

Magic Era 1261

Chapter 1261 - A Pair of Eyes and Omen of Death

“The 72 Gods started recklessly waging war at their peak and disappeared soon afterwards. Was that something they wanted?”

“I don’t believe that the Gods were a group of idiots who would all die for the sake of territories or personal grievances.”

“Although Abyssal Demons have been spying on Noscent for many years, few of those damned Greater Demon Overlords would have a crazy possessive desire for Noscent. They would rather slumber in lava for a few dozen millenia.”

“Noscent world isn’t suitable for Demons, most Demons aren’t compatible with Noscent’s environment. There are still many Demons in Noscent, but no new Demon were birthed here. All newborn Demons appear in the Abyss.”

“Those Greater Demon Overlords wouldn’t recklessly launch a full-scale invasion for a world they can’t reproduce in.”

“It’s the same for the destruction of the 3rd Dynasty.”

“And thus, I feel that there is an extremely powerful existence spying on Noscent from a well-hidden place. Each time Noscent’s civilization developed to its peak, that existence would destroy the entire civilization without exception.”

“I once felt a pair of eyes, which I couldn’t figure out, lock onto my body. At that time, I was researching that matter, and after that, I moved here. When doing any research, I would move to my Demiplane.”

Lin Yun’s pupils suddenly shrunk and the words he saw when he got the designs of the Redpush Plate suddenly appeared in his mind.

The importance of the Redpush Plate to the Shelter Tower couldn’t be described, without the Redpush Plate, the Shelter Tower simply couldn’t postpone Noscent’s destruction for a few millennia.

When that person designed the Redpush Plate, he felt a pair of eyes looking at him.

They either discovered something important regarding Noscent’s destruction, or hindered Noscent’s destruction.

Agalon was already powerful enough to be able to alter the Laws of the world. It was rumored that powerhouses that ignited their Godfire were able to immediately sense if someone uttered their names. If someone paid attention to them, they would indeed be able to notice.

“I can only research so many things, I can only rely on you to find the truth and how to change it. You can see more of the future than me, and you even changed fate’s trajectory.”

“And thus, I hope you can take my place and become the real owner of the Starry Sky College.”

Agalon’s words were very sincere, he wasn’t joking at all. He gave the same offer he gave Lin Yun at the start, but it felt completely different to Lin Yun.

Lin Yun remained silent for a few seconds and didn't directly refuse. Rather, he asked a question.

"Sir Agalon, I'd like to know, why do you want me to take your position?"

Agalon smiled, his eyes brimming with calmness and a wisdom that saw through everything.

"You didn't immediately refuse or agree, my answer is crucial, right?."

Lin Yun nodded, acknowledging this point of view.

"I'm dying."

Agalon's tone was calm, but Lin Yun almost let go of his teacup.

He was a Peak Heaven Rank powerhouse, no, a powerhouse that already exceeded the Heaven Rank and had one step in the next realm and just needed to ignite his Godfire. It wouldn't be strange if he could live another dozen millennia.

Agalon sighed with regrets.

"You heard right, I'm on the verge of death. I awakened my bloodline's ability, and as a cost, I know when I'll die. And no one can stop my death, just like no one can stop the sun from rising or the rivers from converging in the sea.

"This is part of fate, and it is recorded in the Laws of the world. Even if I can change a part of the Laws, I'm powerless to change this. To put it simply, I'm bound to die.

"Not long ago, I learnt when I would die, but I don't know why I would die. Fate is elusive."

Lin Yun remained silent for a bit. He didn't comfort Agalon as he was already indifferent towards his own death. Moreover, Astrologians like Agalon only needed to know the time of their death. Once they knew when they would die, it would be really unavoidable.

Only if Agalon was powerful enough to transcend worldliness and withstand the Laws of the world by himself could he escape that certain calamity. Unless he transcended, that outcome was bound to happen. It was as stable as the Four Elemental Laws.

To Astrologians, even if they made all their preparations in advance to avoid all possible dangers and unexpected things, they would still die.

"How much time do you have left."

Lin Yun had a good feeling from Agalon during that short interaction, as if he had found a friend he could confide in. Because in this era, if he told anyone that Noscent would be destroyed in a few dozen millennia, they would think that Lin Yun had a mental disorder.

He could always feel the invisible pressure of the future, but he had no one to share that pressure with. But now, there was someone who also believed that Noscent would be destroyed. And that person already did a lot of research... But Agalon was going to die...

Lin Yun felt somewhat uncomfortable and a bit pained.

Agalon smiled.

“There are still ten years. Recently, I sensed my death, but I also sensed a disaster. Ten years later, the Starry Sky College will meet a disaster. I will go against it and inevitably fall.

“I can’t prevent my death, but I don’t want the Starry Sky College to meet a disaster and perish. That’s why I hope that you can take over my position and lead the Starry Sky College to prevent its destruction. This is my selfish motive.

“I grew in the Starry Sky College, step by step until I reached where I am today, the leader of the Starry Sky College. The Starry Sky College is the only thing I can’t let go of.”

Hearing Agalon’s words, Lin Yun suddenly recalled one matter.

It was something that was only mentioned in Agalon’s biography. He originally thought that history had changed, or that there had been some mistake in the records, or that the time was wrong.

But Lin Yun hadn’t expected that Agalon’s ending hadn’t changed yet. This was already a predestined fate. The fate of the Great Astrologian.

It was written down that ten years from now, the Starry Sky College would encounter a strange disaster and be razed to the ground overnight. It was as if a huge monster devoured the entire Starry Sky College. Then, Agalon embarked on the Starry Sky Path and disappeared from Noscent, never to reappear until Noscent’s destruction.

Hearing Agalon’s words, Lin Yun suddenly understood. Agalon hadn’t disappeared, he died after entering the Starry Sky Path.

After being razed overnight, the Starry Sky College was re-established by the survivors.

It was fortunate that the Starry Sky College was different from an ordinary mage force. Aside from some important areas, the Starry Sky College was just an extraordinary school whose students came from all around the world. The Starry Sky College had a pretty big quota regarding the many alchemists who started their path outside and wanted to study at the Starry Sky College.

The Starry Sky College’s network almost covered the entire Noscent. This was the reason why the Starry Sky College was able to be re-established after becoming a 3rd rate force overnight.

There, alchemy was first. By relying on alchemy, the Starry Sky College once again re-emerged and rapidly stabilized its status as a Holy Land.

After all, the Starry Sky College had many affiliated forces, most of which supported Starry Sky College re-establishment after its destruction.

A few millennia later, that terrifyingly talented genius who “subdued” the Whispering Crystal would appear in the Starry Sky College and the Starry Sky College would truly stand at the peak of Noscent.

Recalling these matters, Lin Yun didn’t know how to refuse. This was a huge benefit for him. If he could wield the power of the Starry Sky College, it would be equivalent to controlling most of Noscent’s first-notch alchemists. The three Deans of the Starry Sky College were all Saint Alchemists. If he focused on nurturing, more Saint Alchemists could be nurtured in the future.

And when once he focused on constructing the Shelter Tower, the manpower issue would be easily solved. The Starry Sky College's alchemists, alchemy techniques, and network, was something hard to estimate.

On the other hand, Lin Yun couldn't bear to refuse Agalon's invitation. He finally met someone he could discuss about Noscent's end with after so long, but it was someone on the verge of death. He simply couldn't decline.

"Sir Agalon, I can consider accepting, but I can't give you an answer right away. There are still ten years."

Agalon smiled, apparently not bothered at all.

"It's fine, you just gave a positive answer after all. I also can't just pass my position to you, you are still too weak. Within the next ten years, I'll help you grow stronger, train you, guide you so that you can reach my strength ten years later, or even exceed my current strength.

"Only that way could I feel relieved handing you the Starry Sky College. Your Natural Demiplane is far more perfect than mine, and it could be said to be perfectly developed. My Natural Demiplane's development was similar to yours when I was at the 7th Rank of the Heaven realm, in terms of quality, your Natural Demiplane is better than mine.

"My death is approaching. Without a miracle, I won't make progress within ten years. But you are different, you are more powerful than I am, a lot more powerful.

"After I die, if you still want to find the truth about the destruction, then let me give you a suggestion. Seek the Starry Sky Battlefield, there might be a clue there, or even the whole truth.

"But before then, it is best not to step in the Starry Sky Path with your current strength."

Just as Agalon finished his sentence, Lin Yun felt a powerful and terrifying force appearing before him. It was so fast that he almost couldn't react, he only had time to raise a Fusion Shield. It looked like he was wrapped in a semi-transparent multi-colored ball which was kicked out.

After flying a dozen meters, the world before Lin Yun seemed to have changed and the originally sunny and cloudless sky transformed into an endless starry sky in an instant. The surroundings completely disappeared and only the hilltop below his feet remained. But he could see the starry sky in all directions.

A scorching sun was hanging in the starry sky at an unknown distance, but he couldn't feel the slightest heat. A meteorite flew in the starry sky, dragging behind a trail over ten thousand kilometers in length, there were also countless twinkling stars.

But Lin Yun had no intention to be lost in this beautiful scenery, because whether it was the sun, or the stars, or even the space, everything had a consciousness and was trying to expel him. They were hostile and treated him like a parasite, all the Laws were pressuring him, wanting to erase him from this world.

He simply didn't have time to react. The entire world was full of malice and Lin Yun instinctively started rousing the Natural Demiplane's power. As he was rejected by the Laws and the world, the Natural Demiplane automatically came into view.

A three-meter-big demiplane shadow appeared behind Lin Yun, and after appearing, its Laws took the initiative to appear due to the pressure. The Natural Demiplane's Laws covering a three-meter-big area around Lin Yun.

But how could a three-meter-big projection resist against the entire starry sky. One glance was enough to birth infinite despair.

If an ordinary person suddenly appeared in the starry sky, they wouldn't enjoy that boundlessly beautiful scenery, rather, they would start feeling extreme fear, a fear caused by their insignificance to this boundless world.

Once the entire starry sky was malicious, this kind of fear would instinctively make the soul shudder.

The Natural Demiplane's projection was only three-meter-big, which was already compressed to its pinnacle. And the Natural Demiplane's projected Laws were continuously being compressed. Within a few seconds, they were compressed from three meters to one meter and only protected Lin Yun.

It felt like he was standing at the seabed, he was suffering from a terrifying pressure in all directions and his defense was reduced to a 1-meter-wide cylinder. If it was compressed once again, even if his defense wasn't breached, his body would be directly squeezed into mince meat.

The shrinking speed slowed down after the Laws projection defense was reduced to a meter, but it didn't stop shrinking. Lin Yun could only attempt to control the Natural Demiplane.

Although he already had complete control over the Natural Demiplane, with his strength at the 2nd Rank of the Heaven realm, he could only fully control the Natural Demiplane from within, and that control was limited. It was like an ordinary Sword Saint obtaining Xiuban's Carnage. Even if they could pick it up, they couldn't use Carnage as a weapon.

In the Natural Demiplane, Lin Yun could mobilize his own power through cheap tricks, but outside, it was like an ordinary person tried to carry Carnage until they puked blood, without being able to move it at all.

After testing a bit, Lin Yun gave up on controlling the Natural Demiplane and switched to strengthening his connection to the Natural Demiplane. He slowly roused his own comprehension of the Laws and made it resonate with the Laws of the Natural Demiplane.

That way, the Demiplane took the initiative to help and the Laws projection enveloping Lin Yun was strengthened.

It was enough to guarantee that Lin Yun couldn't be crushed into mincemeat, the shrinking of the Laws projection stopped right before reaching Lin Yun's body. The pressure and Lin Yun's Laws projection ended in a deadlock.

Lin Yun was somewhat pale as he looked at Agalon who walked out of the wooden house with a satisfied smile. He couldn't say a word, all of his power was used to resist this pressure.

Agalon nodded with satisfaction.

“Good, the reaction speed is good. For a mage, especially a mage that advanced to the Heaven Realm, Law fluctuations would always be something unclear. You can’t guarantee that you can spot dangers in advance, but you can always react as fast as possible.

“Your battle awareness is pretty good, but your fighting style is too simple. After all, Extraordinary Spells are completely different from ordinary spells. You should have already discovered that last time, when fighting that dark curse mage of the Jackson Family.

“Extraordinary lifeforms’ fighting styles are too varied, you can’t effectively defend against everything. Mastering even more spells and flexibly using those spells is crucial. When fighting against someone at the same rank, there wouldn’t be too much of a difference between both sides’ Extraordinary Power and mana. Extraordinary Spells are the best option, and using the most suitable spell is the best way to fight.

“The Natural Demiplane can let you have unlimited mana. When dealing with ordinary powerhouses, crushing them with your infinite mana is the best method, but if you meet someone with similar strength, that fighting style would lose its effect. Against Extraordinary Lifeforms, only Extraordinary Power could have a crucial impact.

“I don’t need to teach you all of this. With a Natural Demiplane, your advantage will become increasingly better. The stronger you are, the stronger the effect of your Natural Demiplane. And the more developed your Natural Demiplane, the more impact it would have on your strength.”

Agalon slowly said those words, but Lin Yun was pale and was using all his strength to resist, he couldn’t say a single word.

‘F*ck, that pressure was made by altering the Laws, what does it have to do with spells and fighting styles...’

Lin Yun inwardly cursed, but he could only resist with all his strength and listen.

Agalon slowly walked to Lin Yun’s side and looked at the projection of Lin Yun’s Demiplane before sighing.

“It’s truly a perfect Natural Demiplane, the Earth, Fire, Water, and Wind Laws are stable and even formed four extremes. The Laws of Light and Darkness are being nurtured and there is even a Godfire, no... This should be a huge Godfire Ember serving as the sun. This is such a genius idea.

“Your newly established Demiplane even merged with the Natural Demiplane’s core, strengthening both Demiplanes at once and accelerating your control over the Natural Demiplane, it’s simply perfect.

“Whether it’s fighting style, spells, or even Law comprehension, I have nothing to teach you. You should find what suits you the most.”

Chapter 1262 Growth and Bandits

“I can only help you speed up your comprehension, resonance and usage of your Natural Demiplane, as well as accelerating its growth.” “Your Natural Demiplane is perfect. As long as you continue to develop it like that, I believe that you will be able to overpower me just by relying on the Natural Demiplane once you reach my rank. As for me, I can overpower everyone of the same rank!”

Agalon said these words very casually, he was completely confident.

Lin Yun smiled bitterly, he couldn't say that he had a better understanding of Natural Demiplanes than him, he wouldn't believe him.

Lin Yun was struggling to hold on. Inside the Natural Demiplane, the halo of the mountain and the Mana Water of the mana lake were rapidly being consumed, it even caused the Natural Demiplane's mana density to sharply decline.

This was actually a good thing. Mana kept accumulating in the process of developing the Natural Demiplane, and it wasn't a good thing, at least to Lin Yun.

Because so much mana accumulating meant that power wasn't consumed, it also meant that the development of the Natural Demiplane was slow.

When it came to Natural Demiplane's development, mana was never enough.

If there was too much mana accumulated, then the Mana Vines' growth would stagnate. Only when the Natural Demiplane's mana was lacking would the Mana Vines feel that the mana torn from the void wasn't enough and would continue spreading.

The mana lake wasn't full but the Mana Water was rapidly consumed. The forest of Mana Vines, spreading over ten kilometers and looking like a green pillar supporting the sky, seemed to suddenly come alive.

Each Mana Vine slowly split up into two smaller Mana Vines which inserted themselves into the void, devouring the power within the void to fill the Natural Demiplane's gap.

As time passed, the mana lake's Mana Water slowly dried up and the mana permeating the air of the Demiplane was consumed. The southern volcanoes became silent and the northern ice field started melting. This was the effect of mana deficiency. The Mana Vines then went completely insane.

The biggest mana crisis in the history of the Natural Demiplane has become the best foundation for the development of the Mana Vines. All the Mana Vines within ten kilometers frantically split in two, and then into four. They were twisting their bodies towards the sky like giant pythons.

They were frantically tearing through the void's mana. It was like ordinary vegetation suddenly sensing moisture on the verge of death and bursting with their strongest potential. The Mana Vines formed a thick jade-colored pillar supporting the sky.

The condensed pure mana slowly flowed down, but that pure Mana Water didn't have time to reach the mana lake before being consumed.

This was the same as the Natural Demiplane remaining in a state of mana dryness. The Mana Vines instinctively believed that this was the best time to grow and that there wasn't enough of them.

Ultimately, the Mana Vines would keep splitting, growing, splitting, growing...

Moreover, the Natural Demiplane was consuming a large amount of mana to cast a protection around Lin Yun. The mystic Laws formed a dense layer of fog around him which made him barely visible.

The difference was too great. The power of the Laws seemed to have been directly imprinted in Lin Yun's soul and comprehending the Laws became thousands of times easier and clearer.

Lin Yun bitterly smiled, but he knew that this was an extremely rare opportunity. A powerhouse that could already alter Laws personally helped him and said he would help him reach the peak of the Heaven realm within ten years, this was no different from a cheat.

Because the Natural Demiplane had the opportunity to evolve into a true world. As they developed, the Laws would be perfected, but they wouldn't rely on magic comprehension, they would mainly be relying on the Natural Demiplane's growth to evolve naturally.

With that and Agalon's help and training, comprehending the Laws would really be no different from cheating.

Even without Agalon's help, Lin Yun would grow stronger and faster as he comprehended the Laws of the Natural Demiplane. This was the reason why owners of Demiplanes would all become terrifying powerhouses once they reached the Heaven Rank, without any exception. The weakest would still be at the peak of Heaven Rank.

