

Magic Era 1341

Chapter 1341: Transaction

Faleau was completely confused. Nevertheless, the result was in favor of the Gilded Rose. The other organizations were deterred, and the negotiations were easier. He had to pretend that the Gilded Rose punished the two robbers, even though he knew it didn't.

Nobody asked him anything directly. They all kept silent on the matter, believing in the truth that they thought to be.

The negotiations went well. He signed barter contracts with multiple mage organizations. The Blue Demon Potions could be exchanged for many special materials they gained from other planes. Only the forces that controlled such planes had access to the materials.

But not everything was successful. Some organizations proposed harsh terms for the barter, so Faleau gave up.

He knew that the Blue Demon Potion was not costly at all. Its greatest cost was the materials from the monster plane. Except that, the cost for one bottle of the Blue Demon Potion was less than 1,000 purple gold, and most of it was the alchemists' wages...

However, he couldn't lower the price of the potion. Many of the materials he needed were in planes that the other organizations controlled. They were just like the plants in the monster plane. They were very cheap in the planes they originally belonged to, but very expensive in Noscent because of their rarity. So, their prices could vary significantly, just like the Gilded Rose could peg the Blue Demon Potion's price freely.

Faleau looked at the inventory in his hand, which was five meters long and two meters wide, and was full of materials that were needed. When mana was filled into the inventory, there would even be holograms that displayed the materials and their features.

There were thousands of materials in the inventory, but the Blue Demon Potions could only be exchanged for 100 of them. The organizations that came for negotiations didn't have most of the materials in the inventory. All of them were precious, and the amount behind them gave Faleau a strong headache.

30 tons of refined metals, which were usually sold by kilograms at auctions, were needed in the inventory.

10 kilograms of Floating Red Golden Ore would suffice as raw materials for a good True Spirit Magic Tool, but 200,000 kilograms of it were needed in the inventory.

Faleau's eyes almost popped out when he saw the inventory for the first time. He wouldn't even have dared to think about it if he hadn't seen the check signs on the inventory. The most difficult item was the 3,000 tons of refined Eternal Dark Gold.

There wasn't so much Eternal Dark Gold in the entire Noscent, but the check sign indicated that it had been completed.

Holding the inventory, Faleau calculated the materials that were being exchanged. In a couple of years, some of the materials needed in the inventory would be gathered enough. However, most of the materials on the list hadn't been collected yet.

Some of the specially marked materials in the inventory gave Faleau a headache.

That greedy and cunning vampire. Those Super Heavy Crystals are the cheapest materials in the plane his family controls, even though they are not very easy to exploit. Yet, that idiot offered me one ton of Super Heavy Crystals for one Blue Demon Potion.

Damn it, a ton of Super Heavy Crystals isn't even as big as a human head. One cubic meter of Super Heavy Crystals weighs hundreds of tons, and 8,000,000 cubic meters are needed. I cannot get enough of them in a millennium. Did the idiot think that the Gilded Rose would offer them Blue Demon Potion for 1,000 years in exchange for things that are as worthless as stones for him?

Damn it. But the lack of Super Heavy Crystals is truly a problem. Sir Merlin said that the Super Heavy Crystals are among the materials that must be collected in the first batch. The vampire family is the only one that controls a plane which has Super Heavy Crystals.

Do I have to collect them in the Earth Plane? But it won't be possible to bring them back. Also, nobody could possibly do mining there except Xiuban, who is sturdy enough. No kidding...

The Blue Demon Potion was seriously in demand, but Faleau was still upset. Since the Blue Demon Potion would significantly enhance the mage organizations' power and increase the speed of their conquests, they shouldn't refuse to exchange some materials for it. However, Faleau underestimated their greediness.

They were so greedy that they proposed to exchange one stone, which they usually used to build floors, for one bottle of Blue Demon Potion.

The progress on the deals was slow. Faleau was quite anxious, but he knew he couldn't break his boundaries. If he did, it would be very difficult to make deals with other organizations.

While Faleau was feeling frustrated, a mage organization from the south of the Odin Kingdom arrived, hoping to purchase the Gilded Rose's Blue Demon Potion and other special potions.

"Sir Faleau, I heard that you're exchanging the Blue Demon Potion for some materials. I'm just going to save your time. These are the materials we can offer. Do you need any of them?"

"By the way, the Blue Demon Potion is a powerful, paradigm-shifting potion that will boost the development of magic in ways people cannot imagine. Only those who are as greedy as devils are too tempted by short-term returns to realize it.

"The northern folks always think that we southern mages are greedy. However, it seems that they're too stupid."

This level-1 Heaven Rank expert wore a glamorous robe, and seemed reliable and trustworthy. He was definitely stronger than most mages on his level, and he was from the south of the Odin Kingdom.

Faleau was slightly puzzled. Why would an organization that was based in the south of the Odin Kingdom come to the Gilded Rose?

Didn't the southern mages of the Odin Kingdom always consider themselves the strongest? They despised all the northern forces, except for a few. They regarded most people from the north as bumpkins...

The people of the Sten Kingdom and the Andlusa Kingdom were no better than barbarians in the eyes of the southern mages. Why would they come for negotiation?

Did they not know that the Gilded Rose came from the Andlusa Kingdom?

The questions flashed in Faleau's head, but he didn't have time to consider, as he saw multiple materials he needed on the list, including the Super Heavy Crystals that he was in dire need of.

Calming himself down, Faleau pointed at two other materials first, and asked the man his terms. Finally, he pointed at the Super Heavy Crystal.

"Sir Dick, how would you like to exchange the Super Heavy Crystals?"

With a smile, Dick shook his head.

"Sir Faleau, the Super Heavy Crystals are only rare in Noscent. It will be a waste to exchange them. If their price is too low, then I won't be satisfied; if their price is too high, you won't be. So, let's not exchange them directly.

"I propose another way for the Super Heavy Crystals. 10,000 Blue Demon Potions for the right of mining a Super Heavy Crystal mother lode for a year. You can exploit however many Super Heavy Crystals you can mine during the year. Whatever else you find by the way will be yours too."

What Dick said made Faleau's hands tremble. He was so shocked that he almost exclaimed.

The Super Heavy Crystal mother lode that couldn't be mined was certainly not in the Earth Plane, which didn't have a suitable environment for mining. Also, the man's generosity indicated that the mother lode had such a great reserve that he didn't care about the loss. Besides, time was the only limit...

Remembering the huge number of mining alchemy puppets in the Demiplane, Faleau was stunned. If they were deployed, he wouldn't need a year to collect enough Super Heavy Crystals.

The cost was only 10,000 Blue Demon Potions. It was so cheap that he was almost getting the Super Heavy Crystals for free.

