand, I understand..." William's reaction wasn't the least bit slow. Seeing Lin Yun's expression, he could tell that the latter was dissatisfied with the conditions offered. He immediately stood up and said with a righteous bearing, "Those old guys from the Elder Council are a bunch of senile old men. Cousin, by all means, do not lower yourself to their level. How about you wait for now, I'll write a letter to the elders to reprimand them and make them change for better offer!"

"My conditions are very simple." Lin Yun looked at William's performance and didn't say much, only calmly stating his terms, "I can sell Nether Iron Ore to the Family according to market price, but they have to pay in magic crystals. In addition, the Merlin Family has to send me a group of Mages."

"Mages?" William stared blankly, 'Since when have Mages become a currency?'

"Yes, 5th Rank and above Mages, at least fifty of them."

If Bassoro was here, he would definitely remark that Great Mage Mafa Merlin was getting addicted to being paid in manpower.

It was true, Lin Yun mentioning this was connected to that matter.

He had been delighted with the previous transaction with the Alchemist Guild, he only paid what was a useless alchemy formula in his eyes, and managed to quickly develop the Gilded Rose in exchange. It could be said that without the fifty Alchemists delivered by Bassoro, the Gilded Rose wouldn't be as successful and popular as it was nowadays.

Thus, Lin Yun also wanted to trade with manpower in this deal with the Merlin Family.

As for why he wanted so many Mages...

That was because Lin Yun knew that the Gilded Rose's development had reached its peak. There was no alchemy shop that could contend with the Gilded Rose, including the Monchi Family's Twin Moons Splendor.

But a too fast-paced development would create many problems.

Such as his own force.

Thousand Sails City's seven chambers of commerce all had their own chamber of commerce's mercenary groups, of which the Twin Moons chamber of commerce's group's strength wasn't much inferior even in comparison to the first underground force of Thousand Sails City, the Viper Nest. It was actually ranked just under the Silver Moon Mercenaries, the official number one force.

The Gilded Rose on the other hand...

Let alone a chamber of commerce's mercenary group, they didn't even have an armed caravan. Last time, Lin Yun had to personally take a trip to the Poison Fog Canyon when a few Alchemy Apprentices got detained by the Viper Nest. It wouldn't be bad once or twice, but what if he had to do something like that eight times, ten times. Would Lin Yun still have a life?

Moreover, the Gilded Rose would expand sooner or later. Thousand Sails City wouldn't be able to satisfy Lin Yun's needs for magic practice, he needed a huge amount of wealth at his disposal. At that time, would Lin Yun have to run around to deal with the Gilded Rose's problems?

Thus, the chamber of commerce's mercenary group had to be established, this was imperative.

There hadn't been a suitable opportunity before, but now that the Merlin Family was in the picture, would Lin Yun be polite?

After the matter was settled, William Merlin went to write a letter. Lin Yun sat down and put the draft papers in order before leaving the alchemy laboratory.

Just as he reached the lobby, he met Faleau heading in.

"Great Mage Merlin, you are still here?" Faleau came over and greeted Lin Yun.

"I'm on my way home. Oh? Faleau, what's that?" Lin Yun greeted Faleau and then casually asked about what Faleau was holding in his hands.

“Oh right, you should check this, Great Mage Merlin...” When Faleau heard Lin Yun’s question, he recalled something and promptly handed over the thing in his hands, “This is a new enchanted magic weapon from the alchemy workshop, you should take a look at it, if possible, I hope to have it mass produced.”

“Okay, let me have a look.” Lin Yun checked it. It was a Nether Iron forged hand crossbow with a very elaborated design. The forging was also very good. It could be considered pretty good as a secondary weapon. Even if the enchantment was quite rough, if an alchemy array was added, its power could double, or more.

‘Hold on, alchemy array!’

A flash of insight appeared in Lin Yun’s mind.

“Faleau, have someone tell the old butler that I still have something to do and I won’t come back for dinner!” Lin Yun left those words in a hurry and returned to the alchemy laboratory. He sat down at the refining table and spread a brand new piece of paper before picking up a quill. He then drew the elaborated hand crossbow.

Afterwards, Lin Yun started drawing an alchemy array.

Lin Yun drew a total of four alchemy arrays, three of which added additional damage properties.

An armor piercing and an annihilating attribute, respectively targeting all kinds of armor and mana shields.

And then there was a heavy wound attribute.

Weapons with that kind of attribute could double constitution loss and the depths of injuries. Of those, the deepening of injuries effect was actually dispensable, but the loss of constitution was something Lin Yun urgently needed. With that constitution loss effect, the Obsidian Flower Sap’s might would be able to display its effects perfectly.

It could be said that this heavy wound attribute was the core of the design, as for the one array remaining, it was a sealing array. It was to prevent the Obsidian Flower Sap from leaking.

He had been busy on the design for the whole day and finally managed to complete it before dark.

Afterwards, Lin Yun spent some time to set up the mana cycle of the hand crossbow before leaving and finding Faleau downstairs.

“Faleau, help me and send that design to the alchemy workshop. Have the guys over there create a hand crossbow based on that design.”

“Understood, I’ll immediately take care of this.”

Lin Yun’s hand crossbow design was already Master level, and the design he had Faleau deliver didn’t include the mana circulation system and the crucial three damaging arrays, but it wasn’t something that could be done in a short time. After handing him the design, Lin Yun left the Gilded Rose.

In the evening, just as Lin Yun was about to go to bed after his daily meditation, William Merlin knocked at his door.

“Cousin, the elders from the Elder Council agreed!” After entering, William reported the good news to Lin Yun.

“Haha, pretty good.” Lin Yun smiled, but didn’t ask why there was an answer in the evening when he wrote a letter in the afternoon.

A peak force like the Merlin Family, how could it not have a special communication method? Not to mention the Merlin Family, even the Monchi Family should have some special communication method to connect to Solan in the Black Tower, otherwise, how could Monchi not bid from the beginning in the Black Horn Auction before suddenly taking out 4.000.000 golds. Lin Yun wouldn’t believe that he bid so much without Solan prompting him.

“The elders said that there is no problem with the market price transaction, nor is there any with the magic crystal payment method...” William Merlin stopped there, some curiosity on his face, “They want me to ask, what do you want fifty 5th Rank Mages for?”

After saying that, as if afraid Lin Yun would go back on the deal, he hurriedly explained, “Don’t misunderstand, don’t misunderstand, those fifty 5th Rank Mages are already on the way, the Elder Council only wants to ask, there is no other meaning.”

“Because I need a group of Great Mages to help me handle matters.”

“Okay, I understand.” William left Lin Yun’s room after nodding.

But just as he reached the hallway, William’s face froze.

‘Wait...’

‘Did I just hear... Great Mages?’

‘Wasn’t it 5th Rank Mages? When did they become Great Mages?’

Chapter 113: What A Coincidence

“Must have been a mistake... A mistake... Haha” William stood in the hallway, chuckling nervously.

How could William not know that although Great Mage and Mage were very similar, the pronunciation was different, there was very little chance of making a mistake.

But William really didn’t dare to think too deeply about it...

If he thought too deeply about it, William wouldn’t be able to sleep tonight.

‘If it wasn’t a mistake, then didn’t that mean that Cousin is able to mass-produce Great Mages?’

‘This is crazy just thinking about it...’

Lin Yun had some free time for a few days since he was waiting on the fifty Mages from the Merlin Family and on the result of the design he gave to the alchemy workshop, but he soon became unable to sit still. Thus he began to mull over the chamber of commerce mercenary group. For this matter, Lin Yun especially went to ask the old butler what the original Flashing Gold chamber of commerce's mercenary group looked like.

After asking, he learnt that the former Flashing Gold's mercenary group was called the Mercury Mercenary Group. It would rank fourth among Thousand Sails City's mercenary groups. But all the elites of the mercenary group were escorting the ship and ended up being involved in the shipwreck, with the mercenary group getting nearly wiped out.

Only a handful of new recruits without any battle experience were left in Thousand Sails City, along with one decent vice leader, but they lost contact with him after the Flashing Gold chamber of commerce went bankrupt. The old butler didn't know where they were now.

Lin Yun got a headache after listening to the old butler.

Lin Yun originally thought that if there was one of former leaders left, he could look for him and have him cooperate with William to rebuild the mercenary group with the fifty 5th Rank Mages as a base.

But who would have thought that Locke Merlin's shipwreck was so thorough.

The entire Mercury Mercenary Group had been ruined, and the only vice leader left couldn't be contacted.

'How could it be rebuilt that way?'

'Seems like I can only take my time and think of another way...'

Time passed very quickly, and in a flash, several days passed by. The fifty Mages of the Merlin Family finally arrived, but unfortunately, Lin Yun didn't have time to take care of them because he heard news from the workshop at the same time. The hand crossbow was already forged, and the Gilded Rose's caravan was now ready and would be leaving for Edge Rift the next morning.

Thus, Lin Yun had no other choice but to put those 5th Rank Mages aside and instead spent the whole evening crafting in the alchemy laboratory. The next morning, Lin Yun followed the caravan with dark eyes, going straight for Edge Rift.

The Poison Fog Canyon's trade route had already been opened, and for this trip, the Gilded Rose spent 100.000 golds, yet Sauss was still a little afraid that the Gilded Rose would occupy it for a long time. But Lin Yun had personally guaranteed that it would be three months and not one day more so Sauss could only skeptically let it go.

Today, Sauss heard the news of Gilded Rose's caravan arriving at the Poison Fog Canyon and rushed over alone, not bringing a single subordinate.

When Sauss saw Lin Yun, he mentioned about William Merlin coming to him.

"Great Mage Merlin, a few days ago, a certain William Merlin came to find me!"

William Merlin was in one of the caravan carriages, and when he heard Sauss, he inwardly cursed him along with his ancestors.

'Damn Sauss, you are a real bastard, you kept mentioning the great favor from my father that day, you said you would think of a way to repay the favor. Is this how you fucking repay it? By selling me out?'