More importantly, with Agalon's help and his control over his power, he could definitely be pressured to his limits without risking accidental death.

With such a good opportunity, how could Lin Yun be willing to let go of it. He was resisting with all his power on one side while comprehending the Laws' projection, which was countless times clearer, on the other side.

A week rapidly passed.

Lin Yun quickly reached his limits, and so did the Natural Demiplane.

The comprehension he obtained within that week could compare to six months inside the Natural Demiplane, he only needed to consolidate what he gained to thoroughly transform himself.

As for the Natural Demiplane, the Mana Vines frantically expanded but still couldn't support the mana consumption. The forest of Mana Vines already expanded a dozen times and all the Mana Vines had reached the thinnest size they could, to the point where they could no longer split in two until they matured.

Losing that huge mana consumption, the Mana Vines' condensed Mana Water converged into a waterfall which followed the Mana Vines into the mana lake. The dried-up mana lake slowly started filling, and according to that speed, it would take two days to be completely filled. And this was with most of its mana being consumed by the Natural Demiplane. The dried-up energy started being replenished once again just like a plant regaining its colors. With the huge consumption of mana, the developing Natural Demiplane slowly started rapidly evolving, the world expanded and evolved.

After two days, the chaos within the Natural Demiplane ceased. After frantically maturing, the Mana Vines once again turned into thick emerald vines extending straight from the ground into the void. The forest of Mana Vines covered over forty kilometers, but it spread up along the length of the Mana Vines, expanding a dozen times as they reached into the void.

The differences between the Demiplane's four poles became even more pronounced. In the west, the earth became thicker and started producing metal, crystals and other things. The eastern gales whistled over the sea, and lightning fell repeatedly. In the south, blazing lava erupted from the volcanoes, and as long as there was heat, those flames would never stop burning. As for the north, crystal-like dark blue ice started condensing.

This was a really good thing for the Demiplane. It meant that after stabilizing, the Laws of the four elements had a deeper evolution. From being simple, they started becoming more and more complex. Once branches of the Laws appeared, the Laws would become even more complete.

It was like a sapling taking root in the ground. As it grew, more and more branches would be formed until it turned into a tall and lush tree.

With this growth of the Natural Demiplane, only the four Laws could be said to be branching out and frantically growing. The Spatial Law had just become a small sapling, while the Light and Darkness Law only started to germinate, who knew how long it would take before they started growing.

He rested for two days to settle his Laws' comprehension before making the Natural Demiplane recover. Then, that deadly exclusion feeling surged and the surroundings once again turned into that boundless starry sky. Lin Yun had already made his preparations and continued his resistance.

Lin Yun started the neverending painful training with Agalon, while on the other side, the Rodney Family, who had been humiliated, was completely silent.

Three days after the attack on the Gilded Rose, a convoy of the Gilded Rose was raided by bandits at the frontier of the Odin Kingdom.

That kind of matter wasn't surprising, they only needed to strengthen their defenses. Convoys would be raided every year, it was enough to support a powerful mage family. The number of bandit forces spread around the Odin Kingdom simply couldn't be counted.

They didn't dare to rob powerful forces, and powerful forces didn't feel like wasting power on them. Ordinary forces, or even smaller forces, were their main targets.

There were also forces, like the Gilded Rose, that had no influence in the Odin Kingdom.

After being raided for the third time, Faleau felt that something wasn't right. But the person he dispatched to look out for clues found out that the other side were really bandits.

A week later...

"Sir Faleau, our convoy of goods and materials has been snatched again. The losses were huge this time, there were some Perfect Grade Hope Potions and a few bottles of Perfect Grade Volcano Potions that had been compounded at the headquarters.

"However, we figured out where these bandits came from..."

Faleau had a calm yet unsightly expression. It was the fourth time the convoy was raided not far from its destination. It was on the golden trade path between the Andlusa Kingdom and Odin Kingdom, the path that convoys had to take to enter the Odin Kingdom.

Previously, using airships to transport goods was faster and cheaper, but with the Rodney Family, that method was too dangerous. The other side could casually dispatch a Heaven Rank powerhouse or a battleship to crash the airships within a minute.

And with that method, as long as the other side wasn't completely unscrupulous, they wouldn't be able to figure out the origin of the attack.

Transporting the goods on the ground and hiring a caravan was the best method. Defending it would be relatively easier, moreover, they would be able to transport a few times more goods and material at once, it would just take more time.

When transporting on the ground, they would inevitably have to pass through the golden trade road, but now, they were robbed multiple times in a row and they hadn't been able to figure out the origin of the attacks, because there were too many bandits. Almost all of the Odin Kingdom's famous bandit groups were active around there, waiting for the time when fat sheeps would pass every year.

Now that they figured out where the bandits came from, it was much easier to find a way to deal with it. After all, bandits relied on being able to come and go as they pleased, their hideout would remain hidden.

"Where is their hideout?"

Faleau was fuming with a dark expression.

This kind of thing happened in the Andlusa Kingdom when the Gilded Rose was in its early stage of development. As long as they discovered the nest of the bandits, they would immediately dispatch someone to raze it to the ground.

Later, no one dared to make a move against the Gilded Rose's goods. Faleau really hadn't expected something like that to happen several times in a row in the Odin Kingdom.

The man had an awkward expression as he reported, "Sir Faleau, after going through the clues several times, I found the trail and discovered their hideout. It's over a kilometer away from the Gilded Rose. Their forces are pretty good, but not to the point where we can't deal with them. However..."

"However?"

"However, the bandits' hideout is in a territory controlled by the Rodney Family. If we dispatch our people to eliminate it, we might not be able to get close. After all, we are currently at odds with the Rodney Family..."

Faleau's expression sank.

Rodney Family...

With the Gilded Rose's current relationship with the Rodney family, if they dispatched people to deal with the bandits, they would definitely be unable to enter the Rodney Family's territory. The other side would definitely kill them regardless of their reason for entering their territory. They would definitely bite the Gilded Rose as a provocation in order to start a war.

After all, it's not like that kind of thing hadn't happened before. Using bandits as an excuse to enter another force's territory and launching a sneak attack on the other side's forces was a strategy commonly used.

'Damned, the Rodney Family definitely knows about this. Or the bandits might even be controlled by the Rodney Family. Unless we directly kill the bandits when they attack, wiping them out would prove difficult.'

After analyzing the situation, Faleau understood the condition of the Gilded Rose.

After a moment of silence, Faleau took some people and left the Gilded Rose to visit the person in charge of the Rodney Family in Neverwinter City.

That Rodney was actually very enthusiastic. After hearing of Faleau's visit, he immediately came up to welcome him.

"Ah, I know now why I was in a very good mood today, it turns out Sir Faleau visited us in person, truly a distinguished guest, please come in."

Ivan was the person in charge of the Rodney Family's matters in Neverwinter City. He had a big smile on his face as he led Faleau to the meeting room.

"Sir Faleau, this is a special product of our Family, the Rootless Fruit, there are very few of them and they are only taken out to welcome very special guests. Not only do they taste very good, they also restore mana, give it a try.

"Ah, I almost forgot. What matter brought Sir Faleau here?"

Ivan was very cordial, as if he was entertaining a very distinguished guest, but Faleau's heart sank a little.

"Sir Ivan, I came today on behalf of the Gilded Rose to discuss something with the Rodney Family. Our convoys have been raided on the golden trade road several times and our losses are quite big. We just confirmed that the attackers are the Death Sickle Bandits and their hideout is within the Rodney Family's territory..."

Faleau had yet to finish his sentence when Ivan wryly smiled and started complaining.

"Turns out to be the Death Sickle Bandits, that's truly unfortunate. These damned bandits actually started raiding the golden trade road. I won't hide it from you, we have been distressed about the Death Sickle Bandits for a very long time.

"These damned bandits are hidden in our Rodney Family's territory multiple times, logically speaking, we should have killed them long ago.

"But it's actually very troublesome, these damned bandits are very powerful. We dispatched people to get rid of them three times, but our forces ended up coming back unsuccessful.

"We even dispatched a Heaven Rank powerhouse to attack, but it was completely fruitless. Not only are they very powerful, their hideout's defenses are extremely good.

“The Rodney Family once went all-out to destroy the Death Sickle Bandits, but the people we dispatched only found an empty hideout. They all scattered to the surrounding cities and villages, assimilated into the locals. And those damned locals completely shielded the bandits, we couldn’t just kill everyone.

“To be honest, our Rodney Family is very distressed about this. We have no way to deal with these cockroaches...”

Faleau opened his mouth, but swallowed back his words. He had a very unsightly expression, and as he looked at Ivan’s distressed expression, he felt like slapping him.

‘F*ck, is that idiot f*cking with me? How could there be an uncontrolled bandit group in the Rodney Family’s territory that even dares to steal from them and still live well?’

‘Damned b*stard, are you treating me like a child? Do you even believe in that excuse?’

Faleau’s lungs were bursting with anger, but he couldn’t just let it out. It’s not like he could just question the other side’s statement.

What a joke. This was just an excuse provided by the Rodney Family. Most of the time, this kind of game had to be played by the rules. Knowing what’s going on is one thing, but making a move is another.

Ivan kept complaining for a while before moving onto another topic.

“Regarding the Gilded Rose’s misfortune, I have to express my sincerest regrets. Rest assured, Sir Faleau, I’ll immediately report this matter to our Family and our Family will definitely dispatch people to eliminate those damned bandits as soon as possible.

“But, Sir Faleau, you shouldn’t hold a lot of hope, we might still be unable to eliminate these bandits. They might only behave for a few days...”

The people Faleau brought were all holding in their anger. Ivan said that the Gilded Rose was unfortunate and only expressed his regrets, saying that they couldn’t do anything about it. As for eliminating these bandits, he did say that it would be done as soon as possible, but this meant nothing. It could take a year, ten years...

Chapter 1263 Return and Destruction

Faleau softly sighed, “Sir Ivan, please inform the higher-ups of the Rodney Family that our Gilded Rose can dispatch some people to annihilate the bandits. I hope the Rodney Family would facilitate things.” Ivan immediately consented.

“Rest assured Sir Faleau, I hate those maggots even more than you do, I’ll immediately dispatch someone to inform the family. The family will send someone to get in contact with the Gilded Rose. At that time we will also dispatch people to eliminate those damned bandits.”

After saying that, Ivan took out the magic beacon and wrote a magic letter in front of Faleau. Soon, the magic beacon received an answer.

“Look, Sir Faleau, you can rest assured, the Family answered that they will quickly come to a decision concerning this matter. You don’t have to worry about it.”

Seeing Ivan's enthusiasm, Faleau had to hold himself back and remain silent.

Faleau was escorted by Ivan and left the Rodney Family's store in anger.

Looking at Faleau's back, Ivan smirked.

'Gilded Rose? Haha, a bunch of fools that dare to set themselves against our Rodney Family. This is just the start, you Andlusan country bumpkins dare to compete for business in the Odin Kingdom? You dare to set yourself against the Rodney Family? Idiots...'

After turning around, Ivan instructed the people around him.

"If someone from the Gilded Rose comes again, say that I'm not here. Tell them that I went back to the family in order to speed up the elimination of the bandit group."

As for Faleau, his expression sunk after returning to the Gilded Rose and he was loudly gritting his teeth.

'F*cking Rodneys, I would bet anything that the bandits are the Rodney Family's subordinates. It wouldn't be surprising coming from these idiots.'

'They won't eliminate that bandit group, they'll also prevent us from entering their territory. We can only strengthen the convoy's defenses and wait for those bandits to appear to get rid of them.'

'But we can't send a Heaven Rank powerhouse with every single convoy, the scale of the convoys and frequency keeps on increasing. Even Heaven Rank powerhouses can't take care of all of them, there will always be a convoy to plunder...'

'These damned wretched guys...'

'What should be done?'

While Faleau was sitting in his office, seething, Lin Yun finally finished his painful training.

Lin Yun was standing at the hilltop, surrounded by the endless starry sky. Although the shadow of the Demiplane was compressed to the extreme, it was clearly a lot clearer and the Laws' projection had become a lot more complex and powerful.

Suddenly, a powerful aura burst out of Lin Yun's body and sharply increased a few times.

Following Lin Yun's burst of power, the starry sky thoroughly dissipated and the mana surging out of Lin Yun's body spread around like a tide.

Colorful light shrouded Lin Yun as the four elements condensed into small fairies revolving around Lin Yun, seemingly cheering him on. The shadows surrounding Lin Yun also transformed from deep void into silver white fluctuations.

It took less than ten minutes for Lin Yun's aura to slowly dissipate. After opening his eyes once again, Lin Yun couldn't help grinning.

As for Agalon, who was sitting in front of him, surprise could be seen within his smile.

"What a frightening guy, you are bound to walk a lot farther than me in the future, your Natural Demiplane's development is a lot more perfect and stronger than I thought."

“You advanced to the 3rd Rank of the Heaven realm in less than a month, and your comprehension of the Laws is much stronger than those at the same rank. Earth, Wind, Water, Fire, Space, you already comprehended five kinds of Laws. Especially the four Elemental Laws, every one of them is at a much higher rank compared to people of the same rank.

“Your Extraordinary Power has crossed the limit and can definitely compare to 4th Rank Heaven powerhouses. It’s unbelievable that you already comprehended so many Laws, this might be because you developed your Natural Demiplane well from the start.

“You just advanced, stop training for now and return.”

Lin Yun had been suppressed by Agalon for a month. Although he had been given a few days to rest, he had been continuously pushed to his limits. Thinking about it, Lin Yun couldn’t help smiling.

Agalon waved his hand and starlight covered Lin Yun. Lin Yun instantly disappeared and reappeared in Neverwinter City, and it wasn’t far from the Gilded Rose’s street.

But the people in the surroundings apparently didn’t notice Lin Yun, it was as if everything was normal.

This made Lin Yun sigh, Agalon’s strength already reached such an outrageous degree... Lin Yun didn’t even feel anything and Neverwinter City’s defenses didn’t even sense anything. Him appearing here with no one noticing showed that Agalon’s power was already strong enough to change the Laws and influence others’ souls.

After shaking his head, Lin Yun walked towards the Gilded Rose.

In the depths of the Gilded Rose, Faleau’s face was ashen and his fingers turned white as he read the report in his hands.

Faleau obviously saw through the Rodney Family’s trick and discreetly dispatched Layford and Pabiete to defend the convoys.

They got some good results twice, but it didn’t have much effect. The crafty bandits only sent some men to probe before completely disappearing.

After discovering that Layford and Pabiete were in the convoy, the bandits immediately dispersed and fled. But the convoys that didn’t have Heaven Rank powerhouses were immediately raided.

Those bandits weren’t pressed by time, they would be able to eat for a long time just from one successful raid, it didn’t matter to them how many times they raided, but the Gilded Rose couldn’t continue like that. Their inventory of materials and items made at the headquarters came from the Andlusa Kingdom. The Gilded Rose’s business would be affected if it continued, or it might have already been...

If this went on for another month, the Gilded Rose would have no other choice but to reduce the amount of items they were selling while still keeping up with their part of the contracts they had signed. This would be a serious blow to the Gilded Rose’s newfound prestige. And if they weren’t able to keep up with the supply, expanding couldn’t even be brought up.

As Faleau was brooding, Lin Yun opened the door and walked in.

Seeing Lin Yun, Faleau almost threw himself at him, startling Lin Yun.

“Faleau? What’s going on? Why do you look like that?”

Faleau’s eyes were bloodshot and he looked exhausted, as if he hadn’t slept for days.

Faleau grinned and pulled Lin Yun over.

“Sir Merlin, ahhh. You are back. Something happened to the Gilded Rose while you were away.

“Those damned bandits attacked the Gilded Rose’s convoys several times, making the Gilded Rose suffer great losses every time. If this continues, the caravans we are cooperating with will reject the profits and stop cooperating with us.

“And those damned bandits’ hideout is in the Rodney Family’s territory. They won’t destroy the bandit group by themselves and won’t let us enter their territory to destroy the bandit group.

“Those damned bandits are attacking the Gilded Rose’s convoys without restraint. The golden trade road can no longer be used. If this continues for another month, our supply won’t be able to keep up with the demand even if the forces of the Odin Kingdom are supplying us with materials

“At best, we will last three months before being unable to sell our best-sellers due to empty inventory, we will only be able to supply those forces according to the contracts...”

Faleau kept complaining, he had been getting strands of white hair over the days. He wanted to send someone to deal with the bandits, but if the forces of the Gilded Rose were dispatched, the Rodney Family would definitely find countless excuses to prevent the Gilded Rose’s forces from entering their territory.

After listening to Faleau’s complaints for a while, Lin Yun frowned. He hadn’t expected the Rodney Family to start plotting instead of attacking upfront.

“Good, Faleau, leave this matter to me. You don’t have to worry about it. Keep moving the convoys, there definitely won’t be a bandit group attacking next time. Give me the coordinates of their hideout.”

Once he got the coordinates, Lin Yun immediately left Neverwinter City.

Once there was no interference from Neverwinter City’s defenses, Lin Yun opened a Spatial Door with the coordinates he got from Faleau.

A silver white door appeared in front of Lin Yun, and disappeared after he went through it.

Several thousand kilometers away, there was a hundred-meter-tall wall inside a valley formed by three mountains. The wall was sealing the entrance to the valley, and half a dozen ten-meter-tall watchtowers were spread on the mountains. There seemed to be a fort bustling with excitement inside the valley.

Lin Yun walked out of the Spatial Door at a high altitude and looked at the valley below. He could even see a large number of goods with the Gilded Rose’s symbol inside the valley. Those were some local products transported to the Odin Kingdom, or items manufactured at the Gilded Rose’s headquarters.