A lot of Super Heavy Crystals could be found in every Earth Plane, especially in places in a plane that had a huge gravity. In those places, the Super Heavy Crystals were actually just normal crystals that contained earth elements.

However, mining was barely possible in those places. The miners would have to be at least Heaven Rank Sword Saints, and they had to be very sturdy. So, it was impossible to mine on a large scale.

Besides the Earth Planes, only some special planes might yield the Super Heavy Crystals. Such planes were usually desolate and lifeless. However, mining wouldn't be easy, either, because the Super Heavy Crystals had a high density, and were extremely sturdy.

Under normal circumstances, to exploit a mother lode of Super Heavy Crystals was costly, and required a huge number of workers. Also, the Super Heavy Crystals were rarely used in Noscent, and the current yield of the crystals almost met the demand.

Because the Super Heavy Crystals didn't have a huge market, and weren't easy to collect, the organizations who had Super Heavy Crystal mother lodes in planes they conquered never explored them. They would rather spend the time collecting more profitable materials.

But that was not a problem for the Gilded Rose. In the enormous alchemy puppet factory in Lin Yun's base, all sorts of mining puppets were created and manufactured after the battle alchemy puppets were invented. Technically speaking, the mining puppets were even more sophisticated than the battle puppets.

Half of the mining puppets were asleep in the Natural Demi-plane, and some were working in the Gilded Rose's mother lodes. They had been designed to be strong enough to mine the Super Heavy Crystals.

For other people, it would take decades to collect 8,000,000 cubic meters of Super Heavy Crystals, but for the Gilded Rose which had an advanced legion of mining puppets, one year was more than enough...

"Sir Faleau, is the number too high? How about 9,000 bottles? You should know that although the mother lode of the Super Heavy Crystals has a huge reserve, only powerful alchemists or powerful organizations might buy them. It's very costly to exploit them."

"The Super Heavy Crystals are very valuable. It's just that they cannot be applied on a large scale just yet, except for the purpose of being used as floors..."

"Oh my God, Sir Faleau, you're not trying to pave floors with the Super Heavy Crystals, right? Then how about 8,000 bottles of Blue Demon Potion? The plane will be yours for an entire year. After all, there's not really anything valuable in that plane except the Super Heavy Crystals."

Dick looked at Faleau in amazement. The expression on Faleau's face made him realize that the Super Heavy Crystals were indeed going to be used as floors. Immediately, Dick put on a weird expression. It was truly unbelievable that anyone would spend such a fortune on Super Heavy Crystals just to build floors.

While the Super Heavy Crystals were truly great materials for gravity labs, and some special alchemy labs required them to build floors, not a lot of them were needed. It was possible to buy them on the market. The Super Heavy Crystals to be exchanged with the powerful potion that was the Blue Demon Potion, which was sold for 180,000 purple gold apiece, would be enough to pave the entire Neverwinter City...

But Dick couldn't ask more about the matter. He simply confirmed the deal as he normally did.

After they struck the deal, Faleau was even more confused. This negotiation was smoother than any of the previous negotiations, and the Gilded Rose got more from the deal.

The other end of the exchange was an organization from the south of the Odin Kingdom, which ranked among the top 20, if not top 10. It was rather strange that it would come to the Gilded Rose for negotiation and offer generous terms.

In the following days, everything became smooth. The Gilded Rose intended to acquire special lands from the Odin Kingdom that would be used to grow magic plants. Such lands were very expensive and always in demand. They would be bought by their owners' friends the moment they became available on the market.

Such lands weren't like the farms where crops or low-level potion herbs were grown. There were always farms more than 10 kilometers long and wide on the market. However, such lands were very popular, and couldn't be acquired by the forces outside of the Odin Kingdom.

Faleau didn't really think he could succeed. He only tried because the Gilded Rose had earned so much purple gold that it couldn't be used up even if it was exchanged for resources. The unspent purple gold was useless for the Gilded Rose, so Faleau planned to buy something else.

That was just an idea. He pulled some strings, and found several potential sellers. He negotiated with them, but to no avail. They would rather sell the lands to friends for a lower price than sell them to the Gilded Rose which had more money.

But in only three days, a family who wanted to sell the special lands came to the Gilded Rose. It offered a high price, but the Gilded Rose was still lucky to get the lands.

The purchase was much easier than expected. Faleau was not dumb. He knew that someone had to be giving him a hand. Everything had been going too smooth for the Gilded Rose. The troublemakers were all taken care of. A couple of days earlier, one of the Gilded Rose's most remote branches was robbed, but only half a day later, the robbers' heads were hung outside of the city's gate. The stolen goods were sent back too.

The Gilded Rose seemed terribly lucky. But as more and more lucky incidents happened, Faleau became uneasy. Whoever had been helping the Gilded Rose for no good reason could be planning something malicious.

He hadn't met Lin Yun in two months. He couldn't wait any longer, and came to the Starry Sky College and found Lin Yun.

"Sir Merlin, this is what happened. We don't know who did it or who has been helping the Gilded Rose. We don't know what they want, either..."

Faleau reported everything worriedly, and Lin Yun immediately frowned after hearing him out.

The special silence curse, the constant bleeding, and the ability of doing so many things in secret without leaving any leads. Whoever did everything seemed to be shadows that always hid themselves in the dark.

Hearing about the style, Lin Yun immediately realized who did it. It couldn't have been done by anyone except the people of the Thorny Crown, which was the only organization that had so many experts of special abilities.

Also, the Thorny Crown had been hidden in the dark for so many years, and it definitely had a huge network of connections. Lin Yun simply didn't expect that the Thorny Crown's network to be so powerful that it seemed able to influence everything.

It had obtained so much intelligence without communicating with the Gilded Rose. That was remarkable too.

Thinking about that, Lin Yun suddenly realized that it was another lapse in his judgment. Although the Thorny Crown didn't have a good reputation, it was certainly not a public enemy, either. To have enough resources to study bloodline transplantation, they definitely had a lot of properties and businesses to generate sufficient revenue and resources for them...

Chapter 1342: Elixir

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The Thorny Crown didn't say anything, and yet they had done so many things. Lin Yun shook his head, not knowing what to do. He didn't want to get involved with those lunatics, but it seemed that Myers and the other members of the Thorny Crown had made a decision.

However, remembering what the lunatics would do in the future, Lin Yun was still reluctant to accept the Thorny Crown. If they were taught more about bloodline transplantation, they could do even crazier things.

"Just leave the matter aside. They're not malicious."

Faleau left, just as confused as before. Lin Yun was not in the mood for looking for information in the Starry Sky College anymore. There were too many books here, and it wasn't easy to find those he needed.

He only found some uncertain information. The conclusion of the information was that the 73rd God was indeed reborn in the Odin Kingdom, but the specific location was unknown. The only thing that could be confirmed was that he was most likely reborn in the center of the Odin Kingdom.

