Magic Era 1291

Chapter 1291: Lincoln Business Alliance

Damn it. How come Sir Mafa knew the Roosevelt Business Alliance? Reynolds never let anyone from the Roosevelt Business Alliance show up. How did he know?

Why was he so casual even though he knew the Roosevelt Business Alliance was behind it? Was he doing this on purpose?

He was definitely doing this on purpose. He purposefully remained silent and let the customers return the Universal Cores without doing anything. But why?

How could the Gilded Rose benefit from all this?

Over these days, the sales of the Gilded Rose's Universal Core had plummeted by almost 60 percent. Adding the Universal Cores that were refunded, the Gilded Rose probably only had 10 percent of the profit left. Why was he not worried at all?

If the Universal Cores' reputation was ruined...

Why was he so confident?

A lot of thoughts flashed quickly in Dick's head. He saw that Lin Yun didn't seem to be pretending to be cool at all, but was actually not worried.

The negotiation plan that Dick had prepared was no longer useful. He couldn't help but ask, "Sir Mafa, are you not worried in the slightest?"

Lin Yun was rather puzzled.

"Why should I feel worried? Since those people refused to use the Universal Core, they won't have a chance to.

"I believe everybody with brains is aware of the truth. They know the quality of the Universal Core very well too. If anyone thinks that the Universal Core cannot be sold, let's just wait.

"I'm fine with it. I can always stop selling the Universal Cores to the public, and only provide them for my partners. The productivity is low anyway, and selling to the public gives us great pressure. This is even better."

Dick hesitated and looked as awful as if he were having constipation. His main negotiation plan and the backup plan both became useless...

Everyone who had used the Universal Core knew how great it was, and how they could benefit from it. They would never give up.

It did make sense. The Gilded Rose's production of the Universal Core seemed low and unstable. It didn't take advance orders. Even if it didn't sell the Universal Cores to the public, a lot of people would still want it.

The cores were always in demand, and could always be sold...

Damn it. This guy was so confident. How could they talk about negotiation? He didn't care about the Roosevelt Business Alliance's slander aimed at the Universal Core at all. He could just stop selling it...

If he stopped selling the Universal Cores to the public, the Gilded Rose's partners would be thrilled as they would have a greater supply and more profits. The Gilded Rose's revenue wouldn't be affected at all

Dick thought for half a minute, but he couldn't come up with a solution to take advantage of the Gilded Rose. However, it was impossible for him to give up the Universal Core...

"Sir Mafa, in fact, I'm here as a representative of the Lincoln Business Alliance to negotiate with the Gilded Rose about possible cooperation in the Sten Kingdom regarding the Universal Core."

After much deliberation, Dick decided to treat this negotiation as a common one.

Delight flashed in Lin Yun's eyes. It was very important who needed whom in such negotiations. If Dick thought that the Gilded Rose was desperately in need of the Lincoln Business Alliance, then he would definitely propose harsh terms and conditions.

However, if the Gilded Rose didn't need the Lincoln Business Alliance at all, and considering the uniqueness of the Universal Core, it would be the Lincoln Business Alliance that was in need of the Gilded Rose. That was the prerequisite of the negotiation so that the Gilded Rose could make terms and conditions.

Lin Yun meant what he said because the Universal Core always had buyers. He could always just sell them to his partners, which was actually better for the Gilded Rose. He had chosen to sell the Universal Core in public because he wanted to make the Gilded Rose famous and help it establish a network in the Odin Kingdom.

However, that method seemed too hasty, and caused many problems. He might as well seize the opportunity to remove unqualified partners.

As those ideas flashed in his head, Lin Yun put on an expression of regret.

"Mr. Dick, I'm terribly sorry about the cooperation regarding Universal Cores. The Gilded Rose doesn't have a huge stock. We don't have a lot of raw materials. It's troublesome to exploit and refine them. The faulty rate is very high. The raw materials will be wasted if anything goes wrong in the production process.

"Therefore, productivity cannot be improved. We worked for a long time to ensure our supply. Although many Universal Cores were returned recently, they were all bought by our partners.

"The Sky City, for one, has purchased another 10,000, and promised to buy all the Universal Cores that are returned. Unfortunately, we have to meet the demand of our other partners. So, we owe the Sky City 10,000. They're closest to the Gilded Rose anyway. Their need is our priority...

"I'm terribly sorry, Mr. Dick, but the Gilded Rose doesn't have so many Universal Cores for sale in the Sten Kingdom.

"Maybe in a couple of years, when the Gilded Rose upgrades its technology and improves its productivity, it will consider selling the Universal Cores to the Sten Kingdom.

"Of course, by then, I'll definitely consider your Lincoln Business Alliance as our partner."

Dick couldn't have looked more awful. All the measures he prepared were useless. He changed his plan again and again, yet he still got the unexpected result.

Lin Yun had given the perfect excuse. What more could he say? Nobody could blame Lin Yun for supplying his partners first and foremost. They could only compliment the Gilded Rose for its trustworthiness. It likely wouldn't kick away its partners for greater returns...

Dick didn't expect to be declined, and certainly not with the excuse of low productivity. His head was almost exploding. He didn't know how to continue the negotiation after hearing the perfect excuse.

Also, everybody knew that the Gilded Rose's productivity of the Universal Cores was very low, and they were always in demand.

Nobody thought the Gilded Rose could manufacture the Universal Cores. Their price for bulk purchases was 50,000 purple gold apiece. The retail price was even 80,000 purple gold.

They could all imagine how profitable the cores were. They were so profitable and so in demand, so the Gilded Rose would certainly sell all that it had to make as much money as possible.

"Sir Dick, I'm terribly sorry that your trip was in vain. As an apology, I can offer you 20 Universal Cores, as long as you pay for them according to our price for the Gilded Rose's partners. 50,000 purple gold apiece.

"I hope that you won't think that it's too few, Sir Dick, as they're all I can offer for now..."

Dick managed a smile. Naturally, the Lincoln Business Alliance had bought Universal Cores, but for much higher prices. They were unable to purchase any of the Universal Cores that the Gilded Rose sold.

They didn't pay much attention to the new product at first. When they did, the rumor about the Universal Core spread out, and many people returned the Universal Cores to the Gilded Rose. Naturally, there were other buyers who hoped to buy the returned cores.

At this moment, the Gilded Rose was not selling Universal Cores openly anymore. It was hard to buy any of them. Buying 20 cores at the same time was definitely the largest deal on the market for now.

With a smile, Dick paid 1,000,000 purple gold quickly, and left with 20 Universal Cores.

After Dick left, Faleau asked in confusion, "Sir Merlin, according to the information I collected, half of the Sten Kingdom is a desert, and the other half is covered in snow. Each of the two halves is inhabited by an ethnic group. Although they've merged into one nation, their competition is still fierce.

"This Lincoln Business Alliance is the Roosevelt Business Alliance's major competitor. If it helps us, the Roosevelt Business Alliance won't be able to focus all its attention on the Gilded Rose. Why did you...?"

Lin Yun was smiling.

"You want to know why I declined Dick's offer of cooperation, right? Faleau, remember this. The Sten Kingdom is different from Andlusa and the Odin Kingdom.

"In the Andlusa Kingdom, the mage towers are the most powerful, and the royal family does not enjoy a unique position. It's only one of the most powerful forces in Andlusa.

"In the Odin Kingdom, the royal family is very strong. It has inherited legacies from the Third Dynasty, and has eyes throughout the country. It is undoubtedly the most powerful force in the Odin Kingdom.

"Then, there are the families with noble titles. They're the pillars of the Odin Kingdom. The individual nobles, and the noble families that have appeared in the last 1,000 years, aren't strong enough. Very few mage towers are in the top tier of the power pyramid of the Odin Kingdom.

"In the Sten Kingdom, everything is controlled by business alliances. None of their members is a pure mage. They're the best businessman mages in Noscent, and they want nothing but profit.

"If I had accepted the cooperation proposal, then they would've proposed harsh requirements. If I don't accept the requirements, those vampires who can smell purple gold from 10,000 kilometers away might even do other things..."

Faleau nodded, but he still found it hard to understand.

Lin Yun didn't explain further. As Noscent grew more and more prosperous, the Sten Kingdom had become as powerful as the Odin Kingdom after thousands of years.

Thanks to the top warriors of the Odin Kingdom, who were always human-shaped nuclear weapons, the Sten Kingdom had never done anything malicious.

When Noscent rose to the peak, it was not mages or their mage towers that spread their influence to countless planes, but the business alliances of the Sten Kingdom.

They had gathered infinite wealth. When Shelter Towers were established in Noscent, more than half of their funds were provided by the business alliances of the Sten Kingdom.

Those vampires almost wanted to suck up everyone's blood. The business alliances of the Sten Kingdom were known as leeches wearing human skin in countless planes.

They had conquered a lot of planes just with business methods, although it seemed quite impossible.

7,000 years later, the Lincoln Business Alliance would find a plane controlled by orcs. Then, all the orcs would be exploited in a few decades. Everything they used, ate, and learned would be provided by the business alliance. The orcs could only do mining in exchange for everything they wanted.

The business alliance conquered a plane with no bloodshed, and developed it with a much lower cost. It would be in the textbook of the Sten Kingdom in the future.

Lin Yun didn't underestimate those business alliances. When enough wealth was gathered, it could be even more terrifying than powerful spells.

While the Lincoln Business Alliance would grow into a classic vampire business alliance, it was still a rookie business alliance that could be destroyed by its competitor at this moment...

Cooperating with the Lincoln Business Alliance was the best choice. It was also a great first step for the Gilded Rose's march into the Sten Kingdom.

After the Lincoln Business Alliance obtained the Universal Cores, it would definitely suppress the Roosevelt Business Alliance, its old competitor. Since they were both in the magic tool business, it would be easy for the Lincoln Business Alliance to win the competition with an edge.

If the Roosevelt Business Alliance lost its ground in its own country, it wouldn't have the time or money to deal with the Gilded Rose, not when it might be destroyed anytime...

Both the Gilded Rose and the Lincoln Business Alliance would benefit from the cooperation. Lin Yun had left the Lincoln Business Alliance aside mainly because he had other plans.

When he saw Dick, Lin Yun thought of many things. Besides making sure that the Roosevelt Business Alliance was behind the smearing of the Gilded Rose, he also remembered something else.

When mana ebbed away from Noscent in the future, the vampires of the Sten Kingdom had to help build Shelter Towers with their fortune.

Their fortune had been accumulated for years. There was a material that didn't exist in Noscent, and the Lincoln Business Alliance was the one that offered it.

It was a new fused material that would be created 18,000 years later. The Lincoln Business Alliance kept the new material a secret for more than 1,000 years, until it was independently created by someone else.

The components of the new fused material were new substances that were discovered in a plane that the Lincoln Business Alliance controlled. It was a skeleton plane that was much less powerful than the planes of the undead. The strongest creature there was only level 40.

The other ores in this skeleton plane were of poor quality, but the new material, named Black Sand, was as important to the skeleton plane as Magic Iron was to the puppet plane.

The Black Sand was made into a new fused material as a component. Considering the need of the Shelter Towers, the Black Sand wouldn't be used up even if 100 such towers were to be built.

At this moment, the Lincoln Business Alliance didn't seem to have noticed the plane yet. In fact, it didn't make use of the Planar Path until thousands of years after its discovery. It had been using the plane as a secret warehouse.

The Planar Path was within the Lincoln Business Alliance's territory at this moment, but Lin Yun didn't know the specific location, because there was only rough information on the record. Also, that location wasn't very valuable to the Lincoln Business Alliance at this moment.

After all, this was not yet the age of population boom. Most of Noscent apart from towns was desolate. Very little land had been developed. In tens of thousands of years, one would have to go to another plane even if one just wanted to hunt a beast.

Lin Yun took out a piece of paper, and calculated the location of the Planar Path with the information Faleau had collected. With the details about the Lincoln Business Alliance, he soon figured out the spot.

Looking at the location of the Planar Path, Lin Yun put on a smile.

Searching for a Planar Path could be a time-consuming task. Also, that gate wasn't far away from a town. He might be seen if he just went there, and it would be impossible for him to deny it, even though it was just a skeleton plane that was useless to people in this age...

Therefore, he needed a justifiable excuse to appear in the Sten Kingdom, and to search for the Planar Path in secret.

Lin Yun patiently waited in the Gilded Rose. He didn't care about the vicious rumors about the Gilded Rose anymore, and simply accepted all refund requests. The Universal Cores were no longer sold in public, but only to the loyal partners.

The employees who resigned were let go too. Lin Yun was not afraid that they might leak anything, as they had signed contracts that Lord Shawn had personally created. It would be a miracle if they could leak any secret about the Gilded Rose...

Could anyone crack Lord Shawn's contract in this age? Of course not. There wouldn't be such technology in 20,000 years...

Taking care of the hidden problems and removing the untrustworthy partners and employees, things were done in secret. Nobody knew what the Gilded Rose's purpose was. Those who saw the picture felt that something was wrong, but those who were ignorant simply shouted that the Gilded Rose was doomed.

Chapter 1292: Tricked

On the other hand, with enough samples, especially the brand-new ones, Dick immediately let the Lincoln Business Alliance's alchemists do experiments.

Dick's hands shivered when he got the result of the experiments...

"Lord Dick, we have to get the Universal Cores, which can improve our magic tools by 48% in general!

"The Spiritual Magic Tools, which are the most profitable, have been improved most significantly. Damn it. The cores are applicable to most Spiritual Magic Tools. They can improve the popular Spiritual Magic Tools, except the special ones, by 62% on average!

"By 62%!

"If we have the cores, the suckers of the Roosevelt Business Alliance will be left far behind!"

An alchemist spoke to Dick excitedly. Dick, however, read the experiment report with unfocused eyes...

The Spiritual Magic Tools weren't the most expensive, and didn't have the biggest sales, but they were the most profitable!

Even a 10% improvement in magic tools could make them crush other magic tools of the same kind, not to mention a 62% improvement!

In the Sten Kingdom where the competition was fierce, it meant absolute domination!

The winner took all, and the loser had nothing. It was nothing unusual in the Sten Kingdom.

"Also, this must be a new material that the Gilded Rose has discovered. We can't find any similar materials in our labs. They must've found it in a certain plane.

"Without the material, there won't be anything we can do even if we get the technology.

"Lord Dick, we must strike a deal with the Gilded Rose! The Universal Core can bring forth a 5% to 30% improvement if it's applied to True Spirit Magic Tools.

"We must get the supply of the Universal Cores ahead of the idiots of the Roosevelt Business Alliance!

"If they get the cores, the Lincoln Business Alliance will probably be suppressed. We might even lose our position in the Upper Parliament..."

Dick was quite frightened. As an alchemist, he was fully aware of the significance of the data.

He jumped from his seat, and rushed out straight to the Gilded Rose.

Entering the Gilded Rose and meeting Lin Yun, who seemed casual and poised, Dick finally calmed down.

Damn it. He was already prepared to be taken advantage of by the Gilded Rose. If the Gilded Rose was satisfied, the Lincoln Business Alliance would gain profits 10 times greater.

He would accept any of the Gilded Rose's terms as long as they agreed to cooperate with the Lincoln Business Alliance...

"Sir Merlin, I've come again with absolute sincerity. I hope that we can cooperate with the Gilded Rose regarding the Universal Core."

Lin Yun turned him down quickly.

"Sir Dick, I'm sure that you are aware of the insufficient productivity of the Universal Cores..."

Dick remained solemn, as if he didn't hear any of that.

"Sir Merlin, we're not asking for technological cooperation, just purchase cooperation. I know that the Gilded Rose's offer for bulk purchases is 50,000 purple gold, but the Lincoln Business Alliance can pay 53,000 purple gold!