'Thank god I'm smart...'

William Merlin couldn't help being proud of himself as he thought about it.

'If I didn't have a bad feeling about this and hurriedly changed my approach, I might have not been able to repair my relationship with this Master Alchemist cousin of mine. It's much better now, I immediately became the bridge between the Merlin Family and cousin and facilitated their collaboration, and cousin is slowly starting to trust me.'

'This caravan going for Edge Rift for example, cousin asked me to escort it.'

'If I have a few more opportunities, I might be put in an important position by cousin.'

'This would lead to a better future than with the Merlin Family...'

William Merlin was clear that although he was a famous scion of the Merlin Family, he was merely 6th in the line of heirs to the Patriarch's seat. There was still five scions more outstanding than himself. His chances of seizing the position of Patriarch were merely one thousandth.

Later, he would most likely become a supervisor of one of the Merlin Family's business, or manage a territory for the Merlin Family.

That was the best outcome.

But it would be different if he followed his Master Alchemist cousin.

That was a Master Alchemist not even in his twenties, and even if he spent thirty years to become an Artisan, he would only be fifty! If William could obtain his trust, his own future would be far more bright and promising than if he stayed with the Merlin Family.

Thinking about it, William got off the carriage, and greeted Sauss in the distance.

"..." Sauss' smile immediately froze.

'This is quite awkward...'

'I'm cheerfully selling you out, but I didn't expect you to be a part of this caravan. How could this be more awkward?'

"Ha... Ha... Haha, William, this is quite a coincidence!" Sauss coughed a bit before chuckling.

"Indeed, Uncle Sauss, what a coincidence!" William was fuming, and the way he said "Uncle Sauss" made Sauss' legs shake.

'I'm finished, I'm finished, I thoroughly offended that young master from the Merlin Family...'

Fortunately, footsteps coming over from some distance away rescued Sauss.

“Stop!”

A silhouette rushed over from the faint red mist, staggering. He was chased by a team of Fighters from the Viper Nest. It seemed like the Viper Nest’s own problem.

But as Great Mages, Lin Yun and William had keener senses than the others. The two felt a fierce mana fluctuation approaching at the same time.

“7th Rank Great Mage, could it be Bell?” William Merlin made a guess.

But Lin Yun shook his head, “No, it’s a 5th Rank Great Mage, but with a very strange Magic Conducting Rune.”

Lin Yun had met the Great Mage from the Viper Nest, how could he not know what his Magic Conducting Rune looked like.

Indeed, Bell’s Magic Conducting Rune was very powerful, but it lacked the strangeness of this person’s rune...

This Magic Conducting Rune had a shockingly high temperature, but it was deathly serene.

This was strange, usually high temperature came from flames, and flames were usually ferociously burning. How could it give a deathly quiet feeling?

This Magic Conducting Rune didn’t resemble flames, it gave more of a feeling of post combustion’s ashes.

That’s right, ashes!

Lin Yun recalled the Black Horn Auction House’s High Mage that was going toe to toe with Solomon, he gave out the same feeling. At that time, he had asked Solomon, and Solomon had told him that it was the Ash Rune, one of the most powerful Magic Conducting Runes among the Ash Tower’s inheritances.

‘This is a Great Mage from the Ash Tower?’

That staggering silhouette was quickly overtaken. Fighters from the Viper Nest immediately put swords on his neck. At the same time, the Ash Tower Great Mage was drawing closer.

“Let’s go, there is nothing worth seeing.” Although Lin Yun and Sauss were chatting happily, he didn’t want to come in contact with the Great Mage from the Ash Tower, so after seeing that person under control, he pat William’s shoulder and told Sauss, “Leader Sauss, we will leave first.”

“Mage Merlin doesn’t want to take a break? I planned to place an order of Magic Spring Potion. Damn, it’s those guys’ fault for disturbing Great Mage Merlin, I’ll definitely teach them a lesson later...” Sauss exaggeratedly tried to keep Lin Yun behind, while waving him goodbye...

“Haha...” But inwardly Sauss was carefully thinking on how he could shake Lin Yun off.

The Great Mage that came from the Ash Tower. With the relationship between the Sage Tower and the Ash Tower, if Solomon knew, Sauss would have to take it up with him. Sauss’ attitude when Lin Yun mentioned leaving was only an appearance.

Lin Yun chuckled and entered the carriage with William. Just as he planned to have the caravan continue on, a voice echoed ahead, "Colin?"

Lin Yun was surprised by hearing the butler's voice and before he could react, the old butler had already rushed over.

"Young Master, Young Master..."

"Uncle Pave, what's up?" Lin Yun looked strangely at the old butler. He rarely showed this much anxiety aside from Fario's visits for debts.

"That's Colin!"

"Colin?"

"Didn't you ask me a few days ago about the former member of the Mercury Mercenary Group? That's Colin's father, the last vice leader of the Mercury Mercenary Group."

"You are saying that this is the son of the vice leader of the Mercury Mercenary Group?"

"Yes."

"Okay, I got it." Lin Yun nodded, getting down from the carriage and shouting at Sauss, "I'm sorry Leader Sauss, I don't think I can walk from this."

"Plop!" Sauss who had been happy because of Lin Yun leaving suddenly slipped and fell on the ground with a plop. After he managed to get up, Sauss couldn't help inwardly curse, 'Damn, leave if you are leaving, just don't come back!'

'This is troublesome...'

Chapter 114: Spatial Magic Tool

'This is so unfair...' Sauss thought.

Sauss had been in Thousand Sails City for so many years, how could he not know the relationship between the Sage Tower and the Ash Tower, they were mortal enemies. The amount of people that died by their hand in the past several hundred years could fill half of the Poison Fog Canyon. Unless there were special circumstances, would Sauss have dealing with the Ash Tower?

This time he was only giving a hand.

Early this morning, a Great Mage from the Ash Tower came looking for Sauss, saying that someone stole an important Magic Tool from the Ash Tower and was now hiding in the depths of the Poison Fog Canyon, and he wanted the Viper Nest's people to catch him.

Sauss thought it through, he wasn't willing to offend the Ash Tower, one of the two major forces of the eastern part of the kingdom, roughly on par with the Sage Tower. Moreover it was just lending a hand. If he quickly caught that person, that Great Mage would leave, right? Thus Sauss straightforwardly agreed.

But in the end...

It was all ruined by Great Mage Merlin.

As he thought of that, Sauss inwardly cursed his idiotic subordinates, 'Stupid trashes, the Poison Fog Canyon is so vast, yet you led him here...'

'Great, now the monster I finally managed to send off came right back!'

Unfortunately, Sauss couldn't say anything...

What else could he do? Should he say, 'Sorry Great Mage Merlin, please wait until the Great Mage from the Ash Tower arrives, if you can't wait to meet with him, how about you just leave?'

Sauss would never be able to say that even if he was ten times bolder.

"Ha... Ha... Haha... Naturally, our Viper Nest is honored if Great Mage Merlin is willing to stay, let's go to my wooden house, I have a few bottles of good wine from Okland. How about I accompany Great Mage Merlin for a drink?" As he said this, Sauss' smile twitched, turning slightly unsightly.

"Haha..." Lin Yun chuckled, he knew what Sauss was scared of, so he didn't beat around the bush, "It's fine. But I suddenly discovered that this youth you captured is someone from our Gilded Rose, so..."

"Cough cough... Gilded Rose?!" Sauss almost fell down again when he heard that.

'Damn, how could he be someone from the Gilded Rose!'

There was a shadow left in Sauss' heart from when he detained a few Apprentice Alchemists from the Gilded Rose. Now hearing that this person was someone from the Gilded Rose, he almost fainted from fear. At this moment, he inwardly cursed that Great Mage from the Ash Tower along all his ancestors.

'Your Ash Tower isn't happy enough? You don't have enough troubles? Why would you find troubles for the Gilded Rose? Even if you are looking for troubles with the Gilded Rose, don't involve me okay? If you want to have troubles with them, then go on, but I'm still trying to have a life in Thousand Sails City!'

'If you make Great Mage Merlin think that I was colluding with the Ash Tower, how could I still appear in Thousand Sails City?'

'No good, I have to draw a line with the Ash Tower!'

Sauss made his decision almost instantly.

In fact, Sauss didn't know if Lin Yun was telling the truth or not, but what did it matter? Since Lin Yun said he was someone from the Gilded Rose, then he was someone from the Gilded Rose, or did he have to conduct an investigation? Wouldn't that be courting death?

"Turns out it's someone from the Gilded Rose!" After Sauss' heart calmed down, an expression of sudden realization appeared on his face, "It's a mistake, a misunderstanding, truly a misunderstanding... Hey, you idiots, why haven't you released that person yet? What are you staring blankly for?"

His subordinates were stupefied...

"Idiots, I told you to release him!"

“Eh, eh, eh...” After being roared at by Sauss, the subordinates reacted and hurriedly released that person while being utterly flustered.

“It’s truly a misunderstanding Great Mage Merlin, you are magnanimous, please don’t bother yourself with these idiots. They definitely captured the wrong person, they are blind. Wait until I return, I’ll definitely teach them a lesson.”

“Haha, Leader Sauss is too polite.” Lin Yun answered courteously. Sauss’ attitude this time truly made Lin Yun admire him. It really wasn’t by fluke that the Viper Nest became the number one underground force of Thousand Sails City. His ability to judge the situation was like an instinct, he could see which side he should stand on.

When all was said and done, the Viper Nest was a force from Thousand Sails City, no matter how powerful the Ash Tower was, they could at most try to intimidate Sauss. From the beginning, only the Sage Tower could truly influence Sauss’ decisions.

If he offended the Ash Tower, he would at most have to be a bit careful, but if he offended the Sage Tower, it wouldn’t be fun for him...

Solomon could be very unreasonable. The famous Black Wing bandit group tried to reason with Solomon one year, and in the end, the three big shots of the Sage Tower joined hands and burned the Black Wing bandit group clean. Even if Sauss was courageous, he wouldn’t dare let Solomon know that the Viper Nest actually collaborated with the Ash Tower.