The Odin Kingdom was generally divided into two parts, the south and the north. The Odin Kingdom was founded on the relics of the Third Dynasty. The royal family and some of the grand nobles were located in the south of the Odin Kingdom, whereas most mages and other nobles lived in the north.

The mages and small nobles weren't as powerful as the forces in the south, but they were numerous and not really that weak. As time went by, the gap between the south and the north shrank. Some mage forces declined, and some rose. At this moment, the south and the north were similar, but the south was more powerful in general.

The center, as the boundary, was home to many weak forces as a buffer. At this moment, everybody had acknowledged that the narrow, long central part of the Odin Kingdom was its weakest part. It was very likely that the 73rd God had been reborn there because it was the safest place, and there would be enough time for him to grow up.

Unfortunately, the central part was only 1,000 kilometers wide, but stretched through the entire Odin Kingdom. It would take hundreds of years to find someone there without knowing their rough location.

Lin Yun heaved a sigh and rubbed his brows. Most of the data and information he read in the past two months was useless. It was extremely difficult to tell whether or not a piece of information was useful.

Although he didn't find the rough location of the 73rd God, he found other information that was useful.

The requirements to build the Shelter Tower were extremely rigorous. Not only were a lot of precious materials needed, but some parts couldn't even be created by human beings. Even the Saint Alchemists could only build replacements of such parts.

However, Lin Yun already knew the ending of an incomplete and imperfect Shelter Tower. The Shelter Tower he was going to make had to be complete and flawless.

Some of the parts had to be made by other races. He had already found the Firerock Dwarves, who weren't easily found in historical records. According to history, the last tribe of the Firerock Dwarves wouldn't be found in Noscent until 10,000 years later. Nobody knew who found the Firerock Dwarves or how they did it.

While the Firerock Dwarves had been found, there were no updates on other races yet. Lin Yun was able to find notes on Cave Gnomes and Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers in an Archmage's journal in the Starry Sky College's library.

The journal was written only 100 years before this day. A century earlier, some people found a channel to the underground world in the center-western part of the Odin Kingdom. The journal's author was one of the finders. They discovered a lot of unique races in the underground world, including the Cave Gnomes and the Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers.

The two races had been living in Noscent since the Nesser Dynasty. At that time, the Cave Gnomes were slaves to the Chromatic Dragons. All of the Chromatic Dragons' nests were built by the Cave Gnomes. At that time, the Cave Gnomes were considered as one of the most inferior races.

They weren't very strong on average, and didn't have any top experts, so they were doomed to be the lowliest slaves. The Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers, on the other hand, were even more miserable. They were just the Chromatic Dragons' food. Young Destruction Black Dragons loved eating the Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers as snacks...

The Cave Gnomes and the Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers were destroyed along with the Nesser Dynasty. Some of them lingered in the Third Dynasty, but they hadn't been spotted in Noscent ever since the middle phase of the Third Dynasty.

The journal's author didn't know the Cave Gnomes or the Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers, and only wrote down their characteristics, not names. Based on the descriptions, Lin Yun easily recognized that they were the Cave Gnomes and the Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers he was looking for.

When the journal was passed to others, nobody was attracted to the descriptions. Or rather, none of the readers knew the Cave Gnomes and the Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers. Even the underground channel was destroyed a couple of years later. Some forces hoped to dig out the channel with a lot of men and resources. Unfortunately, they found nothing but an underground river after digging 1,000 meters deep.

Although Lin Yun had no leads, he knew the rough location of the channel. As long as he found a way to enter the underground world, there would be a good chance that he might find the Cave Gnomes and the Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers.

Unable to retrieve any more useful information, Lin Yun left the Starry Sky College for the hill where Agalon lived, only to find that Agalon hadn't returned to Noscent yet. It had been more than a year since he left. Lin Yun couldn't help but feel worried for him.

Agalon had been in the space battlefield for more than a year, and still hadn't come back yet. He had to be in serious trouble. He should know that Lin Yun was able to return to Noscent even if Lin Yun was lost, but he had lingered for too long on the battlefield. He either was in big trouble, or had something important to do.

The two matters were equally dangerous. Who was the enemy in the space battlefield? It seemed that they had been fighting the enemy for a long time. Unfortunately, Lin Yun didn't find any leads on his last trip. The space behemoth disrupted everything.

Lin Yun shook his head, and left Agalon's hill. Because Agalon wasn't back yet, Lin Yun didn't intend to go to the space battlefield again. He somehow had a feeling of crisis, which wasn't about the Starry Sky College, but about something bigger.

Therefore, it was time to start building the Shelter Tower. It would be best to complete half of the Shelter Tower in 10 years. Most of the materials had been gathered. The others weren't available in Noscent, but he knew where to find them. The races that were needed for the construction were the main problem at this moment.

After Lin Yun returned to the Gilded Rose, Faleau met him with a strange expression.

"Sir Merlin, someone asked me if we want to establish the Gilded Rose's branch in the south of the Odin Kingdom, and said that he could help if we do. However, he can only help us start a branch in Nero City, which is on the southern border of the Odin Kingdom. We can receive Viscount Nero's help there..."

They had hoped to start a branch in the south for a long time, but Faleau didn't seem delighted at all. He seemed uneasy and worried.

"Sir Merlin, who is it that has been helping us? Everybody can tell that someone has been helping the Gilded Rose in secret. Many people think that we have unknown supporters, which has deterred a lot of unfriendly forces.

"A couple of days ago, even the Lodney Family came to me, and hoped to cooperate with us. The terms they offered seemed to indicate that they were sincere.

"Who is it that's helping the Gilded Rose? Sir Merlin, is there anything you can tell me?"

Lin Yun nodded.

"If my guess is correct, this should be the Thorny Crown's doing. Myers, their chief elder, is hoping to work for me along with the Thorny Crown, but I don't want to accept them.

"Those guys are lunatics who study foreign bloodline transplantation. A lot of them are willing to sacrifice everything for greater power. Also, they've been doing similar things as necromancers for their studies. They'll cause great trouble sooner or later.

“More importantly, it is a wrong decision to transplant foreign bloodlines. Under normal circumstances, level 5 of the Heaven Rank is already their limit. They don’t have a lot of potential, and there are a lot of side effects, many of which affect their personalities...”

Faleau opened his mouth with a weird expression.

Level 5 of the Heaven Rank means no potential? Sir Merlin is really getting more and more picky. Many mages have spent their entire life trying to become extraordinary lives. Yet, level 5 of the Heaven Rank means no potential in Sir Merlin’s eyes...

I’m still a level-9 Archmage right now. Does Sir Merlin think I don’t have potential, either?