"We will purchase 600,000 Universal Cores every year. We can even share the Lincoln Business Alliance's connections and sales network in the Odin Kingdom..."

Dick solemnly proposed a lot of conditions that were all in favor of the Gilded Rose.

Besides the higher price, the Gilded Rose's chance of using the Lincoln Business Alliance's connections in the Odin Kingdom was even more useful. With the connections that the Lincoln Business Alliance had set up for years, the recent slander incidents wouldn't have happened.

It wouldn't have taken the Gilded Rose such a long time to figure out someone was conspiring against it, or investigate who the suspect was.

With the shared sales network, the Gilded Rose's expansion would be easier. At least, it would be on steady ground in the Odin Kingdom. Not everybody would be able to plot against it.

There wouldn't be so many slanderers. No mobsters would come to the Gilded Rose's branches for trouble again...

Dick went on, yet Lin Yun simply considered it with his head lowered, deep in thought.

Lin Yun didn't show any reaction, and Dick panicked.

Damn it. When the idiots of the Roosevelt Business Alliance tried to take down the Gilded Rose, he was just watching the drama. He wouldn't even have noticed the Gilded Rose had it not been for them.

He didn't expect that the Universal Cores were as effective as, no, even more effective than they were said to be. If the idiots of the Roosevelt Business Alliance succeeded, then the Lincoln Business Alliance would be in big trouble.

If the Lincoln Business Alliance was suppressed, and lost its seat in the Upper Parliament, it would be a lot harder if the Lincoln Business Alliance wanted to pass any motion.

By then, the president would definitely strangle Dick, and then turn his soul into a soul lamp that would burn for 10,000 years...

Dick was quite panicked, but he waited quietly without changing his expression.

There was a fixed number of seats in the Upper Parliament of the Sten Kingdom. However, some business alliances had one seat, and some had five or even more. All motions required voting. One more seat meant a better chance of having the motion passed.

Losing one seat didn't seem to affect the Lincoln Business Alliance too severely. However, it was a signal of decline, and the Lincoln Business Alliance's supporters might stop supporting it.

The chain reaction would definitely be a huge trouble for the business alliance...

Lin Yun was silent for five minutes, and Dick couldn't hold back any longer.

"Sir Merlin, if you have other requests, just tell me. We will accept them as long as we can. We'll consider them even if it's hard for us to accept..."

Lin Yun heaved a sigh and looked at Dick, as if he were feeling awkward.

"Sir Dick, I'm deeply touched by the Lincoln Business Alliance's sincerity. Since you've shown so much sincerity, the Gilded Rose must do something no matter how hard it is.

"You asked for 600,000 Universal Cores a year. That's even more than our productivity in a whole year.

"I'll talk to other partners. I believe I can convince them to spare some of their quota. I think the most I can offer you is 60,000 Universal Cores a year.

"After all, the raw materials are very hard to get. Even I was almost killed when I tried to get the materials. I suffered heavy losses too..."

Hearing that, Dick was immediately enlightened.

It was said that Merlin was already on the fourth level of the Heaven Rank. Even his life was at risk. He had surely found the materials in a very dangerous plane.

No wonder the Lincoln Business Alliance had never found the materials, which had to be from an advanced plane. Those people had definitely accidentally found the path to another plane. The materials might even be around the path!

After figuring that out, Dick gave up the thought of finding the materials. If the plane was dangerous even for a level-4 Heaven Rank expert, he couldn't possibly get materials from there even if he knew where the plane was.

"Sir Merlin, 60,000 is too few. How about 150,000?"

Lin Yun shook his head, and didn't give in.

Several minutes later, Lin Yun was still not giving in, and Dick got more and more anxious. He considered what the Gilded Rose needed.

After thinking for a long time, Dick suddenly remembered that the Gilded Rose came from Andlusa, and that it had been opening branches crazily since it came to the Odin Kingdom.

Immediately, Dick came up with an idea, and blurted it out without much thinking.

"The Lincoln Business Alliance can help the Gilded Rose open branches in the Sten Kingdom!"

But Dick regretted the moment he said it—the price was too high. Almost all the alchemy businesses of the Sten Kingdom were controlled by business alliances. If the Gilded Rose came, the Lincoln Business Alliance would infuriate a lot of people for helping it...

Dick was losing it, but Lin Yun retained his rationality. If the Gilded Rose were to start a branch in the Sten Kingdom and develop as it did in the Odin Kingdom, it would definitely go bankrupt in a month even with the Lincoln Business Alliance's help.

Recklessly jumping into the Sten Kingdom's business world would cause fierce resistance. It was better to do things one step at a time.

"Sir Dick, you must be kidding. If the Gilded Rose opens branches in the Sten Kingdom, many people will be angry with the Lincoln Business Alliance, right?

"However, that's truly a tempting offer. How about this? I'll give you another 20,000 Universal Cores, and the Lincoln Business Alliance will help the Gilded Rose open one branch in the Sten Kingdom in return.

"The branch will sell potions only. Let's open it in the City of Angels, shall we?

"In such a case, nobody will be in trouble, right?"

Dick was so moved that he almost shed tears.

Just one branch? And it would only sell potions? It meant that the Universal Cores wouldn't be sold in the Sten Kingdom.

Also, the branch was to be established in the City of Angels, which was a sh*thole of scumbags and evil mages?

Dick didn't know what to say. He quickly accepted the agreement of cooperation.

For the 80,000 Universal Cores that the Gilded Rose fetched from other partners, the Lincoln Business Alliance didn't pay a higher price than others, and didn't get into any trouble.

Nobody would blame the Lincoln Business Alliance for helping a foreign business to establish a branch in the City of Angels, which wasn't controlled by any business alliance. Almost all foreign stores were established there.

There were no laws in that place. Whoever had the strongest fist was the lawmaker. As long as they paid tax on time, they could open any kind of store they wanted.

After signing the contract, Dick guiltily took out an iced fruit.

"Sir Merlin, I can't thank you enough. I feel sorry that the Gilded Rose has to fetch cores from other partners. This Floating Fruit is yours. It's a symbol of my gratitude. You must accept it."

Then, he gave the Floating Fruit to Lin Yun, not to be fused, before he left without looking back.

Lin Yun looked at Dick's back, feeling guilty too.

Had he completely fooled that guy? Was that guy really a director of the Lincoln Business Alliance? It was a miracle that he hadn't been killed in a trap yet...

The man had offered a Floating Fruit, which indicated the wealth of the Lincoln Business Alliance. They were probably already extending their business to other planes.

The Floating Fruit grew in the void on the mana brought by the void storms. It couldn't have been easy to get...

Every Floating Fruit Tree was guarded by powerful void beasts. The Lincoln Business Alliance had surely gotten the fruit from the locals of a certain plane, who didn't know the value of the fruit.

Putting away the Floating Fruit, Lin Yun couldn't help but smile.

The Floating Fruit would be very popular in the future. It was the spatial mages' favorite. The mages who hadn't grasped laws of space wouldn't benefit much from it. They could only open Spatial Gates faster if they had the fruit.

However, the spatial mages who had learned laws of space could obtain the pieces of laws in the Floating Fruit, which could help them understand the laws of space.

Also, it was extremely difficult for the fruit to grow. It required a desperately huge amount of mana, and couldn't grow in any plane. Only in the void that was frequented by void or elemental storms could the Floating Fruit grow...

However, it was possible for the fruit to grow in natural Demiplanes.

Lin Yun unfroze the fruit and ate it. He then buried its seed in the lake of mana in his Demiplane. He even specifically dug out a canal for the seed.

With the abundant mana, the seed would definitely sprout and grow better than in the void. The pure and sufficient mana was much better than the mana brought by void storms. The tree that the seed grew into would contain more complete pieces of laws.

After having the fruit, he immediately perceived a few more spatial runes, but the effect wasn't very significant. Obviously, the fruit hadn't grown up in the best environment.

There was no telling how long it would take for the fruit tree to grow up. Lin Yun simply set up a protection array and left it aside.

He went away and created more Black Pattern Silver for the Universal Cores.

On the other hand, Dick, who had returned in a hurry after signing the contract, thought carefully after he calmed down, and realized something else.

Sir Merlin had to know that the Gilded Rose could hardly stand in the Sten Kingdom even with the help of the Lincoln Business Alliance, and that the only solution was to start a branch in the City of Angels.

The most likely way to succeed was to stabilize its position in the City of Angels, and then spread out. He had to be tempted, but he knew it might not work out. That was why he chose the City of Angels.

He promised to sell alchemy potions only. It was probably also for the Lincoln Business Alliance, a partner...

What a good man. He was a pure alchemist, not a businessman. Only such a person could've developed the Universal Core, the groundbreaking product that changed the architecture of current magic tools...

To ensure his partners' interests and his credit, he declined their cooperation invitation again and again. It seemed that the agreement came too easy. They should make it up to Sir Merlin.

They would give him the best location in the City of Angels for his branch. Well, they could also give something to the master of the City of Angels so that it would look after the Gilded Rose.

The people of the Roosevelt Business Alliance were idiots. Sir Merlin was such a nice person. They could've sought cooperation with him instead of scheming against him.

Humph. Sir Merlin was certainly not a person to be intimated. He would rather stop selling the products than give in. Did those idiots see that the Lincoln Business Alliance had won the biggest deal for showing sincerity?

When the Lincoln Business Alliance got the Universal Cores, the idiots of the Roosevelt Business Alliance would definitely regret. One of their seats in the Upper Parliament would be taken away by the Lincoln Business Alliance!

Seven days later, Lin Yun embarked on an airship to the Sten Kingdom along with Dick, bringing 10,000 Universal Cores with him.

80,000 a year meant no more than 7,000 per month, yet Lin Yun carried 10,000 on the first delivery. Dick was touched again, and mocked the Roosevelt Business Alliance for their stupidity.

During the seven days, Lin Yun had specifically created a magic tool to find the skeleton plane. It took him three days to reach the Sten Kingdom on the airship.

He found himself in a completely different world when he arrived. He saw a snowy world where there was nothing but whiteness.

It was not until they almost reached the City of Angels that he saw a clear boundary from the sky.

Half of the land was a desert, and the other half was covered with snow. The world seemed to be divided into halves. Located on the boundary was a city that was 10 kilometers long and wide. There was not a living creature or even a blade of grass near the city. It was desolate.

From the high sky, they could see that many people were fighting not far away from the city. Soon, the battle was over, and broken bodies were left on the ground. Soon after the fighters left, a necromancer came with a few undead creatures, and took away all the bodies.

At least five similar things were happening around the city at the same time. Battles rarely stopped within several dozen kilometers of the city.

Dick looked out of the window with an awkward expression...

"Sir Merlin, the City of Angels... is indeed a bit chaotic. However, those idiots know what kind of people they can offend and what kind they can't. Nobody will be stupid enough to provoke you.

"As long as you show your strength, the Gilded Rose's branch will be safe here. Also, it will be much more profitable here than other places.

"It's because there are no ordinary people. All residents here are mages and swordsmen. There are even a lot of other races living here..."

Chapter 1293: City of Angels

The City of Angels was on the border of the desert and snow plains of the Sten Kingdom. It had the harshest environment in the country. It was in the middle of a vast plain that had no obstacles. Dozens of storms visited the city every year.

At the very beginning, there had been no city here. It had been a battlefield of the two ethnic groups in the Sten Kingdom. When the war was over, criminals were banished here. Those criminals established the city.

At first, the city was called the City of Sinners because every resident here was an unpardonable criminal. They were exiled evil mages, mass murderers, and crazy alchemists...

As time went by, more and more people were exiled here, and many of them were geniuses. Those crazy alchemists and evil mages who didn't have any moral boundaries were even stronger than other experts on their level.

Those people fought and killed each other every day. Then, the first master of the City of Angels appeared. He subdued those crazy guys and set up rules. That was the beginning of the City of Angels' development.

Later, the city became the place where the outcasts gathered. The murderers, the people who had pissed off wrong targets, and the felons who had committed heinous crimes would all run to the City of Angels.

Nobody cared what they'd done in the past as long as they obeyed the city's rules.

Anything unavailable on the market outside could be sold here. Even royal princesses might be sold as pets here.

Someone tried to eliminate the City of Angels, but it could no longer be eliminated. It was the place that gathered the filth of the Sten Kingdom, but there were a lot of stakes in the place too. Whoever wanted to take anything from here had to pay accordingly. Robbery was against the rules.

A daughter of a prince of the Odin Kingdom was sold to the city and auctioned. The prince led Heaven Rank experts to the City of Angels, and attempted to destroy it.

However, the city had existed for countless years. It seemed unremarkable, but it was surprisingly sturdy. The city was closed and vanished into the ground. It was gone for a month.

When the City of Angels went missing, the forces that were connected to the City of Angels suffered huge losses. Some international deals and clandestine negotiations could only be conducted in the City of Angels.

During the month, a lot of people showed up to suppress the prince. Even the royal family of Odin persuaded him in person. Finally, the City of Angels rose from the ground again, and the prince had to pay a fortune to buy his daughter back...

Standing on the deck of the airship, Lin Yun looked at the City of Angels down below with a smile.

The City of Angels would remain famous in the future. It had influence in all chaotic areas. 10,000 years later, the City of Angels would be relocated to a chaotic plane that everybody could go to if they knew its coordinates. They could buy anything they wanted, including materials, alchemy items, and even technologies as long as they paid the right price.

It was actually easy to get things done in such places because as long as one was strong enough, those places would be extremely safe and suitable for business.

As long as one paid tax and had a store, one could simply kill the people who dared to come for trouble. The city guards would only help clean the blood. Sometimes, they would even just finish off the troublemakers. There were no robbers in the city, as nobody wanted to get killed.

Landing in the City of Angels, Dick personally led Lin Yun to the most prosperous street in the City of Angels. There was only one unopened store on the street, which was eight meters wide.

The store had three floors. When the protection arrays of the store were activated, it was only eight meters high. It was much smaller than any of the Gilded Rose's branches. However, it was a fairly large store in the City of Angels.

The store had already been renovated for the purpose of selling potions. One of the two upper floors was a warehouse, and the other was for residence. All necessary things were prepared.

"Sir Merlin, this is the biggest store that we can get in the best part of the city. If you're unsatisfied, we can keep searching—"

Before Dick finished, Lin Yun had waved his hand. "That won't be necessary. This is it. I'm very satisfied."

Lin Yun knew how hard it was to acquire a store in the City of Angels. There might not be a seller even if he offered 10 times the price. The store owners would rather pay a huge amount of tax and leave their stores empty than sell the stores out.

It was already fortunate enough if one could rent a store. Not to mention that this was the most prosperous street in the City of Angels.

Taking out all the contracts, Dick signed a transfer contract with Lin Yun. Then, the store belonged to Lin Yun. He was free to do anything he wanted in the store.

There were many evil necromancers doing human experiments in their stores, but nobody would arrest them unless they affected others.

Completing the deal, Dick left with the 10,000 Universal Cores in a hurry. Lin Yun, on the other hand, opened his Demiplane and released Xiuban and Reina, as well as the clerks he had brought here for the store.

After the goods were put on shelves, the sign of the store was changed to "Gilded Rose Potion Store".

The store was opened while keeping a low profile. There was not any ceremony. Lin Yun left instructions for Xiuban, and then disappeared.

"Xiuban, Reina, keep an eye on the store. Whoever comes to the store for trouble, just kill them."

Quietly leaving the City of Angels, Lin Yun went in the direction of what he speculated to be the location of the Planar Path, which was only 50 kilometers away from the City of Angels. In this range, battles never stopped.

The people who escaped to the City of Angels were often chased to the gate of the city. They wouldn't be safe until they entered the City of Angels. Everybody had to obey the rules of the city while they were inside the city.