Lin Yun held onto this weakness and was very direct about this.

The way he spoke was very domineering, but in reality, he was giving Sauss a way out, which meant that he didn’t know about the Ash Tower’s part in this matter.

Thus, after being polite, Lin Yun added a line, “Oh right, Leader Sauss, I already let the Gilded Rose know about the Magic Spring Potions, you can go there anytime to get them. Also, the Silver Moon Mercenaries’ recent order is a bit lacking, there are many Magic Weapons and Magic Armors left at the shop, if Leader Sauss is interested, you can take a look and discuss the price.”

“Thank you very much Great Mage Merlin!” Sauss’ heart suddenly accelerated. The entire Thousand Sails City knew that the Gilded Rose alchemy workshop was making Nether Iron Magic Armors and Magic Weapons, but the best quality ones were naturally to be supplied to the Silver Moon Mercenaries. It was because during the Gilded Rose’s harshest time, it was the Silver Moon Mercenary group who extended a helping hand, and they also supplied a great amount of magic materials and became the Gilded Rose’s partner.

Now it was naturally time for the Silver Moon Mercenaries to get their rewards.

Thus, although Thousand Sails City’s other forces were green with envy, they couldn’t complain. Who didn’t know how the Silver Moon Mercenaries supported the Gilded Rose at their worst time?

Sauss was naturally very envious...

But Sauss didn't think that the bit of goodwill he just sent would be reciprocated so quickly. Those were peak equipments that only the Silver Moon Mercenaries could get their hands on. In the entire Thousand Sails City, the Viper Nest was the 2nd force to enjoy this treatment.

As he thought about this, Sauss' heart felt warm, 'If I had known earlier that there could be this kind of payback, I would have directly sold the Ash Tower out! With those weapons and armors, the fighting strength of the Viper Nest would raise one whole level!

"Leader Sauss, sorry to bother you for so long. We still have to hurry to Edge Rift so I won't waste your time any longer." Lin Yun waved at Sauss and then called to the youth he just saved, "Colin, you sit in Uncle Pave's carriage."

"Who are you?" Colin seemed to be about the same age as Lin Yun, but his strength wasn't bad. Lin Yun could feel a trace of Aura, it might not be long before he becomes a Great Swordsman.

But that young 9th Rank Swordsman had apparently never seen Mafa Merlin, thus, he had some distrust now that he was standing in front of Lin Yun.

"It doesn't matter who I am. What matters is that if you don't get on, the Ash Tower's person will arrive... Forget it, he is already here." Lin Yun was clearly distracted as he said this, because he had estimated that the Great Mage in the distance would arrive five minutes later from those fluctuations.

But just as he finished that sentence, that Great Mage arrived.

'Could it be a Spiritual level Spatial Magic Tool?'

'That would be quite troublesome.' Spatial Magic Tool above Spiritual level already had a trace of the Shadow Law, it might have the ability to twist and rip space.

To be honest, Lin Yun didn't want to run into this kind of opponent. Spiritual level and above Spatial Magic Tools were known for being hard to defend against, one moment of carelessness could completely reverse the outcome of a battle.

But now, it wasn't like Lin Yun could avoid running into them.

Just as his words ended, fierce mana fluctuations appeared above. Lin Yun raised his head and saw a young Great Mage hovering in the sky of the Poison Fog Canyon. Behind him were some blazing flaming wings. This blond haired Great Mage was reeking of arrogance.

"Truly annoying..." Lin Yun couldn't help cursing. Great Mages don't have the ability to fly, only after one reached the level of a High Mage would one be able to learn Levitate, and even Levitate was only the ability to float, it couldn't allow one to fly long distance.

Only an Archmage could fly long distances. They could move 500 kilometers in an instant with Elemental Incarnation and Flight.

This was also the reason why once a mage reached the Archmage rank, they couldn't be restricted by secular authority. A flying Archmage could destroy an entire city relying on his own power. This kind of power was already out of the ordinary.

That youth floating in the sky as a Great Mage was obviously not using his own power, so the only possibility was that he was using a Spatial Magic Tool.

Once he thought about it, Lin Yun couldn't help having a headache. Spatial distortion, flying ability, this Magic Tool wasn't bad.

Fortunately, he already knew how to handle it.

"Sauss, you disappointed me!" The young Great Mage floating in the sky said with a domineering tone, "I thought that as the leader of the Viper Nest, you would consider your own subordinates, but you are so brainless, you actually thought of letting an enemy of the Ash Tower go. It seems that the Viper Nest doesn't need to exist anymore..."

Chapter 115: Lava Dominator

This display was a bit too arrogant...

Even the always slick and sly Sauss couldn't help snorting.

Sauss from the start hadn't planned to become cannon fodder stuck between two forces. He only handed over that person to Lin Yun as it presented Sauss with an easy way out of that situation. At that time, he only felt that in consideration of his position as the master of the Poison Fog Canyon, no matter how dissatisfied the Great Mage from the Ash Tower was, he wouldn't take his anger out on him.

But he hadn't expected that the other side wouldn't give him any respect and say outright that there was no need for the Viper Nest to exist.

Sauss almost spat blood in anger...

'Even if your Ash Tower is one of the two major forces of the eastern part of the kingdom, you shouldn't forget that this is Thousand Sails City, not Oddrock City. Even if your Ash Tower is powerful, is it powerful enough to step over the Sage Tower? Saying that the Viper Nest doesn't need to exist... What do you take the Sage Tower for?'

Sauss' face was gloomy, "Great Mage Lonald, your words are a bit too much, the Ash Tower is the Ash Tower, the Viper Nest is the Viper Nest. I don't think that the Viper Nest's way of handling things has anything to do with Great Mage Lonald?"

"Sauss, you really aren't smart enough." After saying that, the young Great Mage looked at Lin Yun as if looking at an already dead man, "As for you, I'll give you ten seconds to hand over that person, or else..."

"Or else what?" Lin Yun was still smiling.

"Or else you won't leave this place."

"Lonald, who are you trying to stop?" William Merlin got down from the carriage at this time.

"It's you! William Merlin!" Just when William opened his mouth, the young Great Mage's expression froze, "You are in Thousand Sails City?"

People who knew William Merlin were aware that he was one of the heirs to the Merlin Family. Although Donald was an arrogant young Great Mage, his tone became a bit less conceited when he saw William Merlin. After all, the Merlin Family was one of the strongest forces of the kingdom, stronger than the Ash Tower, they didn't dare to casually offend the Merlin Family.

"I can't be in Thousand Sails City?"

"You can..." Donald was apparently a bit apprehensive of William Merlin. But after coldly snorting, he still said, "Okay, William Merlin, I'll show you some respect and let your people off, but I advise you to have your subordinate hand over that person. To be honest, that person is related to an important secret of the Ash Tower. If this blows up, even the Merlin Family won't be able to protect you!"

"My subordinate?" William Merlin froze, before his mind fiercely reacted, 'He me-meant... My Master Alchemist cousin?'

William inwardly cursed Donald.

'Are you a fucking idiot? Which of your eyes told you he was my subordinate? Could it be that you are blind? You can't see that I'm the subordinate? He is a Master, a Master Alchemist, don't you understand? Even if you're blind and begging for troubles, don't drag me with you! To dare say that a Master Alchemist is my subordinate, do you want me to die early?'

But hearing the other side say something so serious, William didn't dare to make a decision.

The Ash Tower's mages were famous for being willful, if it really was like the other side said and the apprehended youth was related to an important secret of the Ash Tower, then letting the matter grow bigger could easily bring a bad ending...

Thus William Merlin thought about it and whispered to Lin Yun, "Cousin, you see..."

William Merlin then heard Lin Yun say, "He'll be working with you later to rebuild the Gilded Rose chamber of commerce's mercenary group."

"Rebuild the Gilded Rose chamber of commerce mercenary group, that kid is quite lucky..." William threw that kid an envious look, but he froze midway through his sentence and excitement filled his face, "With me?"

"Yes, with you..."

"Damn, Donald, aren't you arrogant!" After hearing Lin Yun's confirmation, William Merlin felt filled with courage, the magic staff in his hand pointing at Donald, "This is someone that I decided to save, if you are unhappy with it, then send those elders from the Ash Tower to look for me. I want to see if the Ash Tower is ready to start a war with the Merlin Family!"

"You..." The young Great Mage's expression changed. He originally thought that this William Merlin would back down after the Ash Tower was mentioned, but he hadn't expected that this William would suddenly display such an unyielding attitude.

Naturally, this young Great Mage didn't know that after William took his stance, he timidly whispered, "Cousin, the Ash Tower is not to be trifled with..."

"I also don't want to provoke the Ash Tower..." After Lin Yun finished speaking, he ignored William rolling his eyes and fished out a hand crossbow from his pocket before aiming at the flying Donald.

"You are courting death!" The young Great Mage didn't think that "William's subordinate" would dare to make a move on him.

Following the young Great Mage's angry shout, the surrounding mana fluctuations became increasingly fiercer and the two meters long blazing wings expanded to over ten meters in an instant. The sky had turned red, as if it had been ignited, and heat waves were flooding dozens of meters around them.

"This is, the Lava Dominator!" William let out a shout in surprise. Among all of the Ash Tower's Spiritual Magic Tools, the Lava Dominator was the most famous. It combined fire and spatial energy and could create an impenetrable Lava Shelter. It also allowed the use of Flame Flash without the use of Elemental Incarnation.

This was a peak existence among Spiritual Magic Tools.

Almost absolute defense with Lava Shelter, the ability to appear and disappear unpredictably with Flame Flash, it could be said that a mage with the Lava Dominator was nearly invincible.

'Fuck, how could the Lava Dominator be left in Donald's hands.' William's expression changed, it was no longer as relaxed as before, 'This is one of the most powerful Spiritual Magic Tools of the Ash Tower, is that Donald an illegitimate child of all four members of the Elder Council?'