There seemed to be a celebratory feast happening in that valley. Many people were holding onto the Gilded Rose's alchemy items, and some of them were even operating the Gilded Rose's auxiliary puppets.

There were also several villages situated in the surroundings of the valley, but from the inhabitants' appearance, they didn't look like good people. Lin Yun even saw a village where a dozen women were distributed as rewards.

But the main members of the Death Sickle bandit group were in that fort. There were many Sword Saints inside as well as a few Archmages. They were all sitting and appeared to be very enthusiastic.

Lin Yun sneered.

'These idiots are probably celebrating their successful raid. There is actually this kind of bandit fort in the Rodney Family's territory? And they dare to fight head on with the Rodney Family?

'Are the Rodney Family's people idiots? Or are they really thinking that others are idiots?

'Without the support of the Rodney Family, how could this kind of bandit group survive in the Rodney Family's territory?

'And the surrounding villages are even more of a joke. The bandits sneak into the surrounding villages every time the Rodney Family makes a move?

'Are the Rodneys that kindhearted? If there really was an uncontrolled bandit group, then let alone those villages, which were obviously part of the bandit group, the Rodney Family would even raze to the ground ordinary villages without any care.

'Since the Rodney Family think that getting rid of this bandit group is impossible, I'll be nice and get rid of these guys for them.'

Lin Yun slowly descended, his mana surging and emitting a four-colored radiance. His Extraordinary Power fluctuations spread out as a Four Element Bomb rapidly condensed in the air. Lin Yun's frantically surging mana rushed out of his body and poured into that Four Element Bomb.

The partying bandits discovered Lin Yun a kilometer above them when the terrifying mana fluctuations appeared in the sky, but it was too late by the time they discovered him, that Four Element Bomb was already falling down.

The alarmed shrieks barely had time to echo before the Four Element Bomb exploded in the center of the fort, emitting a loud burst of mana.

The explosion loudly echoed and suppressed all the sounds at once. A big flaming mushroom cloud instantly rose up to several hundred meters and the terrifying shockwave swept most of that fort, enveloping it in a glaring radiance.

Lin Yun kept descending while coldly looking at the destroyed fort. The Book of Mantras and the Spell Wheel appeared next to him simultaneously.

A 100-meter-tall gate appeared in the air and flames and gales curled around that gate. As it slowly opened, a flood of endless flames and gales spurted out from within and poured onto the fort below. The fort's air defenses were like paper in front of that fierce power.

As for Enderfa, he controlled the Spell Wheel and fiercely cast an elemental storm with a thickness surpassing over a hundred meters.

Lin Yun raised his Draconic Staff and a huge wheel shadow appeared behind him. A four-colored radiance permeated the wheel shadow and countless law runes of the four elements surged before condensing into a Four Element Bomb.

Four Element Bombs comparable to 8th Tier Spells rained down on the fort, and the fierce explosion thoroughly pressured all the sounds coming from below.

The hot flames, lacerating gales, the storm of destruction, as well as Lin Yun's barrage of Four Element Bombs, turned the advantageous terrain, which was easy to guard but hard to attack, into a cage. Everyone was trapped inside and they could only passively endure the destruction falling down from the sky.

The fort's entrance had already been destroyed by the fierce powers, but that didn't give these bandits an opportunity to escape since the rubbles completely blocked the entrance.

The fierce explosions continued for a dozen minutes. When Lin Yun stopped casting, the bandits' hideout had already turned into a sea of flames.

All the buildings had become ruins, and those partying bandits could no longer cheer. Corpses were either torn to shreds or turned into charcoal.

Even the puppets from the Gilded Rose's convoys were turned into scrap iron.

The dust slowly dissipated and only a mournful scene of destruction could be seen, everything had been destroyed and not a single living lifeform remained.

In the villages around the Death Sickle's hideout, those that were celebrating their achievements were completely scared. They all returned to their homes and shivered in fear, no one dared to come out. Even if a few of the rewarded women escaped, no one would chase after them, in fear that they would anger Lin Yun.

Lin Yun calmly watched the hideout turning to rubble, a dozen law runes flickering in his eyes as he searched for bandits that might be hiding inside. Under that fierce explosion, all the weaklings already died. But the more powerful ones might have survived the first wave of attack and gone into hiding.

The place was surrounded by three mountains. As long as those more powerful bandits escaped to the heart of the mountains, killing them would prove difficult.

Lin Yun coldly looked down and quickly discovered several passages in the hideouts, all leading to the core of the mountains. There might be many people hiding in. Unless Lin Yun blew up a Four Element Bomb inside the mountains, the people inside wouldn't be in too much trouble.

This time, Lin Yun came to establish his reputation. It wasn't just to humiliate the Rodney Family, he also wanted to make others know that the Gilded Rose wasn't to be trifled with.

This bandit's hideout was guarded very securely, ordinary forces simply couldn't deal with them. Even if they had Heaven Rank powerhouses fiercely blowing up the place. As long as they dodged and reached the shelters, they might return unscathed.

As for the losses, at worst they would have to keep raiding...

Many things that were inconvenient for the Rodney Family to handle would be directly given to the Death Sickles group and it would have nothing to do with the Rodney Family. Publicly, the Death Sickles was known as a headache for the Rodney Family, they had even been "humiliated" multiple times by that bandit force.

Destroying the Death Sickles bandits was the same as cutting a finger of the Rodney Family.

Moreover, they could only clap and thank Lin Yun for helping them clear away the bandits.

In the future, other bandit forces, whether they were real bandit forces or fake bandit forces, would all have to consider the consequences of attacking the Gilded Rose's convoy.

Lin Yun confirmed that there had been many defensive shelters dug under the fort, but wasn't able to confirm how many bandits were hidden within, or if there were even bandits hidden within. But this no longer mattered.

He raised his Draconic Staff and the Book of Death appeared in his left hand. The Book of Death's shackles collapsed and the book automatically opened to the Element Chapter. The four-colored radiance instantaneously transformed into a pure earthen yellow radiance. It was followed by the All-Encompassing Chapter's blossoming with light.

Lin Yun was enveloped in an earthen yellow radiance. Then, a large number of magic patterns covered Lin Yun's body and an earthen yellow rune appeared on his forehead.

Chapter 1264 – Earth and steel

Earth Elemental Spirit Incarnation! It was a powerful spell reinforcing the power of earth elemental spells. Moreover, the user was immune to all low tier earth spells. If the caster's Earth Law's comprehension was a lot worse than Lin Yun, none of their spells would be effective.

As Lin Yun started chanting his spell, perfect basic law runes appeared one after another. The citrine-like law runes permeated the surroundings and formed a hundred-meter-big circular array in the air.

The wheel shadow behind Lin Yun also emitted an earthen-colored radiance which enveloped the array. As he chanted, Lin Yun threw a pitch-black lump of earth in the center of the array.

This was Elemental Earth Essence, it could be used to reinforce the power of earth spells. It was very precious and could only be produced in earth elemental planes. It would only condense in the depths of environments rich in earth elements in other types of planes.

In a small village in the distance, a sinister middle-aged man wearing a dark golden robe noticed Lin Yun's movements through a window. His expression suddenly changed when he saw the huge dazzling array appear and he then unhesitatingly rushed out and flew towards Lin Yun.

“Damned b*stard, you dare?! Everyone related to you will die, just wait for our Death Sickle’s retaliation!”

The middle-aged man flew to the sky, brandishing his magic staff. Dense earth elements condensed into a thirty-meter-big earthen hand in the air and fiercely swatted towards Lin Yun.

Lin Yun faintly glanced at that middle-aged man before ignoring him and continuing his casting.

The power of the rock-like hand sharply plummeted when it reached the ten-meter-radius around Lin Yun. By the time this earthen hand fiercely swatted Lin Yun’s Fusion Shield, the shield’s mana, law runes, and elemental power simultaneously burst out and thoroughly warded off that earthen hand. Lin Yun’s Fusion Shield slightly shook, but Lin Yun remained motionless and the incantation wasn’t interrupted.

The middle-aged man was livid, his sudden attack hadn’t interrupted Lin Yun’s incantation. Earth magic was most proficient in impact power, if an earth spell hit, it would definitely display the strongest physical power.

But even so, Lin Yun’s spellcasting wasn’t interrupted. It looked like Lin Yun’s incantation was about to end. That earthen spell had already dissipated and the earth elements already merged into that spell.

The middle-aged man was somewhat worried.

‘Sh*t, how could that guy have such a strong control over his spell? I can’t even interrupt him!

‘If this goes on and the spell is released, the Death Sickle bandit group would be thoroughly destroyed. Who knows how much time and effort would be needed to rebuild it...’

Counterspell, Rockfall, Summon Meteorite, Gravity...

A series of spells was released, but not a single spell could interrupt Lin Yun’s casting. Both Enderfa and Syudos were watching the show from Lin Yun’s sides.

“What an idiot, a 2nd Rank Rock Mage thinks he can interrupt Merlin’s casting? Truly too naive. Merlin’s mana control and spell control have already reached an unfathomable level. Moreover, he just came from that terrifying old man’s place.

“Under the suppression of that old man, Merlin’s control of Laws already exceeded its limits. That idiot’s comprehension of Earth isn’t as good as Merlin’s, yet he still dares to use earth spells against Merlin, what a stupid and pathetic guy...”

Enderfa’s three faces were ridiculing the middle-aged man while floating next to Lin Yun. He didn’t even need to stop that guy, because with the Earth Elemental Spirit Incarnation, those spells were no different from tickles.

After trying to interrupt him for a dozen seconds without any effect, the middle-aged man could only stare blankly as the dazzling array spreading over four hundred meters condensed into an earthen yellow dazzling sphere which fell on the fort.

A dozen Sword Saints and four Archmages were rushing through a three-meter-tall winding passage inside the belly of one of the mountains. They had been the fastest to escape and only suffered damage from the first Four Element Bomb, they managed to escape the following attacks.

“It’s definitely the Gilded Rose, those idiots dared to attack our fort. Hmpf, just you wait, after this, none of the convoys of the Gilded Rose will be let off... No, none of the forces cooperating with the Gilded Rose will be able to escape.

“In any case, our public name is the Death Sickle bandit group, it has nothing to do with the family. Remember to let the family step in, the Gilded Rose privately dispatched people into the family’s territory, this is a provocation to our Rodney Family...”

“Right, the Gilded Rose must be eliminated. Their items are really good, there would be no market left for our Rodney Family if they keep growing.

“All the idiots who thought they could challenge our Rodney Family have already been taken care of, this Gilded Rose is the same, it’s just that they have to suffer the bloody revenge of the Death Sickle bandit group...”

The few Archmages gritted their teeth with calm expressions as they swore to retaliate. Those Sword Saints all had dark expressions filled with rage and hatred, they were all waiting to retaliate once they got out of there.

One of the Archmages suddenly came to a halt, shock visible in his eyes.

“Earth Tremor?”

The entire mountain started shivering, rocks kept falling down within the tunnels. The tunnels kept shaking and the tremors became stronger and stronger.

“Sh*t, hurry up and protect yourself! It’s an Earth Tremor Spell! That damned Heaven Mage can actually use an Earth Tremor! Support the tunnel, we definitely can’t allow our place to collapse.”

Aura and mana simultaneously appeared inside the narrow tunnel, supporting the ceiling within a dozen meters and preventing the tunnel from caving in.

As long as they could support this area, they would have no lack of methods to escape once the Earth Tremor was over. The Sword Saints could forcibly dig out a passage while the earth mages could keep splitting the earth open and create a way out. There were a lot of methods, as long they managed to survive their current ordeal.

The mountain shook increasingly more violently, and the pressure kept increasing. After a few seconds, the side supported by a 3rd Rank Sword Saint collapsed and rocks loudly fell down, instantly crushing the Sword Saint’s Aura Defense and reducing the Sword Saint into mincemeat.

All the bandits were stunned. The next second, the area covered by another Sword Saint collapsed and that Sword Saint ended up buried under rocks and soil. Blood dyed the earth red, and it looked like blood was forcibly squeezed out of the soil.

They didn’t need to think to know that the Sword Saint had been flattened by the earth, crushed to death.

“It’s not an Earth Tremor Spell, it’s an Earthquake and an Extreme Heavy Spell! That’s a hybrid Extraordinary Spell!” One of the Archmages shrieked.

The rock and soil above his head loudly collapsed, crushing his shield in an instant. The tunnel loudly collapsed in less than five seconds, crushing all of them.

It was like the several-hundred-meter-tall mountain above their head thoroughly pressured their bodies. Let alone a Sword Saint or an Archmage, even a Low Rank Heaven powerhouse would have been pressed to death.

That wasn't just a few dozen tons or a few hundred tons, it was at least a few hundred thousands tons forcibly pushing down.

Looking at it from the sky, the three mountains surrounding the fort fiercely shook and an invisible and terrifying power forcibly pressured that U-shaped mountain range. The Earthquake loosened the structure of the mountains while the Extreme Heavy pressed down with several dozen times the power of gravity, leaving only one outcome.

All the cracks within the mountains were squeezed and the tunnels caved in until not a single crack was left within the mountains. The earth was even compressed until it was as hard as rock, only then did the mountains return to normal.

Anyone below the 3rd Rank of the Heaven realm, even earth mages, could only end up crushed to death.

After finishing his cast, Lin Yun no longer paid attention to the fort below. If someone managed to survive that, it could only be said that fate was on their side.

Lin Yun turned towards the 2nd Rank Heaven Earth Mage and sneered, "The Odin Kingdom is truly worthy of being the strongest in Noscent, even a group of bandits can have a 2nd Rank Heaven Mage. It seems that being a bandit is really promising."

Lin Yun's mockery made the middle-aged mage's expression turn unsightly. If not for the fact that Lin Yun had been casting a 9th Tier hybrid spell, he would have never appeared. It didn't matter how many cannon foddors of the Death Sickle bandit group died, after all, a lot of them would die while pillaging and they would only need to replenish the numbers from other places. That kind of low rank bandits were never lacking.

But Sword Saints and Archmages were all members of the Rodney Family, even those first-rate Archmages were highly valued in the family, many of them were descendants of the family's Heaven Rank powerhouses dispatched to the Death Sickle bandit group to gain experience.

Knowing about the Death Sickle or even entering the Death Sickle bandit group meant that they were valued by the family. After gaining experience in the Death Sickle bandit group, they would inevitably become important members of the family. It wasn't surprising that new powerhouses would suddenly appear in the Rodney Family, they were used to it.

The middle-aged mage's expression suddenly turned unsightly. He couldn't just leave immediately after coming out, but he could feel that he had no chance in a direct confrontation.

Unfortunately, Lin Yun had already made his move before the middle-aged mage could even think about it. Rock Spikes as sharp as Wind Blades encircled him, leaving no room to escape within several hundred

meters. The tip of every rock had a wisp of Extraordinary Power, making these Rock Spikes surpass their own tier.

Forced to fight, the middle-aged mage put his thought aside and raised a Fusion Shield before casting spells with his staff.

Unfortunately his rank wasn't comparable to Lin Yun's and his Law comprehension was even worse than Lin Yun by a wide margin. After all, Lin Yun's law comprehension was a lot higher than mage on the same rank.

After fully using Earth Elemental Spirit Incarnation to its fullest, the other side's earth spells would sharply weaken when coming within ten meters of Lin Yun. The condensed earth elements would go out of control, and the closer they were, the more earth elements would "defect" to Lin Yun's side. By the time the spells reached Lin Yun's Fusion Shield, they would be half as powerful as they should be.

And that was because the other side used Extraordinary Power, if he had used ordinary earth spells, the spells would have already turned into ordinary earth elements by the time they reached his shield.

And Lin Yun didn't rush to kill that guy, he in fact kept his strength under control in fear that he would carelessly kill that guy...

A living "Heaven Rank Bandit" had the greatest value. Using this living bandit as a bargaining chip when negotiating with the Rodney Family would be a trump card.

Lin Yun and the middle-aged mage fought in the sky while many people fled the villages in fear, apparently very confused. Although the hybrid spell Lin Yun had released only targeted the three mountains forming a U-shape, it affected everything within a dozen kilometers.

Unfortunately, aside from the fort, there were only villages attached to the Death Sickle bandits within ten kilometers, and most of the people within these villages were either reserve bandits or dealt with logistics.

In that chaos, most people fled to open fields. Afraid that their houses would collapse and crush them to death because of the earthquake.

But in the chaos, there were still two people hiding inside a house and watching the battle from a window.

After observing the battle for a while, one of the first-rate Archmages worryingly said, "What should we do now, that idiot John actually rushed out... He definitely isn't that man's opponent. The other side is a 3rd Rank Heaven Mage who seem to be a bit stronger than other 3rd Rank Heaven Mages.

"That idiot John is going to die sooner or later..."

The other Archmage shook his head with a sinister expression, "I'm not worried about John dying. How did that idiot even advance to the Heaven Rank?."

"Our Rodney Family can use a unique kind of magic after advancing to the Heaven Rank. I'm more worried that John would use the steel spells of the Family, at that time, the family's control of the Death Sickle bandit group would be completely exposed.

“The family would be in big trouble if that happens. Apart from our Family’s Heaven Rank powerhouses, no outsider can comprehend steel magic. The Death Sickle bandit group made great contributions to our family over the years, but I don’t know how many people were offended.

“Even if others know that the Death Sickle bandit group is controlled by our Rodney Family, no one will dare to trouble our family without concrete evidence. But if John is exposed, that Mafa Merlin would blow it up...”

Just as the two were worried, the battle situation in the sky changed. John Rodney was completely suppressed without Lin Yun even making a move. He couldn’t even raise his head under the pressure and would fall at any time.