Lin Yun hid himself and floated along with the wind while he investigated the vibe of the Planar Path with the detector he made.

If he didn't know what kind of plane it was, it would be barely possible for him to find the Planar Path with a magic tool. Only if he knew the basic parameters of the plane and had a rough search range would the magic tool be useful.

However, the process wasn't so easy. The magic tool wouldn't react until it was very close to the Planar Path, so Lin Yun estimated that he would have to float for a dozen days.

He might easily be discovered in the process. If he wandered around the City of Angels for no good reason, he might get into unnecessary trouble.

However, even if he got spotted at this moment, he was free to do anything he wanted as a store owner in the City of Angels. He could even count the sand every day in the cold wind...

The night fell, and the heat of the day was quickly gone. The City of Angels was like a city located in a desert during the day, but a snowfall began at night, turning everything within dozens of kilometers of the City of Angels white. The city was covered in ice and snow.

At night, the temperature was so low that dropping water would freeze before it hit the ground. However, the city became even more lively and heated. The snowflakes were vaporized before they reached the city.

The night was when the City of Angels was truly alive. All establishments were open at night. The brothels, casinos, and black markets did most of their business at night.

Xiuban was enjoying a bunch of fresh food he bought on the street in front of the store. There were no customers in the store. That was often the case with every newly opened store, even though it sold potions.

However, in the City of Angels, the number of customers didn't depend on whether or not the store was new...

Soon, a few strangers came, led by a Sword Saint. They all wore a cold mysterious smile.

"A new store. Gilded Rose? I've never heard about this name. Pay your tax—"

The vicious-looking Sword Saint leading a few Expert Swordsmen stepped into the Gilded Rose. Before they finished speaking, Xiuban had already stopped eating and raised his head, grinning at the guys who were at the door.

He then picked up Carnage, and then disappeared.

Next moment, the Sword Saint who just spoke was knocked away in a thunderous explosion. He exploded into a mist of blood after flying for three meters.

Xiuban grinned scarily and waved Carnage. As if he were slaughtering chickens, he turned the Sword Saint and the five Expert Swordsmen into blood...

From when they entered the Gilded Rose to the moment they exploded into mist of blood, it took no more than three seconds...

Xiuban spat on the street, and casually tossed Carnage aside. He then grabbed the roast leg of an unknown beast and chewed it.

"Idiots. We just paid this year's tax during the day, yet you pretended to be tax collectors? Did you take me for a fool?"

Outside of the Gilded Rose, the passers-by all fell quiet. They all stared at Xiuban, who was enjoying the roast meat.

They knew exactly what the strangers were for. Nobody dared to buy things in the Gilded Rose, because new stores, especially this unknown one, couldn't be from a powerful force.

Then, it was only natural that the mobsters in the city attempted to take advantage of the store...

It was true that nobody dared to rob, thanks to the city guards. However, those villains had many ways to prevent the store from doing business.

If the store owner was strong enough, then this was truly a great place for business, but if they weren't strong enough, they had to pay something before they did business.

Clearly, those strangers took the Gilded Rose for a branch of an alchemy store, and one that could easily be taken advantage of...

A few seconds later, the passers-by resumed whatever they were doing. Nobody cared about the miserable deaths of those idiots. They looked at Xiuban and the Gilded Rose in a different way. Very few people were as brutal and fearless as him in the City of Angels...

Soon, a lot of customers visited the Gilded Rose. They didn't care about the disgusting remains at the door at all.

Half a minute later, the city guards appeared. The manager of the store simply explained that the victims pretended to be city guards, and tried to collect tax. The city guards immediately left, and even cleaned the blood at the door.

Several minutes later, someone came to sell intelligence regarding the people that Xiuban killed. The manager of the store quickly paid 1,000 purple gold for the intelligence, and gave it to Reina.

When it was dawn, Lin Yun appeared on the third floor of the store from outside of the city. He learned of the incident, and wasn't bothered.

"Kill those people the moment they leave the City of Angels. They're just a bunch of refugees, yet they're bold enough to extort us."

Leaving the matter alone, Lin Yun continued searching for the Planar Path outside of the city. The Gilded Rose's business in the City of Angels finally began. The customers were actually more reassured upon seeing how strong Xiuban was. Also, the Gilded Rose sold a lot of unique, high-quality drugs.

Three days later, the villain group that the robbers came from was wiped out while they were on an escort mission outside of the city. They were frozen into ice sculptures 100 meters away from the city. Even the scorching sun in the day didn't melt the ice.

They seemed to have all been frozen into ice without being able to put up any resistance. Even their shocked expressions were frozen too.

After they stood for three days, the ice sculptures finally exploded into ice crystals, and disappeared...

After showing its muscles, the Gilded Rose finally stabilized its position in the City of Angels. Those who had enough strength could always do business more easily here.

Nobody caused any trouble in the Gilded Rose's store. They all paid up front. The deals were much easier than in other places.

Lin Yun came to the store less and less frequently. He spent more of his time searching for the Planar Path.

He didn't find any lead after a dozen days of searching. Then, after another five days of searching without any rest, when the sun was about to rise, the magic compass finally showed reaction.

A vague vibe of death appeared on the surface of the compass. Then, it spun at the edge of the compass, and pointed in one direction.

Lin Yun was quite refreshed by the discovery. He followed the direction, and soon reached the point of interest. When he arrived, the vibe of death on the compass simply revolved in the center.

Seeing that, Lin Yun realized what was wrong.

As it turned out, the Planar Path was below the ground. No wonder the Planar Path wouldn't be found until thousands of years later, even though the City of Angels was so chaotic.

By then, the City of Angels would have already moved to an independent plane, and the Lincoln Business Alliance would claim this place, and find the Planar Path.

The sand, mixed with the snow, had been frozen. Lin Yun would have to wait until noon if he wanted to see the desert.

Lin Yun spat out a rune of law, and the frozen land underneath his feet split up, allowing Lin Yun to sink quickly as if he were caught in a swamp.

After submerging for 100 meters, he finally found the place where the Planar Path was hidden. He was surrounded by hard rocks, with only a crack that was a meter wide. In the center of the crack, there was a spatial opening that was half meter long, and it seemed to be vanishing.

There was only a vague aura of death, and some of crumbled undead skeletons, in the spatial opening. As the spatial opening dwindled, the crack seemed to be closing too.

No wonder there were no undead creatures so far. This spatial opening could hardly be called a Planar Path. It was just a pair of fixed coordinates at best.

The undead creatures that could pass through the tiny opening couldn't be stronger than level 10. Also, the opening would only appear in the middle of the night. After that, the spatial opening would disappear, and the crack that was pushed open by the death aura would be closed by the underground pressure.

Under such pressure, any undead creatures below level 30 would've been killed immediately. If the terrain in this place didn't change, this spatial opening probably wouldn't be discovered in tens of thousands of years.

Releasing a few other spatial runes, Lin Yun supported the spatial opening that was about to close. He then expanded the crack in the rocks, creating and fixating a space. Then, he began to set up the Planar Path.

This Planar Path, which was just a tiny spatial opening, couldn't support travel. He could only confirm the coordinates of the plane with the spatial opening, and then establish a Planar Path through alchemy arrays.

In only half an hour, a Planar Path was established. Lin Yun came into a dim world through the Planar Path

Chapter 1294: Doom of the Undead

The sky seemed to be filled with dust and clouds. There was gray mist that blocked any light. It was like a dark night without stars or the moon. If an ordinary person were here, they wouldn't even see their own fingers.

The air was brimming with the power of death. On the continent that was absolutely flat, many ghosts were unconsciously wandering and fighting. The victorious ghosts would swallow the soul fire of the losers. That was the fastest way for them to level up.

If those tireless ghosts hadn't been constantly doing that, the planes of the undead would've exploded after they had been filled up.

There were a lot of skeletons in the distance and undead creatures wandering behind. Lin Yun dropped his disguise. The undead creatures around him all noticed and lunged at him. The ghosts all screamed and charged at him too.

A living creature in the skeleton plane was like a drop of water in boiling oil. No undead creature would abandon the fresh flesh and soul.

Lin Yun stooped and grabbed a handful of the soil. He released fire and burnt it for a moment. Then, crystals that looked like black grains were condensed.

This is it, the plane with the most supply of Black Sand. No planes with one-tenth of the supply here will be found in 10,000 years...

Lin Yun didn't bother to deal with the low-level undead creatures. Their soul fires trembled violently when they approached Lin Yun, as if they had run into their natural enemy. They flinched in fear. After they ran back for some distance, they turned around and dashed at Lin Yun again, repeating the process.

The ghosts that overlapped each other and looked like jellyfish were the same. They all screamed and fled as they approached Lin Yun. Then, they ran back, and then lunged at him again...

Although his ability, Undead Predator, wasn't very powerful, it wasn't something that those weak undead creatures could resist.

After a dozen minutes, there was nothing within dozens of meters of Lin Yun, and the low-level undead creatures gathered in circles around him. At least 10,000 undead creatures had gathered in this place.

When all the undead creatures were gathered, Lin Yun opened his mouth and spouted a fiery rune. Immediately, a circle of flames arose around him and spread out quickly, consuming all the undead creatures within a range of 1,000 meters.

The flames illuminated the dim world. Countless undead creatures were burnt to ashes, leaving their essence on the ground.

In no more than one minute, the place became absolutely quiet. The flames were burning, but there was not a single undead creature left. Lin Yun had purposefully attracted all the undead creatures nearby to him. There was none left in a radius of 10 kilometers.

He opened the Book of Death, and turned to the Sage Chapter, which unleashed a powerful devouring force, swallowing the essence on the ground.

Unfortunately, there was no change despite the absorption of essence.

There were still only two level-7 spells that could be copied. To upgrade the Sage Chapter again, it required a shocking amount of undead essence.

It was unlikely that he would meet a powerful undead creature that was as strong as the peak of the Heaven Rank again, and directly use the power of death it carried.

Lin Yun wandered in this skeleton plane again, and released his aura of vitality, attracting a large number of undead creatures. He killed all of them. Most of them were below level 20, and few were above it. He had only seen two that were above level 30.

As he hunted the undead creatures on a large scale, Lin Yun's ability of Undead Predator was evolving too. After a week of hunting, the low-level undead creatures would flee in fear when he was 100 meters away. Even the level-30 undead creatures didn't dare to approach within 50 meters of him.

The aura of vitality that Lin Yun released was as eye-catching as a lighthouse in this dark world. Even low-level ghosts could detect him from a dozen kilometers away.

He continued hunting for half a month, and almost executed all the undead creatures in this plane, including a level-39 skeleton giant, which was the most powerful existence here.

He discovered many unusual things. One was that there was another Planar Path in this plane, and was much more stable. It was open for a dozen minutes every day, and many undead creatures would travel from there to this plane through the Planar Path.

Seeing the Planar Path, Lin Yun suddenly remembered something. Soon after the Lincoln Business Alliance obtained this skeleton plane in the future, the undead creatures would invade the Sten Kingdom.

The invasion started somewhere near the City of Angels. However, according to historical records, the invasion happened because an evil necromancer accidentally opened the gate to an undead plane during an experiment, and therefore let in plenty of undead creatures.

However, seeing the plane and the undead creatures that were surging from there into this skeleton plane, Lin Yun suddenly understood.

The invasion of the undead had nothing to do with any necromancer. Those undead creatures were from another plane.

The other end of the Planar Path contained a terrifying amount of power of death. A lot of the power of death even leaked from the Planar Path into this skeleton plane.

The other end of the Planar Path was definitely the Undead Plane, which was known to be unconquerable!

Noscent had tried to conquer the Undead Plane again and again in the age of colonization, but suffered huge losses every time. In its heyday, it conquered the Undead Plane, but those bones that couldn't be shattered very soon returned as an ocean of undead creatures.

For normal planes, it was possible to set up a base and just collect resources. However, in the Undead Plane, the tireless undead creatures would fight any living creature ceaselessly whenever they saw one.

Most forces that had conquered the Undead Plane lost the war of attrition as the undead creatures could afford the attrition, but human beings couldn't.

The undead creatures could kill a living human at the cost of 100 or even 1,000 soldiers of their own, and they had an inexhaustible supply of reserve forces. In a total war, a billion undead creatures could be easily sent to the battlefield.

Even when the magic-powered warships were developed and put into use in the future, they would be worn out by the number of enemies too.

Standing in front of the Planar Path, Lin Yun burnt the new undead creatures into ashes. He hesitated for a moment, and then entered the Planar Path.

Hiding all his aura, he walked out of the Planar Path, and saw a world that only had black, white, and gray colors. In front of him was an enormous mountain of bones 1,000 meters high. Many skeletons and ghosts were wandering on and around the mountain.

Some of the bones were replaced by the skeletons. They even used the powerful bones as weapons.

In the distance, a skeleton archer raised a bone bow, and tore off one of its ribs to use as an arrow, shooting the spine of another skeleton. Then, it quickly moved to its target, and swallowed the soul fire that was still burning in the head.

Then, it tore apart the skeleton on the ground, and installed a similar rib in its body. After that, the skeleton archer hesitated for a moment, and then installed the rest of its opponents' ribs on itself. It seemed to have more than 30 ribs.

A lot of undead creatures were wandering in the area. Almost all of them were fighting. Some of them died, and some gathered from a distance. Some even stood up from the mountain of bones. They were newly born undead creatures...

A gray sun hung in the sky, emitting cold light. The sunlight felt as cold as death. One could receive nothing but weird coldness from the sun, which seemed to be already dead. It seemed to have been corrupted by the aura of death.

Lin Yun stared at the sun, and felt very uncomfortable.

He flew into the distance, and saw nothing but desolation on the ground. Half-buried bones were everywhere. The plants here were unique to the Undead Plane too, and they looked quite scary.

There was a bush that seemed to be made of black weeds. A level-20 skeleton warrior entered the bush. Immediately, the weeds seemed to be back to life. They tied up the skeleton warrior quickly, and all of its joints were wreathed in weeds.

In only three seconds, the skeleton warrior had been torn apart into broken bones. Only its head where the soul fire was burning was kept intact.

The weeds trembled crazily. Their bloody roots rose from the ground, and stabbed into the skull. The skeleton warrior's soul fire waned. After the skull was tied up, the bloody roots disappeared into the ground with it.

The weeds seemed to be growing more exuberantly. Hundreds of more weeds appeared in less than one minute.

Lin Yun knew that the plants were named Soul Swallowing Weeds. They were very common in the Undead Plane, and only needed power of death to survive. However, in order to expand and upgrade, they would have to swallow the soul fire of the undead.

They could set up traps and wait for the brainless undead creatures to fall in.

Cutting down some of the Soul Swallowing Weeds, Lin Yun flew onward. Those weeds were not valuable, and had a lot of replacements in Noscent, so it was unnecessary to dig them out.

After flying for half a day, he saw a shabby city of bones ahead of him. He released Lagulin, Barton, and the ghost of the prince.

The three undead creatures caused panic when they appeared. A lot of undead creatures shunned them in fear. The ghost of the prince glanced at Lin Yun, and then attacked the city of bones obediently.

It was more of a building 1,000 meters long and wide than a city. There was an altar a dozen meters high in the center of the city, and a throne was placed on it. A level-35 skeleton king was ensconced on the throne.

The battle came to an end very soon. The prince swallowed the skeleton king's soul fire, and gave its essence to Lin Yun.

Lin Yun hid himself, and asked the prince to go hunting with Barton and Lagulin. They swallowed the soul fire of the victims, and left the essence of the dead for Lin Yun.