"I'll let you see what kind of ending awaits the enemies of the Ash Tower!" After his declaration, the magic staff in his hands was raised, and suddenly, a large amount of fire elements started congregating. The flaming wings fiercely spread before coiling around the young Great Mage to protect him. There was enough fire elements flowing on the wings to make any Great Mage exclaim in surprise.

That was the Lava Shelter, the rumored nearly impenetrable defense!

At the same time, the ground below him ignited. The earth shattering flames had an extremely high temperature and were restricting the people below into a small space. Even as a Great Swordsman, Sauss could only manage to protect himself with Aura. A few subordinates on the side issued blood-curdling screams, but they were instantly buried in a sea of flames.

The Lava Shelter wasn't just a defensive ability, it was also a cage that could strangle enemies.

William Merlin promptly chanted a spell. Nine vortexes of water loudly rose up and formed a defensive perimeter in the face of the raging flames. That was a 4th Tier Spell that could be learnt after reaching 5th Rank Great Mage, Waterspout. It could be considered the nemesis of Fire Spells, but that nemesis could only protect the Gilded Rose when facing the Lava Shelter, it didn't have the power to strike back.

"Fuck..." William was sweating. Lava Shelter was too powerful, his Waterspout spell wouldn't be able to resist for long under the high temperature.

"William Merlin, you courted death, you can't blame others." The young Great Mage in the sky coldly snorted before his magic staff moved and under the urge of mana, the Lava Shelter's might raised a notch.

'How could a trifling Waterspout be able to block Lava Shelter, that's the ability of one of the most powerful Spiritual Magic Tools from the Ash Tower. What about William Merlin, he is only a 5th Rank Great Mage. Apart from a High Mage, only a Spiritual Magic Tool could block another Spiritual Magic Tool.'

'It's time to end this farce!'

Lonald urged his mana and made the cage of flames tighten once again while casting a spell. The flames from Flame Burst aggregated at the tip of his magic staff.

While dazzled by the light, Lonald felt as if he heard a "woosh" lightly echoing. That was the sound of a crossbow dart tearing through air.

"Naive..." A sneer was plastered on the young Great Mage's face, 'William's subordinate is truly interesting, he didn't lose his will under the pressure of Lava Shelter, and is still trying to vainly attack with a hand crossbow. Funny, that's Lava Shelter, a near impenetrable defense. Let alone an insignificant hand crossbow, even a ballista wouldn't harm me at all!'

"It's over!" As Lonald was about to cast the spell, he felt some warmth on his arm.

After lowering his head, he found a thin wound on his arm.

This discovery made the young Great Mage shocked, 'A small hand crossbow was actually able to hurt me?!'

But he quickly recovered and his shock turned into a sneer.

"Unfortunately, you are a bad shot..."

Afterwards... There was no afterwards....

Almost at the same time as the words left his mouth, the young Great Mage fell from the sky, only the sound of a body meeting with ground echoed, as the young Great Mage crashed.

Without the young Great Mage supplying mana, the Lava Dominator immediately lost its power supply and the flames shrank and vanished in a flash. If not for that black scorched earth left behind, then they might have thought that the earth shattering flames had been but an illusion.

The place was suddenly quiet.

"Unfortunately, I'm a poor shot..." Lin Yun regretfully shook his head while fetching a ruby necklace from Lonald's limp body.

This was one of the most powerful Spiritual Magic Tools of the Ash Tower, able to combine the power of flames and space, able to use the Flame Flash movement ability and the Lava Shelter defensive ability. Even in Lin Yun's eyes, that Lava Dominator was a near perfect Spiritual Magic Tool.

But unfortunately, he couldn't keep this Spiritual Magic Tool...

Chapter 116: Jade Rock Door

The Lava Dominator's reputation was too great, even an outsider like William could recognize it with a glance. Keeping this Spiritual Magic Tool was like hanging a sign around his neck reading "Killed Donald and Snatched Lava Dominator" in capital letters.

It wouldn't be fun...

Let alone the crazies from the Ash Tower, even an old tortoise wouldn't be able to tolerate this.

Fortunately, there were many ways to change the outer appearance through alchemy, Lin Yun wasn't worried about the Lava Dominator being a hot potato. Once he returned from the prince's tomb, he would be able to change the appearance of the Lava Dominator.

Right now, Lin Yun was worried about something else.

"Haha, Leader Sauss, the issue has been solved." Lin Yun smiled at Sauss.

But this kind of smile made this leader of the 1st underground force of Thousand Sails City feel cold. An uncontrollable fear shrouded Sauss' heart. At this time, Sauss even felt like he was being observed by a fierce magic beast.

'Fuck, I know too much!'

Sauss immediately understood. The freshly dead Great Mage came from the Ash Tower, a force equally famous as the Sage Tower. Not to mention, this was related to an important secret of the Ash Tower. If something was leaked, the Gilded Rose might meet a lot of troubles.

He looked around...

Besides the Gilded Rose's people and the corpses on the ground, he was the only outsider.

Outsider...

Sauss suddenly felt his legs weaken. Even an idiot would know that turning the outsider into another corpse was the safest way.

Dead people don't talk.

Sauss knew that he wasn't overreacting. He understood when seeing Mafa Merlin's smile as he said that the issue had been solved, while still holding the hand crossbow that killed the Great Mage. 'Damn, if the issue had been solved, why would you still have the hand crossbow in your hands?'

As he thought of this, Sauss couldn't help wanting to slap himself twice, 'Why didn't I think of bringing back up? I can't even beg for my life now...'

'No good, I have to save myself!'

Sauss ground his teeth and made a firm decision.

"Hold on, Great Mage Merlin, the issue hasn't been solved. Look, his eyes are still moving!" Sauss said with a panicky expression on his face. He quickly unsheathed his sword and pierced Donald's chest. In an instant, a bit of black blood spurted out, flowing out of Donald's corpse.

Sauss then saw the weeds around the corpse withering.

'So toxic, no wonder that Great Mage wasn't able to withstand one hit from the hand crossbow, even with the Lava Dominator.' Sauss was inwardly shocked while displaying a relieved expression, "Okay, the issue has been settled. I never expected that I would have to personally kill a 5th Rank Great Mage."

"Haha, fortunately Leader Sauss reacted promptly or we might have been sneak attacked." Lin Yun smiled once again, but it was a sincere smile this time.

Because he already knew that this action had tied the Viper Nest with the Gilded Rose. Sauss wouldn't be able to do anything about it in the future due to what happened here. After all, the final blow done on the Ash Tower's Great Mage had personally been done by Sauss.

As long as Sauss was smart, he wouldn't leak anything.

If even Sauss wouldn't talk, who would?

The remaining people were all members of the Gilded Rose. If Lin Yun was unable to do something as easy as having his people keep their mouth shut, then he might as well give up on this second chance at life.

"Great Mage Merlin is too polite..." Seeing Lin Yun's actions, he finally sighed in relief. To be honest, Sauss had been under high pressure ever since he came in contact with this ruthless young Great Mage.

But fortunately, after fighting on the same side during this battle, the Viper Nest and the Gilded Rose's relationship should be more stable than with the other forces in the future.

It should be considered an unexpected harvest.

"In any case, thank you, Leader Sauss." Lin Yun didn't remain too courteous with Sauss and waved his hand, leading the Gilded Rose's caravan on their way.

As for the recently saved Colin, he was directly thrown to the old butler by Lin Yun.

From that previous question about his identity, it was clear that this youth wasn't very trusting. This was quite normal. The original Mafa Merlin wasn't always in Thousand Sails City and many of Locke Merlin's subordinates were actually not familiar with him. Moreover, this Colin shouldered a huge secret of the Ash Tower, it was normal to be on guard against strangers.

But Lin Yun wasn't in a hurry.

In any case, he had to go to the prince tomb again. He couldn't bring Colin along so it was better to let the old butler brainwash him. Once Lin Yun returned, Colin should be able to participate in the rebuilding of the mercenary group.

A 9th Rank Swordsman with a trace of Aura and a 5th Rank Great Mage scion of the Merlin Family leading fifty 5th Rank Great Mages delivered by the Merlin Family... Although the number was far from enough, it should still be a pretty decent force. There shouldn't be much problems on the trade routes around Thousand Sails City.

When Sauss finished dealing with the body of Lonald, the Gilded Rose's caravan was already out of the Poison Fog Canyon. Besides William Merlin sitting in the now empty carriage, no one knew that Lin Yun

had already quietly left the caravan. He had made his way for the prince tomb with the support of the Magic Spring Potion.

There was no hidden Rotten Flower on the way this time, nor was there any Toxic Dragonfly blocking the path to the cave, thus Lin Yun only used one Magic Potion to reach the depths of the cave.

The enchanted vine set up at the entrance was still there. After a short incantation, the vine coiled around Lin Yun and brought him in the prince tomb once again.

Lin Yun followed the same path and reached the location of the Death Garden. Lin Yun clearly remembered that location turning into a path after the Death Garden disappeared.

Sure enough, after going through the hallway and walking past withered ruins, Lin Yun quickly found a tightly closed stone door.

Over a thousand years passed, but time didn't leave any mark on the stone door. To the touch, it felt as if that door had been recently cut, and the delicate decorations on both sides made people overwhelmed by a feeling of beauty in this sinister tomb.

'Sure enough, it's a prince tomb...' Lin Yun was dumbfounded, the 3rd Dynasty's royal family was so extravagant. It was well known in all of Noscent, but Lin Yun really didn't think that it would be to this degree. But this tomb door was carved from a whole piece of Jade Rock, that was worth three Inheritance Magic Tools!

Not to mention the decorative design...

That was an enchanted 6th Tier Runic Shield, High Mages' strongest defensive spell.

It could be said that this Jade Rock Door couldn't be broken by anyone below the High Mage realm!

And this was only the way to the center of the tomb...

'This is definitely a bit too much...' Lin Yun tried to push open the Jade Rock Door, but as expected, it didn't move.