There are only a few Heaven Rank experts in the entire Gilded Rose. Wait, why do Sir Merlin’s words sound so weird? I’m completely baffled.

Faleau was already baffled about what happened in the past months. He was even more baffled at this moment. However, he thought of something at the mention of the Thorny Crown.

“Oh, right, Sir Merlin, when you mentioned Thorny Crown, I thought it sounded familiar. I finally remember that the mage who asked us if we want to start a branch in the south of the Odin Kingdom mentioned it.

“It’s getting huge in the south of the Odin Kingdom. This Thorny Crown seems to be eliminating traitors. It’s said that some of its members are becoming similar to necromancers...”

Before Faleau finished, Lin Yun realized something. Necromancers were probably the only unwelcome human mages in Noscent. The creatures that were summoned by the undead mages were all summoned from the undead plane. Even the contracted creatures were from the undead plane too. All of them were from the undead plane.

While necromancers made use of the power of death too, the undead creatures they summoned weren’t from the undead plane. Rather, they dug out bones of the strong experts, and transformed bodies into undead creatures. Such undead creatures were usually strong.

If an Archmage was lucky enough to find an appropriate body, and transform it into an undead creature, they might get a level-43 or level-44 skeleton mage or lich.

A Heaven Rank necromancer would have an army of Heaven Rank undead creatures if they had enough bodies of strong experts. They didn’t have to be as hardworking as the undead mages, who had to contract a promising undead creature and raise it, at all.

Therefore, necromancers were publicly despised in Noscent. The only people that could compare to them were the lunatics inside the Thorny Crown who sold their souls for greater power.

Myers was eliminating the internal lunatics? He had made such a decision, and convinced the other four elders of the Thorny Crown?

Lin Yun was truly surprised. The news had spread in the south of the Odin Kingdom, which meant that the purge had to have been fierce. The Thorny Crown had to have suffered a heavy loss.

This was not like treating wounds, but more like cutting off the hand that had gone wrong. Lin Yun was shocked by Myers' resolve. This incident suggested that history had changed...

The Thorny Crown was at an intersection, and they might not walk onwards on the path of self-destruction anymore.

The Thorny Crown was already on the path of self-destruction. They had to pay an enormous price in order to turn around.

While Lin Yun was considering the question, Myers had come to the Gilded Rose quietly. He seemed exhausted since they met last time. His only eye, which seemed no different from a real eye before, had become crystal. It was a sign of the instability of his transplanted bloodline.

"Sir Merlin, I know what you're worried about. I also discovered that some members of the Thorny Crown had forgotten their vow. After I went back and investigated, I found that the matter was more serious than I thought.

"The Thorny Crown was already on the wrong path. I had to convince the other elders of my decision. The second elder has perished. All the evil beings inside the Thorny Crown have been eliminated.

"We're already ready to follow you, Sir Merlin. We hope that you could reconsider..."

Although Myers was trying to hide, the unusual aura he leaked now and then suggested that he was losing control of his body and his power. His bloodline was very unsteady, and had surely conflicted in the past three days.

After saying that, Myers planned to leave. During the few minutes of his stay here, he was already leaking the aura at a higher and higher frequency.

"Sir Myers, don't worry. Even if you unleash all of your aura in this place, it cannot possibly spread out. Your bloodline is already very unsteady. If you suppress it, it will only become more unsteady."

Myers opened his mouth, but didn't say anything. He also tried to suppress his aura just like before.

Lin Yun shook his head, and took out a bottle of potion that looked like blood. The color of the potion was constantly changing, turning between bloody and transparent. There was also a hint of a golden color that could only be seen when the potion was transparent.

"This is for you. Try not to die. If you die, it will be difficult if I want you to do anything for me."

Myers was thrilled. He accepted the potion, and poured it into his mouth immediately, not caring what it was. Instantly, crystals surfaced on Myers' body, and he was sealed inside the crystals in a few seconds.

The colors on the surface of the crystals were constantly changing. Then, the crystals gradually melted like ice into Myers' body.

A few minutes later, Myers' body was revealed again. His aura became stable, and his crystal-like eye turned as lifelike as a real person's, albeit with a unique pupil color. In his empty right eye socket, crystals gathered into an eyeball, and as if a master sculptor was working on it, the eyeball became

round and smooth in only a couple of seconds. Even the bloody streaks in the eyes were real too. Nobody could tell it was fake.

Examining his body, Myers gazed at his hands, so stunned as if he had seen something most unbelievable.

Are they... my hands? My body has completely changed. My transplanted bloodline changed too. The crystal monster's bloodline and mine seem to be melting.

How is it possible that the crystal monster's bloodline can melt into mine? After I took only one bottle of potion, 5% of the crystal monster's bloodline completely melted into mine.

From today on, my bloodline counterattack will be significantly weakened. I will be able to fight with all my strength for at least an hour. This is all because of one bottle of potion!

I knew it.. I knew Sir Merlin's understanding of bloodline transplantation is much better than mine or that of anyone else in the Thorny Crown, but it seems that I still underestimated him.

Chapter 1343: Law of Darkness

Lin Yun frowned and looked at Myers. The illusion of a wheel appeared in his eyes and revolved slowly. A few seconds later, Lin Yun shook his head in disappointment.

“This is still too bad. The melting rate is only 5%. It was already lucky enough for you to survive after absorbing the crystal monster's bloodline, and it was even luckier for you to advance into level 5 of the Heaven Rank. There's an advanced part in the crystal monster's bloodline that matches you well.

“Under normal circumstances, you cannot possibly get any stronger. However, you're quite lucky. If you find a level-40 Earth Bear and absorb its bloodline, twice as much as you did from the crystal monster, you may gain more potential.

“It will be best if the Earth Bear has already mastered Earth Breath...”

Lin Yun's words struck Myers' soul like a lightning bolt. Immediately, he understood a lot of things.

Who said that it was only possible to transplant one creature's bloodline?

If one creature's bloodline matching rate was too low, and couldn't be changed on its own, it could be changed in other ways. To combine the bloodlines of two foreign creatures at a certain ratio might not give him as much power as either of them would've, but it would be more stable, and carry more potential.

The main problem with bloodline transplantation was never insufficient combat ability, but instability in bloodlines and the lack of potential...

Was it better to be forever stuck in level 5 of the Heaven Rank, and even be unable to fight with full strength, or to slightly lower one's combat ability for the hope of getting stronger, and even seeking a breakthrough?

Anyone whose brain wasn't damaged knew what to choose. Besides, as long as the bloodline stabilized, even if their combat ability slightly dropped, their performance in battles would be better than before.

Myers trembled with excitement. He thought for a moment, and realized that although the solution seemed simple, to find out the perfect combination of bloodlines required complicated research.

Even if the way had been pointed out for him, he couldn't possibly find the most suitable combination without hundreds of years of studies at the risk of killing himself.