Half a month later, all the undead creatures within 100 kilometers of the Planar Path had been eliminated. The three ghosts left marks on the range, declaring that it was their territory. No other undead creatures would feel anything wrong even though they had no subordinates, because one of them was in the Heaven Rank.

Swallowing crazily for half a month, the three ghosts had been growing very fast in the Undead Plane. Lagulin and Barton had reached level 39, and the prince had stabilized in level 41.

The tremendous amount of essence of the undead didn't upgrade the Sage Chapter so that it could copy level-8 spells, but it allowed the Sage Chapter to copy another level-7 spell.

After occupying the territory, Lin Yun set up an alchemy array to seal and hide the Planar Path. Then, he left with the three ghosts.

Over these days, Lin Yun had detected the assembly of a significant number of undead creatures in the distance. At least 100,000,000 undead creatures, led by lords above level 45, were fighting in the distance.

Although their battlefield was at least 300 kilometers away, as soon as Lin Yun leaked his aura of vitality, the two undead overlords would certainly feel the light in the darkness.

Then, they would definitely stop fighting each other, and come in his direction.

Lin Yun looked back regretfully.

If he could kill a few Heaven Rank undead creatures, the Sage Chapter and Undead Predator would definitely upgrade again.

However, that was just his wish.

Every Heaven Rank undead creature would be too ashamed to call itself a lord if it didn't command tens of millions of subordinates.

The lords above level 45 could easily lead 100,000,000 undead creatures to war...

Those undead creatures weren't all low-level ones. Lin Yun had detected that the two overlords had at least 50 Heaven Rank subordinates.

He couldn't afford catching their attention. Even if he were to fight for a whole year, he couldn't possibly eliminate them.

Also, he wasn't a tireless ghost. If he were to fight consecutively for a couple of days, his soul would be exhausted even if he still had mana. He certainly couldn't fight for a year...

Hiding the Planar Path, Lin Yun turned around and left. He had found a path to the Undead Plane, which was an important finding. However, he was still too weak to stand his ground in the Undead Plane.

Although he knew some coordinates in the Undead Plane, those coordinates were inaccurate, and led to locations that wouldn't be significant until tens of thousands of years later.

If he were to go to those coordinates at this moment, he might end up in an undead overlord's city.

Returning to the skeleton plane, Lin Yun sealed this side of the Planar Path too.

Losing the power of death and the undead creatures from the Undead Plane, the skeleton plane became completely desolate. There was nothing in it left.

Lin Yun opened his Demiplane, and released 1,000 alchemy puppets. Some were battle puppets, and the rest were all engineering ones for mining and refining. Those engineering puppets weren't as good as alchemists, but they could carry out the task of mining the Black Sand and refining it.

Leaving those puppets here, Lin Yun took out the Book of Death, writing a few runes and marking the coordinates of this skeleton plane. Then, he returned to Noscent through the Planar Path.

He reappeared below the ground. Tearing apart the alchemy arrays and removing all traces, Lin Yun destroyed the Planar Path, and came back above the ground.

He quietly returned to the City of Angels. When he walked down from the third floor, he saw that Xiuban was having a great time chewing a half-meter-long leg, and Reina was studying an ice crystal. There were quite a lot of customers in the store.

Xiuban's eyes were widened, as if he was eager to welcome troublemakers, so Lin Yun knew that nobody would dare to come to the Gilded Rose for trouble...

The excavation of the Black Sand was no longer a problem. He only needed to go to the skeleton plane regularly to pick up the refined Black Sand. The puppets could take care of the rest.

Lin Yun left instructions for the manager of the store in the City of Angels. He also left a bunch of potions and 30 level-39 battle puppets.

He left the City of Angels with Xiuban and Reina for Neverwinter City.

The moment he returned to Neverwinter City, Faleau reported to him about recent events.

Hearing Faleau's report, Lin Yun was quite calm. Everything was just as he expected, if not even better.

The cooperation with the Lincoln Business Alliance was definitely the best move. Although Lin Yun didn't really care about rumors, the Gilded Rose's development in the Odin Kingdom would've been restrained if he hadn't handled it well. In time, the rumors might've become the Gilded Rose's stain.

Currently, the Gilded Rose was incapable of rising in the Sten Kingdom. It was already the best to start a branch in the City of Angels because earning a place in the City of Angels was easy as long as one was strong and rich, and sold great items.

Chapter 1295: Fallen through

However, further development in the Sten Kingdom would be very hard. All the profitable businesses in the Sten Kingdom were dominated by the business alliances. It was unlikely for a foreign force to rise here.

Lin Yun was already very satisfied with the current progress. Ever since he'd brought 10,000 Universal Cores to the Lincoln Business Alliance, it had been releasing new magic tools in the Sten Kingdom. After all, it was very convenient to apply the Universal Cores to magic tools.

The new magic tools that the Lincoln Business Alliance released in the Sten Kingdom were 50% more expensive than similar tools, but also 50% more effective.

The mages of the Sten Kingdom were known for their fastidiousness. They were all rich thanks to the Sten Kingdom's unique resources that the Odin Kingdom and the Andlusa Kingdom had to import at high prices.

Those people weren't short of money. They were also very picky. They wouldn't hesitate to pay for better products. If the Sten Kingdom's population weren't limited by its terrain, the kingdom probably would've been even more powerful than the Odin Kingdom. It was wealthier than the Sten Kingdom per capita.

Almost every Archmage had their True Spirit Magic Tool. The Heaven Rank experts would be too ashamed to greet others if they didn't have some tailor-made True Spirit Magic Tools.

The Lincoln Business Alliance released Spiritual Magic Tools that were embedded with Universal Cores and even the service of producing tailor-made True Spirit Magic Tools with Universal Cores.

Immediately, the Roosevelt Business Alliance lost more than 50% of the market share in terms of Spiritual Magic Tool and True Spirit Magic Tool businesses.

Their influence in the high-end market plummeted. Many mages who couldn't buy magic tools with Universal Cores would rather wait until the next month than buy Roosevelt Business Alliance's products.

That was a major strike for the Roosevelt Business Alliance, which was only responsible for the sales of the magic tools, but not any of the previous procedures.

The choice of materials, the purchase, the refining, and the forging weren't done by the Roosevelt Business Alliance. Even the components of the Spiritual Magic Tools were handled by its partners too.

This division of labor had been very efficient in the past, but became a fatal flaw now. The Roosevelt Business Alliance was responsible for sales, but couldn't sell any magic tools. So, not only did the Roosevelt Business Alliance suffer a major strike, but its partners were also greatly affected.

To cope with the Lincoln Business Alliance's pressure, the Roosevelt Business Alliance had to react by significantly lowering the prices of its products, hoping to exchange half of its profits for the market share. But it didn't work out well.

Dissidents emerged within the Roosevelt Business Alliance. Its partners were questioning it too. Some of them were even renegotiating cooperation with the Lincoln Business Alliance. The matter spread to the Upper Parliament in only one month.

During the voting on one particular motion, one of the Roosevelt Business Alliance's partners supported the Lincoln Business Alliance for the first time and abandoned the Roosevelt Business Alliance, which caused a chain reaction. The Roosevelt Business Alliance lost its influence in the Upper Parliament, and failed to pass any motion.

It was only a matter of time before it lost a seat.

Then, it was revealed that the Universal Cores were the Gilded Rose's products that the Roosevelt Business Alliance intended to steal with a plot, only to fail. However, the Lincoln Business Alliance struck a deal with the Gilded Rose very easily, which gave it the edge.

In particular, the Lincoln Business Alliance publicized the details of the negotiation so that everybody realized that the Roosevelt Business Alliance could've cooperated with the Gilded Rose fairly instead of plotting against it.

As a result, the Roosevelt Business Alliance's credit suffered a major strike. There were 30 percent fewer members of the Upper Parliament who supported the Roosevelt Business Alliance. Discontent with the Roosevelt Business Alliance was rising too.

Three of the Roosevelt Business Alliance's important partners betrayed it, and started cooperating with the Lincoln Business Alliance. Had it not been for the support of the desert ethnic group, which didn't want the Lincoln Business Alliance to dominate the magic tool market, the Roosevelt Business Alliance could be going bankrupt.

The Roosevelt Business Alliance had been stabbed in the heart. It was too busy dealing with the domestic crisis to plot against the Gilded Rose. All measures that were against the Gilded Rose had to be paused.

Without the Roosevelt Business Alliance's support, those who spread rumors and smeared the Gilded Rose were easily caught. Then, the Gilded Rose searched with the leads. Before they found out the mastermind, the mastermind had exposed himself.

The person who had been dealing with the Gilded Rose behind the scenes was none other than Wolkrie Carter, who was found by the Roosevelt Business Alliance during his escape. Then, the Roosevelt Business Alliance supported him to smear and plot against the Gilded Rose.

However, due to the Roosevelt Business Alliance's domestic crisis, it couldn't spare any more attention to Wolkrie. He lost all his support. All of the Roosevelt Business Alliance's members were operating in the Odin Kingdom, hoping to reclaim its lost market share.

Wolkrie was left alone for a month. Then, he couldn't hold back any longer, and continued smearing the Gilded Rose on his own. However, the Gilded Rose chased him down very quickly when he lost the support and connections of the Roosevelt Business Alliance.

He asked the Roosevelt Business Alliance to help deal with the Gilded Rose, only to be told that Reynolds didn't have time for him at this moment.

He was told that the Roosevelt Business Alliance's misfortune was all because of Reynolds' doing, and that the latter was still alive only because the Roosevelt Business Alliance needed him to manage the Odin Kingdom's market. However, his successor was already on the way, and Reynolds would be punished after his successor took over the power and connections in the Odin Kingdom.

Everybody in the Roosevelt Business Alliance was too busy to talk to Wolkrie, and the latter panicked. Seeing that the Gilded Rose was about to hunt him down, he simply gritted his teeth, and snuck into the Roosevelt Business Alliance's treasury, stealing a bunch of magic tools.

The Roosevelt Business Alliance then put a bounty on him. With the bounty that the Gilded Rose offered earlier, even the Heaven Rank experts became interested in him. They all wondered what he had stolen from the Roosevelt Business Alliance to deserve the 10,000,000 purple gold bounty.

Then, the Gilded Rose increased its bounty to 10,000,000 purple gold too, which made more people interested in Wolkrie's head.

As long as they killed Wolkrie, who wasn't very strong in the Heaven Rank, they would not just receive the bounties, but also the friendship of the Roosevelt Business Alliance and the Gilded Rose, which was more valuable.

The mastermind that had been smearing the Gilded Rose was exposed, and his schemes were torn apart, which restored the Gilded Rose's reputation. It was even more respected than before. Everybody knew that the Gilded Rose was the Lincoln Business Alliance's partner, and the Lincoln Business Alliance had crushed the Roosevelt Business Alliance in the Sten Kingdom with the Universal Cores that were rumored to be useless products in the Odin Kingdom.

All the rumors were clarified. Also, due to the incidents in the Sten Kingdom, the magic tool market had been changing. The Universal Core became popular again, and even more people wanted to buy it.

The stores in the Spiritual Magic Tool market and those which sold tailor-made True Spirit Magic Tools would have great profits if they got Universal Cores. If they couldn't, they couldn't even keep half of their profits.

Unfortunately, as Lin Yun instructed, the stores that had returned the Universal Cores earlier were all blacklisted, and couldn't buy any more Universal Cores from the Gilded Rose in the future.

None of them couldn't distinguish the quality of the Universal Cores, except those who were only buying the Universal Cores to resell them for higher prices.

Those stores were on the Gilded Rose's blacklist. The Gilded Rose wouldn't cooperate with them in any way or sell them anything.

After all, the Gilded Rose's products were always in demand on the market.

Now that the Gilded Rose had made the declaration, if they wanted to stay in the magic tool market, they would have to work on low-level magic tools which were less profitable and more competitive.

The employees that had left the Gilded Rose, be they salespeople or alchemists, would never be hired again. Also, it was revealed that several alchemists intended to reveal the Gilded Rose's secrets, but they were immediately punished by their contracts. Some lost their mana, some had damaged souls and lost all their alchemy knowledge, and some's souls even collapsed.

After the accidents happened several times, nobody wanted to hire the alchemists from the Gilded Rose anymore. They would rather not spend a fortune at the risk of pissing off the Gilded Rose for nothing.

Those who had left the Gilded Rose couldn't come back even if they wanted to.

They couldn't make a living even if they didn't reveal the Gilded Rose's secrets. Although they had more alchemy knowledge, what they learned in the Gilded Rose couldn't be applied elsewhere at all.

"The situation doesn't look bad. We can continue expanding the Gilded Rose in a steady way. However, consolidation also matters. We must not let others smear us again. Was Wolkrie caught yet?"

Faleau shook his head. "No. We've advanced the reward for any lead on him to one Universal Core, but we haven't received anything. It seems like he's gone."

Lin Yun nodded, not considering it a big deal.

"Raise the bounty to 20,000,000 purple gold. Unless he never appears in the Odin Kingdom, Andlusa, and the Sten Kingdom, he cannot escape."

Lin Yun wasn't really concerned about Wolkrie. After the truth was revealed, the man could hardly stay in the north of the Odin Kingdom. Andlusa was the Gilded Rose's hometown. Lin Yun could even find any mouse he was interested in in Andlusa. It was unlikely that Wolkrie was there.

The Roosevelt Business Alliance wanted to swallow Wolkrie alive at this moment. He wouldn't go to the Sten Kingdom unless he wanted to get killed.

So, he could only run south. Unfortunately, there were even more experts in the south of the Odin Kingdom, and many of them were willing to kill him for tens of millions of purple gold.

As a matter of fact, Wolkrie had truly run to the south of the Odin Kingdom. He even went beyond and left the country.

In a dense rain forest, Wolkrie, whose robe was ragged and whose hair was full of unknown mucus, traveled forward vigilantly, but he seemed quite exhausted.

The continual escape had almost destroyed him. Looking at the rain forest, Wolkrie seemed delighted, and mumbled to himself, "This rain forest is out of the Odin Kingdom's territory. Nobody can find me after I come here. I'll go to another plane from here. Nobody will possibly find me..."

Still, he warily examined the environment with magic power. Any magic power reaction within 1,000 meters would be detected.

As he moved in the rain forest for a few minutes, Wolkrie's robe became even more ragged. To hide himself, he didn't release any shield, and only covered his skin with mana. However, the thorns here were exceptionally powerful, and easily penetrated his mana protection, causing bloody wounds on his skin.

"Gilded Rose, just wait for it. I will survive and become even stronger. Just wait for my retaliation. Mafa Merlin, just wait for me to tear apart your soul..."

Wolkrie traveled in the rain forest prudently and scarily. However, a traveler who frequented rain forests wouldn't proceed any further, as none of the countless assorted vermin and insects could be found in this area, as if it belonged to some horrifying existence. Wolkrie, however, didn't feel any danger.

When Wolkrie walked past a tree that was five meters thick, a gigantic rod was swung from inside the tree towards his head. He tried to establish his shield, but the rod cracked it, and its remaining force hit Wolkrie in the head. Immediately, Wolkrie fainted and trembled on the ground.

Ripples appeared on the tree, which turned out to be an illusion. Then, an ogre that was more than three meters tall and had rocky skin grinned, and walked out with a stone rod. Looking at Wolkrie, who was still trembling and seemed alive, the ogre raised its rod, ready to smash his skull.

Exactly at this moment, a shrieking voice came from nearby.

"Idiot, idiot, don't break his head!"

The ogre hesitated and looked aside, where the bushes made way for a special half-meter-tall plant.

The plant was walking on countless roots as if they were its feet. Its trunk and stems looked like those of a rose. Yet, on its top was a cat's head without furs. The cat's head was craning and shrieking at the ogre.