Lin Yun had a headache, Jade Rock itself was the natural armor of Abyssal Demons. Its defensive abilities could only be described as shockingly high, and it was further enchanted with a Runic Shield. This Jade Rock Door was blocking Lin Yun's path, he wouldn't be able to break this door open unless he reached the level of a High Mage.

This was a bit too unfavorable.

Lin Yun made a lot of preparations this time, he brought 50 Magic Spring Potions in order to get to the Reincarnation Eye, but he hadn't expected to be stuck at this Jade Rock Door. Lin Yun was stunned, 'This is a great start.'

'What should I do...'

'Should I withdraw and explore once again to see if there is another way in?'

With such a large tomb, there must be more than one path leading to the center. As he thought of this, Lin Yun's mind was drawn to this plan, but he couldn't help having second thoughts. In the 3rd Dynasty

people wouldn't spare anything when burying their relatives, particularly the royal family. Even if he found another way, there would most likely be another Jade Rock Door.

'Forget it, there might be a mechanism...'

After making his decision, Lin Yun began looking around.

"Eh!" After about ten minutes, Lin Yun's eyes suddenly shone.

Lin Yun's luck was pretty good.

As he looked through the weeds, Lin Yun found an alchemy array!

Lin Yun was excited, he hurriedly checked the alchemy array and then discovered that it was most likely to be the control center of the Jade Rock Door, but it was a little strange. The remains of that alchemy array didn't seem very old, a hundred years at most.

Thinking about it carefully, the Jade Rock Door wasn't a thousand years old either, based on appearance, it looked recently cut.

The reason behind this should be the environment of the prince tomb.

Thinking about this explanation, Lin Yun slowly stopped pondering about it. He started researching this array, and no less than half an hour later, Lin Yun stood up and sighed.

Lin Yun was now sure that this alchemy array was the control center of the Jade Rock Door.

No, to be more precise, it was the control center of the Runic Shield on the Jade Rock Door.

'An enchanted spell with a control center?' Lin Yun couldn't help exposing an astonished expression on his face. After all, the meaning of enchanted spell was to make a spell exist forever. As long as the mana source didn't disappear, the effect of the spell wouldn't disappear. Usually, there wouldn't be something like activating and deactivating that kind of enchanted spell.

Chapter 117: Desolate Overlord

'Could this be a back door left behind for the prince so that people could easily go in and out? That doesn't sound very logical...'

Lin Yun kept studying the alchemy array, doubtful and on guard.

He quickly analyzed the structure of the array and found out that this array surprisingly didn't have a mana source!

Lin Yun was shocked by this discovery. He first thought that there was a mistake in the analysis, or that there might have been some other issue with the structure of the array, and thus, Lin Yun performed another check. However, he still arrived at the same conclusion: this alchemy array didn't have a mana source!

'How could it be so strange?' Lin Yun felt a headache coming up. He would understand if this alchemy array's mana had been exhausted. After all, over a thousand years had passed since the end of the 3rd Dynasty.

But this wasn't a problem of mana exhaustion, as there was no mana source from the start.

In other words, this alchemy array had never truly worked!

It was simply decoration!

How could a mistake like that appear in the tomb of a prince of the 3rd Dynasty?

Lin Yun thought about it for a bit, but he couldn't understand. In the end, he could only decide to temporarily put this question to the back of his mind and start up the array.

There was no problem with this.

Lin Yun had already analyzed it twice and it could be said that he knew the alchemy array inside and out. Not having a mana source wasn't a problem, because with his knowledge of alchemy arrays, transferring a mana source was only a matter of a few minutes and wouldn't consume any strength.

Moreover, Lin Yun quickly realized that he didn't even have to attach anything.

Because on his 3rd analysis, he found out that this alchemy array actually sort of did have a mana source, but it was inoperative. The alchemy array had a part that had never been activated, which was equivalent to not being non-existent. Thus, Lin Yun hadn't found this disabled part of the alchemy array on his first two analyses. It was on the 3rd examination that he discovered this notch on the edge of the alchemy array.

Afterwards, Lin Yun thought about the whole structure of the alchemy array. Who would have been so senseless as to draw an entire alchemy array that couldn't be activated with a mana source, wouldn't this be a waste?

'Whatever, I already found the mana source.'

The next step was a lot simpler, since as long as this mana source was activated, it would slightly change the structure of the array, and the Runic Shield on the Jade Rock Door would stop working.

Without the Runic Shield's protection, it wouldn't be impossible for Lin Yun to break open the Jade Rock Door.

Lin Yun looked into his pocket, but he only found a few inferior mana crystals.

'Doesn't matter, inferior mana crystals should be fine, the alchemy array doesn't need to work for long anyway...' Apart from the inferior mana crystals, Lin Yun only had the Elemental Amber Ring and the Spiritual Magic Staff to supply mana. But those two were trump cards, so obviously he wouldn't use them to activate this sort of alchemy array.

After Lin Yun made his decision, he put a level 5 mana crystal in the notch.

After the addition of that level 5 mana crystal, the magic nodes on the alchemy array started flickering with a faint light. That faint light also flowed through various magic circuits while the light from the level 5 mana crystal quickly dimmed, and moments later, it turned into an ordinary stone.

‘One isn’t enough...’ Lin Yun thought. He fished out another level 5 mana crystal and quickly completed the swap.

The magic nodes flickered as mana flowed through the magic circuits...

Lin Yun knew that the alchemy array was about to be activated.

At this time, Lin Yun was already holding the Spiritual Magic Staff, waiting for the radiance from the Runic Shield to disappear so that he could cast his strongest spell to break open that Jade Rock Door.

“Stop, you damn thief!” But at that moment, a deep roar echoed in Lin Yun’s head.

“Fuck...” Lin Yun felt a burst of confusion. He pointed his magic staff above his head and a Light spell came out from it.

At this time, Lin Yun could clearly see that above his head, a shadow was gradually being formed.

“!...” Seeing that shadow, Lin Yun held his breath.

It was a Greater Demon, the Wasteland Overlord from its appearance, a ruler of the Wasteland of the Abyss’ 17th layer. An existence on par with a Heaven Mage. Not to mention this current projection that was descending, even the incarnation of a small amount of Desolation power could easily kill hundreds of Great Mages like Lin Yun.

That wasn’t an existence he could compare to.

The Greater Demons existed during the beginning of the Ashan Era. That was a true mythological era, when Gods and Devils ruled the earth. Countless powerful creatures were thriving during that period. Each of these creatures had unfathomable power, and powerful existences like Dragons were a mere common race in that time period.

The current mages were suspicious about the existence of that era, and their reasoning had been supported by many people. They believed that Noscent would never have been able to withstand the frightening power of those powerful creatures and the Gods walking on earth.

And the Greater Demons came from that era...

This kind of frightening existence that had walked on the same ground as Gods and Devils had now unexpectedly sent a projection in the tomb of a prince from the 3rd Dynasty.

In that split second, Lin Yun had one thought in his mind. ‘It’s over... I’m finished!’

This simply wasn’t a power that Lin Yun could contend against.

Let alone Lin Yun, even the strongest High Mage of Thousand Sails City, Solomon, and his Archmage teacher would be like ants in front of that existence. One breath from this Desolate Overlord’s projection would be enough to crush their bodies.

“Shameful thief, you have the cheek to disturb Lord Jalax’s sleep! Despicable thief, you’ll pay for your recklessness!”

‘How could I have such luck...’ Lin Yun originally held onto a slim hope, but after this roar, he only felt darkness.

In this era, only Lin Yun knew what the Desolate Overlord’s true name meant. Jalax, in the language of Gods and Devils, was a combination of the four domains: Withering, Decay, Destruction, and Desolation. Even among the Abyss’ numerous Greater Demons, Jalax’ power was among the top.

This Desolate Overlord became famous towards the end of the magic civilization’s peak. The powerful mages of that time were already comparable to Gods. They conquered thousands upon thousands of planes before their sight fell onto the endless Abyss. They broke through 20 layers of the Abyss and killed no less than 20 Greater Demons, this Jalax included.

In other words, in this era, the Overlord’s true name had yet to be known.

Each Abyssal Demon’s true name was taboo, especially for a Greater Demon like the Desolate Overlord. If not for the plane invasion that year, the name Jalax might have never been known.

Now that this name appeared in front of Lin Yun, it meant that this projection inevitably belonged to the Desolate Overlord.

Lin Yun felt like his luck had run out...

“Respected Desolate Overlord...” Lin Yun gulped and took a deep breath before asking in a hoarse voice, “Would you believe me if I said I had the wrong room?”

“Hahahaha...” Deafening laughter echoed through the tomb. For some time, Lin Yun only felt his surroundings shaking, before he received a response. “Who would have thought that a disgraceful thief like you would actually recognize the name of this great Lord?”

“Yes, yes, Respected Desolate Overlord, your fame spread through myriads of planes, your radiance illuminates the endless Abyss.”

“Hahahaha, Human, you are very interesting.” Delight could be heard in the Greater Demon’s voice for the first time. “Since that is the case, I’ll give you a chance.”

After saying that, a scroll gently floated down.

Lin Yun sniffed the air and felt a concentrated scent of sulfur. He knew that it was the smell of the Abyss.

“Human, this is your only opportunity. Sign this contract and you’ll become Jalax’s servant. This way, I’ll be able to forget your previous disturbance.”

“Respected Desolate Overlord, it would be my honor!” Lin Yun didn’t hesitate as he immediately grabbed the contract. The projection didn’t notice Lin Yun squinting at that time...

Lin Yun only needed one glance to understand that this was a soul contract. If he signed, it would bind him forever. His soul would never be able to break away from enslavement. Lin Yun had seen many such contracts, so his eyes swept past most of the content and fell on the last part.

A blank space left for Lin Yun's name in the servant position, while the master position had a few Nesser Runes emitting a thick sulfur smell, Jalax.

Seeing these Nesser Runes, Lin Yun understood how to handle this.

"Respected Desolate Overlord, my stomach suddenly started hurting. I'm afraid I cannot sign your contract!"