At this time, John took out a silver chunk of metal and started chanting a coarse incantation similar to the sound produced by two pieces of metal rubbing against one another.

Hearing this incantation and seeing the silver metal chunk in John’s hands, the two Archmages’ expressions suddenly changed.

“Damnit, John is really an idiot. He actually dares to take out a medium and cast a steel spell, he will thoroughly expose the family’s secret!

“Everyone will know he was a direct member of the Rodney Family!”

“What should we do now? We can’t let him cast that spell or we will be in huge trouble!”

The two Rodney Archmages were originally only dispatched here to observe, after all, the Death Sickle’s hideout had already been exposed and the Gilded Rose could dispatch troops at any time.

At that time, John and them were supposed to intercept them and use the pretext that the Gilded Rose invaded the Rodney Family’s territory to drive the Gilded Rose away.

But they hadn’t expected the Gilded Rose to not send forces and that only a 3rd Rank Heaven Mage would show up, eradicating the entire Death Sickle bandit nest and burying both wealth and bandits under the earth.

Now, it was even being revealed that the Death Sickle was controlled by the Rodney Family, and not just controlled, but rather than they had members of the Rodney Family among them!

Speculations had only been speculations before, there had been no evidence. The Death Sickle bandit group was only a repulsive parasite living inside their territory and even the low ranked personnel of the Rodney Family hated the Death Sickle bandit group

But if it was publicly revealed, there might be chaos in the family.

The two were pale, worried and angry, but they couldn’t do anything, because John had already started the incantation.

At that time, Lin Yun slightly frowned and crossed several hundred meters in an instant, appearing ten meters away from John.

At the same time, countless perfect basic law runes condensed at the tip of Lin Yun's staff and transformed into a two-meter-long pitch-black Wind Blade.

Lin Yun softly waved his magic staff and that pitch-black Wind Blade instantly disappeared. It was like a shadow instantly flying out and crossing over a kilometer before disappearing in the horizon.

John's chant instantly stopped, his pupils dilated and the radiance flashing within his eyes instantly disappeared.

A second later, a crack appeared on the top half of John's Fusion Shield before it turned into a flood of light and dissipated. And on John's face, a small bloody thread spread from his forehead to his chin as his head was directly cut in two.

It's just that the Wind Blade was so fast that John's body couldn't react. Although he was cut in two, the two halves didn't separate and only a thin bloody thread could be seen.

If one were to analyze his head, they would find that his brain was still intact. With the vitality of a Heaven Rank powerhouse, that kind of sudden wound could instantly heal due to the strong vitality. Even with his head cut in half, he wouldn't die and the slight damage to his head could be healed.

Chapter 1265 Perfect Acting and Exorbitant Price

Unfortunately, he still died because his soul was cut in half. His soul wasn't that powerful after all. The attack only felt like a needle piercing his skin, but the pain was unimaginable to his soul. His soul was cut in half and he died in an instant.

The Heaven Rank powerhouse died and his soul was torn apart. The earth elements converging around John's body rapidly dispersed and boundless mana burst out of his body, soaring in the sky like smoke.

It took less than ten seconds for the mana covering John's body to thoroughly disappear. His body also fell towards the ground.

Lin Yun released a two-meter-big Mana Hand and caught John's corpse. He stripped him of all his items and even directly collected that silver-colored piece of metal.

In a small mountain village in the distance, the two sweating Archmages sighed in relief seeing John's death.

"Fortunately, that moron was eliminated..."

"Yes, fortunately he was killed before releasing that steel spell, or this would have become troublesome..."

"Right, it's better for him to have died. At least he died as a Death Sickle bandit, he had nothing to do with our Rodney Family..."

Enderfa floated towards Lin Yun, his three faces solemnly looking at John's corpse.

"Merlin, why did you kill him like that? He is definitely a direct member of the Rodney Family, didn't you see him taking out a medium to cast? That was a unique metal material, he was about to cast a steel spell of the Rodney Family.

“I wanted to see it... Moreover, that spell would have exposed his identity as a member of the Rodney Family and exposed their relation to the Death Sickle bandit group. This was more than enough evidence...”

“I would have liked to see how the Rodney Family would be able to keep their foothold in the Odin Kingdom once it was known that their direct descendants controlled the Death Sickle bandit group.”

Enderfa grumbled a bit, but Lin Yun only smiled.

“I purposefully stopped him from casting that steel spell. Killing him if he cast that spell wouldn’t have been great.

“If I could capture him alive before he released that steel spell, I would have gotten a Heaven Rank Death Sickle bandit, that would have been worth a lot of money. But a living Heaven Rank Rodney is completely worthless...”

“If he cast that spell, I wouldn’t have been able to kill him. If I did, the Rodney Family would have counterattacked, saying that I infiltrated their family’s territory and killed a Heaven Mage of their family who was dealing with the Death Sickle bandit group...”

Hearing Lin Yun’s words, Enderfa suddenly came to a realization and noticed Lin Yun’s smiling expression.

“I have to say, Merlin, you are getting increasingly more wicked. But you are right, you only killed a Heaven Rank Death Sickle bandit, the Rodney Family can only grind their teeth and spit out blood. Moreover, they have to keep smiling and thank you even though you killed one of their own.

“You are truly getting more and more evil...”

Lin Yun smiled.

“It is how it is. It would be impossible to discuss with the Rodney Family if he released that steel spell, but now? Hehe...”

Lin Yun landed on the ground while holding onto John’s corpse and calmly waited. At the same time, those two Archmages in the distance quickly sent a simple report to their family.

In less than half an hour, a member of the Rodney Family came and listened to the detailed report of the two Archmages before sighing in relief.

Playing by the rules was still necessary. Since there was no proof, the Rodney Family could deny all they wanted and no one could do anything. But if there was iron-clad evidence brought up to light, that matter would become very troublesome and the Rodney Family’s reputation and fame would be completely destroyed.

The member of the Rodney Family that came to negotiate was a 3rd Rank Heaven powerhouse, he flew over with the two 9th Rank Archmages in tow.

“Oh, it turns out to be Sir Mafa Merlin! I really didn’t expect Sir Mafa Merlin to personally come and eliminate these damned bandits.

“Our Family had just come to a decision to cooperate with the Gilded Rose to eliminate those damned maggots and sent the news to the Gilded Rose. I truly didn’t expect Sir Mafa Merlin to have already acted on your own.”

The Rodney Family’s Heaven Rank powerhouses appeared to be very cordial, but his eyelids involuntarily twitched and a trace of anger could be seen in his eyes when he noticed John’s corpse.

Lin Yun was smiling as he glanced at the two Archmages and casually said, “Oh, it was like that? I was away for a bit and accidentally heard that these damned guys actually attacked a few of the Gilded Rose’s convoys. Since they were discovered, death is the proper outcome for these guys wasting the Gilded Rose’s resources. This would prevent others to think that the Gilded Rose is easy to bully.

“If someone else thinks that they can put their hands on the Gilded Rose, they would be unable to keep them.

“Well, Sir, do you need anything? Otherwise I’ll go back. As for this Death Sickle bandit group, there is no need to thank me, I only destroyed them for the Gilded Rose.”

After saying those words, Lin Yun grabbed John’s corpse and turned around.

The Rodneys suddenly became worried.

The two Archmages lowered their heads and didn’t dare to speak, they felt that Lin Yun’s gaze had a deeper meaning, as if he had already discovered them before. As for the 3rd Rank Heaven powerhouse, he was even more anxious.

‘Sh*t, John is a member of our Rodney Family, a 2nd Rank Heaven Mage who knows steel magic, there are too many people that could recognize him.

‘Ordinary mages and small forces might not be able to recognize him, but any member of a major force with a bit of knowledge would know that John was a direct member of our Rodney Family. It’ll be very troublesome if John’s corpse is taken away.

‘I definitely can’t let Mafa Merlin take away his corpse. F*ck, did the guys in charge of intelligence eat sh*t while growing up?! How is Mafa Merlin a 1st Rank or 2nd Rank Heaven Mage? He is obviously a 3rd Rank Heaven Mage, and from what these two morons said, he is stronger than the average 3rd Rank Heaven Mage.

‘Could those idiots not find any valuable information apart from the fact that Mafa Merlin is the true owner of the Gilded Rose...?’

‘Even though I don’t want to, I can only keep a friendly smile on...’

“Sir Mafa Merlin, I’m called Pass Rodney, you can call me Pass. There is something I’d like to discuss with Sir Mafa.

“It’s concerning that damned bandit’s corpse...”

Pass paused, confidence visible in his eyes.

'In any case, I can't let Mafa Merlin think that I value John's body. I'll use some small negotiation techniques to show that I don't attach too much importance to it, I believe that it'll be easier to discuss then.'

Lin Yun casually froze John's body into a chunk of ice before putting it into his Spatial Ring.

"Eh, is there a problem with that bandit corpse, Sir Pass? If there is no problem, I can freeze it and hang it at the entrance of the Gilded Rose so that all bandit groups will learn the consequences of attacking the Gilded Rose's convoys.

"I can use Black Gold Ice to prevent any possible disease from spreading. Alright, thank you for the reminder Sir Pass, see you later."

Pass was stunned as he watched Lin Yun's movements.

'Sh*t, is that guy a barbarian? This was clearly negotiations, could it be that he didn't even understand that I was trying to negotiate with him? Does he have no intention of conversing with me?

'Damned b*stard, how could you do something like this and leave without talking?

'What a joke, how could you take John's body away and hang it at the entrance of the Gilded Rose encased in Black Gold Ice? Isn't that a huge waste of money?

'A fist-sized chunk of Black Gold Ice is worth over a thousand purple golds, and the bigger the Black Gold Ice, the more expensive it gets as its price increases exponentially. To encase an entire body in ice, one would need over ten million purple golds.

'Sh*t, has that guy gone insane? Does he plan to freeze John's corpse and put it on display for a millennium?

'Let alone a millennium, the corpse would still remain intact after ten millennia...'

Pass panicked as he noticed Lin Yun about to fly away.

"Sir Mafa Merlin, please wait a moment! Please listen to me before making a decision!"

Lin Yun frowned as he looked at Pass

"Sir Pass, my time is limited, I don't have time to waste..."

Pass smiled wryly and kept his calm.

"Sir Mafa Merlin, this guy was named Dess, he was the leader of the Death Sickle bandit group. He was a very vicious 2nd Rank Heaven Mage. He caused so much damage to the Rodney Family that it could fill up an entire book.

"I don't remember how many times he led his bandits to our Rodney Family's territories. In our territories, the name Death Sickle and Dess are even used to scare children. When children are crying, those names could even scare them to the point where they would go silent.

"In the past, one of the neighboring villages refused to submit to Dess... In the end, men, women, children and elderly were all hung alive at the entrance of the village.

“He even captured the granddaughter of an ancestor and tortured her to death before throwing her corpse at the entrance of the Rodney Family to humiliate us...”

“And that was my younger cousin...”

At those words, Pass started choking with emotion. He gnashed his teeth, apparently recalling some depressing matter.

Floating next to Lin Yun, Enderfa was looking at the scene with shock. One of his faces was even admiring the performance.

“Our Rodney Family attacked the Death Sickle bandit group several times, but who knows how many tunnels these damned rats dug under the mountains. As long as our Rodney Family’s powerhouses come, they would disappear within these countless passages.

“They would only come back when our family’s powerhouses departed, before fiercely retaliating against us. They even slaughtered a small city belonging to our Rodney Family, looting everything there.

“Our Rodney Family couldn’t dispatch a 3rd Rank Heaven powerhouse to keep watching this place. Ultimately, we ended up being in a deadlock.

“This time, the family was determined to cooperate with the Gilded Rose to eliminate these sinful bandits!

“But before the fight even started, Sir Mafa Merlin personally made a move and killed that rat Dess.

“That’s excellent...”

Lin Yun watched Pass’ performance with admiration. Even Lin Yun, with the insight of a 3rd Rank Heaven Mage, couldn’t see anything wrong with it. Whether it was his state of mind, mana fluctuations, or even the speed of his speech, everything was flawless.

He was truly hating the guy that just died. Lin Yun couldn’t help admiring such acting.

“Sir Pass, rest assured, I’ll definitely let that guy’s corpse hang at the entrance of the Gilded Rose for a millennium... No, at the entrance of Neverwinter City for a millennium so that everyone can spit on him when passing through the entrance. Whoever spit on him would have a 1% discount... No, a 2% discount on the Gilded Rose’s items!”

“Items aren’t cheap after all, a small discount might add up to a few dozen purple golds. 2% of the most expensive item of the Gilded Rose could amount to 10,000 purple golds.

“Any higher and the losses of purple golds would be considerable...”

“And that’s just for the price of spitting on a terrible bandit leader when entering the city.

“I believe that no one would refuse such a deal.”

Hearing these words, Pass’ face turned green and he no longer dared to put on a performance. He then promptly stopped Lin Yun.

“Sir Mafa Merlin, that Dess caused a lot of damage to our Rodney Family’s territories, I hope that Sir Mafa Merlin can hand over the corpse to our Rodney Family.

“Our Rodney Family will hang his corpse to let those that suffered under his hands spit at him...”

Lin Yun frowned and Pass was startled. He was afraid that Lin Yun would refuse and give up on negotiating, thus, he gave him his best offer.

“Naturally, Sir Mafa Merlin personally got rid of that terrible Dess so you can also take him back to hang his corpse at the city gates to warn those daring bandit groups.

“It’s truly unsuitable for our Rodney Family to act like that. You can make an offer. In order to show you our sincerity, our Rodney Family will compensate you. After all, it wouldn’t be fair for us to get benefits when you were the one that painstakingly fought...”

Lin Yun smiled and nodded.

“Good, since that’s what you want, it’s not impossible to give it to you.”

Pass hurried to strike while the iron was hot.

“Please quote a price, we will definitely compensate you properly.”

Lin Yun smiled and took out a list of items before handing it over to Pass.

“I didn’t think of a good compensation, but it just so happens that I have a list of the materials recently procured by the Gilded Rose. As you know, our Gilded Rose’s convoys has been attacked by those stupid Death Sickle bandits several times and we are lacking some materials.

“If you compensate for the materials, then I’ll also let your Rodney Family keep all the wealth within the Death Sickle bandit group’s treasury. After all, the Death Sickle bandits had been plundering for a very long time. Even though their treasury must be buried under the mountain and might need some effort to locate, it must contain a lot of treasures.”

Pass sighed in relief.

‘Just some materials? I thought that guy was about to be greedy... I didn’t expect him to only ask for some materials. The rumors regarding Mafa Merlin aren’t very accurate. Wasn’t it rumored that he was even greedier than a Dragon? He only asked for some materials.

‘And he doesn’t even want the treasures of the Death Sickle bandits. Maybe that guy doesn’t want to trouble himself with digging.

‘He doesn’t know that there are no treasury in the Death Sickle hideout. All the treasures already returned to our Rodney Family. Those bandits are only the weapons of the Rodney Family.

‘It looks like the Gilded Rose had a really hard time and need to purchase their materials externally. Mafa Merlin asking us to compensate with materials makes sense.’

Pass had been making conjectures as he opened the list of items that Lin Yun handed over.

After checking that list of items, Pass’ pale face turned greenish, before turning red. He almost choked.

His hands shook as he looked over the list of items.

Eternal Gold Essence – 500 kg.

Star Mithril – 600 kg.

Enchanted Quicksilver – 1000 kg.

Draconic Inkblood...

‘Damn, since when can those precious materials be weighed in kilograms? And hundreds of kilograms at a time. An ordinary alchemy device can only use a few grams at a time and that would be considered extravagant. Even if one made a True Spirit Magic Tool, they wouldn’t use more than a kilogram.

‘These precious materials are all in the hundreds of kilograms, ordinary materials are in the thousands and magic metals go so far as several dozen thousand.

‘Sh*t, that guy wants so much material... Is he trying to feed a Heaven Rank gold-eating beast? With the Gilded Rose’s current scale, even three years wouldn’t be enough to use everything...

‘That guy is crazy, a madman, he actually wants so much...’

Pass’ face turned red from anger and his hands were shivering as he looked at the list of items until his eyes bulged out and he loudly shouted, “Impossible! No way! Sir Mafa Merlin, I came and showed my sincerity, but you are too much! You don’t have a single wisp of sincerity!”

Lin Yun didn’t get angry and just smiled at Pass.

Pass complained for half a minute, only to discover that Lin Yun was still smiling and ignored him. This instantly scared Pass.

‘Sh*t, did Mafa Merlin discover something? No way, that idiot John didn’t cast a steel spell before being discovered. Mafa Merlin couldn’t have found anything.

‘Then why is his smile so scary...?’

Chapter 1266: Cleansing and Ritual

‘No, I can’t haggle with him. That guy might not have been planning to hand John’s body to me at all and only gave me such a huge price to deter me. If we don’t accept, he’ll use that perfectly legitimate reason to hang John’s corpse at the entrance of Neverwinter City.

‘He will let the reputation of the Gilded Rose deter those bandits and other forces.

‘That must be it, he definitely doesn’t want to give us the corpse... But we can’t let him take it away!’

With these thoughts rapidly surging in his head, Pass made a decision.

With an embarrassed expression, he said, “Sir Mafa Merlin, this is a huge quantity and I don’t have the right to make a decision on it, nor can I take them out of storage. After all, these are high-quality materials.

“Please wait a bit, I’ll report to the family to hear their decision. It won’t take too long.”

Pass sent the list of materials back to the Rodney Family and obtained an answer in less than five minutes. It was a message from the Elder Council with one word:

[Deal]

Seeing that word, Pass sighed in relief. His main goal was to get John's corpse back. He wasn't bothered with the rest.