"Idiot, how long has it been since any living creature passed by? It's all because you killed those human mages last time.

"Why did we end up here? Because you were stupid enough to eat one of the princes of the arrogant elves. Idiot, if you dare to eat him, I will never forgive you! Never!"

The ogre grimaced and glared at the cat-headed plant. It roared, releasing a violent vibe, as if it were going to smash the stone rod at the plant anytime.

Wolkrie, who was feeling dizzy, was greatly relieved to hear the conversation. He thought that he was as good as dead under the attack of the ogre, and didn't expect another living creature to rescue him.

Wolkrie struggled to turn his body aside, and saw the cat-headed plant, which stared at him with green eyes, and spouted a stream of smoke towards his face from its mouth. Immediately, Wolkrie lost control of his body and his mana...

Lying on the ground, Wolkrie was unable to even turn his eyes. He watched the cat-headed plant move to his head, and its foot-like roots penetrated his skin deep into his stomach.

Caught in indescribable consternation, Wolkrie felt that his blood was drifting away, but he had lost control of his body. He couldn't even control his eyes, and he could only look in one direction.

The cat-headed plan let out a joyful exclamation, and looked up at the ogre, shouting.

"Idiot, this is an extraordinary life. Do you know what extraordinary life means? He's exactly like me, the great Lord Cathead. Yet, he is so stupid he walked past this place. This is a rare gift of fate. To think that you were so dumb that you wanted to kill him!

"As long as I control my speed while I absorb his blood and soul power, he will be able to continuously regenerate new blood and soul power. How wonderful is that? If we don't get too greedy, this will be our food for years!

"Do you know what years mean? Never mind. You're too retarded to understand that. It's just a long time. You were so stupid that you wanted to eat him once and for all. Idiot, idiot!"

The cat-headed plant roared curiously, but the ogre grinned, and even squatted, even though the cat-headed plant was yelling at it. To have the food for a long time was indeed better than to have the food for one meal. It decided not to kill the man...

Chapter 1296: Voyage

The ogre carried Wolkrie to its lair while swinging the rod. The cat-headed plant was still speaking...

"That human mage has to chant in order to cast a spell. Just cut off his tongue later. The tongue is the most tender meat, and should be eaten raw. Have you learned how to make barbecue from our last prey?

"Later, cut a piece of meat from his leg and roast it. I remember there's a flower near our lair. After cutting the meat, lay the flower on this man's leg, and he will regrow the meat very soon.

"See? This is a gift of fate. If we eat him slowly, we won't need any food for a long time. Ah, I want meat too. Idiot, prepare a medium rare steak for me. Do you know what medium rare means? Damn it, you're too stupid to know..."

The ogre grinned nonstop. Its smelly saliva was dripping on Wolkrie's head like a waterfall. Hearing what the cat-headed plant said, Wolkrie was dumbfounded and desperate. He wondered why he had struggled to run so far. He should've just let someone kill him.

At this moment, he had to be kept by an ogre and a weird cat-headed plant as livestock. His blood, flesh, and soul power were all their food...

Nobody knew about Wolkrie's misfortune. They all thought that he had disappeared, or escaped to another plane.

On the other hand, the Gilded Rose was still developing. During the incident of the Gilded Rose's rumors, anyone who was powerful or wise knew that it was because the Universal Core was too useful, and even changed the market.

Many people wanted to control the Universal Cores, legally or not, but they didn't take any action, and waited prudently. When the Roosevelt Business Alliance finally took action, some of them helped the Roosevelt Business Alliance too.

However, the result was quite shocking. The Roosevelt Business Alliance's base had been set afire by the Universal Cores. If the desert ethnic group that the Roosevelt Business Alliance belonged to hadn't been vehemently supporting it, it would've gone bankrupt already.

In light of recent events, everyone who had evil plans gave up their ideas. After all, they all had competitors in every market. They might be better than their competitors in some markets, and weaker in some others. In general, they were as powerful as their competitors.

At this moment, if anyone dared to concoct plots against the Gilded Rose, the latter would immediately support their competitors, giving them a great edge to win the competition. If the pressure continued for several years, even a major corporation might fall apart.

The Gilded Rose's development had become a lot easier. It was even closer to its partners because of what happened. With the network, it was very easy to stabilize its position in the Odin Kingdom.

Also, Faleau had recently reached out to several noble families of the Odin Kingdom on behalf of the Gilded Rose, and struck a few unimportant deals. That was a good beginning. It was impossible to suppress the Gilded Rose with business methods anymore.

Returning from the banquet in a noble family, Faleau couldn't help but have a lot of mixed feelings on the carriage.

Sir Merlin was truly thoughtful. The Gilded Rose had encountered so much resistance, even though it only sold the Universal Cores. If it had completely entered the magic tool market with the Universal Cores, it probably would've been surrounded and attacked by everyone else.

In that case, it would've been impossible for the Gilded Rose to continue developing in the Odin Kingdom.

However, by only selling the Universal Cores without completely entering the magic tool market, the Gilded Rose was able to attract everybody to cooperate with it.

According to Sir Merlin, they were only making the market bigger and more profitable, but they didn't join the competition in the market, and only made money at the edge.

The competition in the market had nothing to do with the Gilded Rose, which only needed to provide the Universal Cores. That was even more profitable than entering the magic tool market, and made the Gilded Rose's development easier.

Faleau remembered that everybody was friendly to him at the banquet. They didn't reject him as an outsider, but treated him equally. He struck almost five deals with partners during the banquet.

Thinking about that, Faleau couldn't help but put on a smile.

The Gilded Rose was still developing. The third batch of branches was being prepared, and would open very soon. Their main business was still potions and Universal Cores.

Its potion sales were almost reaching the top in the north of the Odin Kingdom. It ranked second at this moment only because its sales network hadn't been fully established. As soon as all the 38 branches were established, the north of the Odin Kingdom would be entirely covered. Then, the Gilded Rose's market share would definitely be the greatest in the north of the Odin Kingdom.

It had controlled the productivity of Universal Cores so that they would always be in demand. There was enough Black Pattern Silver to make another 3,000,000 Universal Cores, and no Black Pattern Silver could be found in Noscent. It was kept in Lin Yun's Demiplane, and would never be stolen.

There was a Planar Path—or, more precisely, its projection—to Lin Yun's Demiplane in the Gilded Rose's base. Nobody could access the Demiplane unless they were personally authorized by Lin Yun.

If any intruder broke into the Demiplane, Lin Yun would detect them immediately. In the Demiplane, he was confident of killing any level-5 Heaven Rank expert and defeating any level-6 Heaven Rank ones. If he tried his best, he might be able to kill them too.

The Natural Demiplane was growing faster and getting bigger and bigger. The sky was higher and higher, and the land was thicker and thicker. As more and more truth runes were engraved on the pillar, the Demiplane evolved much faster than Lin Yun did.

The law of space had already been born, but not perfected yet. The laws of darkness and light were about to be born. In particular, after the real moon appeared, the law of darkness was developing much faster than the law of light. Very soon, Lin Yun would be able to grasp the law of darkness in the Demiplane.

There was nothing Lin Yun needed to take care of at the Gilded Rose, so he simply went to the hill where Agalon was at.

Thanks to Agalon's training, Lin Yun's control and utilization of the Natural Demiplane was as good as of those on level 4 in the Heaven Rank. He had learned of things that he couldn't grasp yet, and would grasp them when he became strong enough.

The Natural Demiplane had been developing fast. The laws were evolving much faster than Lin Yun, which made it easier for him to grasp them.

As he grasped more and more laws and accumulated more mana, his strength surpassed his current level, and he naturally rose to the peak of level 3 in the Heaven Rank. He might advance to level 4 in the Heaven Rank anytime.

Lin Yun visited Agalon whenever he had time. Agalon was undoubtedly the person who had made the best use of the Natural Demiplane in the history of Noscent. Those who had obtained Natural Demiplanes later might be stronger than him, but they didn't know the Natural Demiplanes as well as Agalon did.

Very few mages who studied Natural Demiplanes later had seen real Natural Demiplanes and been through their development.

Their research could be used as a reference, but not fully trusted. Lin Yun was even more convinced that they were not completely trustworthy after Agalon's training.

The truths that the crazy mages had concluded from their research, if recorded in the decaying library, were believable.

However, their studies on the Natural Demiplanes weren't as reliable. After all, all those studies were theoretical, and they had never seen a real one...

Coming to the hill again, Lin Yun found that the law of space had been even more significantly changed. He had to try his best to climb the mountain.

He found himself in space again. Agalon was lying on a chair, and gazing at the stars in the distance. He carried a mysterious vibe, and his eyes were deep and sophisticated, as if he were actually looking into something else.

Lin Yun walked forward and waited quietly. Although Agalon wasn't related to him, the former had taught him a lot of things as a teacher. He was an honorable man too. Lin Yun respected him very much.

He waited quietly for more than an hour. Then, the mysterious vibe on Agalon was finally gone.

"You must've waited for a long time."

Agalon put on a smile. He was clearly satisfied with Lin Yun's progress.

Lin Yun stood aside respectfully.

"Not really. Just an hour."

Agalon nodded and looked at the stars. He hesitated for a moment, and suddenly asked him, "Have you created coordinates that lead to your Natural Demiplane in Noscent?"

Lin Yun was stunned for a moment, and didn't know what Agalon meant. He was exactly where his Natural Demiplane plane was. After he entered the Natural Demiplane, the Planar Path would be left behind.

Agalon looked at the stars, and mumbled, "The Natural Demiplane is much more useful than you think. The Demiplanes that the Heaven Rank mages create are just secondary planes. Those mages are the coordinates of the secondary planes."

Immediately, Lin Yun understood.

The projection he left in the Gilded Rose was just like a Planar Path. It was coordinates, but not a real Planar Path, even though he could already set up a real Planar Path.

The Demiplanes that normal mages created couldn't be used in such a way. Most Demiplanes that Heaven Rank mages created accommodated the laws they had grasped, and were completely different from Natural Demiplanes.

To create coordinates that linked Noscent to the Natural Demiplane...

There could be only one purpose for that: to avoid getting lost!

The only place where one needed the Natural Demiplane to avoid getting lost was the boundless void!

Lin Yun looked at the stars above his head, and realized what Agalon was getting at.

It was very easy to get lost in the boundless void. In the age of Noscent's colonization, countless explorers would get lost in the boundless void. Some Heaven Rank mages were even missing for thousands of years before someone found the traces they left behind in a new plane.

One of the greatest alchemy products in the age of colonization was the space lighthouses. In their heyday, every major force would build such a lighthouse so that they could navigate with corresponding magic tools in the boundless void even if they got lost.

Still, so many people were lost, and could never get back mainly because of the interferences such as void storms, elemental storms, solar storms, and time turbulences...

If one was unlucky to encounter great interferences between the navigation tool and the space lighthouse, one would be lost for good.

However, things were different with the Natural Demiplane. Lin Yun's Natural Demiplane had been completely stabilized. The laws of earth, fire, water, and wind had almost fully evolved. The laws of space, darkness, and light were evolving.

That was already the prototype of a complete world, and every complete world had complete space coordinates. By creating coordinates that linked the Natural Demiplane to Noscent, it would be possible to construct a Planar Path in the Natural Demiplane with the coordinates, and travel to Noscent directly!

Even if he got lost in the void, he could still go home with his Natural Demiplane as a platform, and he would never get lost in the void!

Wherever he was, he could directly return to his Natural Demiplane, which was why the Natural Demiplane was powerful.

Lin Yun was silent. Although he had always known the matter, he never thought about it that way, because the people who obtained Natural Demiplanes in the future would all be gone in the boundless void.

According to historical records, Agalon would leave for space in 10 years and vanish. If Agalon had said that he would die in 10 years, Lin Yun would've thought that Agalon was lost in space too.

The only explanation why someone who had a Natural Demiplane was permanently gone in the void was that he was dead.

What was in the space battlefield? Why did so many people die there?

Lin Yun raised his head and looked at Agalon, who gazed at the stars casually.

"Merlin, you've always wanted to see the space battlefield. It's the most tranquil moment of the space battlefield right now. I can take you there."

As he talked, Agalon raised his finger and drew a circle, which expanded quickly into a glittering curtain of light. He then crossed it and vanished.

Lin Yun followed Agalon, and crossed the curtain of light.

As if he passed through a layer of water, he found himself in the boundless void after the crossing.

The space was filled with explosive energy and rays. There was no air here, only corrosive power everywhere.

Lin Yun unfolded his shield and floated. Standing in the void, Agalon waved his hand, and an iron warship five kilometers long appeared in front of them. He took Lin Yun aboard the warship. Finally, the loss of gravity was gone.

The iron warship was absolutely dark, and didn't reflect any light. In Noscent, it would've been considered a behemoth, but in the vast space, it was no bigger than a drop of water in the ocean.

The warship quietly sailed in the void. Inside the warship, teams of puppets were controlling the vessel. Agalon took Lin Yun to the capital room. The walls became invisible, and they seemed to be standing in space.

There was a scorching sun floating far in the distance. It looked like a plate. Not far away, a hideous meteoroid that looked like a honeycomb and was actually 100 kilometers in diameter passed by in space quietly. It would destroy a kingdom if it crashed in Noscent, but in space, it simply passed by like a pebble, and didn't cause any sound.

The iron warship sailed quietly for half an hour. More and more huge meteoroids were seen, ranging from several kilometers to hundreds of kilometers in diameter.

After the vessel sailed for eight hours, they even saw a belt of countless meteoroids that were spinning around a meteoroid that was thousands of kilometers in diameter. The big meteoroid had bumps and dents all over its surface, and looked like a rotten apple core.

Amidst the meteoroids in the belt were countless broken bodies. Lin Yun could tell that there had been an enormous planet in this place until it was shattered.

Agalon pointed at the dark space in the distance.

"This is already the edge of the space battlefield, which has been peaceful without any war. But it's still very dangerous for you.

"There are invisible torrents here. Even I may get swallowed if I can't escape in time.

"There are also void beasts that are also very dangerous. To come here, you must take a warship and sail slowly. It's very dangerous to open spatial gates.

"Not only might it trigger unnecessary spatial changes, but it might also attract powerful void beasts.

"I've seen a void beast a hundred kilometers long. It was as strong as the peak of the Heaven Rank, and it was unimaginably sturdy. However, that void beast feasted upon stars. We wouldn't be caught in danger as long as we didn't attack it."

Chapter 1297: Skirmish

"However, most void beasts are very dangerous, short-tempered, and ferocious. They will tear apart any living creature they see. If you encounter them, run back to your Demiplane as quickly as possible, and then shatter the coordinates you've left behind.

"Your Natural Demiplane has already been developed to a point where it can accommodate fixed coordinates, but it's still dangerous to shatter the coordinates you left behind. You won't be able to own fixed coordinates for a long time afterwards.

"It may even affect your control over your Natural Demiplane. Don't do that unless you get lost, and make sure you're safe. You must not enter your Demiplane in battle.

"Any living creature here is capable of destroying your spatial coordinates. If they shatter your coordinates, the space may tremble, and the fixed coordinates you've left may become useless.

"Also, the powerful void beasts that are adept at space laws might be able to break into your Natural Demiplane through the coordinates."

Lin Yun knew many of the things that Agalon mentioned, but not as much in detail as Agalon did. There were simply too many dangers in space. On many occasions, one lapse in judgment might cause death.

The extraordinary lives were qualified to travel to the boundless void, but only qualified. For the low-level Heaven Rank mages, traveling in the void was no different than suicide.

The iron warship soundlessly traveled in space. Its trajectory was not a straight line, but followed a certain route. Standing on the warship, Lin Yun had detected more than 20 dangers that were hidden in space.