"Bold!" Jalax's shadow suddenly roared, making the stones of the tomb shiver accordingly. "Human, this is your only opportunity. If you don't sign this contract and become the servant of Lord Jalax, your soul will endure endless suffering in the flames of the Abyss!"

Chapter 118: Soul Walker

Along with Jalax's deafening roar, gray flames appeared all around. The smell of sulfur spread through the entire tomb. This was Decay Fire. Jalax resided in the Wasteland, a place burning with Decay Fire, which would burn the souls of all living beings.

Lin Yun felt the temperature drop when the flames were ignited. The originally sinister tomb became like an icy cave. The raging Decay Fire almost touched Lin Yun's feet, like flaming tongues lashing about, able to completely extinguish his soul.

But Lin Yun stood there, not flinching away at all. Instead, he looked at the Desolate Overlord as if he was looking at a performance.

"Okay, one hundred years..." After a short confrontation, Jalax's voice unexpectedly eased up. "One hundred years is this Lord Jalax's final concession. This is also your last opportunity, Human."

"Haha, Respected Desolate Overlord, your generosity is moving me to tears." Lin Yun showed a smile for the first time. He was looking at the Desolate Overlord without the fear he had previously felt. "But I'll still refuse!"

"Bold!" Jalax immediately flew into a rage. After roaring once again, the Decay Fires in the surroundings rose up, and the entire area turned grey as it was covered in the flames.

Lin Yun couldn't help shivering when hit by that bone-piercing chill. But his eyes were staring at the contract, at the Desolate Overlord's name written in Nesser. After a short time, Lin Yun's face once again revealed a smile. His finger softly moved along the name of the Desolate Overlord. In a flash, the few Nesser Runes quickly dissipated and the Desolate Overlord's name was wiped away!

"You... You... You have the cheek to erase Lord Jalax's true name! Shameful Thief, you offended the mighty Lord Jalax! Your soul will sink into the abyssal flames forever! I'll make your body turn to ashes and spread you on the Wasteland's soil! I'll imprison your soul for all eternity, I'll make you..."

As the deafening roar echoed through the tombs, pieces of rock fell down from the ceiling. The whole tomb seemed to shake from the anger of the Desolate Overlord.

But despite all this, Lin Yun cast a spell at this moment.

“Time to show me what you really are!”

The spell Lin Yun cast was the 3rd Tier Spell, True Eyes. It was said to be able to see through all illusions and falsehoods. Lin Yun’s eyes shone with a radiance the instant the spell was cast.

“You damn human!” Following the activation of the spell, the projection of the Desolate Overlord let out a blood-curdling scream. The projection that had been obscuring no less than half of the ceiling shrank under the light of the True Eyes spell before finally turning into a ring. With a clank, it fell on the ground.

“Human, I curse you!” The moment the ring fell, a shadow flew out.

“Magic Tool Incarnation!” Everything happened too quickly. Lin Yun only had the time to let out a surprised shout before the shadow arrived in front of him. Lin Yun didn’t have time to think as he pointed with his Spiritual Magic Staff and cast Flame Shackles while hurriedly retreating.

Lin Yun didn’t think these Flame Shackles would have much of an effect because this was a True Spirit Magic Tool’s Magic Tool Incarnation. An existence of this level would be able to contend with an Archmage. If the Flame Shackles he sent could trap it for a second, it could be considered a huge victory.

“Fuck, fuck, you damn human!” After casting the Flame Shackles, Lin Yun heard a miserable shriek...

‘What happened...’

Lin Yun looked over, stunned, and discovered that the great True Spirit Magic Tool’s Magic Tool Incarnation was unexpectedly trapped by a mere 2nd Tier Spell!

“You... You... Wait for me to come out, I’ll bite you to death!” That’s right, in the middle of the Flame Shackles’ flames, a young wolf the size of a palm was loudly barking curses. The only strange part was that the wolf’s body was translucent, making it look as if it would dissolve into the air at any moment.

‘Hold on, this is a Ghost Wolf!’

Although there was the word “ghost” in its name, the Ghost Wolf wasn’t really an undead lifeform. They were genuine Soul Lifeforms. They had no bodies and lived in Noscent only as souls. They were naturally proficient in all kinds of soul techniques. The illusions they created even had a trace of the Shadow Law.

Such a skill was not to be trifled with. An illusion with a trace of the Shadow Law was comparable to the Death Garden. Just one more step and it wouldn’t be impossible for it to turn into reality.

In fact, the supreme existence among the Soul Lifeforms was the rumored Dream King. It was said that each of the Dream King’s illusions was indeed a true world.

The Dream King was continuously sleeping and reincarnating among those countless true worlds. If the Dream King truly woke up some day, these countless true worlds would be instantly destroyed, and the burst of power would destroy the world.

Moreover, Soul Lifeforms were immune to almost all physical damage. They also had an extremely high resistance to magic, and only attacks aiming at their souls would truly harm them.

However, Soul Lifeforms were very rare in Noscent. Even in the notes in the decaying library, Lin Yun didn’t find more than two dozen mentions of Soul Lifeforms.

He hadn't expected to find one in the tomb of a prince from the 3rd Dynasty.

Moreover, this was a Magic Tool Incarnation's Soul Lifeform.

'But how can it be so weak?'

As he thought about it, Lin Yun couldn't help looking at the Ghost Wolf with some disappointment. 'This is a Magic Tool Incarnation from a True Spirit Magic Tool, how could it be bound by 2nd Tier Flame Shackles. Is it a fake?'

"What are you looking at! Wait until I get out, I'll bite you to death!" Lin Yun's expression made the Ghost Wolf explode with anger.

'Hmm, it should be a Magic Tool Incarnation...' Lin Yun had seen through it and felt that the Ghost Wolf was definitely a True Spirit Magic Tool Incarnation... but for some reason, its power was extremely weak.

Lin Yun felt that this was a real opportunity.

A chance to get hold of a True Spirit Magic Tool!

"If you have any nonsense to say, say it quick, and then hurry up and release this Lord, or else..." The Ghost Wolf bound in the Flame Shackles was still arrogant as it made threats.

"Or else you'll bite me to death..." Lin Yun scratched his cheek, thinking, 'No wonder that Great Mage from the Cloud Tower was able to get a hold of you. Turns out you had such a low IQ...'

"But before you bite me to death, I have to ask, what's your name?"

"How can this Lord casually tell you his name..." The Ghost Wolf's voice was extremely disdainful. As a noble Magic Tool Incarnation, how could he casually give his name to a human?

'It doesn't matter if you don't tell me, let me guess...' Lin Yun then actually started guessing.

Lin Yun used Nesser Language to say the names of a few dozen True Spirit Magic Tools. Each of them made the Ghost Wolf sneer in disdain, but Lin Yun wasn't worried at all.

That Great Mage of the Cloud Tower had shone for about a century in Noscent. Not that many True Spirit Magic Tools appeared during that century, so in the end, there shouldn't be much more than thirty, and those thirty had been recorded in the library.

However, Lin Yun had only read those records to study Nesser Language, so he hadn't been concerned with which true name corresponded to which of the True Spirit Magic Tools.

Thus, Lin Yun had no other choice but to guess now.

But there wasn't anything complicated with guessing. With only about thirty true names, he would sooner or later find the correct one.

Sure enough, the 23rd true name uttered by Lin Yun turned the sneering Ghost Wolf speechless.

"Turns out it's you, Soul Walker Shawn." Lin Yun chuckled after saying that.

“How, how could you have learned of Lord Shawn’s name?”

“Haha, it doesn’t matter. I just want to tell you that there is a price to pay for trying to make use of such a loophole in a soul contract...” After saying this, Lin Yun no longer cared about the bound Soul Walker. He took out a quill pen and began writing on the scroll.

“Damn, what do you think you are doing!” The Ghost Wolf was frightened when he saw Lin Yun writing on the scroll.

He could clearly feel that the damn human was tampering with the soul contract that he had drafted. As a Soul Lifeform, how could the changes on the soul level escape Shawn?

Although he still didn’t know what that damn human was up to, each character on the soul contract being altered made the Soul Walker full of fear.

Unfortunately, it was too late.

Regardless of how much the Soul Walker cursed, it couldn’t prevent Lin Yun from writing his own name on the soul contract.

“No, no, no... Shameful thief, despicable human, what do you think you are doing!” At that moment, the Soul Walker struggled as hard as it could in the Flame Shackles.

But it found out that there was no point in struggling, as the Flame Shackles around him fell off just as he moved.

Despite this, the poor Soul Walker neither cheered nor roared. Rather, he looked at Lin Yun with an extremely complicated gaze, because at that time, the Soul Walker felt that the soul contract had already taken effect.

But in another kind of way.

Chapter 119: Dark Arena

“I did tell you that you had to pay the price for trying to use the loopholes in the soul contract. You are no exception, even as a Soul Lifeform. You should be glad that you didn’t tamper with that soul contract too much, or else what you signed wouldn’t have just been a master-slave contract...”

Lin Yun was a bit regretful as he said this.

The only place that had been tampered with was the section with the true name, where the Soul Walker hid his true name, disguising it as Jalax.

In Noscent, soul contracts were the most impartial contracts. If one of the parties interfered with the soul contract, then a loophole could appear in the entire contract. No matter how well they did it, and no matter how big the exploit, since the Soul Walker tampered with the true name, Lin Yun would be able to make use of that loophole, but only on the true name section.

What Lin Yun did was very simple.

He only reversed the position of the two names.

The contract was still a contract, and the contents didn't change, but the positions of master and slave had been completely reversed.

This was also why Lin Yun said that the Soul Walker should be glad.

If the Soul Walker had made bigger changes, Lin Yun would have had more leeway when exploiting the loophole, and it might not have been as simple as a master-slave contract at that point.

Something like an eternal contract that couldn't even be broken through reincarnation, or a blood oath making them share their lives, or enslavement without anything in return. In short, it wouldn't be as fair and relaxed as a master-slave contract.