Lin Yun smiled. He suddenly felt that Myers was pathetic and admirable. On the path of magic, there were always people who fell, paving roads with their blood and bodies, and pointing out the wrong directions for future generations.

There had been countless failures on Noscent mages' way forward before the one success which pointed out the right way. The people who failed countless times earlier couldn't even be remembered in history.

Getting to the bottom of it, the Thorny Crown was just some sort of pioneers. Without the lunatics who would sacrifice everything for greater power, the Thorny Crown might not have been so notorious in history.

After all, in the skyrocketing period of Noscent's civilization, there had been countless novel ideas that were tested with blood and life.

Myers was so thrilled that his soul was trembling, but in only two minutes, he held back his excitement, and bowed at Lin Yun deeply.

"Sir Merlin, I don't know how I can thank you. I cannot thank you enough even in 1,000 years—"

Lin Yun waved his hand and interrupted Myers. "Enough. No need to thank me. You've suffered a huge loss recently, yet you did the Gilded Rose so many favors. This potion is just a return of the favor.

"As for working for me, let's talk about that later."

Hearing that, Myers became anxious. That man's casual remark had pointed out a new way for the Thorny Crown, which was at a dead end. Also, it was a groundbreaking new direction, where the Thorny Crown could make great progress!

Moreover, the man's unknown potion had made his transplanted bloodline truly melt with his own a little bit. That was completely unimaginable in the past.

The foreign transplanted bloodlines were unstable, and might cause counterattacks mostly because they contained external power. They were sort of special magic tools in a way, and not the mages' own power.

However, if the bloodline was truly melted into their own, then its power would become the mages', and could be passed on to their children.

Only a mage's own talent and power could be inherited. No matter how powerful the foreign bloodline they transplanted was, their children might just be average mages who didn't have any special abilities.

They meant entirely different things! The gap was as huge as that between two planes!

He had seen so many returns, and gotten to know Lin Yun better. The Thorny Crown had made a decision too. How could he give up?

“Sir Merlin...”

Myers was so anxious that he was sweating. He thought that the matter was already settled, and didn't expect this turn of events.

Lin Yun waved his hand.

“Let's talk about that later. There's something that I need you to investigate. A god from the past was reborn in Noscent. I don't know where he is exactly, but based on the leads from the Starry Sky College, I've confirmed that he was reborn somewhere in the central part of the Odin Kingdom. The books of the Starry Sky College don't mention anything else.

“I hope that you can look into the leads. If the god has been successfully reborn, I want to know who he is, and what his race is. If he is not reborn yet, I want to know where he is.

“Here's the information I've found. There are some obvious features that you may use as leads...”

Myers accepted the folder in delight. The investigation sounded very hard, especially when a god was involved. There was even no telling when he was reborn, but only a rough period, which had a span of a millennium.

After browsing through the information, Myers had a rough idea about the difficulty of the mission. But it only made him happier, even though he was not confident of accomplishing it.

He wasn't afraid that Lin Yun gave him challenging tasks. In fact, the more challenging, the better. He was only afraid that Lin Yun didn't need them, which would be a huge problem.

Calming himself down, Myers considered the information he just read.

“Sir Merlin, it happened a very long time ago. If nobody noticed anything back then, it's going to be difficult to find anything right now. Also, if the god's soul has been reborn in the form of another race, it will be even harder to find him.

“I dare not make any promises right now. I can only reach a conclusion after we gather more leads. I'll keep you informed the moment we find anything.”

Lin Yun was quite satisfied with Myers' prudence. If Myers had declared that he would surely accomplish the task, Lin Yun would've found him unreliable.

The Thorny Crown had a huge intelligence and connection network in the Odin Kingdom. The location of interest had been narrowed down to the center of the Odin Kingdom. If the Thorny Crown couldn't find anything useful with its networks, Lin Yun would have to abandon the investigation for now.

After all, he had investigated for a long time, but hadn't found anything yet. One of the reasons why he expanded the Gilded Rose in the Odin Kingdom was for the investigation.

Having entrusted the mission of investigating the rebirth of the 73rd God to Myers, Lin Yun left the matter alone. The Thorny Crown had been hiding in the dark and extending its antennae to a very large

area in the Odin Kingdom. It probably had access to many leads, and its investigation would be more efficient.

However, due to the lack of leads, it was obvious that no result could be found any time soon. After giving the most time-consuming mission to the Thorny Crown, Lin Yun began to investigate other matters that were easier.

Looking for the Cave Gnomes and the Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers was a lot easier because the entrance to the underground world had been found before. Even though the entrance had been destroyed, its location wouldn't change. The hard part was to explore the underground world.

The underground world of Noscent was completely different from that in the monster plane. Here, after countless years of natural evolution, it had almost turned into a secondary plane that was attached to Noscent. A lot of underground races lived there in disarray. They were completely different from the ground races.

However, according to history, there were no Cave Gnomes or Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers in the underground world. They had migrated to the underground at some point, but when the Noscent mages entered the underground world in the future, there would be no Cave Gnomes or Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers. After all, neither of the two races was very powerful.

To open the channel again and enter the underground world, the easiest way was to make use of the blood of a dark beast, which would never embrace the sunlight once in their entire life. Also, they were gregarious beasts. The Gilded Rose could take care of the hunting. Lin Yun only needed to wait for the result.

Study the truth runes, master more laws, conduct alchemy experiments, and make key components of the Shelter Tower. There were so many things to do that Lin Yun almost wanted to cut his soul into halves.

After his level upgrade, he was able to study more truth runes. However, he truly didn't have enough time. He could postpone the making of important components of the Shelter Tower for now. He had almost finished creating the Reedpush Plate. What he needed the most was talent runes for the Heaven Rank alchemy puppets.

The talent runes for the puppets couldn't be taken care of in a day or two. The hunting had to be done slowly. If a lot of Heaven Rank alchemy puppets died very quickly, the alchemy puppet king would possibly notice. Then, hunting would be more difficult.

He had taught the important fundamental theories of alchemy puppets to his alchemist team, and told them what to work on, so he could leave the matter aside for now, and focus on grasping more laws.

The law of darkness had been born in his Natural Demiplane, but the law of light was still evolving. Although he had mastered some rules about darkness, they only laid foundations for following rules. It was hard for him to make use of the power of the law of darkness.

After the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel evolved as an Extraordinary Magic Tool, it had been kept in the Natural Demiplane to evolve with the laws inside the plane. With the abundant mana, the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel was getting more powerful by each day.

Seated at the peak of the pillar, Lin Yun quietly examined the law of darkness that evolved in the Natural Demiplane. It was only the main trunk for now, but it was already very remarkable even for a normal Heaven Rank dark mage. The branches of the law of darkness evolved too after the main trunk did.