"Sir Mafa Merlin, the family has already agreed to your conditions, but there are too many materials and we need time. Please wait an hour."

Lin Yun nodded and calmly waited.

An hour passed when a Spatial Door was slowly opened. A 2nd Rank Heaven powerhouse walked out from it and handed five Spatial Rings to Pass.

Pass took the Spatial Rings and handed them to Lin Yun.

"Sir Mafa Merlin, you can check the materials. Once you are done, the transaction can be completed."

Lin Yun unceremoniously opened the Spatial Rings and checked the materials before inwardly sneering without saying anything.

Having received the materials, Lin Yun handed John's body over to Pass.

"Sir Pass, please inform me if there is another bandit group like these Death Sickles. I'll always be happy to help your Rodney Family take care of it."

After saying those words, Lin Yun flew away and disappeared into the sky.

Lin Yun didn't fly far before entering his Demiplane. He flew over the mana lake and crushed the five Spatial Rings over the mana lake.

The Spatial Rings exploded and the materials contained within rained down over the mana lake.

Then, Lin Yun condensed the mana lake's Mana Water into a huge water dragon that wrapped around the materials. The extremely pure mana washed over the materials, and not only did it improve the texture of the materials, but it also had an even more important effect... It washed away all imprints left inside.

As long as the imprints were within the scope of normal Laws, they would be completely cleansed.

Lin Yun didn't believe that these materials had imprints left by powerhouses who ignited their Godfire. Would the Rodney Family still negotiate with the Gilded Rose if they had that kind of powerhouse? A finger snap would have been enough to kill Lin Yun from several thousand kilometers away, and no one would have felt anything abnormal.

The Rodney Family clearly didn't have good intentions when they straightforwardly agreed to pay the materials. They might have planned to dispatch people to ambush Lin Yun afterward.

Lin Yun was the true owner of the Gilded Rose. If he died, the Gilded Rose would be unable to withstand the Rodney Family. It wouldn't be difficult to take it over at that point.

Unfortunately for them, Lin Yun had already expected the Rodney Family's trick and had a plan against it.

The first thing to do was to cleanse the items. Unless the imprints were left by a powerhouse that could alter Laws like Agalon, no imprint could resist the cleansing of the mana lake.

After cleansing them, Lin Yun sorted all the materials once and a smile could be seen on his face.

The previous losses of materials and items couldn't compare to the value of what he'd just obtained. These materials were twice as valuable.

Once they were processed into alchemy items, the benefits would be several dozen times greater.

Furthermore, he had used a corpse to rip off the Rodney Family, and the price he'd demanded was just at the limit of what the Rodney Family could accept. They would definitely accept after considering it, even if they weren't pleased.

In any case, the conflict with the Rodney Family would definitely not stop there. The Rodney Family would have been humiliated if that corpse was hung at the entrance of Neverwinter City, and they would have continued to set themselves against the Gilded Rose.

They were anxious to bring the corpse back, and they would certainly set themselves against the Gilded Rose afterwards. Since the outcome wouldn't change, he might as well extort the Rodney Family to recoup the losses of the Gilded Rose.

After thoroughly cleansing the materials, he stored them into a new Spatial Ring and left the Demiplane. Once he was out, Lin Yun opened a Spatial Door leading just outside of Neverwinter City.

Several Elders of the Rodney Family became enraged. Lin Yun had left Pass' line of sight for less than a minute, but when they started the tracking array, they discovered that it was ineffective and that the imprints had completely disappeared.

There was no reaction from imprints on the Spatial Rings and on the materials, as if they had been completely erased in this short period of time.

Lin Yun's Natural Demiplane was reinforced with several dozen kilograms of Eternal Dark Gold, which merged with the Natural Demiplane as it evolved. The Demiplane's defensive abilities were unimaginably powerful, a kind of isolation defense.

Even if the Natural Demiplane truly became a world in the future, it would still be absolutely impossible for anyone to discover and go through the Natural Demiplane's Planar Path.

Those imprints were nothing more than a joke...

"Damn, how did he discover the imprints? There were more than a million kilograms of materials at the very least! How did he discover the three imprints hidden there!?"

"B*stard, that crafty b*stard, we actually let him take away all the precious materials! Our stock of materials is going to affect our stores!" an Elder angrily roared inside the Rodney Family's conference room.

Another seemingly sinister Elder frowned and thought for a bit before saying, “I think that Mafa Merlin must have discovered that John was a Rodney. Why else would he suddenly kill John when he was about to cast a steel spell?”

“He definitely wanted to capture John alive to negotiate with our Rodney family and ruthlessly blackmail us.

“Even with John’s death, he used his corpse to extort us.”

These words silenced everyone. After a few seconds, an Elder ground his teeth. “This can’t continue, we can’t let Mafa Merlin and his Gilded Rose continue to run rampant.

“Since the Death Sickle was crippled, we have to think of another method, we can’t let this continue. Since Mafa Merlin was able to rapidly discover these imprints and erase them, it means that his alchemy mastery has already reached a terrifying level.

“It was said that since its founding, the Gilded Rose has been relying on Mafa Merlin’s techniques. Even now, the Gilded Rose’s finest products are all made personally by Mafa Merlin. Those potions for Heaven Rank powerhouses all came from Mafa Merlin.

“We have to think of a way to get rid of Mafa Merlin. If we can’t kill him, we will have to keep suppressing the Gilded Rose, and if this continues, our family businesses will incur a loss. We might lose a huge share of the market for alchemy items in the northern part of the Odin Kingdom.

“We can’t do anything else regarding this matter... We must report to our ancestor. This already relates to our Family’s status.”

A few Elders looked at each other, and then, under the leadership of the Great Elder, they entered the depths of the Rodney Family’s territory. There was nothing alive within dozens of kilometers.

There was no vegetation inside, only countless pieces of steel. It looked like a Puppet Plane, but there were no lifeforms within. There was a high concentration of ice elements, wind elements, and fire elements, but the density of earth elements could only be described as terrifying. The pull of gravity was also terrifying.

After reaching that place, the group of Heaven Rank Elders had to raise their shields to keep moving forward.

After walking for a few hours, they arrived at a flat outdoor mine with a large number of steel pillars in front of it. All the pillars had a large number of runes and alchemy patterns. As they went deeper and deeper, the gravity grew stronger and stronger.

After walking for ten more minutes, the group of elders stopped in front of a steel house.

“Ancestor, we have something important to report...”

After the Great Elder finished reporting everything, the door of the steel house slowly opened and an old mage with a steel-like beard and head of hair walked out. He was followed by a youth that seemed to be in his twenties.

The old mage looked at these elders and coldly snorted.

“Useless.”

No one dared to say anything when faced with the anger of the ancestor of the Rodney Family.

After a few minutes, the ancestor spoke again. “I’m on the verge of a breakthrough, and at the most crucial part. I won’t handle it myself.”

The few elders were pleasantly surprised when they heard these words. They then kept congratulating him.

The ancestor of the Rodney Family waved his hand and interrupted them.

“This matter will be handled by Wilder. You all know how talented Wilder is. I’ve had him follow me since he was a child. I personally instructed him and let him learn the steel spells of our family before he reached the Heaven Rank, and he even reached the Heaven Rank before turning 35.

“It is time to let him leave this place. You guys go back first. I’ll let Wilder complete his final training during these few days before letting him take control over the Rodney Family. When the time comes, I’ll let Wilder take care of that Mafa Merlin.”

After the elders left, the ancestor led Wilder to a huge array.

“Wilder, you are far more talented than I ever was. It is time to perform the ritual to let you truly master the Rodney Family’s powerful steel spells.

“Although this ritual has the side-effect of overdrafting one’s potential, it will let you fight longer and make you stronger. Other mages of the same rank won’t be your match.

“When the time comes, you’ll go out and deal with Mafa Merlin and the Gilded Rose. This is the most crucial step for you to truly take charge of the Rodney Family. If you do well, you’ll easily convince the inner circle of our Rodney Family.

“But don’t do anything for the time being. I discovered that the Great Astrologian seems to be paying attention to him. We might get on his bad side if we make a move now. Let me observe for the time being.”

Wilder proudly sneered, “Those useless relatives actually let an Andlusa country bumpkin sh*t all over them! They have truly soiled the reputation of our Rodney Family.

“Rest assured, ancestor. Once I’m back, that Mafa Merlin will be repenting at the entrance of our Rodney Family. As for the Gilded Rose, if they refuse to serve me, destruction is all that awaits them.”

The ancestor nodded.

“Indeed, the members of our Rodney Family should be like this. This is just a small test. When you complete the ritual, that Mafa Merlin will be no different from an ant you can casually crush.

“Alright, enter the center of the array.”

The ancestor started the ritual once Wilder reached the center of this kilometer-wide array.

The array was rapidly activated after the ritual started. Wilder's blood seeped into the array and the vitality of the earth and an aura of steel started pouring into Wilder's body. Painful howls echoed outward as Wilder's aura frantically increased.

After three days, Wilder's aura had already reached the 4th Rank of the Heaven Realm. His clothes were already shattered, and the right side of his body had turned silver-white like steel. His right cheek seemed to be assimilated by steel, and his eye had turned pure black with his pupil becoming blood red. He truly looked like a puppet. Even his hair became like the ancestor's, just like steel needles.

At this time, the array's light dissipated and Wilder squeezed his right fist. Suddenly, the air in front of it exploded as if it had been forcibly compressed.

Wilder's voice was shaking. "I'm so powerful! Ancestor! 4th Rank Heaven Mage!"

The ancestor had a satisfied smile on his face, "Not bad! I knew that you would definitely reach the 4th Rank with your talent. Ever since the founding of our Family, you are the only one that reached the 4th Rank of the Heaven realm after the ritual. This shows that your potential is very deep. You'll definitely surpass me in the future. Wilder, you really didn't disappoint me.

"Once you get used to your power, your skin won't look like a puppet's."

Three days later, Wilder visited the Rodney Family. With his strength as a 4th Rank Heaven Mage, he awed all the elders, especially when he showed his half-steel body. None of the elders of the Rodney Family refused to acknowledge him. Even Toursse, the extremely arrogant Necromancer, lowered his head.

Almost all of the direct descendants of the Rodney Family were earth mages. They had natural affinity towards earth magic, and researching earth magic was very easy for them. Many members of the Rodney Family would comprehend the Earth Law, and they also had many rock mages.

But everyone knew that the Rodney Family's strongest mages weren't earth mages or rock mages, but steel mages.

The most intuitive way to judge a steel mage was to check how much of their body could be transformed into steel after completing the ritual. The greater the ratio, the more powerful the steel spells they could cast.

Someone like Wilder who could transform half of his body and even half of his head was a first in the Rodney Family. And with Wilder's strength as a 4th Rank Heaven Mage, no one dared to go against him.

Looking at the elders lowering their heads, Wilder proudly smiled.

'If it was up to me, I would just go get rid of Mafa Merlin. There could be nothing easier. A fool that recently advanced to the 3rd Rank of the Heaven realm can't compare to a 4th Rank Heaven Mage. I'm on another level.

'Everyone knows that the gap between a 3rd Rank Heaven Mage and a 4th Rank Heaven Mage is a lot bigger than the gap between a 1st Rank and a 2nd Rank. With my current strength, getting rid of Mafa Merlin is just too easy.

'The Great Astrologian paying attention to Mafa Merlin? This must be a joke. The Great Astrologian is an existence whose power can't be estimated even by my ancestor. How could he care about Mafa Merlin?

'Even if that's truly the case, it must have been caused by Mafa Merlin's alchemy abilities. Moreover, even if he really got the Great Astrologian's interest, he would completely forget about Mafa Merlin after some time.

'Since those were the instructions of the ancestor, I shall listen to them. It would be bad if we got on the Great Astrologian's bad side.

'Let's deal with the Gilded Rose first...'

"I made a decision. We will first suppress the Gilded Rose in the alchemy market so that it can no longer survive. Let's see what you have done. You just dispatched people to steal the Gilded Rose's materials? What's the point? Although the Gilded Rose's supply decreased, they still have some, right?

"What we need to do is to thoroughly sever their supply of materials. So what if they have the technology? They can't make anything without materials!"

An elder frowned.

"Unless we completely cut off the golden trade path, it would be impossible to completely cut off the Gilded Rose's supply of materials.

"The Gilded Rose only needs to use the crests of other Families on their convoys and we won't be able to attack them. After all, the golden trade path is the most important trade route between the Andlusa Kingdom and the Odin Kingdom.

"We only attacked the convoys of the Gilded Rose. If we attack convoys of other forces or directly cut off the golden trade path, we won't just be offending one or two Families..."

#

Chapter 1267: Snake Venom and Ore Poison

Before the elder finished speaking, a steel-like palm ruthlessly landed on his face, taking several teeth out and deforming his cheeks.

Wilder sneered. His icy-cold gaze made everyone feel afraid to talk.

"Fool, the influence of our businesses mainly comes from high-end products and low-grade recovery potions. There are at least several hundred businesses of that kind, but no matter how many there are, the biggest share of the potion market is still in the hands of our Rodney Family!

"Investigate, find the materials used in the most profitable high-grade potions of the Gilded Rose. You don't need all the materials, just find out one or two key materials. So what if the Gilded Rose can come up with some high-grade potions?

"We only need to compound these potions and we will have absolute dominance!

"With absolute dominance, destroying the Gilded Rose will be as easy as slaughtering a pig!"

The group of elders didn't dare to speak. The one that had been hit had lost a few teeth and was pale, yet he didn't even dare to let out a sound.

After a few minutes, one of the elders cautiously opened his mouth.

"Sir Wilder, I found a kind of material named Platinum Rock. It's an indispensable part of catalysts used in potions.

"Without that thing, the Gilded Rose won't be able to compound their high-grade potions. Even if they still managed to compound them, they wouldn't get much profit since they would need to spend at least ten times the compounding cost.

"Most importantly, the Andlusa Kingdom doesn't produce that kind of material, and the Odin Kingdom only produces a small amount of it, which is only enough for some small shops. The supply doesn't meet the demand.

"The Sten Kingdom is the biggest supplier. There is one family in the Odin Kingdom acting as a proxy. They aren't strong and only have two 1st Rank Heaven powerhouses. As long as we take over all the supply of Platinum Rock, the Gilded Rose won't be able to obtain any."

Wilder coldly looked over.

"What are you waiting for? Go and inform that family that no Platinum Rock can be sold to the Gilded Rose. They can only sell it to our Rodney Family.

"Do I still need to teach you? Use the carrot and the stick.

"We should have a subordinate bandit with expertise in highly toxic poisons, right? Just dispatch him to threaten that family. If they don't listen to our command, have him poison their members one by one.

"If they listen to our command and refuse to sell the Platinum Rock to the Gilded Rose, we will pay 10% more for them.

"I don't believe that a small family with only two 1st Rank Heaven Mages would refuse."

...

Three days later, Faleau looked for Lin Yun in the Gilded Rose.

"Sir Merlin, there is trouble."

Lin Yun put down the Book of Mantras with a frown and looked at Faleau.

"Did the Rodneys cause some trouble?"

Faleau had a wry smile on his face.

"Although it looks like this matter has no relation to the Rodney Family, anyone with a brain can see that this is one of their tricks.

"I heard that the Rodney Family has a new leader, a hidden genius named Wilder. He is 35 and has already reached the 4th Rank of the Heaven realm. He is also very ruthless and tyrannical. He pressured

the elders of the Rodney Family to the point where they couldn't raise their heads just as he took over the leadership.

"This matter is definitely linked to Wilder.

"There is a problem with our supply of Platinum Rock from the Bojinsen Family. A member of the Bojinsen Family came today to tell us that they will no longer provide Platinum Rock to the Gilded Rose..."

Light flashed in Lin Yun's eyes.

"Platinum Rock? The material for the catalysts?"

Faleau nodded with a frown.

"Most of our Gilded Rose's top-notch potions require three catalysts, and Platinum Rock's fine powder is a core component for all three of them.

"The Andlusa Kingdom doesn't produce Platinum Rock, and although there is some in the Raging Flame Plane, it is all just by-products of other kinds of ore veins. There is too little of it and it's not enough for the Gilded Rose's use.

"If we lose the potions that have great effects on Heaven Rank powerhouses, the Gilded Rose's position and reputation will suddenly take a turn for the worse, and it might greatly affect the business.

"Moreover, the Bojinsen Family didn't tell us the reason. I sent someone to inquire, and he managed to get some information after bribing a housekeeper.

"Apparently, the Viper Bandits sought out the Bojinsen Family, injured the head of their household, and threatened to poison members of the Bojinsen Family if they sold Platinum Rock to our Gilded Rose.

"And at that time, the Rodney Family appeared and bought their entire stock of Platinum Rock for 110% of its market price.

"If it weren't for the fact that the place producing the Platinum Rock in the Sten Kingdom is a terrifying clan that only recognizes the Bojinsen Family as their proxy, the Rodney Family might have already destroyed the Bojinsen Family instead of using threats and an offer..."

Hearing the report, Lin Yun fully understood what was going on and put away the Book of Mantras.

"What about the Viper Bandits?"

Faleau had already collected information ahead of time.

"The Viper Bandits are vicious and merciless. They never let others notice them, and every time they appear, they directly get rid of everyone. If they make a move, they'll kill everyone.

"Their boss is called Viper and is a 2nd Rank Poison Mage. He is proficient in poisons and poison spells. He once poisoned a 3rd Rank Heaven Mage to death.