"You... How did you find out?" The Soul Walker withdrew, his voice shaking. The master-slave contract was already in effect. He wouldn't attack Lin Yun even without the Flame Shackles.

Moreover, he didn't have the power to attack Lin Yun. Otherwise, he wouldn't have tried to use magic to impersonate the Desolate Overlord, and he also wouldn't have been so helpless against the Flame Shackles.

"This is a secret..." Lin Yun smiled, not answering this question.

Only Lin Yun himself knew that he had nearly been duped.

This had been a brilliant trap.

At first, Lin Yun had truly believed it that he was facing a projection of the Desolate Overlord, because the true name of the Desolate Overlord wasn't something spread in this era, it would be known 20,000 years later.

But the Soul Walker exposed a flaw.

The Desolate Overlord, Jalax, was an existence above the Heaven Rank, so why would he lower himself to sign a master-slave contract with a Great Mage?

But that flaw still wasn't enough. After all, the behavior of an existence like the Desolate Overlord wasn't something that a Great Mage could predict.

Fortunately, a second flaw was exposed.

It was the true name on the contract.

Lin Yun immediately knew that there was a problem with the contract. The true name Jalax only had endless power in the God and Devil Language, yet the contract's true name was written using Nesser Language.

Thus, Lin Yun probed him.

Lin Yun tried to haggle with that suspicious Desolate Overlord, and surprisingly succeeded.

After the Desolate Overlord roared in anger, he actually agreed to change the time limit of the contract to one hundred years.

If at that time, Lin Yun still hadn't been able to see that this was a trap, then he really wouldn't have deserved that second chance. A frightening existence like the Desolate Overlord, how could it be willing to haggle with a human Great Mage?

Lin Yun used True Eyes, and sure enough...

"Shouldn't it be your turn to explain yourself?"

"There is nothing much to explain, I only drew an alchemy array, waiting for despicable thieves like you, that's all." Although it had already signed the master-slave contract, the Soul Walker was clearly unwilling to accept it. His words were still filled with ridicule and disdain.

The Soul Walker truly felt that all this was unacceptable.

As a True Spirit Magic Tool's Soul Walker, he had already been in this prince's tomb for a thousand years. For some special reasons, he had already exhausted his mana a few hundred years ago, and it looked like his Incarnation would soon disappear. So the Soul Walker came up with a way.

He used the last of his power to draw an alchemy array in front of the Jade Rock Door to act as bait.

In order to make the bait realistic, the Soul Walker did indeed connect the Runic Shield and the alchemy array. In other words, that alchemy array really could control the Runic Shield, but he had left some tricks when devising the mana source. It looked like the supplied mana would be poured into the alchemy array, but it was in fact intercepted by the Soul Walker...

But the Soul Walker truly didn't think that there would be such a miserly person in this world.

He only had two level 5 mana crystals!

The Soul Walker almost cried when the mana of those two level 5 mana crystals was poured into his body. 'What could I have done with two level 5 mana crystals? That wasn't enough to cast half a spell when I was at my peak!' he thought.

'Damn you!' he cursed in his mind. 'Once this Lord Shawn had made you sign the master-slave contract, I would have humiliated you, miser! This Lord Shawn even turned into the Desolate Overlord. Yet this Lord Shawn was unlucky...'

Up till now, Shawn felt that if that damn human had been a bit more generous and had given it a bit more power, it wouldn't have had such a pitiable ending.

"Turns out True Spirit Magic Tools can also run out of mana..." Although the Soul Walker didn't explain anything, Lin Yun thought about it for a moment and figured out the entire process. He couldn't help chuckling, "You are truly unlucky..."

Shawn exploded with rage when he heard Lin Yun laughing.

"You think you won? You became Lord Shawn's master in vain. Have you forgotten, Lord Shawn is the Incarnation of a True Spirit Magic Tool!"

After saying that, the Soul Walker turned into a mist and disappeared into the ring.

It was followed by a burst of proud laughter echoing in Lin Yun's ears. "Hahahaha, ridiculous human, now you know the power of Lord Shawn. You signed the master-slave contract with Lord Shawn, but you forgot that Lord Shawn is the Incarnation of a True Spirit Magic Tool. If you have the skill, then make Lord Shawn come out from the Magic Tool..."

But he hadn't expected that Lin Yun wouldn't show any signs of being flustered at all, his smile unchanged.

"Sure, if you like hiding in the Magic Tool, then you can hide in the Magic Tool forever. But I guarantee that if you dare to come out, you'll never regret it..." After saying that, Lin Yun reminded the Soul Walker, "Oh right, I forgot to tell you, I'll be twenty this year and I am a Great Mage. Many say that I'll become a High Mage at 40, and maybe after a few hundred years, I might become an Archmage. I heard that Archmages can live for a millennium and then some. I wonder if you'll be patient enough to wait for my death?"

"Human, don't waste your time scheming, I already waited for more than a millennium in this tomb. As far as I'm concerned, waiting another thousand years would at most be another period of slumber."

"Slumber? That's good. If that's the case, I don't need to supply you with mana. Moreover, to let you have a good sleep, I won't let you be disturbed at all. I'll tailor an alchemy array to isolate you from all kinds of mana emission. That way you'll have a very deep sleep. Who knows, maybe you'll be able to sleep until your Incarnation dissipates..."

"..."

The Soul Walker fell silent.

Waiting a thousand years truly was considered nothing to a True Spirit Magic Tool. It would just be a long period of slumber at worst. But having no mana supply whatsoever was something the True Spirit Magic Tool couldn't accept. The last time his mana had been exhausted, his Incarnation almost dissipated. How could the Soul Walker accept falling into such a condition again?

"In fact, what's wrong with changing masters? That prince already died a thousand years ago, could it be that you, a True Spirit Magic Tool, want to keep living in memories of the past?" Lin Yun noticed the Soul Walker's attitude mellowing and knew that he should use some persuasion.

"That fucking prince!" The Soul Walker unexpectedly burst out in anger. "Don't mention that lunatic, Barov, to me. He was always paranoid, saying that our world was heading towards its end. But now, the world is still here, while that lunatic met his end! Yet he still locked this Lord Shawn in this pitch dark tomb for a thousand years. What memories? Lord Shawn can only recall facing death at his hands!"

"..."

"Human, don't waste your time on scheming. You want Lord Shawn to serve you. No can do. Look at yourself, look at how weak you are, an insignificant Great Mage. You want to control a True Spirit Magic Tool like Lord Shawn, but do you think you are like that lunatic, Barov? Let's do it like this. Human, you take responsibility for supplying Lord Shawn with mana, and if Lord Shawn is in a good mood, I might let you borrow some power..."

"Sure!" Lin Yun had been waiting for this sentence.

He had been afraid that the Soul Walker would be determined to hide in the ring. Besides the previous method of locking him away from any mana source, Lin Yun didn't have another way to really punish him. If he used that method, neither side would win. The True Spirit Magic Tool's Incarnation would dissipate, and Lin Yun would have to pass on a True Spirit Magic Tool.

Now that the Soul Walker had agreed to cooperate, everything would be a lot simpler for Lin Yun.

The Soul Walker's claim that he would only let Lin Yun borrow some power if he was in a good mood... This was just Shawn acting pretentious. They had signed a master-slave contract, so if Lin Yun died, Shawn wouldn't have an easy time. At the very least, he would lose a rank, downgrading to a Spiritual Magic Tool from a True Spirit Magic Tool...

Also, Lin Yun was just a Great Mage at the moment so it would be very difficult to use a part of the power of the True Spirit Magic Tool. If he really tried to use the full power of the True Spirit Magic Tool, he would be drained of energy.

As for when he would be able to completely master this True Spirit Magic Tool...

Lin Yun estimated that it would be when he reached the High Mage Rank at the very least. At that time, he would have fused his nine Magic Arrays into one, and his fighting strength should be around that of a 9th Rank High Mage. He should have a chance of completely mastering the True Spirit Magic Tool at that point.

As for now, a portion of power was already enough...

Moreover, what he wanted to use now wasn't the power of the True Spirit Magic Tool.

"Lord Shawn, can I ask you a question?" Lin Yun picked up the ring on the floor and carefully put it on his left hand's ring finger.

This was due to a superstition spread among mages. All mages believed that the ring finger had unfathomable power, and thus they would always wear their most powerful magic ring on that finger...

"This... Depends on Lord Shawn's mood..."

"..." Lin Yun inwardly cursed. After taking a breath, restraining his urge to sever the mana supply, he muttered, "I only wanted to ask how to open this Jade Rock Door."

"This shouldn't be..." The ring on his hand let out a surprised sound. "You seem quite smart, Human, why would you need to ask me such a silly question?"

"I am Mafa Merlin. You can choose to call me master, or Merlin. But never just call me Human again, or else I might forget to supply mana if I'm annoyed..."

"You actually have to threaten Lord Shawn with such a weak supply of mana..." The Soul Walker snorted twice unhappily. But afterwards, he changed the way he addressed Lin Yun. "Okay, Merlin, now let Lord Shawn tell you how to break through this Jade Rock Door... Oh right, Lord Shawn will say in passing that the name Merlin is very silly..."

'Fuck you...'

Lin Yun felt a vein pulsating on his forehead. He breathed roughly a few times, resisting the urge to curse. "You can't say that!"

"Your attitude is not very good, Lord Shawn is a bit unhappy..." The Soul Walker originally wanted to keep acting pretentiously, but before he could say anything else, he felt the supply of mana being cut off. Shawn, who had felt his strength recovering during this short time, immediately became tactful.

"But it doesn't matter, Lord Shawn's mood is pretty good. I won't lower myself to argue with you. Don't you see, this alchemy array was actually created by Lord Shawn's power. It was specially created to deceive stupid humans like you. If you input a lot of mana, it would only be supplied to Lord Shawn, and as for the true method, you can find it on the Jade Rock Door..."

Lin Yun inwardly cursed, 'Fuck, these Soul Lifeforms are too shameless...'