They were dangerous space undercurrents that were congregations of destructive energy. Like undercurrents in the ocean, they would swallow anything that passed by and tear it apart, turning it into part of themselves.

If one thought that one could just sail in a straight line in the void because there were no obstacles, one would be committing suicide.

In another few hours, they saw a barren crimson planet ahead of them. The surface of the planet was all pits and bumps that were caused by meteors.

"This is a place where you can take a break at the edge of the space battlefield. There's no air, mana, or life there. It's just a fairly large asteroid. However, it has gravity, and it's safer to rest on the asteroid than to stay in the void.

"This asteroid is so huge that even the biggest void beast won't be interested in it. It has no valuable resources except iron."

Lin Yun was silent for a long time. For a long time, he thought that Noscent was just a planet in the universe. However, after reading a lot of books in the decaying library, he discovered that it wasn't so simple.

Every plane where lives had been born had a unique spatial barrier, which couldn't be found on any planet. At least, all the planets in the void were desolate. Some might contain special resources, but never lives or spatial barriers.

After he traveled from Noscent to the void, he could see nothing but the void. There was no sign of Noscent at all, just the boundless void, which was a forbidden area. The locals, the terrifying void beasts, were all extraordinary lives.

The voyage was quite boring. Traveling in the peaceful void was like traveling on the ocean. The scenery remained unchanged. Those desolate planets looked like lone islands in the ocean. They were too insignificant compared to the vast ocean.

Many of the meteoroids they encountered on the way contained special substance. Agalon simply seized them. A lot of materials that didn't exist in Noscent could be refined from them.

After sailing for a dozen days, the space ahead became an absolute mess, with obvious lingering battle waves. A lot of chaotic energy had gathered into storms that ravaged the void. A million kilometers away, there was a storm that looked like a glittering vortex, which tore apart and swallowed all approaching meteoroids.

Lin Yun could see three chaotic energy storms that were powerful enough to rip him into pieces. However, those storms were too far away, and only presented a splendid view for him.

"This is already the space battlefield. The energy storm 100 kilometers away has existed for thousands of years. Previously, experts beyond the Heaven Rank fought here. The aftermath of their battle caused three energy vortexes that have been building up each other, and therefore keep their forms.

"This part of the journey is much more dangerous. Although the space battlefield has been peaceful recently, void beasts are more likely to appear at such moments...

"Our exploration will begin with that planet. There are supplies and a lighthouse there."

Agalon pointed at the boundless void as he spoke solemnly.

There were three energy vortexes ahead. Two were like glittering stars, and the last resembled a burning torch, except that there weren't any flames in it.

The three vortexes attracted each other, and kept each other in a fixed position. Not far away up ahead, there was an enormous planet that looked like an abnormal potato. It was yellow and barren, and could be more than 100,000 kilometers in diameter.

The iron warship sailed towards the enormous planet quietly and sent out signals, contacting the residents on the desolate planet.

However, 10 minutes after the signals were sent, there was no reply. Agalon became solemn.

"There has been no war in this area. Noscent occupied this planet a long time ago. They haven't replied in 10 minutes. Something must've happened to them."

Receiving no reply, Agalon decisively abandoned landing. The iron warship didn't proceed. Instead, it decelerated and tried to sail away from the potato planet.

Hardly had the iron warship started decelerating when a beast head that was at least 1,000 meters tall emerged from the back of the planet. It looked like the head of an enormous lizard, and quickly soared from the planet.

Its body was at least 50 kilometers long. However, its skin was not covered in scales, but a substance that looked like black rock. In the dim void, it looked like an enormous shadow. The only thing that could be seen was its big eyes that were emitting bluish light.

After the beast appeared, ripples were spreading in space. The beast slithered quickly as if it was swimming in water. The ripples were like the water currents that it had stirred. However, Lin Yun knew that anyone below the Heaven Rank would've been ripped into pieces when those ripples hit them.

A terrifying vibe burst out. Lin Yun could feel their horror even though he was millions of kilometers away. He would die miserably even if he was accidentally hit by such an enemy.

"I'll lure it away." Agalon solemnly left his instructions, and disappeared from the iron warship.

Lin Yun gravely gave commands to the alchemy puppets in the iron warship. More than 300 puppets, led by three Heaven Rank puppets whose wisdom had been awakened, were flying the iron warship.

They might not be very strong, but they were better pilots than human beings were.

The beast that looked like an enormous lizard was long and thick, and seemed like a creature that lived in the ocean. It moved very fast in the void, and carried the vibe of at least level 48. However, it was so huge that it might be able to fight a level-9 Heaven Rank expert.

Lin Yun wouldn't be able to break its defense even if he were to attack it for 10 years while it remained asleep.

Agalon left the warship, and appeared in the void, unleashing his powerful aura. The starry light in the void was distorted, and quickly concentrated into a giant hand that was almost 3,000 meters long. It slapped the lizard in the face.

A series of spatial explosions spread from the lizard's face. The chaotic energy was like booming fireworks. The lizard trembled and rolled thousands of kilometers in the void. Its green blood gushed in the void, and gradually spread as spheres.

Facing the terrifying attack, the lizard soon regained balance and roared at Agalon. There seemed to be a lot of blood spraying out, but the lizard only had a minor wound on its right cheek. The black armor that covered the lizard's skin crumbled into rocks, but it was healing very quickly. Even the shattered protection was recovering fast.

Agalon solemnly extended his hand, and a two-meter-long staff made of starry light appeared in his hand. On the top end of the staff was a deep blue gem that was as big as a human head.

Immediately, countless stars seemed to be appearing around Agalon. Those stars quickly expanded. In the blink of an eye, countless laws and runes filled up the space within 100 kilometers. Like stars, those laws and runes span around Agalon on a fixed trajectory.

Immediately, dazzling starlight emanated. A pillar of light that was at least 10 kilometers thick was launched towards the lizard. The lizard was huge but terrifyingly agile in space. It wriggled and dodged the thick pillar of light.

However, the thick pillar of light changed its direction, and hit its abdomen. The starry light around it seized the chance to tie up the lizard like a huge rope, trying to wreathe the lizard.

The countless runes around Agalon glittered like stars. The starry light that enshrouded the lizard seethed. Roars that worked directly on the souls were echoing in the void.

Infinite starry light was concentrating. A dozen seconds later, the ball of light exploded, illuminating the dark space. The lizard was blown thousands of kilometers away as if it had been kicked by a giant.

Agalon flashed several times in the void, and caught up to the lizard, continuing to attack. Gradually, both Agalon and the lizard disappeared into the darkness.

Standing in the command room, Lin Yun held his breath, and watched the battle with undisguised shock in his eyes.

He'd never felt his insignificance until he set foot in space. He didn't know how strong the experts were until he really saw their battle.

Agalon probably only used 30 percent of his strength, but if he unleashed the same strength in Noscent, he probably could destroy half of the Andlusa Kingdom. Such experts who were like walking nuclear weapons could easily wreak havoc in a radius of hundreds of kilometers. They could destroy dozens of cities or a kingdom for fun...

However, such strength could only infuriate the lizard, which seemed incapable of resisting Agalon. Still, Agalon's horrifying spells only caused minor bruises to the lizard. It wasn't gravely wounded at all.

After Agalon disappeared, Lin Yun was still feeling shocked. He looked back at the planet that looked like an abnormal potato which was full of battle marks. The enormous cracks that spread for hundreds of kilometers were likely caused by that giant lizard.

Needless to say, there was not a single survivor left on the planet anymore. This was just a remote location in the space battlefield. Even if something had existed here before, it must've been destroyed already.

Lin Yun waited for Agalon to come back. Exactly at this moment, a Heaven Rank puppet on the warship sent an alarm. A "small" lizard that was more than 15 kilometers long had slithered out from the back of the planet.

Seeing the small lizard, Lin Yun looked quite awful.

He remembered that the big lizard had been completely suppressed. Although it was natural that Agalon could crush a level-48 void beast, the lizard didn't seem to counterattack at all, even though it seemed huge and strong. It was only charging crazily.

At this moment, Lin Yun suddenly realized that there was more than one void beast in this place.

It was very hard for void beasts to reproduce. The lone void beasts could all give birth to offspring independently. The void beasts that had genders almost always acted in groups.

It took a terrifyingly long amount of time for the lone void beasts to give birth. Their offspring was naturally born as extraordinary lives!

Also, the longer the pregnancy, the stronger the void beasts would be after they were born. The long pregnancy made the reproduction of void beasts very difficult.

This small lizard, which was over a dozen kilometers long, seemed to be born no more than 1,000 years earlier. At this moment, the big lizard would kill all lives it saw, including other void beasts, for the small lizards to grow up. They would try to avoid any danger.

The small lizard flew out of the back of the planet even faster than the big lizard. Its body was covered in dark silver light. It wriggled in the void, and then vanished. When it reappeared, it was only several hundred kilometers away from the warship.

After it reappeared, the lizard spouted out a black water ball that was 800 meters in diameter. After being spouted, the sphere vanished while surrounded by twisted light. A second later, the rear half of the warship, which didn't have time to dodge, was hit by the water ball that appeared out of nowhere.

200 meters of the warship was instantly gone. The blast of the water ball broke the vessel apart. The part that was covered in the water ball melted in no more than three seconds, as if corroded by powerful acid, even though it was made of magic iron.

A Heaven Rank puppet fell into the black water ball, and completely dissolved in only two seconds.

The remaining half of the warship swirled in the void. The small lizard dashed forward and swallowed it, as if it was having a sweet chocolate. After swallowing the warship, it slithered back to the hideous planet, and lurked in the shadow of the said planet.

The warship, along with the puppets and Lin Yun on it, was swallowed. Lin Yun was solemn and anxious.

That void beast, which seemed unremarkable except for its sturdiness, had given birth to a space beast that could make use of spatial power...

Void beasts, universe beasts, space beasts...

Void beast was just their general name. They were also most common. The stronger ones that knew how to make use of energy could be called universe beasts. The rarer ones that knew how to make use of spatial power were space beasts, which were hardest to deal with.

The lizard seemed no higher than level 45, but it was definitely stronger than an ordinary level-5 Heaven Rank mage. Because of a congenial difference, it might be 100 times stronger than another creature that was on its level...

Chapter 1298: Extortion

Having been swallowed by the small lizard, Lin Yun had to drop other thoughts, and consider how to escape.

The iron warship entered the small lizard's stomach through its esophagus, and the insides pressed the warship and twisted it as if it were a marshmallow. It was greatly deformed. The acid in the stomach quickly corroded the warship as well.

In only a few seconds, the warship's shell had been shaved off by almost six meters. Considering the speed, the warship and everything in it would be melted within three seconds!

Lin Yun took out the dragon staff, and the illusions of a purple dragon and an enormous wheel appeared. The Book of Death, the Book of Ten Thousand Mantras, and the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel were all summoned.

"Damn it, Merlin. What's this place? Oh, sh*t. Are we inside a beast's stomach?"

Enderfa's three faces were all frightened after he appeared. Observing from the command room, it was easy to see that the seemingly soft flesh was squeezing and deforming the iron warship, which was being corroded too.

Ignoring Enderfa's scream, Lin Yun opened the Book of Death, and copied a spell from the Sage Chapter, namely Torrent of Fire Elements. He then activated the spell.

A fiery vortex that was more than 30 meters in diameter was unleashed. Terrifying red elemental fire erupted from the vortex like a flood.

The Torrent of Fire Elements, which was as powerful as a level-9 spell, was connected to a river of flames in the plane of elemental fire. The fire was made of elements of higher levels, and could even burn Heaven Rank experts.

Lin Yun solemnly released the embodiment of fire elements again, protecting himself from the elemental fire. The Element Chapter and the All-Encompassing Chapter both enhanced him significantly.

Countless fiery runes appeared. Lin Yun opened more and more fiery gates, and stuffed all his mana in them, making them more powerful than ever.

Underneath his feet, the illusion of an ancient scale appeared. The Book of Ten Thousand Mantras and the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel were placed on the two sides of the scale.

The Book of Ten Thousand Mantras opened a fiery gate that was dozens of meters high. Unending flames were erupting. More spells were hopping in the world of the Book of Ten Thousand Mantras, invoking more flames.

Enderfa knew that it wasn't time for jokes. He controlled the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel, and invoked fiery gates. Countless red and golden elemental flames were invoked.

Whatever was left of the warship was instantly filled up by elemental fire. The 100 fiery gates gathered into an enormous ball. The flames they caused could burn everything within 100 kilometers to the ground.

However, those flames were just fuel.

There were already more than 30 kinds of advanced flames in the Book of Ten Thousand Mantras. Each of them was a threat to those in the Heaven Rank.

With the more advanced elemental fire as fuel, the special flames erupting from the Book of Ten Thousand Mantras spread quickly. Endless flames competed with each other, and swallowed each other in the range. They were squeezed and melted into a pure black fire.

The pure black fire turned the world of fire black immediately. Everything within a radius of 200 meters was black. More and more flames were rising, but their scale didn't expand. Those flames were squeezed and compressed until they occupied the space like thick sticky oil.

The remnant of the warship was melting into iron fluid. The pure black fire was sliding down the esophagus, causing burns on the flesh that had squeezed and deformed the iron warship.

In the shadow of the hideous planet, the small lizard screamed in pain and writhed. It wagged its tail, and easily broke apart a mountain that was thousands of meters tall.

However, a few seconds later, when the fireball landed in the small lizard's stomach, it finally calmed down again and lay there still.

The illusionary wheel behind Lin Yun was continuously spouting fiery runes. More than 100 fiery gates had been invoked, but more were underway.

All the fiery gates overlapped each other at the center of the enormous black fireball. Infinite elemental fire was summoned as its fuel.

Feeling that the black fire had already been compressed to the limit, Lin Yun wasn't relaxed at all. He was still summoning and casting spells crazily.

His understanding of spatial laws was insufficient for him to deal with the small world. If he were to use that, he would definitely die miserably.

If the small lizard spat him out, he would die too. The best approach was to burn this immature lizard from inside its body.

This beast, which had almost reached level 45, could easily kill him. The lower the level, the greater the gap between human beings and such beasts would be. Only those at the peak of the Heaven Rank could expect to fight and defeat such beasts.

Agalon, for example, was only a level higher than the big lizard, but he completely suppressed it. However, to deal with the small lizard, at least a level-46 mage was required, and they might not be able to kill this lizard.

The compressed fireball finally hit the bottom of the small lizard's stomach. Instantly, the black fire, which had been compressed so hard that it could not flow, exploded and expanded to 2,000 meters in diameter.

This small lizard's stomach seemed to have been expanded by spatial power, and was at least six kilometers in diameter. The expanding flames, boosted by even more flames behind them, rose quickly. The small lizard seemed to have realized it, and emitted an ocean of acid in its stomach.

The black acid sprayed and extinguished the black fire on the surface. A lot of the acid was vaporized in the process.

Lin Yun's fire had been compressed to the limits, and it was a mixture of more than 30 kinds of special fire. It was not to be extinguished by the acid.

The flames from the 500 fiery gates, with the level-9 fiery gate at the core, had enhanced each other, making it impossible to put out the rampant black fire.

The black fireball grew bigger and bigger. In only a dozen minutes, the black fire had filled up the small lizard's stomach, but more flames were erupting.

The acid generated in the stomach evaporated the moment it appeared. The small lizard's stomach changed its color and became dry. It looked like blackened land in the middle of a drought, with cracks everywhere.

In the outside world, the small lizard writhed in pain, and tried to spit out what was in its stomach, but its stomach was already dry, and didn't have enough elastic force. The only things it spouted out was the black fire, which began to burn its esophagus and mouth...

Struggling crazily for several minutes, the small lizard seemed to be losing its rationality. It flashed and disappeared into the void.