“One of his scariest deeds was when he poisoned an entire small mage family to death, including the tamed magic beasts, livestock, servants, and commoners... Over a thousand people ended up dying to his poisons.

“His methods are cruel and ruthless. Everyone knew that he did it, but he appeared in another area that day, proving that he didn’t do anything.

“If Viper personally makes a move, his terrifying reputation will be enough to make the Bojinsen Family accept the terms. After all, they would still be selling their Platinum Rock...”

Lin Yun remained silent for a moment.

“Give me the coordinates of the Bojinsen Family and prepare all the information for me.”

Faleau had already prepared it ahead of time. Aside from the coordinates, there was a crystal stone that had recorded all information that could be of use.

Lin Yun departed once he got the information he needed.

After leaving Neverwinter City, he opened a Spatial Door and directly crossed several thousand kilometers to appear in the northernmost city of the Odin Kingdom.

It was quite far from Neverwinter City, and its northern side bordered the Sten Kingdom. The Bojinsen Family was living in this city called White Birch City

White Birch City was still far in the distance when Lin Yun walked out of the Spatial Door. He checked the information he had on hand before walking towards the city.

He rapidly found the living place of the Bojinsen Family. It covered a large area, and their buildings looked very impressive. They were definitely the most powerful family of White Birch City.

After all, Platinum Rock was an indispensable material for high-grade potions’ catalysts. Those few high-grade potions of the Gilded Rose were no exception.

And thus, the Bojinsen Family’s business was a unique business. No one would make things difficult for them. But the Bojinsen Family hadn’t expected that the Rodney Family, who usually wouldn’t bother them, would actually act in such a tyrannical way.

Lin Yun heard a lot of information after taking a walk around White Birch City. In the past few days, the Bojinsen Family had truly been in chaos. Moreover, it was said that the magic beasts they raised all died suddenly. The corpses emitted a foul odor, and the few people contaminated by the corpses of the magic beasts all died inexplicably. The resulting plague started spreading through White Birch City.

Moreover, the Bojinsen Family’s patriarch seemed to have fallen ill, likely from the plague.

Lin Yun frowned and thought, ‘The Rodney Family is truly too overbearing. The trade of Platinum Rock would become difficult in the Odin Kingdom if the Bojinsen Family was destroyed. The pitiful amount of Platinum Rock produced by the Odin Kingdom isn’t enough for the Gilded Rose...

‘And the news of the Bojinsen Family’s patriarch being ill shouldn’t be fake... But how could a Heaven Rank powerhouse who completed their Extraordinary Transformation fall ill out of nowhere?’

'What a joke. There is only one explanation. He was poisoned. That leader of the Viper Bandits personally came and poisoned the patriarch of the Bojinsen Family.'

Lin Yun thought for a bit and then suddenly disappeared at the corner of the street and reappeared inside the Bojinsen Family's property.

It looked like the Bojinsen Family's defenses completely didn't exist in front of Lin Yun.

Lin Yun rapidly found the area where those magic beasts had inexplicably died. The corpses might have been disposed of, but some dark green bloodstains still remained. After studying the ground for a bit, Lin Yun frowned.

The stench of this courtyard, the color of the blood, and the rumor of inexplicable deaths allowed Lin Yun to lock onto some poisons, but only one kind existed in this era.

By following the path and tracking the toxins, he quickly found a seemingly ordinary house. The house's surroundings, roof, floor, and walls all had True Spirit Grade arrays arranged on them. There was no guard watching over the place, but there were many warning arrays.

Lin Yun walked to the doorway and touched the door. A few Law Runes appeared before his eyes, and the arrays were instantly cracked.

"2nd Brother, didn't I tell you not to come? My poison is contagious..."

A weak voice came from within just as Lin Yun pushed the door open.

The room was dark, and a wisp of foul odor could be felt coming from within. Inside the room, a middle-aged man with a greenish complexion could be seen lying in a bed.

The middle-aged man noticed Lin Yun at the entrance and was immediately alarmed, but he didn't yell and just kept a calm and collected expression.

"What else do you want? We already stopped supplying the Gilded Rose! What about my antidote? What about my son? What do you want!?"

"I've already done as you asked, let my son go! If I don't see my son within three days, don't blame me for taking you down with me.

"Our Bojinsen Family might end up being destroyed, but I can guarantee that no more Platinum Rock will appear in the Odin Kingdom in the future."

The middle-aged man's breath was very weak, and he was resisting the poison's invasion by relying on his Extraordinary Power. But despair could be seen within his expression. This was a man who would keep his words if he was backed in a corner.

Lin Yun started talking before the man could continue.

"Patriarch Bojinsen, I'm Mafa Merlin, the owner of the Gilded Rose."

The expression of the Bojinsen Family's patriarch suddenly sank.

"Sir Mafa Merlin, please leave. I won't supply your Gilded Rose with Platinum Rock anymore."

Lin Yun smiled and casually sat down while keeping eye contact with the Bojinsen Family's patriarch."

"Patriarch Bojinsen, do you think everything will be over if you stop supplying our Gilded Rose? Do you think the Rodney Family will let you off?"

"The new leader of the Rodney Family is young, arrogant, domineering, and ruthless. He doesn't understand that looking into the long-term is more profitable in business. From his actions, it can be seen that he has extremely strong possessive and controlling desires.

"He won't leave the supplying of an important material in the hands of others, even if your Bojinsen Family is the only one holding onto Platinum Rock in the Odin Kingdom."

The Bojinsen Family's patriarch had a disapproving expression and he seemed standoffish, as if he felt that everything had happened because of the Gilded Rose.

Lin Yun remained indifferent.

"Patriarch Bojinsen, you would be wrong if you believed that you have been implicated by our Gilded Rose. You have only been drawn into the competition between me and the Rodney Family.

"At the same time, you are also unlucky since you let the leader of the Rodney Family figure out that you control their lifeline, the supply of Platinum Rock. Even without the Gilded Rose, he would sooner or later discover that.

"The Rodney Family's alchemy business covers the entire northern part of the Odin Kingdom, and their potioning business, which accounts for most of their products, occupies the biggest share of the northern Odin Kingdom. With Wilder's character, you would be his target sooner or later.

"But you still believe that they would just let this go? Let me tell you, aside from the venom of a Seven Ring Snake, there is also a kind of ore poison in your body.

"They must have told you that it was to teach you a lesson. And to make sure that you would listen to their command and stop supplying our Gilded Rose. They didn't tell you how to detoxify it and only gave you some relief medicine, right?"

Shock suddenly appeared on the face of the Patriarch of the Bojinsen Family.

Lin Yun continued to speak casually.

"They gave you a medicine that supposedly alleviates the symptoms of the poison when it flares up? It's a kind of black pill with dark green in its center, right? When you take the pill you don't feel any pain, but you feel weaker and weaker, and your Extraordinary Power struggles more and more to suppress the poison, turning your face green.

"How many times have you taken this so-called antidote? Twice? If you took two pills, there should be a very faint green mark appearing on the end of your spine, from your tailbone to your waist..."

Hearing Lin Yun's explanation, Patriarch Bojinsen was frozen in shock. He didn't argue... He just struggled to stand up and then condensed a water mirror before undoing the upper part of his robe.

And sure enough, he discovered a cyan mark spreading from his waist to his tailbone. It was already a dozen centimeters long.

But he couldn't feel it with his mana, he could only see it with his own two eyes.

Lin Yun glanced at it and gave an indifferent explanation.

"You won't die once that mark reaches your head, but you'll remain weak and fall from the Heaven realm. The snake venom will be solved at that time... Well, that's not entirely correct. It will be devoured by the poison you are currently taking.

"The snake venom is feeding the ore poison, and by the time you fall from the Heaven Rank, you'll die a horrible death. Your body will stiffen, and green rust will grow all over your body until you die.

"The snake venom will disappear within three months, but the ore poison will take root in your bone marrow. You'll die in a year.

"Once you die, your Family will lose a Heaven Rank powerhouse. As for the other Heaven Rank powerhouse, he'll definitely die within this year.

"When the time comes, your Family will have no Heaven Rank powerhouses while still having all kinds of benefits, attracting all kinds of wolves. Then, the Rodney Family will extend an olive branch, and your Family will have no other choice but to accept it in order to not be destroyed. By going under the Rodney Family, your Family will become a source of wealth that will slowly be assimilated, and the Platinum Rock business will slowly be taken over by the Rodney Family.

"Who would still remember the Bojinsen Family? What do you think..."

Lin Yun's words made cold sweat trickle down the forehead of the Bojinsen Family's patriarch. Terror could be seen in his eyes as his body shivered. He looked at the small metallic box covered in a layer of alchemy seals on his bedside table and opened it. A small dark ball with a wisp of dark green could be seen inside the box.

Lin Yun looked at the patriarch's appearance and smiled, as it looked like the discussion could continue. Talking would have been useless if he was still as guarded as before and kept his distance. But it looked like he still needed another push.

"Patriarch Bojinsen, your son should be taking over your position after your death, yet I just heard you say that your son seemed to have been taken away?"

"That's truly unfortunate. My prediction might happen ahead of time. Your Family will already go under the Rodney Family once you and the other Heaven Rank powerhouse die.

"And with the Rodney Family's nature, how long would your son be used as a proxy? If it's on the longer side, ten years. Ten years would be enough to take over the Bojinsen Family.

"Your son would end up dying unexpectedly, and a "familiar" face pretending to be a member of the Bojinsen family would easily take over. It would be very simple, don't you think?"

Patriarch Bojinsen's green expression turned pale and despair flashed in his eyes before he fiercely smashed that pitch-black pill onto the ground.

“Sir Mafa Merlin, as long as you save my son and destroy those damned Viper Bandits, the Bojinsen Family’s supply of Platinum Rock will never end up in the hands of the Rodney Family. I can even sign a soul contract so that as long as the Bojinsen Family still has this trade channel, the Gilded Rose’s supply will never be cut off!”

Lin Yun softly shook his head and took out a bottle of Health Potion and a bottle of antidote he had refined himself before putting them into the hand of Patriarch Bojinsen.

“Patriarch Bojinsen, I’m looking for a supplier. I’m different from the Rodney Family. I know that profiting by myself isn’t beneficial and that only a mutually profitable business relationship can last.

“Those are a bottle of Health Potion and a bottle of antidote that I compounded myself. As luck would have it, these two can deal with the two poisons plaguing your body.

“You see, this is a very simple matter. We can keep speaking once you are cured... I don’t want my supplier to die so easily.”

The patriarch of the Bojinsen Family appeared to be embarrassed and ashamed.

The previous contract with the Gilded Rose was for a duration of three years, but it had been breached halfway. Regardless of the reason, it would make the patriarch of the Bojinsen Family feel ashamed for life, especially since Lin Yun came in person and helped him cleanse the poison.

After taking the antidote, Patriarch Bojinsen immediately felt the effects. All the toxins converged to his arm before condensing at the tip of his finger. Then, that small sac of toxins was pierced, and a stinky dark green liquid spurted out. He then took the Health Potion and immense vitality spread through his body. Within a dozen seconds, the aura of the patriarch returned to normal.

“Alright, Patriarch Bojinsen, we can discuss what’s coming next...”

#

Chapter 1268: Viper Bandits’ Camp

Viper Bandits’ Camp

Lin Yun first outlined the crisis of the Bojinsen Family before pointing out how they would all perish. This threw Patriarch Bojinsen’s mind into chaos. He was unable to reason properly. That and the fact that the poison had been cleansed made his mood swing up and down. He then looked at Lin Yun with a complicated expression.

The hidden poison that could kill him was easily cleansed away with a few potions from the Gilded Rose.

Patriarch Bojinsen remained silent for a few minutes before suddenly raising his head.

“Sir Mafa Merlin, my son is in the hands of the Viper Bandits, I can’t go against their command.”

Lin Yun nodded.

“Give me the coordinates, I’ll bring your son back.”

Patriarch Bojinsen promptly nodded when he heard Lin Yun’s words.

'It was rumored that the true owner of the Gilded Rose was a man called Mafa Merlin. I hadn't expected that rumor to be true. Furthermore, his alchemy experience is terrifying. That Health Potion is at least seven to eight times stronger than any healing potion I've ever seen. With his strength and alchemy techniques, he definitely won't fear the Viper Bandits' leader.

'The Rodney Family tried to snatch the Gilded Rose, only for that infamous Necromancer to almost be killed in front of the Gilded Rose. Even if the Gilded Rose isn't as powerful as the Rodney Family, it's not that far behind.

'My son can be rescued, and we can endure this crisis with the help of Mafa Merlin. This is the most important thing right now. The rest can wait...'

"Sir Mafa, those are the coordinates of the camp..."

Patriarch Bojinsen gave a set of coordinates but didn't know what to say after that. Lin Yun glanced at Patriarch Bojinsen and casually opened a Spatial Door. It appeared at a high altitude above the coordinates to make it harder to discover. The fluctuations caused by its appearance wouldn't spread far since space was even more unstable at a height of five thousand meters above the ground.

Patriarch Bojinsen's face turned pale as he watched Lin Yun casually opening the Spatial Door and going through it.

Opening a Spatial Door was an instinctive spell for Heaven Rank powerhouses. All mages would gain some comprehension of the Spatial Law after advancing to the Heaven Rank. After all, it was involved in the process of establishing a Demiplane.

But most Heaven Ranks, or at least those under the 5th Rank, would have huge restrictions when using a Spatial Door.

They would at most be able to open a Spatial Door once or twice a day, would need a coordinate imprint prepared in advance, and would need the place to be devoid of any strong interference. In short, they were extremely restricted. It wasn't very practical and could only be used in some fixed settings.

Those able to rely on coordinates to calculate a definite position and open a Spatial Door near it were at least at the 5th Rank of the Heaven realm and had a good comprehension of the Spatial Law.

Mages who specialized in the Spatial Law were also able to do it.

Patriarch Bojinsen was a bit pale. He hadn't been able to feel Lin Yun's strength earlier, but seeing that casually opened Spatial Door, he felt that his selfish scheming wasn't very sensible.

On the other side, Lin Yun appeared five kilometers above the ground. The temperature was very low, and the mana was chaotic and continuously bursting. But fortunately, the mana density was a lot lower than on the ground, making it unlikely for elemental storms to form.

Lin Yun's comprehension of the Spatial Law grew at a rapid pace as he spent more time comprehending it in his Demiplane. He had also deciphered 300 more truth runes. This wasn't a small amount of progress... It meant that he was just one step closer to becoming a Saint Alchemist.

The number of law runes condensed from the Spatial Law rose up to over two hundred. This meant that Lin Yun could already use Spatial Spells in battle, and the power of those spells could already influence a battlefield.

When it came to opening a Spatial Door based on coordinates, Lin Yun could already compare to a spatial mage specialized in the Spatial Law.

Floating in the sky, Lin Yun cast Eagle Sight and looked down. A dense fog was covering the ground, and not a single sound could be heard from within, as if there was not a single living being inside.

Three kilometers away, he noticed some traces of buildings.

There was a barrier blocking mana fluctuations and silhouettes. Lin Yun slowly descended and entered the dense fog, which contained traces of green light containing violent poison. Aside from the dark green trees with high resistance to toxins, only some magic plants remained as part of the vegetation: Vampiric Vines, Flesh-Eating Rafflesia, as well as Bone-Marrow Flowers growing out of piles of bones.

It was very peaceful in the forest. Only the sounds of rustling leaves echoed. Lin Yun frowned... From what he could sense, anything that could move in this forest was poisonous or venomous, like poisonous insects, snakes, birds, and beasts. Not a single lifeform wasn't.

The report mentioned that although the location of the Viper Bandits' camp was known to many people and wasn't hidden, the Viper Bandits were still able to remain carefree. The biggest reason behind that was that their camp was completely covered in a poisonous fog that would never dissipate.

The Viper Bandits previously provoked a first-rate family of the Odin Kingdom, making them dispatch an army to eliminate them. A Heaven Rank Wind Storm Mage released a Howling Gales Extraordinary Spell, which tore through the entire forest. It blew more than half of the vegetation and lifeforms away, but it didn't disperse the poison mist.

It wasn't that the poison mist wasn't blown away, but even after the density of poisonous fog decreased, it quickly regained its original density. Aside from Archmages and Heaven Rank powerhouses, every member of the army that entered the poisonous fog at that time quickly got infected by the poisonous fog. Their skin festered, their flesh was torn apart, and they ended up as bones before they could be treated.

Later, they gave up on their revenge, and the Viper Bandits' abilities were put on display. Moreover, the bandits wouldn't provoke the forces that could exterminate them and were able to survive in the Odin Kingdom due to their hideout.

After sensing the poisonous fog, Lin Yun felt that something was abnormal because the root of the poisonous fog simply wasn't in the forest. The poisonous plants and animals didn't infect the forest. In fact, they had been infected by an already existing poisonous fog, which developed to this stage.

But as time passed, the scope of the poisonous fauna and flora had progressed to a developed stage, making the poisonous fog even more complex and toxic. Anyone under the Sword Saint realm would be poisoned to death upon entering the Viper Bandits' camp.

The strength of an Archmage would start dropping after thirty minutes. After two hours, it would already be decreased by 20%, and a Low Rank Archmage might even be in danger of losing a rank after twelve hours.

But that kind of poisonous fog was only useful against the living, and it could hardly influence a Heaven Rank powerhouse.

Lin Yun casually opened a Planar Path, and Xiuban, Reina, and Pabiete came out of the Demiplane. They were followed by an army of puppets, which slowly formed in the forest within ten minutes, with the weakest puppet being at Level 35.

Due to the activity, the forest's flora and fauna frantically converged towards them, waiting for the massacre to unfold.