The Soul Walker's reminder was clear to Lin Yun. The Jade Rock Door didn't lack an opening mechanism. But some shameless Soul Lifeforms used an illusion to hide it.

Lin Yun walked over with a gloomy face, and sure enough, after the power of the Soul Walker dissipated, a circular mechanism appeared on the originally smooth Jade Rock Door. A riddle was written around the circle in Nesser Runes. Just as Lin Yun planned to solve the door's riddle, the voice of Lord Shawn echoed out.

"No need to look, Lord Shawn can tell you the answer to such a simple riddle. Left three times, right four times, try it out, Silly Human... My bad, Silly Merlin..."

Lin Yun simply chose to ignore it.

But his hand still moved according to the instructions of the Soul Walker. Left three times, right four times. Immediately afterwards, the entire Jade Rock Door began to move with a rumble. After a short while, a big arena appeared in front of him.

"No way..." When Lin Yun saw that huge arena, he became aware of the trouble awaiting him. That Great Mage from the Cloud Tower wrote at least half a page on this huge arena.

"Haha, Merlin, your luck is pretty good. After going through the Life and Death Door, you only have a 10% chance of walking into the Dark Arena. Such a low probability and you actually met it, let this Lord Shawn guess what kind of opponent you'll come across, okay?"

"It would be better to guess when I'll cut your mana supply." Lin Yun unhappy scolded.

"Damn you, you dare to threaten Lord Shawn!"

Lin Yun chose to ignore this pretentious and long-winded True Spirit Magic Tool, and after scratching his nose, he stepped into the Dark Arena.

Chapter 120: Rock Wolf

In the notes of that Great Mage of the Cloud Tower, the prince's army was buried in the Dark Arena, and under the influence of the Bloodline Curse, they had already transformed into spirit-like existences,

tempering their fighting skills all day and night in the Dark Arena while also guarding the only path leading to the prince's tomb.

That year, the lucky Great Mage almost fell into a desperate situation in the Dark Arena. He ultimately relied on his heaven-defying luck to walk out of this Dark Arena.

Lin Yun didn't think he would be as lucky.

So when Lin Yun passed through the Jade Rock Door and saw that empty circular arena, his expression wasn't as calm as usual...

"Here!"

Almost at the same time as Lin Yun's feet touched the soil of the Dark Arena, a powerful roar echoed out. In a flash, the desolate and deathly still Dark Arena changed greatly. A blood-red setting sun, a sea of black clouds, blood and pieces of bodies flowing everywhere on the ground, broken weapons, discarded flags. All of this made Lin Yun feel like he was standing on a battlefield from the 3rd Dynasty.

Immediately afterwards, Lin Yun heard a sinister roar echoing behind him.

Lin Yun turned around and caught sight of a group of Rock Wolves encircling him. The pairs of clear, blue eyes shone brighter than the setting sun. These magic beasts were level 13 at the very least. Their individual power was only a bit inferior to that of a Rotten Flower.

What's more, there were at least ten wolves surrounding Lin Yun.

"Worthy of the Dark Arena..." Lin Yun suddenly felt numb. This was only the 1st stage, yet there were already no less than ten Rock Wolves. If it was like that, what would follow? Lin Yun already didn't dare to go further down this line of thought.

As he was inwardly feeling apprehensive, the biggest Rock Wolf already pounced over, carrying an odd, fishy smell along with it. That Rock Wolf was clearly the leader of the pack, and its level should be above 13, perhaps already at level 15. It was extremely fast and very powerful, more or less on par with a 5th Rank Great Swordsman. The only difference was the lack of the powerful Aura.

But it was already frightening enough just based on the speed and strength of a 5th Rank Great Swordsman. That fishy smell could already be detected as the Rock Wolf was pouncing at Lin Yun. The sharp claw flickered with a cold light under the setting sun. This was the most frightening weapon of a Rock Wolf, and it could instant tear apart a hard rock.

'So fast...' Lin Yun was startled. The Spiritual Magic Staff in his hand moved as his Flame Shackles coiled over. But a level 15 magic beast like the Rock Wolf wasn't as useless as the mana-exhausted Shawn. Those Flame Shackles were broken open by the wolf pack leader in mere moments.

The Rock Wolf roared as it broke free, and over a dozen shadows charged at Lin Yun.

Almost at the same time, the ground surprisingly distorted. The originally smooth floor transformed into a gorge, and moreover, that gorge was blocking the path behind Lin Yun. If Lin Yun had retreated, he would have tumbled into the gorge, and then the Rock Wolves would have swarmed him and torn him into pieces.

Fortunately, after Lin Yun used the Flame Shackles to trap the wolf leader, he didn't try to back away.

Lin Yun hadn't moved, as if he had known that a gorge would appear behind him, and directly started casting another spell.

In that split second, Lin Yun pushed his casting ability to the peak, shortening more than half of the incantations of his spells while mixing in some instant spells. For some time, flying flames, hovering pieces of ice, and countless fluttering runes could be seen. The entire fight could only be described as magnificent.

And in the midst of that magnificent fight, Lin Yun on his own forcibly managed to do what would have required the joint work of several Great Mages.

Attack, defense, control...

Lin Yun was obviously by himself, but he suddenly turned into a few Great Mages in this battle, accomplishing perfection in every aspect. Not a single Rock Wolf managed to break through Lin Yun's defense, and not one of them managed to dodge his attacks.

Thirty seconds later, a Flame Spear pierced the alpha wolf's chest.

The battle was over...

"Fucking Dark Arena..." Lin Yun cursed when he stopped. It may have looked like this fight only lasted thirty seconds, but it wasn't as relaxed as when he was facing several hundred Toxic Dragonflies. These Rock Wolves were too fast and too powerful, they simply didn't allow Lin Yun any room for error.

One mistake and his chest would be ripped apart by claws.

In a short 30 seconds, Lin Yun used Quicken Spell four times, Instant Spell seven times, and the Magic Conducting ability 11 times. This was definitely a feat that would be extremely hard to exceed for Great Mages.

"Oh wow, that's pretty good, you actually dealt with these Rock Wolves so fast. This truly is beyond Lord Shawn's expectations!" While Lin Yun was panting, the True Spirit Magic Tool once again started prattling once again.

"Stop with the nonsense," Lin Yun unhappily scolded. If he could, Lin Yun wouldn't want to push himself to this limit. After all, the more extreme the casting, the more mana he would use. These 30 seconds of casting had consumed at least 90% of his own mana.

If not for the Spiritual Magic Tool in his right hand and the Elemental Amber Ring on his left hand, Lin Yun would already be lying down on the ground waiting for his death...

The problem was that he had no choice but to go to this extreme when facing a pack of Rock Wolves. Rock Wolves were so frightening when they fought in large numbers. If there were more than a dozen, their overall ability would become a lot more frightening. Just now, the alpha wolf had made a gorge to cut off his retreat, and if over twenty of them had attacked at the same time, their might would have reached the power of a High Mage.

"You have the cheek to scold Lord Shawn!"

“You want your mana supply cut off?”

“You are getting too bold, you are not only scolding Lord Shawn, you are also daring to issue threats! Wait for me to regain my power, and then...”

“Shut up, Lord Shawn...”

The True Spirit Magic Tool was busy prattling even when Lin Yun was recovering his mana. A silhouette wearing a black robe came out from the edge of the arena. He had a dignified appearance, with flaming red hair and a black robe dyed by the glow of the setting sun. He stood there as if he was a deity.

“Congratulations, Challenger. Your heroic performance pleased me. In return, you can choose your reward.”

As that majestic voice was ringing in Lin Yun’s ears, three golden chests appeared in the circular arena.

“This... What’s going on?” Lin Yun froze. There was no mention of a reward in the notes of the Great Mage from the Cloud Tower.

“Surely you didn’t think that this Great Prince would be watching your performance for free?” the deity-like person said.

“You are saying... You... You are Barov?”

“Indeed, Redhead Barov, the most powerful man of the Empire.”

“No way...” Lin Yun gulped with difficulty. Although he knew that Redhead Barov had died over a thousand years ago, seeing this silhouette wearing a black robe, Lin Yun couldn’t help feeling his blood freezing.

“Nice... Now don’t stare blankly and get the reward that lunatic is giving you. Oh, right, this Lord Shawn is in a good mood, I’ll reluctantly remind you that the lunatic is left-handed...”

“Are you so kind?” Lin Yun looked at the ring with a strange expression.

“Stop with the nonsense...”

Lin Yun walked to the three golden chests, and after hesitating for a bit, he decided to believe in Shawn this time. He opened the leftmost chest.

“Mana crystal?” Just as he opened the golden chest, Lin Yun frowned. There were over a dozen mana crystals inside the chest, each of them being around level 10. In the past, Lin Yun might have been pleasantly surprised with this, but the current Lin Yun had already visited the fertile Bone Plane twice, and he had even planted an Obsidian Flower in his garden. Thus, a dozen mana crystals would barely make him excited...

“Mana crystals? Very good, perfect to replenish Lord Shawn’s mana. Quick, quick...” Shawn cheered.

“Hey, Lord Shawn, did you do that on purpose?” Honestly, Lin Yun couldn’t be blamed for being suspicious. Shawn was too unusual. Pointing out a chest with kind intentions... Moreover, to choose the one chest with the mana crystals he urgently needed. But Lin Yun didn’t expect Shawn to burst out in anger.

“Nonsense! You have the cheek to question Lord Shawn? Intolerable! The Dark Arena originally was like that, whenever you defeated an opponent, that lunatic would give you some rewards. The stronger the opponent, the better the rewards. You only beat your first opponent, so how could you be unsatisfied with a dozen mana crystals?”

“Truth or lie?”

“Won’t you understand if you try it yourself? Okay okay, don’t disturb Lord Shawn’s mana absorption, your 2nd opponent will appear soon!”

Just as Shawn fell silent and started absorbing mana as if his life depended on it, Lin Yun’s second opponent truly appeared...