Then, he needed to look for Cave Gnomes and Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers in the underground world. In that place, a human dark mage wouldn't be too eye-catching, and with proper disguise, he wouldn't be recognized as an outsider, which was important.

The underground races had been fighting life-and-death battles every day, but if any outsider came in, then the situation would be entirely different.

It was like no matter how the nations in Noscent fought, it was their own business, but if any foreign races—such as demons or devils—appeared, archenemies would stand together and kill the invaders first.

Lin Yun mastered the law of darkness very smoothly. At this moment, he had fully controlled the Natural Demiplane. It was almost part of him. Any law that evolved in the Natural Demiplane was displayed right in front of Lin Yun's face. He could even enter into the laws to learn them. Such a way of learning was hundreds of times more effective than that in Noscent, even compared to geniuses.

That was the greatest advantage of the Natural Demiplane. As long as the Natural Demiplane was developed well, the terrifying advantage would be kept until the peak of the Heaven Rank.

Normal Heaven Rank experts' Demiplanes were just places that accommodated their laws. They had to grasp the laws first for them to appear in their Demiplanes.

The advantage of the Natural Demiplane was that laws evolved on their own in there, even if the mage hadn't mastered them. The mage could learn them after they took shape, which would be much easier.

In history, all the experts who had acquired a Natural Demiplane had leveled up quickly since they entered the Heaven Rank. Even the weakest had risen to level 8 of the Heaven Rank in only 180 years. He didn't advance any higher only because he was unfortunately killed by a powerful beast during an adventure.

For a month, Lin Yun had been learning the law of darkness in his Natural Demiplane. As the foundations of the darkness rules were consolidated, it was possible to make use of the Origin Chapter on the Book of Death. In the future, when he cast dark spells, they would be enhanced by the Origin Chapter. They would cost less mana and be more powerful.

Earlier, he had only been able to cast the Curtain of Darkness, which was the Origin Chapter's own ability. If he were to cast the Curtain of Darkness again, it would be five times more powerful.

Learning the law of darkness could be put on hold. He continued studying the truth runes...

Outside, the Gilded Rose had made significant progress since the release of the Blue Demon Potion. It was not because it opened more branches. In fact, it only had six new branches. The real progress was that it was able to spend the purple gold it earned.

Purple gold was indeed important for mages because it meant access to most resources they needed, but not all resources could be purchased with purple gold.

At this moment, because all organizations needed the Blue Demon Potion for mana replenishment, they had to offer the resources that the Gilded Rose needed in exchange.

The Odin Kingdom had been established for a long time, but the powerful mage organizations were the same. During the past 1,000 years, very few new mage organizations had risen, and they all ranked below 10th in terms of power.

The most important reason was the lack of resources. Many of the rarest resources were monopolized by the most powerful organizations. They only bartered with each other if they needed anything, and never made deals with weaker forces. The resources available on the market might be enough for an individual mage, but not nearly enough for a mage organization.

After taking this step, the Gilded Rose was already a lot more powerful than many seemingly daunting families. None of the organizations that had more top experts than the Gilded Rose could acquire as many precious resources that were almost never sold as it did.

The Blue Demon Potions were sold, and a lot of resources were taken back. Many people became greedy.

Except for the most powerful mage organizations, nobody could get everybody else's resources. Therefore, before the barter began, many of them didn't agree with the Gilded Rose's exchange proposal at all.

Not only was the Gilded Rose a new force, but it also came from the Andlusa Kingdom. It did not belong to the Odin Kingdom, which was very important...

Chapter 1344: The Holy Light Alliance

But very soon, several mage organizations realized their disadvantage. If they didn't purchase the Blue Demon Potion on a large scale, their opponents would be stronger than them. If their opponents who should've been as strong as them had twice as much mana as they did, how could they possibly win?

When they explored relics, they might have to quit halfway due to the lack of mana, but their competitors could continue after taking the Blue Demon Potion, and find all the treasures.

When they conquered a plane together, and agreed that the territory that each party occupied would belong to that party, their competitors suddenly accelerated the conquest, as if they had taken exhilarants. In only a month, their competitor's territory might be 25% bigger than theirs. For a plane, a 25% difference meant the area of a grand noble's territory, or even part of a kingdom.

Gradually, the Blue Demon Potion's advantages were fully revealed. It became a potion that no mages could possibly give up on. It was no longer a lifesaver to be used at critical moments, but a necessary expendable they had to use every day.

Considering the new needs, the sales of the Blue Demon Potion wouldn't drop. Also, the Blue Demon Potion would remain a necessity for a long time. Even if better mana replenishment potions were invented, the Blue Demon Potion would still be a necessity, although its price wouldn't be so crazy.

The method to make the Blue Demon Potion had been figured out in only one month. A top Artisan who was good with potions was even able to infer the whole procedure to make the Blue Demon Potion. Unfortunately, it was useless.

In only three months, there had been a dozen alchemy stores that were selling potions that had the same effect. There were five families that started to make similar potions too.

But their sales weren't great, and their profits weren't nearly as great as what the Blue Demon Potion brought. The best of the counterfeits could only regenerate 5% of what the Blue Demon Potion could, and it would take eight seconds for the potion to release half of its mana. It could only be used by High Mages at best. Its performance wasn't satisfactory.

Most of the counterfeits were only suitable for Mages or Great Mages. The worst of them could only be used by Magic Apprentices as a replenishment potion.

The producer of the best potion thought, since it was 5% as effective as the Blue Demon Potion, it could be sold for 5% of the Blue Demon Potion's price, which was 9,000 purple gold apiece. But its sales were only great on the first day. On the second day, all sorts of negative responses came up.

The potion's price was lowered to 1,000 purple gold, but very few mages were willing to use it as well. The sales didn't rise until the price was lowered to 600 purple gold apiece, but at such a price, the potion's profit rate wasn't even as good as that from normal potions, and it would be a waste of time to make and sell such potions.

In such a situation, the Gilded Rose quietly released a second new potion, the Luminosity Potion!

The Luminosity Potion could reduce a mage's time cost for mana accumulation. It could significantly expand a mage's storage of mana, and accelerate their meditation for a while.

More importantly, there were no restraints concerning the Luminosity Potion's effects at all. It had no side effects at all, even if it was used for a long time. It wouldn't be less effective, either.

After the drug was taken, it would essentially be an enhancing buff. When the buff was gone, one could always take another bottle of Luminosity Potion.

There were similar potions, but they all had many restraints. Under normal circumstances, those potions could only be taken a few times, and each time they would be less effective than the last time. Their enhancement could only last three days when they were taken for the first time. For the second time, the duration would be reduced by half...