After the appearance of the puppet army, the mage army also came out of the Demiplane. The temperature rose with the appearance of the fifty mages.

The Law of Fire became akin to a sapling growing branches that mimicked the appearance of volcanoes in the southern part of the Demiplane, and the fifty mages had kept training in that area.

With Lin Yun's meticulous guidance, the Law of Fire was nearly always surrounding the fifty mages. Even if they were incapable of truly comprehending the Law of Fire, it was enough for them to lay a very good foundation and rapidly increase their rank.

Kurumu was already a 7th Rank Archmage, and the lowest-ranked one was already a 5th Rank Archmage. At those ranks, they could already start getting in touch with the Law, but all they could get in contact with was the manifestation of the Law.

Archmages had to slowly interact with the Laws from the 5th Rank up until the peak of the Archmage realm. Once they established their Law Foundation, they could only wait to complete their Extraordinary Transformation.

The truth runes and the Law of Fire were open to the mage army, and the speed at which they improved was inevitably faster. After all, ranking up was more troublesome starting from the 5th Rank, as it was no longer a matter of mana accumulation, but rather a matter of law comprehension.

The fifty mages walked out, and it was like a Heaven Rank fire elemental lifeform had appeared. The surrounding plants started dehydrating due to the heat, and the poisonous smaller lifeforms that rushed over halted and gave up due to the increase in temperature.

"Destroy this fog-covered forest, turn everything in our path into ashes."

Following Lin Yun's command, a thousand sword puppets took the lead and tore apart everything in their path. The two thousand casting puppets spread out and kept casting spells, destroying everything in their wake.

The mage army flew up under Kurumu's lead, and the mana they released rapidly condensed into elemental flames. The fifty mages were spread in the shape of a rune, and the converging mana formed its outline.

A few seconds later, Kurumu solemnly lifted his Dragonscale Staff.

“Burn!”

It was like an incantation, yet not an incantation... It was more akin to a mantra. Following that word, the rune formed by the mage army started shining crimson red, and a crimson halo spread out around the mage army. Everything coming into contact with the halo was set on fire. Even the moist trees and the river flowing through the forest were set ablaze.

The halo spread for less than a kilometer, but all the places affected by it started burning, and the soaring flames spread through the forest.

The fragments of vegetation sliced by the sword puppet army were especially vulnerable, as the aura of the mage army alone was enough to burn them to cinders.

Xiuban raised Carnage and grinned as he watched the forest turning into a sea of flames.

“Sir Merlin, surely you didn’t call me to watch Kurumu and the others play with fire? Who do you want to eliminate? I’ll bash their skull in! Carnage hasn’t tasted blood for a very long time.”

Lin Yun looked into the distance.

“The Viper Bandits’ camp is over there. We came to turn these vipers into dead snakes.”

Xiuban grinned and raised Carnage as he rushed in the direction Lin Yun pointed towards.

Lin Yun led Reina and Pabiete. The other side should be honored that Lin Yun even showed up. He had originally planned to simply exterminate the Viper Bandits’ hideout.

There would be a lot of people looking to get their revenge after the Viper Bandits lost their hideout. The Rodney Family wouldn’t be able to shelter them, at least not openly. The Rodney Family couldn’t display any connection to the Viper Bandits.

Lin Yun became curious after discovering that the poisonous fog was strange and even a bit familiar.

In less than half an hour, more than twenty kilometers of the forest was thoroughly set ablaze. This place had completely turned into a sea of flames, and the poison fog occupying the place had somewhat weakened. However, it didn’t have that much of an impact, which showed that the poisonous fog was special. An ordinary poisonous fog couldn’t last in this kind of sea of flames.

Sounds of battle could be heard from the front as the puppet army was already engaged in a melee battle against the Viper Bandits. Unfortunately for them, the weakest puppet Lin Yun had dispatched was already at Level 35. Level 35 puppets were produced rapidly, and they were all accumulated over time.

An army of three thousand Level 35 puppets was enough to sweep through every bandit group in the Odin Kingdom, provided they didn’t have a Heaven Rank powerhouse.

“Idiots, don’t run! Come taste Lord Xiuban’s warhammer!” Xiuban roared in the distance.

It was already a bloodbath by the time Lin Yun arrived. The Viper Bandits only had two Heaven Rank powerhouses, one of whom had half of his body shattered when Lin Yun arrived.

The other one was wearing a long, dark green robe and was holding a viper-like magic staff. All kinds of poisonous spells and venoms were frantically flying towards Xiuban, but how could his poisons and venoms compare to the Ancient Poison Dragon's? They had no effects on Xiuban.

Less than ten seconds later, Viper fled deeper into the camp with Xiuban in close pursuit.

Flames were burning and buildings were collapsing. There had been no accidents. It went as smoothly as Lin Yun expected. The Viper Bandits' camp didn't have a defensive wall, as they had been depending on that omnipresent poisonous fog to keep intruders out.

Unfortunately, the Heaven Rank powerhouses that came this time didn't fear the poisonous fog, the puppets were immune, and the heat produced by the motionless mage army was enough to disperse the poisonous fog near them.

He had Xiuban, Reina, and Pabiete come out not because of the Viper Bandits, but because of the appearance of this poisonous fog. Viper was escaping towards a denser part of the poisonous fog. It could even be said that the fog seemed to be coming from that direction.

The puppets got rid of a few hundred vicious bandits, but they still didn't find the son of Patriarch Bojinsen.

He was finally discovered a few minutes later in a cell. There was only one guard watching him, and he was only a Great Swordsman.

Clearly, the Viper Bandits didn't think that someone would attack their hideout, and they certainly hadn't expected anyone to come so fast.

It was impossible for the Odin Kingdom's first-rate forces to be unaware that the Rodney Family was behind the Viper Bandits. As long as the Viper Bandits didn't provoke them, they wouldn't waste their energy eliminating the Viper Bandits and becoming enemies with the Rodney Family.

Those willing to spend the energy but not having the strength had no other choice but to endure the Viper Bandits' plundering.

Lin Yun looked at the young Bojinsen and confirmed that he was neither poisoned or fatally injured before ignoring him. He left Pabiete and the mage army to deal with the rest and took Reina with him to chase after Xiuban.

After a dozen minutes, they saw Xiuban angrily smashing everything inside a small valley, but Viper was nowhere to be seen.

As he entered the valley, Lin Yun immediately discovered that the density of poisonous fog was at its strongest here and that even flames didn't affect it. The poisonous fog was continuously spreading from this location, but there was no influence on its density.

Noticing Lin Yun's arrival, Xiuban sheepishly smiled.

"Sir Merlin, that green-skinned guy disappeared. I chased him and only took my eyes off him for a couple of seconds when he suddenly vanished..."

A rune appeared in Lin Yun's eyes as he checked the surroundings. He then walked to the end of the valley and spat out a dozen law runes.

An instant later, a wisp of spatial fluctuation appeared as a Planar Path emerged.

A dense poisonous fog was coming out of that Planar Path, coupled with a dense aura of death.

Lin Yun frowned, opened his mouth, and spat three runes into the Planar Path before leading his group through the Planar Path.

They reappeared in a desolate world covered in some dark red weed-like vegetation. The plane wasn't big, only about twenty kilometers in size with a dusky sky. It was a small plane that had yet to form its day and night cycle. The Laws weren't developed, and it didn't have the possibility of further development.

As soon as Lin Yun came in, a wave of mana fluctuations appeared above him as dark green poisonfire fell down from the sky. Viper, who was waving his staff with a twisted face, suddenly crushed a potion bottle, and the dense poison contained within this small plane started converging.

#

Chapter 1269: Golden Crown Snake

Lin Yun glanced at Viper and casually said, "Kill him."

Before Viper even realized it, he was encased in three meters of ice holding him in place.

The enraged Xiuban appeared above Viper and swung Carnage with both hands, smashing straight through the ice. The earthen radiance was covering the surface of Carnage, and space shook alongside Xiuban's blow.

A loud explosion echoed as the ice shattered into pieces alongside the frozen Viper.

Since their objective was secured, Viper was unnecessary. Lin Yun sized up the place, noticed a black-red grass below him, and picked it up. As he noticed the veined pattern on the surface of the weed, a flash of understanding suddenly appeared on Lin Yun's face.

Poisonous Dragon Grass... This kind of thing could only grow in places where Golden Crown Snakes lived. This thing growing here and the dense aura of death reminded Lin Yun why that poisonous fog was so familiar.

Lin Yun hadn't been fond of reading books with cryptic magic knowledge back in the decaying library. After all, even the most formidable magic books were no different from paper waste at the time. Lin Yun had been more fond of reading novel-like biographies to pass his time.

But seeing that Poisonous Dragon Grass refreshed his memory.

There was a record of a snake appearing in the Odin Kingdom a few hundred years from now, but that Golden Crown Snake wasn't in good condition. 90% of its body had become undead, and only its head had yet to be corroded. Unfortunately, it had already lost its intellect as it was on the verge of finishing its undead transformation.

The poison started to spread in the Odin Kingdom and infected everything within a few hundred kilometers. All lifeforms were poisoned to death, and only the poisonous flora and fauna survived.

A majestic hunt was set in motion, and countless heroes came forward to kill that crazy Golden Crown Snake, leaving behind many inspiring and sad tales.

Although that was how the story was recorded, the real reason behind the hunt was greed.

Golden Crown Snakes didn't have mana crystals and their flesh was very toxic, but it was also that toxic flesh that brought them to extinction.

They were already going extinct during the Era of Gods. Although their bodies contained extreme toxins, they could be processed into outstanding detoxifying materials with a very simple treatment. It could even suppress the poison of Ancient Poison Dragons. Furthermore, if its level was high enough, it could even cure the poison of an Ancient Poison Dragon.

According to legends, the flesh of a Golden Crown Snake also had the ability to alter one's constitution. Thus, the Golden Crown Snakes became extinct during the era of Gods... Or perhaps it would be better to say that they had been eaten into extinction.

With one appearing in the Odin Kingdom, how could these major forces give up on it?

Lin Yun flew up and looked at every corner of this small plane, but didn't find any trace of the Golden Crown Snake. They had a very special ability. They didn't have a mana crystal, but they were extremely gifted when it came to space, able to hide behind space itself.

"Powerhouse of the Dynson Clan, I hold no evil intent. On the contrary, I can cure your injury."

"Dynson" was what the Golden Crown Snakes called themselves. They were one of the rare magic beast races with high intelligence, and they didn't like to be called snakes.

Lin Yun loudly shouted once, but got no answer.

"Your injury should have already spread to 60% of your body, and you'll completely lose your intelligence within four to five hundred years as you finally turn into one of the undead.

"Powerhouse of the Dynson Clan, are you resigned to become an undead without intelligence? Even if you complete the undead transformation now, you won't be able to keep your intellect. Your wisdom can only be preserved if you remain in good condition."

Lin Yun tried to convince it again, but there was no change in his surroundings.

Lin Yun sighed, 'That Golden Crown Snake is very wary of all lifeforms, or it wouldn't have remained in this small, cage-like plane for over a millennium until it lost its intelligence.'

Lin Yun extended a finger, and a faint spatial fluctuation appeared before his eyes. If that wisp of spatial fluctuation was released, it would shatter a fingernail-sized part of space and create a chain reaction that would destroy this entire plane.

This was why no one dared to provoke a spatial mage during Noscent's peak: Every single one of them was able to destroy a small plane.

A Peak Heaven Rank Spatial Mage would be provoked by a family in the future, but they weren't afraid of that spatial mage since they had a powerhouse who had ignited his Godfire. Ultimately, the revenge of the spatial mage came as 11 of the 16 planes in the hands of that families ended up being destroyed, while that powerhouse with ignited Godfire was unable to capture him.

Even with his incomplete comprehension of the Spatial Law, Lin Yun could collapse such a small plane.

"Powerhouse of the Dynson Clan, I said I had no evil intent, but if you don't come out, I can only shatter this small plane. Could it be that you are willing to slowly die in a place where you can't even stretch your body?"

Xiuban scratched his head as he watched Lin Yun continuously shouting towards the sky before mumbling, "Such a big place isn't big enough for someone to stretch? Sir Merlin must be joking..."

The spatial fluctuation at Lin Yun's fingertip fluctuated more and more fiercely, and the surrounding space already started shuddering. The snake hiding here would no longer be able to remain there once the space collapsed.

An aged and feeble voice suddenly echoed throughout the plane.

"Human, stay your hand."

As the voice echoed, a phantom seemed to appear in the plane. It was the phantom of a snake, with a body that was several hundred meters thick and an unknown length.

The phantom rapidly congealed, and seeing that huge body appear, everyone looked at it with foolish expressions.

The snake's body was like a huge wall surrounding the edge of the plane. It was at least forty to fifty kilometers in length. The front half was in good condition. The scales looked as if they were made out of dark gold, and the top of the head looked like a crown made of gold.

Moreover, the head wasn't very snake-like; it gave a dragon-like impression to Lin Yun. There was no gloominess and coldness of a snake, only the majestic and imposing radiance of wisdom.

However, the latter half of the body was nothing but bones. There wasn't a single piece of flesh. The flesh at the boundary between the two parts of the body was continuously withering.

Although Lin Yun knew that the body of a Golden Crown Snake was huge, he was still stunned upon seeing it. Looking at the snake's body, Lin Yun guessed that it could last a few centuries due to its size.

The Golden Crown Snake's head was lying on the ground, seemingly exhausted, but he was still on guard as he looked at Lin Yun.

"Human, what do you want?"

Lin Yun sighed inwardly. There was research during the peak of Noscent that unveiled that directly using the flesh of Golden Crown Snakes was wasteful and extravagant. Their venom, golden crown, and a wisp of heart blood could nurture a Poisonous Dragon Grass into a new kind of plant that was a lot more effective than the Golden Crown Snake's flesh. It was also more suitable for human consumption.

More importantly, as long as there was a cutting of that plant, it could keep being nurtured and could multiply. Moreover, not only could antidotes be compounded with that plant called Golden Crown Grass, but even potions that improved one's constitution and permanently increased poison resistance could be compounded.

Unfortunately, by that point, Golden Crown Snakes hadn't been seen in Noscent for over ten millennia. The last ones were seen in the Undead Plane, but at the time, the mages of Noscent had already lost interest in killing Golden Crown Snakes, so they let those ancient lifeforms with outstanding intelligence live.

Later, the relationship slowly eased, and the humans gained a lot more information about ancient history from the Golden Crown Snakes. Many techniques ended up being developed thanks to the Golden Crown Snakes. There were very few magic beast races that humans would treat as equals during the Magic Era, and they were one of them.

"Powerhouse of the Dynson Clan, I want to make a deal with you. I'll cure your injury and even tell you where your clan is right now..."

Before Lin Yun finished his words, the snake's exhausted eyes suddenly burst with a terrifying light and a terrifying pressure blossomed. That snake had been at least Level 45 during his prime.

"Human, this joke isn't funny at all..."

Although he said so, everyone could tell that he wasn't calm. Before Lin Yun could speak again, the Golden Crown Snake got impatient and asked, "Human, what do you want? 10 tons of my flesh? Is that enough?"

Lin Yun calmly shook his head.

"I don't need your flesh. I'll cure you, and in exchange, you'll give me a drop of your purest saliva, a piece of your golden crown, and a drop of your heart's blood.

"And to tell you where your clan is, I'll need your memory, from the start of the 3rd Dynasty to its destruction. At your age, you should definitely have memories of those times."

The Golden Crown Snake slowly raised his head and seriously looked at Lin Yun for a few minutes. His gaze was shining with a complicated light... He was pleasantly surprised, doubtful, and puzzled.

"Strange human, I can accept your deal. Moreover, you can tell me your name. My name is very long, but you can call me Rikk."

Surprise flashed in Lin Yun's eyes. The most straightforward proof of a Golden Crown Snake's friendship was them initiating an exchange of names.

"I'm Mafa Merlin. Rikk, I'll start, but I need your help. I want you to use your power to suppress the death power."

Lin Yun flew to the boundary between Rikk's normal body and undead body and immediately sensed that the death power was flaring up and combusting.

The death aura on the surface of Rikk's body was terrifyingly dense, and it was even purer than the Undead Essence of the low-level undead.

Lin Yun took out the Book of Death, summoned Lagulin and Barton, and had them devour the death aura. He then summoned the undead prince. The Heaven Rank Undead obediently listened to Lin Yun's command and devoured the death aura.

That pure death power was a lot stronger than the three summons. Just like Undead Essence, it could be used to increase their own strength.

Lin Yun looked at the Sage Chapter with a grin. The Sage Chapter had thoroughly lost its function after he reached the Heaven Rank since the Ultimate Spells that Lin Yun could copy were of no use in a battle between Heaven Rank powerhouses. To strengthen it, it would need to devour Undead Essence, and a huge amount of it.

He couldn't hunt so many of the undead in Noscent, so he could only strengthen it in the Undead Plane.

He now had an opportunity, as Rikk's death power could compare to Undead Essence of undead beings over Level 20. It was enough to strengthen the Sage Chapter.

He roused the Sage Chapter, and the death power covering Rikk's undead body turned into a flood that poured into it.

After a few seconds, a huge phantom stone tablet appeared in the air, and the death power poured into it even more fiercely.

Numerous runes appeared on the back of the stone tablet, and a fifth line appeared on the front. This meant that spells from the 1st Tier to the 5th Tier could now be stored.

As the Sage Chapter kept on devouring, flesh slowly grew on Rikk's bones, spreading from the center to his tail. The undead transformation was rapidly receding.

After an hour, the 6th line appeared on the surface of the Sage Chapter.