Inside the lizard's body, the black fire was still spreading crazily. A dozen minutes later, the lizard's stomach was burnt into ashes. Without its restraints, the fire spread crazily in the lizard's body 10 times faster than before.

Lin Yun cast spells crazily, and summoned more than 1,000 fiery gates. Without the level-9 fiery gate acting as the core, the 1,000 fiery gates would've collapsed a long time earlier.

There was no telling how long it had been, but the power of the law of balance was gone, and the Purple Dragon Avatar expired too. All that he could see and feel was the destructive black fire.

He didn't know what was going on in the outside world, but he could tell that the lizard was still struggling desperately, although it was losing its strength.

After a while, he couldn't feel the lizard's struggle anymore. It seemed to be completely dead. He wandered inside the lizard's body, only to find that its flesh, bones, and internal organs had all been burnt up. Even its brains had been reduced to ashes too.

Where its heart used to be, he discovered a thousand-facet crystal that was the size of a human head. The silver crystal was revolving slowly. It had 1024 facets in total. The spatial power that covered the crystal prevented the black fire from consuming it.

Lin Yun reached for the crystal, only to find that he couldn't touch it at all. He hesitated for a moment, and then spouted a few spatial runes. Finally, he was able to hold the crystal.

The crystal contained a horrifying amount of spatial power and law pieces. This was the small lizard's Heart Core, which was part of some special void beasts. Any creature with the Heart Core carried special abilities.

It was impossible for any human being to make use of the crystal without processing it first. The best solution was to throw it to the lake of mana in his Demiplane, and use it as nutrition for the tree of the Floating Fruit. The Heart Core of such void beasts was a perfect nutrient for the Floating Fruit tree.

Not only would it increase the Floating Fruit tree's odds of survival and reduce its time of growth, but it could also make the fruit dozens of times more powerful than normal. The fruit would contain a larger number of spatial law pieces too.

Lin Yun flew out of the small lizard's mouth. Black fire was still erupting from the lizard's mouth and eyes. Its body had been burnt into ashes, but its shell was left behind. The black protective shell wasn't ruined at all after being scorched by the black fire. Instead, it was compressed and consolidated in the appearance of a behemoth.

Looking at the black shell, Lin Yun shook his head. This thing was already destroyed in the burning. There was no point studying it.

However, Lin Yun had acquired a Heart Core. He was satisfied.

Floating in the dim void and looking around, Lin Yun became solemn.

He had known that when the small lizard struggled so desperately, it couldn't have stayed where it was. After so many days of crazy struggling, it was possible that he might be hundreds of millions of kilometers away...

If the small lizard had been flashing, it might have traveled light years during these days.

In the boundless void without any frame of reference, the deviation could be unimaginably huge even when one set off a few kilometers away from the expected direction. Not to mention that he might have flashed to this place directly.

It meant that he had become completely lost in the boundless void.

The only star he could see was a fireball which seemed to be five meters in diameter. It was burning probably 100,000,000 kilometers away. There were also two desolate planets that were spinning around the star. Lin Yun saw nothing familiar.

He couldn't even navigate by observing the rays of the star. He had no idea where he was exactly, and it was impossible for him to return to the original location.

He could only return to Noscent with the coordinates he had fixated in advance through the Natural Demiplane.

After he used such a method, the coordinates of the Natural Demiplane would be unstable, and couldn't be used in a long time. Until the coordinates of the Natural Demiplane became stable, nobody except Lin Yun could access it.

Lin Yun looked at the lizard-shaped shell, which was still spouting black flames. He opened the Book of Ten Thousand Mantras, and swallowed those black flames.

Those flames were the combination of more than 30 kinds of special flames. They were so extraordinarily powerful that even this void beast had been burnt.

After swallowing the flames, Lin Yun flew in a random direction. He accelerated and simply let his body drift in the void.

In order to return to Noscent with the Natural Demiplane as a bridge, he had to find a safe place first, or any enemy might destroy the mark he left after he entered the Natural Demiplane. Then, he would be completely lost.

Only by crumbling the mark on his own could he control the power of the blast so that the Natural Demiplane wouldn't tremble and the spatial coordinates wouldn't deviate.

Lin Yun floated for more than 40 minutes. Then, a fuzzy shadow suddenly appeared next to the shell that the small lizard left behind, and then penetrated it. A few minutes later, the shadow crawled out and circled around the shell, causing ripples in space. In the end, the shadow was completely gone.

A minute later, Lin Yun, whose body was moving rapidly, narrowed his eyes, and spouted a few spatial runes that were added to the surface of his shield.

The next second, the space ahead of him was slightly twisted, and a shadow appeared out of nowhere, and hit the shield brutally.

The runes on the surface of the shield jumped crazily. The spatial runes turned into silver light, and melted into the shield. Ripples spread out, and Lin Yun had to stop in the middle of the flight.

The shadow was knocked aside heavily.

The shadow rolled thousands of meters in the void before it finally regained balance. Then, even though the shadow remained still, Lin Yun felt that it was gazing at him with undisguised greed and maliciousness.

Immediately, the shadow transformed into Lin Yun's size, but remained in the form of the dark shadow. After the transformation, the shadow disappeared again.

Lin Yun frowned. After seeing that it could make use of spatial power, he realized that it had surely detected the small lizard's dying struggle, and how it died a moment earlier.

Therefore, it had certainly come here for the small lizard's Heart Core. Since it didn't find the lizard's Heart Core, it chased Lin Yun down as there couldn't be a third living creature within a radius of a billion kilometers.

The creature was only on level 2 in the Heaven Rank, yet it was quite weird, and had a transformation ability, which made Lin Yun realize what it was.

It was a Void Owl, one of the very tiny void creatures. It could detect the death of any void beast from a long distance away. Then, it would flash through space and arrive.

It didn't have a body, and was just a soul entity. It was terrifyingly good at the usage of space, yet it was as weak as a rat compared to the void beasts.

As a matter of fact, the Void Owl was indeed a rat among the void beasts. It didn't have any ability other than its expertise in running. It could easily travel through space and wander in the shadows. It could even easily detect places where spatial frequency overlapped for traveling.

The Void Owl was gone. Then, it reappeared underneath Lin Yun's feet. Spatial waves flashed and overlapped with those around Lin Yun. Immediately, it disappeared in the void along with Lin Yun.

Lin Yun's expression changed. The world around him became a twisted world of colors, as if it were an abstract painting. All that he could see was the twisted light and the swirls.

The Void Owl assumed Lin Yun's appearance, and flashed among the swirls of light. Lin Yun could vividly sense its taunts.

Lin Yun spouted out a fiery rune, but it didn't work at all. No spells were condensed at all.

He tried three times, but was unable to cast any spell. Seeing that, the Void Owl boldly reached within 100 meters of Lin Yun, and continued laughing at him.

Lin Yun could even receive the information that it sent. It was threatening him to submit the small lizard's Heart Core, or he would be stranded here until he died...

Chapter 1299: Bloodline Connection

Lin Yun floated, and didn't move at all. He was very calm as he finally realized where he was.

This place was not a hole or a shadow in space, but the subspace that was made of the space's reflection. Everything was reversed here. Even laws were different. So, it was impossible to cast spells.

Taking one step here might cover unfathomable distance in the outside world. With any luck, one might be able to cross 100,000,000 kilometers in one step.

The law of space here was completely different from that in the outside world too. It couldn't be applied until one truly saw everything here.

The Void Owl became bolder and bolder, and slowly approached Lin Yun...

When it was within 10 meters of Lin Yun, the Void Owl vanished again and reappeared dozens of meters away. It then approached him again.

Lin Yun stood where he was. He was seeing a world of twisted light. Unless he was fully adapted to this space, even a gap of 10 meters might be an insurmountable barrier for him as it might equal 100,000,000 kilometers.

Although this place was hardly affected by the normal space, he didn't know whether or not he would end up in the center of a void storm after he took a step. If so, he would die miserably if the Void Owl pushed him out of this subspace.

All of the Void Owl's abilities and strength were for survival. Although it was incapable of winning headon battles, even enemies levels stronger might not be able to take it down.

Lin Yun unfolded a shield that had been fused with the laws of space. Then, he floated and quietly perceived the laws around him. Fortunately, he was already very familiar with the laws of space, and had laid a solid foundation. Otherwise, he would be trapped in this state forever.

The Void Owl was still testing prudently. Every time it approached Lin Yun, it pressed closer than the last time, and then escaped again in a hurry before it tried again. It was apparently very prudent, which was the most important reason why it was still alive. It could've been killed easily if it had been more reckless.

When the Void Owl was five meters away from Lin Yun, the latter suddenly spouted a spatial law rune, which disappeared the next second. However, the Void Owl was quite taken aback, and didn't dare to approach in another 15 minutes.

At this moment, countless silver runes were glittering in Lin Yun's eyes. The twisted light in the space was gradually transforming in his eyes, and getting clearer and clearer, which meant that he was getting used to the space.

The Void Owl didn't find any danger. Therefore, it summoned its courage and approached again, this time even more cautiously than before. When it was five meters away from Lin Yun, the man spouted another dozen spatial law runes.

The Void Owl escaped again, only to discover that those spatial law runes didn't seem to work in this environment at all. It laughed at Lin Yun angrily, as if it thought that Lin Yun was incapable of doing anything here.

When it approached again, the Void Owl became bolder, and arrived only three meters away from Lin Yun. Then, it extended its illusionary hand towards Lin Yun, holding a spatial ring.

Lin Yun was the only one who could use the sealed spatial ring, but it seemed to be defenseless in front of the Void Owl. Precious materials, alchemy puppets, meteor pieces, magic tools, and other items were taken out of the ring.

The Void Owl threw all of them aside without any interest. Those precious items floated like garbage. Among them was a magic book that was enshrouded in the power of fire and wind. It was floating not far away behind the Void Owl in the middle of what the Void Owl thought to be garbage.

Everything inside the spatial ring had been retrieved, but the Void Owl didn't find what it wanted. It let out furious soul waves, and disappeared again before it reappeared next to Lin Yun.

But this time, the Void Owl was even bolder. As if it had confirmed that Lin Yun didn't have any strength in this place, it came only one meter away from Lin Yun, who could even touch it by bending and extending his arm.

The Void Owl swiped at Lin Yun again, and stole another spatial ring. Then, it immediately returned to where it was, and tossed out all the items inside the spatial ring, but the creature was obviously running out of patience as it didn't find what it wanted after such a long time of searching.

In the tremendous amount of "garbage" around it, besides the magic book that was enshrouded in the power of fire and wind, there was also a glistening wheel and a seemingly unimportant ring next to it.

Those pieces of garbage moved slowly. The magic book, the wheel, and the ring all seemed to have been hit by something else, and slowly drifted towards the Void Owl.

On the other side, the crazily glittering silver runes finally dispersed in Lin Yun's eyes. The world in front of him had completely changed. It was a void world.

The world was vast and boundless, but seemed to be only several kilometers high. Above his head and underneath his feet was a huge mirror that reflected the entire universe. Everything here was reversed.

There were some bumps in this world that was only several kilometers high. They looked like the reflections of mountains. There were also reflections of several desolate planets and some weird planes. However, such plane reflections were few. All that Lin Yun could see was just the reflection of one desolate plane.

He could even see the reflection of a tornado that was hundreds of meters tall. Everything that had projections in this place was very influential in normal space. That reversed reflection of the tornado was likely a terrifying void storm that could destroy stars with a massive coverage in the normal space.

The Void Owl stayed a dozen meters away, with a lot of what it thought to be garbage floating around it.

The Book of Ten Thousand Mantras, the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel, and the ring were all within two meters of the Void Owl. The ring, in particular, was within one meter of the Void Owl...

Lin Yun looked at the Void Owl and remained calm. He casually watched the Void Owl take out all the items from the spatial ring. Many of the items were actually collected back when Lin Yun was in the Andlusa Kingdom.

When the Book of Ten Thousand Mantras and the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel reached a meter away from the Void Owl, the ring was almost touching it.

However, despite its usual prudence, the Void Owl didn't have any reaction. It had completely lost its vigilance, and didn't think that anything would happen to it.

Right when the ring was about to hit the Void Owl, Lin Yun opened his mouth, and spouted a spatial law rune.

Immediately, there was a quake in a range of dozens of meters inside this subspace. The Book of Ten Thousand Mantras spouted out a tremendous amount of fire that enshrouded the Void Owl. From the Book of Ten Thousand Mantras, 1,000 spatial law runes erupted, and blocked the place completely like a cage.

The quake and the cage of spatial law runes, together with the black flames of destruction, were enough to hold the Void Owl back for a few seconds. It couldn't possibly escape that fast.

As expected, the Void Owl tried to run the moment it discovered that something was wrong. However, the ring had already touched its shadow-like body, and a ghost wolf emerged from the ring, mauling and biting the Void Owl.

Fierce soul waves spread out, and the Void Owl's scream echoed in Lin Yun's head. Controlling the Void Owl, and preventing it from running, Lin Yun finally drifted close. He took out a tremendous number of materials that could block space and mana power. Some of them were absolute insulators that the most wealthy and powerful organizations used as foundations of buildings.

Lin Yun assembled those materials into a ball that was almost 10 meters tall. He sealed himself and the Void Owl inside the ball.

Lin Yun narrowed his eyes and smiled. He looked at the Void Owl, which had been caught by Lord Shawn, like a weirdo who was about to kidnap a little girl...

"Buddy, you have two options. Sign this contract, and I'll release you, or be eaten by Lord Shawn as a great meal.

"You are a soul entity that's adept at spatial power. There's a 10% chance that Lord Shawn may acquire spatial power from you, right?"

Fierce soul waves and angry curses flooded into Lin Yun's head consecutively. Although they were just random syllables, Lin Yun knew exactly what it was trying to say.

Lin Yun watched without moving. Seeing that the Void Owl didn't obey, Lord Shawn couldn't hold back anymore. Lord Shawn had just got rid of the identity of Magic Tool Incarnation, but it was also a Soul Walker. Apart from pure mana, only unique soul creatures could serve as Lord Shawn's food.

Now that Lord Shawn had finally met one, he couldn't hold back any longer. It stabbed its claws into the Void Owl's body to stop it from moving. Then, it tore a large piece of shadow off the Void Owl.

A scream echoed in Lin Yun's head. In no more than one second, the Void Owl had given up...

Lord Shawn was quite unhappy. It bit hard again, and tore another piece of shadow off. At this moment, the Void Owl didn't dare to think any further. It didn't read the content of the contract at all, and simply pinned its soul mark on Lin Yun's contract that was more than a meter long.

After the soul contract was successfully signed, the paper disappeared into ashes, and light darted from it into Lin Yun and the Void Owl.

Seeing that, Lord Shawn finally reluctantly let go of the Void Owl. It licked its lips as if it had seen the most delicious prey. Its saliva was almost dripping.

The Void Owl shrank into a black shadow ball again, and seemed a lot weaker. Lord Shawn's two bites had swallowed at least five percent of its soul power.

Lin Yun canceled the blockage. The Book of Ten Thousand Mantras and the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel floated back to him. Both Syudos and Enderfa emerged from the magic tools, and looked at the Void Owl which had shrunk in size.

Enderfa looked at the Void Owl, and yelled disdainfully, "It won't cooperate until it's been taught a lesson. How stupid was it to provoke Merlin?"

The next second, the Void Owl vanished, and Lord Shawn immediately cackled gloatingly.

"That idiot signed the contract without even reading it, yet it wants to run? How naive. That contract is the harshest contract that I could think of..."

As expected, the Void Owl appeared a dozen meters away in two seconds. Then, it screamed and rushed back...