Also, the potions' enhancement was unremarkable. Even the best of them could only accelerate meditation by 30%. As for the Luminosity Potion that the Gilded Rose released, even the normal-quality Luminosity Potion could improve the meditation efficiency by 300% for 10 days in the worst-case scenario. The duration was 15 days on average, and could reach 18 days for special people.

Not only was the Luminosity Potion surprisingly effective, but more importantly, there were no restraints on the potion at all. Even if one took two bottles of the potion every month for 50 years, it would be just as effective...

After the Luminosity Potion was released, it instantly became a hit. The organizations that had been reluctant to work with the Gilded Rose all had second thoughts.

The Andlusa Kingdom was the weakest country, but because of the potion, the greatest powers in the country had all been significantly strengthened in only a couple of months. The experts who were on the same level became 20% stronger. The mages were upgraded by one level in general too.

That was because the Andlusa Kingdom was the first to cooperate with the Gilded Rose. In the Andlusa Kingdom, the Gilded Rose monopolized the entirety of the high-end market and 80% of the middle-end market. It didn't enter the low-end market, because it left the low-level potions for other alchemy stores and alchemists.

Every time the Gilded Rose released a new potion, all the forces of Andlusa would promptly come for negotiation, willing to offer any material that the Gilded Rose needed as long as they had it.

After all, if they got the new potion, they would be strengthened overall, and they would gain much greater returns in a shorter amount of time. They wouldn't suffer any loss.

With the example of the Andlusa Kingdom, more and more organizations in the Odin Kingdom signed exchange contracts with the Gilded Rose, including one of the top forces.

However, not everybody was willing to cooperate.

"Sir Faleau, we cannot continue preparing for the branch in the south of the Odin Kingdom anymore. The Holy Light Alliance, which is based in the south of the Odin Kingdom, wants our Blue Demon Potion, and claims...

"They claim that the Gilded Rose must pay a price if we want to march to the south of the Odin Kingdom. They ask us to give away half of the territory that yields the Blue Demon Potion's materials, and inform them of the plane's coordinates..."

The person who was reported blushed, unable to continue.

Faleau put on an awful expression.

To enter the market in the south of the Odin Kingdom, he certainly had to know the forces there well.

The Holy Light Alliance was definitely one of the top 10 forces in the south of the Odin Kingdom, which was the most powerful part. If it were in the north of the Odin Kingdom, it would rank in the top six.

The Holy Light Alliance was headquartered in the southeast corner of the Odin Kingdom. Its Holy Tower was the first to embrace sunlight in the morning every day.

Apparently, the Holy Light Alliance was made of holy light mages who were best at light healing. Unfortunately, those people were very annoying, and were the rabid dogs of the Odin Kingdom.

When they encountered dark mages, they would kill them.

When they encountered undead mages, they would kill them.

When they encountered unorthodox mages, they would kill them.

Whoever had been defined as heretics by the Holy Light Alliance had to be prepared to fight when encountering them. It would be impossible to escape until they died. They were considered rabid dogs because of their persistence.

They would chase those they deemed heretics relentlessly no matter the cost.

In the past thousands of years, the Holy Light Alliance had eight massive wars against the undead mages and 13 wars against the dark mages.

The Thorny Crown was headquartered very far away from the Holy Light Alliance, exactly because the Holy Light Alliance had declared war on the Thorny Crown twice.

The Holy Light Alliance was also the main reason why few mages in Noscent were good at water class spells. For a long time, only the water class spells and the holy light spells included popular healing spells. Unfortunately, there were few water class spells that were suitable for individual battles; they were more apt for legion campaigns...

The City of Mist, where a lot of skilled water mages gathered, was destroyed in a war against the Holy Light Alliance...

Hearing that the rabid dogs of the Holy Light Alliance were trying to take advantage of the Gilded Rose, Faleau became grim.

They didn't offer anything in exchange for the coordinates of the plane and half of its territory. However, everybody with the slightest brains knew that as soon as the coordinates were offered, those domineering and pigheaded dogs would surely swallow the entire plane without leaving anything behind.

Would the Gilded Rose pay such a high price just for the right to start a branch in the south of the Odin Kingdom?

Damn it, those bastards were truly outrageous. If their request was not declined, would other people make outrageous requests to the Gilded Rose too?

"Ignore the rabid dogs of the Holy Light Alliance. Let's open our branch in the southwest of the Odin Kingdom first. Someone will help us. The dark mages and undead mages in the south of the Odin Kingdom are all gathered in the western part. The Holy Light Alliance won't be able to intervene if we start a branch there.

"Wait, ask the dark mage to start a branch in the southwest of the Odin Kingdom too. Those dark mages and undead mages are united against the Holy Light Alliance. Our men are dark mages too. They won't just stand aside if the Holy Light Alliance comes for trouble.

"We'll give a 20% discount on all of our products in the branch, and a 40% to the Heaven Rank experts!"

After giving the instructions, Faleau didn't look any better. It was easy to deal with other forces, but the Holy Light Alliance was a major problem. They only ranked around 10th in the south of the Odin Kingdom, but they even dared to challenge the royal family in terms of certain issues. They were crazy.

There was no telling whether the Holy Light Alliance was trying to coerce the Gilded Rose or it was the intention of someone in the Holy Light Alliance. But the difference was trivial for the lunatics.

A few days later, another piece of news spread out. The master of the city where the Gilded Rose was going to open a branch was killed by the Holy Light Alliance for conspiring with heretics, including the Thorny Crown and the Gilded Rose...

He was just the master of an insignificant border city. Nobody was willing to piss off the rabid dogs of the Holy Light Alliance for him. Those people would bite anyone they met as long as heretics were involved.

The Gilded Rose didn't stop the plan of opening branches. Instead, it moved to the southwest of the Odin Kingdom, which, according to the Holy Light Alliance, was an unlit place of filth and corruption. Everything in that place, including the living creatures and the land itself, had to be purged...

The Gilded Rose did not concede at all, which infuriated the Holy Light Alliance. It had been trying to suppress the Thorny Crown while the latter had internal conflicts, but the Gilded Rose then stepped up. Everybody of the Thorny Crown was too busy accomplishing Lin Yun's mission to bother the rabid dogs of the Holy Light Alliance.

Unable to find anyone from the Thorny Crown, the Holy Light Alliance vented its fury on the Gilded Rose. The Gilded Rose's staff were attacked when they were on their way to the southwest of the Odin Kingdom, but two dark mages happened to pass by.

Seeing the people of the Holy Light Alliance in the southwest hunting others, the dark mages, who hated the Holy Light Alliance's guts, didn't stop to think at all. They never asked what the Gilded Rose's staff were doing there until the mages of the Holy Light Alliance were killed...