Three hours later, the 7th line appeared, but there was only one slot.

Six hours later, Rikk's body had recovered. It was just that the lower half of his body seemed to have lost its luster, as if he was in poor health.

As for the Sage Chapter, there were seven lines where spells could be stored. The first line showed 128 slots, which meant that 128 1st Tier Spells could be stored.

There were two slots on the seventh line at the top, which meant that two 7th Tier Spell could be stored. Moreover, a 7th Tier Spell that could be stored would display the power of a Peak 9th Tier Spell!

Seeing Rikk's weak appearance, Lin Yun hesitated for a bit before opening his Demiplane and pouring the Mana Water from his mana lake into Rikk's mouth like a waterfall.

Rikk opened his mouth and let the waterfall in. Lin Yun stopped after a dozen minutes, and Rikk no longer looked exhausted. The bottom half of his body had also regained its luster, and his aura sharply rose to Level 46.

Rikk looking at Lin Yun with a complicated expression.

“Thank you, Mafa Merlin. You are different from all humans... No, you are different from all lifeforms I’ve encountered before. You have gained the friendship of the Dynson Clan. These are the things you needed.”

After saying those words, Rikk opened his mouth and a huge sphere of water flew out. It was followed by a similar sphere of blood and an even larger piece of his golden crown.

Lin Yun was somewhat stunned when he saw these things.

He had originally expected some saliva, a drop of heart blood, and a fist-sized piece of the golden crown...

Evidently, Rikk had calculated the amount based on his own size.

But this wasn’t a huge loss to Rikk. It was no different from pricking one’s finger to draw a drop of blood. But to Lin Yun, it meant that he wouldn’t need to cultivate cuttings or seeds. He could directly nurture a large patch of Golden Crown Grass, and the leftover materials could be used in experiments without any scruples.

Naturally, with the Mana Water he was fed, Rikk didn’t take a loss. After all, a bottle of Mana Water was enough for Lin Yun to restore all his mana, and the Mana Water Rikk was given was enough for Lin Yun’s mana to be restored a few dozen thousand times. Yet, this was only enough for Rikk to restore his mana once.

After Lin Yun put away these materials, Rikk once again spat out a sphere exuding soul power. He then glanced at Lin Yun’s small body and condensed that 100-meter sphere into a 1-meter-tall crystal.

“Those are my memories from the start of the 3rd Dynasty to its destruction. There is a lot... You should be able to find what you are looking for. If you need anything else, don’t hesitate to ask, my friend.”

Lin Yun put away the crystal, his expression somewhat serious. The Dynson Clan’s members had long lifespans. An ordinary clansman could live for over ten millennia, while a few dozen millennia was nothing to a more powerful clansman.

The worth of that crystal couldn’t be calculated. There might be a lot of enlightenment inside, and it might even contain the truth regarding the fall of the 3rd Dynasty.

After receiving the crystal, Lin Yun sent a few runes into Rikk’s head.

“There should be some tribes of your clan in the Abyss and in the Undead Plane, but I only know the coordinates of those in the Undead Plane. You should find them if you go there.”

Rikk appeared somewhat excited after getting a hold of the coordinates. He opened his mouth and spat a rune onto Lin Yun’s body.

“Mafa Merlin, my friend, I hope to meet you again, but I can’t wait to look for my clansmen. I’ll welcome you if you ever come to the Undead Plane.”

After saying those words, Rikk's huge body squeezed through this small plane's space as he disappeared into the void.

Lin Yun looked at the rune on his arm and involuntarily chuckled.

This was the blessing of the Dynson Race. It would be hard to be poisoned with it.

Lin Yun smiled as he watched Rikk disappear.

The Dynson race was extremely venomous, as their flesh and blood contained terrifying venom. This was well-known, but that didn't mean that the places they lived in were full of poison. This was the complete opposite of Ancient Poison Dragons.

Ancient Poison Dragons were the source of plagues, a source that continuously released toxins. But regular Golden Crown Snakes didn't release poison.

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Chapter 1270: Golden Crown Potion

During the peak of the Magic Era, a powerful mage that gained the friendship of a Golden Crown Snake discovered that secret. Golden Crown Snakes devoured poison, or perhaps it would be more accurate to say that they devoured all harmful elements.

Golden Crown Snakes devoured things detrimental to planes, and thus displayed natural toxins.

Therefore, it was better for Golden Crown Snakes to be left alive. Bane obtained that information when he conquered the Undead Plane. At the time, Noscent's mana was already dissipating, and some people wanted to lure the Golden Crown Snakes into returning to Noscent. Unfortunately, it was already useless.

Lin Yun would first befriend the Golden Crown Snake, and once his Natural Demiplane matured to a certain degree, he would persuade Rikk to settle in his Demiplane. When the time came, unless the Demiplane was destroyed by a disaster, there wouldn't be a problem.

Returning from a rewarding trip, Lin Yun led everyone out of this small collapsing plane. Due to Rikk forcibly leaving, the plane ended up being on the verge of collapse.

Lin Yun left the plane once he finished transplanting the Poisonous Dragon Grass.

He had originally planned on casually destroying the Viper Bandits while rescuing the young Bojinsen, but he ended up discovering something unexpected and thus brought out a lot of subordinates.

It ended up being very rewarding. Obtaining the friendship of the Golden Crown Snake, Rikk, was comparable to getting the friendship of the Golden Crown Snake Clan. After all, their race not only had very long lifespans, but they also were extremely powerful and intelligent. Rikk might be at Level 46, but he could get rid of hundreds of Heaven Mages at the same level.

A living Golden Crown Snake could raze any territory of the Odin Kingdom to the ground in less than ten days with their huge body. If a Golden Crown Snake painstakingly released toxins, they could create a land of death spanning over a hundred kilometers in just a few minutes.

After leaving the plane, Lin Yun felt the Planar Path collapse behind him. This meant that the plane had already collapsed just because Rikk had been a little forceful when exiting... It was quite frightening. Rikk would definitely cause an earthquake if his tail hit the ground.

He could cross through space without needing to use a Planar Path, and his huge and powerful body was a deterring force on its own.

After all, even if there were only a few Golden Crown Snakes in that immense Undead Plane, Undead Monarchs didn't dare to provoke them. Their bodies could easily reach over several hundred meters in thickness and dozens of kilometers in length. Numbers didn't matter against them, as a slight move was enough to crush a few million of the Undead.

The Viper Bandits' camp was already in ruins by the time they returned. The mage army was commanding the puppet army to loot the place. The Viper Bandits ended up just like the Death Sickle Bandits.

The Death Sickle bandit group was run by direct members of the Rodney Family while the Viper bandit group only used the name of the Rodney Family and wasn't under their control. They paid protection fees so that the Rodney Family wouldn't act against them, and naturally, if the Rodney Family had any dirty work to take care of, the Viper Bandits would be the ones to take care of it.

There was a lot of loot, including a large amount of Platinum Rock, which had probably been stolen from the Bojinsen family.

These things were all moved into Lin Yun's Demiplane. The added wealth was equivalent to the income of the Gilded Rose over half a month, which was quite terrifying. After all, the Gilded Rose already held the greatest share of the Andlusa Kingdom's market. Moreover, the revenue from the stores in the Odin Kingdom could compare to some medium-sized families.

Lin Yun didn't focus on these things and instead went to check on the young Bojinsen, only to hear Xiuban threatening him.

"... If not for the fact that your waist isn't even as thick as my arm and that there is barely any meat on your bones, I would have already roasted you!

"Kid, you are lucky that Sir Merlin is kindhearted. If it were up to this Lord Xiuban, I would have gotten rid of you after dealing with the Viper Bandits. You guys actually dared to stop supplying us, you are really a lot more daring than that Viper!"

When Lin Yun arrived, the fifteen-year-old Bojinsen was already pale from fear, sitting stiffly on a chair and shivering as he watched Xiuban emitting a terrifying aura.

He had only been locked up after being captured by the Viper Bandits, and these uncultured bandits would at most threaten to kill or torture him. It definitely couldn't compare to being roasted and eaten by a Beastman.

Seeing Lin Yun arrive, Xiuban's sinister smile instantly disappeared and he walked to Lin Yun's side with a calm expression.

“Sir Merlin, I already rescued and gave a lesson to that kid. These guys actually dared to stop supplying us, they are truly courting death...

“I was just scaring him, I definitely wouldn’t have eaten him, he is too dirty and as thin as a woman. His meat definitely wouldn’t taste good...”

It would have been better if Xiuban hadn’t explained. The young Bojinsen let out a frightened shriek as he heard those words and became even more convinced that Xiuban wanted to cook him.

“Silence!” Xiuban shouted at the young Bojinsen.

The young Bojinsen immediately covered his mouth, but his face was already devoid of color, and only endless fear remained in his eyes.

Lin Yun casually glanced at the hungry-looking youth and made sure that he wasn’t injured.

“Let’s go, young Bojinsen, I’ll bring you home.”

As he heard Lin Yun’s voice, the shaking legs of the young Bojinsen instantly became filled with power as he hopped behind Lin Yun, seemingly thinking that this was the safest location.

As he brought the young Bojinsen out of his room, the youth saw the scene outside. Only corpses remained of those insufferably arrogant Viper Bandits, and not a single one was intact. Those puppets only knew how to effectively get rid of their enemies and didn’t care about anything else.

Seeing the piled bodies, the young Bojinsen’s legs almost gave up. His talents could be considered decent as he was already a Mage at 15, but any of these bandits could have easily snapped his neck.

But the bandits he had been afraid of encountered even more powerful existences, which were now casually throwing their corpses aside.

A Planar Path opened in the center of the bandit camp, and the puppets were disappearing into it with the loot.

The puppets’ blood-stained bodies formed a long line that rapidly moved into the Planar Path.

The young Bojinsen was shocked as he looked at those powerful puppets, the burnt ruins, and the corpses of the bandits. The strongest force he had ever seen couldn’t compare with those several thousand Level 35 and above puppets.

The pressure emitted by the puppets made it hard for him to breathe. The fifty mages came over once the puppets disappeared, and the temperature rose. It was like a terrifying flaming giant was formed when the fifty mages stood together.

They walked up to Lin Yun, and Kurumu stepped forward.

“Sir Merlin, the mission has been completed. Everything within 30 kilometers has been burnt to the ground. Aside from the thirteen bandits out on a mission, all the bandits have been confirmed dead. Of those thirteen bandits, one is an Expert Swordsman, while the rest are Great Swordsmen. Do we hunt them down?”

Lin Yun shook his head.

“There is no need, it should be fine to release a bounty after returning. 10,000 purple golds for each of them. I’m sure it won’t take long for their heads to be delivered to the Gilded Rose.”

Kurumu stayed silent and casually glanced at the young Bojinsen next to Lin Yun. The youth’s face instantly turned red as he felt as if he had fallen in a sea of flames.

But it didn’t last long. His complexion eased up once Kurumu led the mage army through the Planar Path.

Fear could be seen in the young Bojinsen’s eyes as he watched the mages disappear into the Planar Path.

‘Terrifying, these people are too scary. There are several thousand puppets comparable to Sword Saints, no, more than that... And none of those puppets seem to be below Level 35...

‘And that fire mage... I felt like I was about to burn with just one glance, just like when father is angry at me. Are the fifty of them all Heaven Mages?’

‘There is also that Beastman! He is the strongest person I have ever seen. Even Viper wasn’t as fierce as him... But the most terrifying one is definitely their master.

‘I can’t even feel the existence of that young man when closing my eyes, and my mana instinctively avoids him. He feels like the center of the world just by standing there. He is definitely a lot more powerful than father... No, he is even more powerful than the person I saw last time, my mana wasn’t afraid of that person back then.’

The young Bojinsen was deeply shaken. This was the most shocking event in his life.

Only Reina and Xiuban remained once the mages entered the Demiplane.

Lin Yun had sent Pabiete back to oversee the Gilded Rose. With Pabiete keeping watch, he wouldn’t have to worry about someone causing trouble. Pabiete had logical thinking, so he wouldn’t be swayed by emotions if someone caused trouble. If they dared to resist, he would just kill them.

After opening a Spatial Door, he led Xiuban, Reina, and the young Bojinsen back to the Bojinsen Family.

Seeing that the young Bojinsen came back in one piece, Patriarch Bojinsen sighed in relief.

“Sir Mafa, thank you very much for your help. Our Bojinsen Family will immediately supply the Platinum Rock that the Gilded Rose needs. Our family will also make up for the previously missing Platinum Rock.”

Lin Yun didn’t speak. He knew that what the Bojinsen Patriarch meant was that they would supply Platinum Rock to the Gilded Rose while also supplying the Rodney Family.

Xiuban, who was standing behind Lin Yun, smirked as he rebuked, “Old man, even this great Lord Xiuban can see through your clumsy lie. Are you still trying to cheat Sir Merlin?”

The young Bojinsen’s face turned pale as a sheet of paper when he saw Xiuban’s hungry expression, and he promptly pulled his father to a side room.

“Father, are you insane? This incident is clearly linked to the Rodney Family, don’t tell me you still want to supply Platinum Rock to the Rodney Family? Do you think they would remain satisfied if you keep supplying them with Platinum Rock? Neither the Rodney Family nor the Gilded Rose will be pleased.

“By trying to express goodwill to both sides, you’ll end up offending them both. But there is no excuse for the Rodney Family’s evil trick... If we have to choose, we can only choose the Gilded Rose.

“You don’t know how terrifying the Gilded Rose is. The Viper Bandits’ camp was thoroughly destroyed in less than an hour, that poison fog and everything within thirty kilometers were turned to ashes.

“They have several thousand puppets stronger than the Sword Saints of our family and fifty Heaven Fire Mages. They are just too scary! Father, they are even scarier than the Rodney Family...”

Dread flickered in the eyes of the young Bojinsen, while Patriarch Bojinsen’s face became deathly white.

‘Using several thousand Sword Saints and a few dozen Heaven Mages to destroy a bandit camp... Just how powerful is the Gilded Rose?’

‘It was also said that that notorious Necromancer was almost killed by a Heaven Puppet of the Gilded Rose...

‘The Gilded Rose has only exposed one Heaven Puppet and two Heaven Mages who became guards in order to atone for their sins... The Heaven Rank powerhouses of the Gilded Rose have yet to appear...’

Patriarch Bojinsen no longer struggled after hearing the words of his son. He gritted his teeth and walked back into the room.

“Sir Merlin, our Bojinsen Family is willing to give you a stable long-term supply of Platinum Rock, and we will also blacklist the Rodney Family.”

With these words, the Bojinsen Family thoroughly gave in. This decision also forced them to rely on the Gilded Rose.

Lin Yun nodded.

“Good. You don’t need to worry about anything else, you just need to supply the materials.”

Patriarch Bojinsen sighed in relief when he heard those words. He then discovered that his back was drenched in cold sweat.

The Bojinsen Family had been holding the biggest supply of Platinum Rock within the Odin Kingdom for so many years, but they could only be considered a 3rd-rate force. They had been able to keep developing so far because they kept supplying Platinum Rock to other forces according to their strength while those forces kept themselves in check. They managed to make it to this day because they were the only ones with a stable supply of Platinum Rock.

After getting hold of the supplies once again, Lin Yun left with his group.

He wasn’t worried about the follow-up. The Rodney Family would have already acted if they were daring enough to directly attack the Bojinsen Family. They wouldn’t have been waiting until now. They had just

been threatening the Bojinsen Family to not sell to the Gilded Rose this time, but they didn't affect the supplies of other forces.

Thus, none of these forces intervened, but the Rodney Family's actions made quite a few of these forces unhappy.

After all, the Gilded Rose might be the one blacklisted today, but it could be the Gilded Lily the next day, and the Silvered Redbud the day after that.

The hideout of the Viper Bandits was burned to the ground, everything within a few dozen kilometers was turned to ashes, and even the poison fog completely disappeared. As for the remaining dozen bandits, their heads became even more expensive than heads made of purple golds, and it took less than three days for heads to be traded for their reward.

The Rodney Family couldn't make a move, and no matter how many benefits they gave to other forces, no one dared to get involved.

The corpses of the Viper Bandits and the Death Sickle Bandits weren't even cold yet, no, they couldn't even be found. Who wanted to throw away their lives?

The Bojinsen Family remained safe, and no one dared to make a move against them. The Gilded Rose's show of strength had been enough to alert many large forces, while the smaller forces definitely didn't want to provoke the Gilded Rose.

Half a month passed, and everything seemed to have stabilized. There had been no movement from the Rodney Family, and the Gilded Rose released a new antidote as a flagship product. It was also the Gilded Rose's best first-rate product.

It was an antidote known as the Golden Crown Potion, using newly cultivated Golden Crown Grass as their main ingredient.

Although the compounding difficulty was only that of a True Spirit Potion, its effect was a lot better than any True Spirit Antidote on the market. It could even cleanse the poison of a poisoned Heaven Rank powerhouse, and they wouldn't feel any weakness afterward.

After all, being poisoned during exploration or hunting would result in the mission failing. Even if they could quickly remove the poison, the weakness felt afterwards would last for a long time. Many powerhouses didn't die directly from being poisoned, but from the after-effects.

The business of the Gilded Rose sharply rose up with the emergence of the Golden Crown Potion. Although very few people could afford to buy the potion, the influence it brought sharply increased the sales of the Gilded Rose by 40%, and the Gilded Rose's marketplace had to expand by 40% for several days.

While the Gilded Rose was developing in full swing, the Rodney Family's meeting room was filled with murderous aura. Wilder was sitting in the seat of honor with a sinister expression and releasing an icy aura. Whenever his aura clashed, it would emit an unpleasant metallic sound.

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