It became completely obedient after the attempt, and didn't dare to run away from Lin Yun again. Lin Yun smiled. That contract was made by Lord Shawn for fun. The terms of the contract were so unfair that Lin Yun was almost amused when he read them. Also, the contract was a soul contract that couldn't be crossed. Any intelligent creature would rather die before they signed such a contract, unless they were downright stupid...

After they signed the contract, they would be Lin Yun's slaves even if they turned into ghosts. To put it simply, after they signed the contract, the core of their souls would be marked by Lin Yun, and they couldn't break free in their next lives...

Recollecting the items that were floating in the void, Lin Yun observed this subspace again. This was a place that was supposed to be unreachable for him. Only spatial mages who were familiar with spatial laws could touch this place when they were in level 7 or level 8 of the Heaven Rank. They couldn't access the place freely unless they became as strong as Agalon.

Only the Void Owl, as an amazing soul creature, was capable of doing that. However, it wasn't really good at fighting. This Void Owl was already level 43, but it was only strong enough to shake Lin Yun's shield.

Its ultimate trick was to drag its enemy into this subspace. Unfortunately, this trick couldn't be used every time. It could only be used upon targets who were as small as Lin Yun and didn't fight back when the space was stable.

The Void Owl was too weak to drag any other void beasts, which were too big, into the subspace and cage them.

Ever since he came to the place, Lin Yun had known that he would be stranded here for a long time without the Void Owl's help, at least until he became capable of traveling beyond this space back to the normal space...

Now that he had subdued the Void Owl, he could leave anytime. However, it wasn't easy to enter this place. Lin Yun planned to stay here for a while to perceive spatial laws. He could learn a lot of things on this unique path.

In this strange subspace, Lin Yun moved on, seeing and learning many different reflections, including void storms, energy storms, and some gigantic planets, which were just spherical shadows dozens of meters in diameter in this subspace.

It seemed that in this place, the boundless universe had been compressed into a sheet of paper and redisplayed on it.

When Lin Yun passed by the projection of a planet that was only one meter tall, Lin Yun suddenly stopped. He had a special feeling, but it was gone quickly.

Lin Yun frowned and stood next to the planet. He didn't think what he felt was an illusion. He was sure that the familiar feeling came from the projection of the planet.

There was a vague connection between them.

Standing next to the planet's projection, Lin Yun closed his eyes and spread his senses. After a dozen hours, he had the sense of connection again, although it disappeared quickly.

Hesitating for a moment, Lin Yun extended his hand into the planet's projection, which was like an illusionary shadow, and wasn't concrete at all. Such projections were created because the power or gravity on planets influenced the subspace in the shadows.

When Lin Yun extended his hand into the projection, he had the feeling of connection again, but this time it didn't disappear, and lingered instead. Although the connection wasn't too powerful, Lin Yun was able to figure out what it was about.

Bloodline connection. Only the bloodline connection carried the power of penetrating space.

In the heyday of Noscent, the most powerful mages had all left bloodline connections before they set off from Noscent.

He had felt the connection probably because there was a horrifying expert of the Merlin Family on the planet. It could've only been one person who could be detected from such a long distance away.

Santon Merlin!

He had heard that Santon Merlin left for the spatial battlefield, and had been in the boundless void ever since. This planet had to be indescribably far away from the location where Lin Yun appeared after he left Noscent.

Was Santon Merlin here?

Lin Yun was silent for a moment, but he decided to go there and take a look. Santon Merlin had been in the space battlefield, and he had been sending information back to Noscent. He had to be well-informed.

Lin Yun was just visiting the space battlefield with Agalon anyway. According to Agalon, the space battlefield was supposed to be peaceful.

However, the moment he set foot on the peaceful space battlefield, he encountered two horrifying beasts. One of them was strong enough to fight Agalon, and the other was a mutated beast.

After he went through all the trouble to kill the mutated beast, a Void Owl that had smelled the blood jumped out of nowhere...

Chapter 1300: Diary

Lin Yun finally had a personal experience with the dangerousness of the boundless void.

Now that he had the feeling of bloodline connection, it was likely to be Santon Merlin himself. Lin Yun couldn't wait.

Observing the projection of the planet, Lin Yun hesitated. The projection looked very small. However, every planet that had left a projection in this subspace was much more powerful, or at least had a much higher gravity than the strange potato planet he saw at the beginning.

He took out the Book of Death, and copied an anti-gravity spell from the Sage Chapter. He activated it on himself. Since there was no gravity here, it naturally didn't work at all.

He summoned the Void Owl, and asked it to take him to the normal space where the planet was at.

Receiving a soul wave from the Void Owl, Lin Yun frowned.

"You can only travel with natural-born extraordinary lives?"

Sensing the information from the Void Owl, both Lord Shawn and Enderfa burst into fury.

"Damn you, bastard, if you dare to leave us behind..."

Lord Shawn grimaced, and was about to bite the Void Owl again with the excuse when Lin Yun stowed him away along with Enderfa and Lord Shawn.

The Void Owl couldn't be lying to him. A natural-born extraordinary life...

Lin Yun glanced at the Void Owl, and suddenly realized something. He had returned from the Gate of Rebirth when he advanced into the Heaven Rank. Although he looked no different from before, he was essentially evolved. He retained the structure of a human being, but he was also a natural-born extraordinary life.

That had to be another reason why the Void Owl yielded so quickly.

It was not too unacceptable for a natural-born extraordinary creature to surrender to another one. The Void Owl would've resisted fiercely if it had had to surrender someone who wasn't a natural-born extraordinary creature.

That was probably the reason why few void beasts had been tamed. Even if a mage evolved into an extraordinary creature, they were essentially different, or rather flawed.

Future research on mages would point out that extraordinary evolution decided one's potential. An imperfect extraordinary evolution meant that one would run out of potential very quickly.

That was the truth. But nobody had figured out the reason behind the truth yet...

The creatures with horrifying bloodlines could rise to the Heaven Rank by doing nothing except sleeping after their bloodlines were awakened. It was because their bloodlines contained extraordinary marks, so they could naturally grow into extraordinary lives.

Pondering for a moment, Lin Yun suddenly realized that the perfect extraordinary evolution was much more useful than he thought.

After putting away Lord Shawn and the others, Lin Yun connected himself to the Void Owl. Immediately, the frequency of Lin Yun's body was adjusted to the Void Owl's. The Void Owl touched the planet's projection, and Lin Yun instantly vanished.

In the blink of an eye, Lin Yun detected horrifying gravity around himself. The anti-gravity spell that he'd cast upon himself earlier was already working. The fusion shield had been unfolded too. Still, he felt that there was a mountain on his back. Not just his back, his internal hands were being pressed down by invisible hands too. His blood was flowing with more difficulty too, and gathering on his feet.

Instantly, Lin Yun felt that he was fainting. He quickly cast the anti-gravity spell several times again, and imposed the Earth Shield on himself. Finally, he felt that it was easier for his heart to beat.

All that he could see was a dim silver world that was absolutely flat. It looked like the ground was exclusively paved with lackluster black crystals.

The Void Owl was pressed to the ground by heavy gravity, and turned into a very thin piece of paper. If it hadn't been a special soul entity, it would've been killed by the enormous gravity the moment it appeared.

Lin Yun dragged the Void Owl back behind the fusion shield. Then, the Void Owl shrank into a small black ball, and stayed on Lin Yun's shoulder. It was clearly frightened.

Lin Yun stayed still for hours before he was finally accustomed to the environment. His eyelids that had been pulled down could finally be kept up.

There was cold sweat on Lin Yun's forehead. This was rather surprising. The dangers in the boundless void included not just the thick void storms and void beasts, but also such heavy planets, which were even more dangerous.

The gravity on such planets couldn't be fully blocked by the fusion shield. Lin Yun would've been pressed to death the moment he'd appeared if he hadn't grasped the laws so closely.

At this moment, Lin Yun felt like he was being pressed by hundreds of times the normal gravity. He was actually only enduring one percent of the planet's gravity thanks to the anti-gravity spells and the various shields. In conclusion, this planet's gravity could be tens of thousands of that in Noscent...

Lin Yun would never have dared to enter this place if he hadn't known the level-9 spatial, earth, and tornado laws.

If one accidentally fell to such a planet from space, unless one had special methods, or one was at the peak of the Heaven Rank, and could slightly change the laws around like Agalon did, one would be trapped there forever.

There was absolutely no energy or air in this place. It was absolute desolation. Everything on the surface of the planet would be destroyed by the enormous gravity, leaving nothing but black crystals.

They were very precious raw materials that would be needed in many alloys and advanced fusion agents. Those materials were highly unstable, and would collapse without the high gravity. They could only be used as a component, but not as an independent and reliable material.

Within the next 20,000 years, those materials would be very rare. After all, they could be found in few places. This planet boasted an inestimable amount of black crystals, but it was impossible to excavate them.

Even Lin Yun could only manage to protect himself here with all his methods. It had been hours, and yet he couldn't even walk yet. To break the hard floor and excavate the black crystals, one had to be at least at the peak of the Heaven Rank...

He summoned a level-39 puppet, which fell to the ground immediately with cracks all over its solid body. Then, it broke apart into countless pieces. When those pieces hit the ground, they shattered into even tinier pieces.

It looked as if a terrifying hammer had hit the puppet. The puppet's reaction furnace exploded, but only caused sparks that were three centimeters high at most. All pieces were squeezed on the ground, and crumbled into smithereens until they completely vanished as if they had melted into the ground.

Lin Yun had cold sweat when he saw the picture. He was in no mood to claim the huge amount of black crystals here.

Some books he read in the decaying library mentioned prisons that were such planets with unfathomable gravity. Those prisons were built to cage people who were so powerful that their followers would initiate unimaginable retaliations if they were killed. So, it was best to just imprison them forever.

The most famous prison was call Silver Light. It was as smooth as silver, and no buildings could be constructed on it at all. Its enormous gravity could prevent anyone from escaping. Even the prisoners who were so strong that they could hardly be killed couldn't run away. They could only stay on the planet of nothingness until they died.

Lin Yun wouldn't have embarked on an adventure to such a planet without the Void Owl...

He simply stood still and cast helpful spells. Unfortunately, those spells could only work behind the fusion shield. They would collapse immediately after they left the range of the shield.

Lin Yun looked up and saw the boundless void. As the planet revolved, a splendid curved belt of light emerged. The glamorous belt of light surrounded the planet, and then dispersed in the void. It looked like an enormous rainbow around the planet.

He stood still. He knew that it wasn't because the rays were twisted, but because the space here was distorted by enormous gravity. That enormous belt of light was caused when light traveled through the space that had been compressed hundreds of times.

Lin Yun looked up and observed the belt of light while he calculated the spatial changes. The space here had been compressed, and the spatial laws were different too. After he got used to the changes, he would be less suppressed by the heavy gravity, and at least be able to move on this planet.

There was no telling how long had passed, but Lin Yun was finally accustomed to the spatial changes, and could walk on the planet.

He walked for a long time again, and finally approached the spot where he had a feeling of blood connection. On the flat ground of black crystals, there was a magic book that was emitting redness while surrounded by a halo of law runes. Those law runes were all stuck to the surface of the magic book by gravity.

Lin Yun looked at the magic book. That was the source of his bloodline connection. He had a strong feeling. Also, the moment he saw the magic book, Lin Yun realized why he detected it from such a long distance away. That was a True Spirit Magic Tool, and definitely one of the best!

Looking at the magic book, Lin Yun hesitated and didn't approach. He could tell from the bloodline connection that it had been left by a powerful member of the Merlin Family.

Ever since he advanced into the Heaven Rank, and returned from the Gate of Rebirth, Lin Yun's bloodline had changed. Although he was essentially a descendant of the Merlin Family, he couldn't feel bloodline connection with its ordinary members. Santon Merlin was the only person who could've triggered such a powerful feeling of connection.

When he approached the magic book, the dense law runes on the surface of the magic book seemed to have felt something. They broke free from the gravity, and turned into a shield that was several meters tall.

The power that the shield emitted shocked Lin Yun.

At first, he was already amazed when he saw that the magic book was preserved in such a place. After all, this was a heavy, desolate planet that even the experts who would leave and land here wouldn't visit it often. To walk on the surface of the planet and to get rid of its gravity and fly out were completely different. The latter was much more difficult than the former.

This was definitely the safest place to store the magic book. It was difficult enough to locate the planet. Even if it was located, it would be even harder to take the magic book away.

In addition, the magic book emitted such horrifying power that it formed a huge shield. It suggested that the owner of the magic book had to be terrifyingly strong.

The shield wasn't aggressive at all. It was just a simple barrier that would be automatically triggered by any person who approached to ensure that only those with a specific bloodline could enter it.

Lin Yun looked at the shield, which was definitely huge for this place. A drop of blood emerged from his fingertip, and dripped on the surface of the shield.

Immediately, the shield turned red, and countless runes were surging more powerfully. However, when Lin Yun stuck his hand to the shield, it penetrated the shield without being blocked at all.

A DNA test of the magic world? Lin Yun wore a weird expression. This technology was never used frequently until the last years of the heyday. It was rarely used in the past.

In the last years of the heyday, the relics of a lot of experts who had lived in the heyday were found. Normally, the Heaven Rank experts could live tens of thousands of years. The strongest of them could easily live for 10,000 years as long as they didn't die by accident halfway.

However, very few Heaven Rank experts had died of old age in the heyday. The alchemists sought the truth of alchemy, and the mages sought the truth of laws. Nobody ever rested. In the heyday, while there were much more resources, the competition was much fiercer too.

That was the age where anyone might distinguish himself. Many Heaven Rank experts who ran out of their potential embarked on adventures, looking for methods and items to help them make a breakthrough. Too many people had died in the process.

The relics from that age mostly required bloodline tests. Only the designated descendants could acquire the legacies in the relics. After all, in the age of grand grave robbing, those crazy mages had dug almost all the relics and tombs from the past...

So, when they left their own relics, they mostly set up bloodline restraints so that only their heirs could receive the legacies. They would rather destroy the legacies than give them away.

Lin Yun shook his head, and stopped thinking about that. The moment he entered the shield, the enormous gravity he felt was greatly weakened. He could resist the remainder of it easily.

Detecting Lin Yun's bloodline, the magic book rose from the ground, and floated to Lin Yun's hand.

There was not a title on the surface of the magic book, only a mark in the bottom right corner. Lin Yun easily noticed that it was Santon Merlin's mark. Nobody would've faked such a special mark.

He thought it was a powerful magic book that Santon Merlin had somehow dropped or lost here.

Santon Merlin's soul lamp was still in the Merlin Family's ancestral land. It was impossible that Santon Merlin had died while he was away. Also, the lingering power on the magic book suggested that he was still alive.

Opening the magic book, Lin Yun put on a weird expression as it was not a magic book of spells at all, but just a diary. Also, it was not written in the language of Noscent, but a rarely used magic language. Only some mages knew that language because there were few spells in that language.

The magic language contained special power. It sounded like a mixture of the Dragon Tongue, the Nesser Language, and the Third Dynasty's language.

However, this language was rarely spoken except in some curses. Only the Merlin Family had the complete version of the language. Normal members of the family only learned the incomplete version, while the complete version could only be found in the family's ancestral land.

Santon Merlin had written the diary in this strange language, and thanks to the bloodline restraint, nobody else could possibly understand it.

"I encountered an unrecorded void beast today. It looked like an enormous sea urchin whose color was as dark as space. Its body was just three kilometers in diameter, but it had spines a dozen kilometers long.

"It contained horrifying lightning power that could penetrate through space and cause lightning storms..."

The first page was just ordinary diary content. Lin Yun turned the pages, and saw that they were just records of creatures, environments, and materials that were unseen in Noscent.