Learning that the Holy Light Alliance was trying to stop the Gilded Rose from opening a branch in the southwest, the bad-tempered dark mages and undead mages burst into fury. In only three days, all of the Holy Light Alliance's mages that snuck to the southwest, including three Heaven Rank experts, were killed. Even their bodies were divided by three undead mages...

Faleau was rather flabbergasted when he learned the news...

"Damn it. Those idiots are truly not afraid of causing trouble. They don't care, because there's already a grudge between them and the Holy Light Alliance, but right now, the Holy Light Alliance will surely consider the Gilded Rose an ally to those dark mages and undead mages. Those rabid dogs never bother to think..."

"They were only trying to coerce the Gilded Rose into giving them money. After all, the Gilded Rose appears to be just an alchemy shop. If the Holy Light Alliance had demanded protection fees, we might've bargained with them, but we'd have had to pay in the end."

"But as it turns out, the Gilded Rose had become one of the heretics. It's not only closely associated with the Thorny Crown, but also an ally with the dark mages and undead mages. Great. They will surely declare war on the Gilded Rose..."

The Gilded Rose had somehow ended up as the Holy Light Alliance's enemy. It would surely be blamed for the deaths of the three Heaven Rank experts. Faleau didn't think he could take care of the matter anymore, and he went to talk to Lin Yun...

Inside the Natural Demiplane, Lin Yun was learning truth runes. He had already mastered more than 90 truth runes, which were fully melted into the Demiplane, and accelerated its evolution. Its size had only been expanded by two kilometers, but it looked more and more like a real world.

Mountains, rivers, clouds, and the blue sky had all appeared. The lives that had been born included low-level insects and some simple reptiles. In the ocean, which was only the size of a lake in Noscent, even more lives had been born, but most of them were very little.

It seemed that all the lives went through millions of years in only a decade. Their evolution was terrifyingly fast.

Supposedly, the evolution of a Natural Demiplane's essence was the hardest part, but it was very easy at this moment. The constant evolution of essence required a huge amount of mana, but the expansion of the Natural Demiplane's size would consume more in the long run.

There was little mana left in the Natural Demiplane. The magic vines had formed a green forest, and continued expanding. At this moment, they had already covered an area of 20 square kilometers. The thick vines rose from the ground into the sky. Observed from the distance, they looked like green pillars that stabbed into the invisible sky from the ground.

The mana that the vines grabbed from the void fell from the sky like a river, and gathered in the Mana Lake. When such a huge amount of mana poured in, the Mana Lake didn't expand at all, as the new mana was almost entirely consumed by the Natural Demiplane to expand its size.

In only a couple of months, the continent of the Natural Demiplane had been expanded to more than 30,000 square kilometers, which was already the size of regular planes, though it had more complete laws. The Raging Flame Plane was no bigger than the Natural Demiplane at this moment.

Watching one of the truth runes that was engraved on the pillar melt and disappear into the pillar, Lin Yun took a long breath of relief. The circulating torrents of runes in his eyes were gone.

Chapter 1345: Discovery

"What is it?"

Lin Yun looked at Xiusi, who was floating not far away. The owl had become so much fatter that it seemed to have trouble flapping its wings. Also, the cream marks on his face suggested that he must've eaten a piece of cream cake before he came to the Demiplane.

"Sir Merlin, Faleau is looking for you. He seems to have caused trouble again. The enemy he pissed off this time is formidable and brutal. He doesn't know what to do..."

Lin Yun frowned and stepped forward from the pillar. He immediately reappeared in the Gilded Rose, where Faleau was already waiting for him.

"Sir Merlin, there's something I need to report to you..."

Faleau told him everything in great detail, and Lin Yun listened with an awful expression.

"Sir Merlin, that's what happened. What do you think we should do? The Holy Light Alliance is a problem. They're not really the most reasonable people, and they're very strong..."

Hearing Faleau's report, Lin Yun frowned, and recalled information about the Holy Light Alliance.

The Holy Light Alliance could be dated back to the Third Dynasty, when the holy light mages didn't really have a special status. Also, they were all controlled by the Third Dynasty, and were unable to establish an organization of their own.

Although the holy light mages didn't have a special status, they were all over Noscent. At that time, potions weren't nearly as advanced as they were these days, and only belonged to the top experts. All alchemists strove to make more advanced potions. Nobody was interested in popularizing the potions.

All herbs that didn't contain mana were as useless as weeds in that era. Therefore, all civilians and low-level mages and swordsmen needed the holy light mages' healing. They would go to holy light mages when they were wounded or sick.

In this age, even the civilians would buy potions after they got sick. A Magic Apprentice was already able to make effective potions for the use of civilians.

The powerful mages would buy potions when they needed anything too. Enhancement potions, mana replenishment potions, body strengthening potions, healing potions... All sorts of potions were available.

But back in the Third Dynasty, the holy light mages played an important role. For the Archmages and those stronger, potions were their solution, so the holy light mages didn't have a high social status. But due to the huge population of low-level mages and swordsmen, they were still badly in need.

After the fall of the Third Dynasty, the holy light mages, who were unorganized and incapable of fighting, were the first to suffer. They didn't learn to fight until then. Before that, they had only been studying healing and enhancement spells.

The Holy Light Alliance was founded by an ascetic after the fall of the Third Dynasty for the purpose of passing on the holy light mage's knowledge. It was only an alliance at the beginning.

But as time went by, the ascetic never showed up again. The power of the Holy Light Alliance was controlled by different people, and its members gradually became as crazy as dogs...

Thanks to their craziness, the Holy Light Alliance had been rising very fast, but it was not nearly the same as when it was founded at the beginning.

They had pissed off more people during the thousands of years than anybody could count. They were not overthrown only because the ascetic who founded the Holy Light Alliance was still alive and very strong...

Although the founder was still alive, he kept the style of a real ascetic. He could stay in one place for hundreds of years without moving at all...

He would never intervene until the Holy Light Alliance was on the verge of destruction. Lin Yun was aware of that because in the next 3,000 years, the Holy Light Alliance would encounter several crises and suffer huge losses.

The ascetic never once intervened, but the powerful organizations knew that he was alive, and never destroyed the Holy Light Alliance. They simply cut off one of the Holy Light Alliance's hands as punishment when they were infuriated.

3,000 years later, the ascetic suddenly came out of the place of his meditation, and disappeared from Noscent. Three years later, the word came from the space battlefield that the ascetic had died. Then, the Holy Light Alliance was destroyed in no more than a week. Its headquarters were razed to the ground by a level-10 spell.

Remembering the information, Lin Yun was less worried. That super expert wouldn't intervene anyway unless the Holy Light Alliance was truly to be destroyed. The crazy dogs of the Holy Light Alliance were only counting on the level-9 Heaven Rank ascetic who didn't care about anything...

Damn it. Did they think that only they had a powerful supporter? In the next 10 years or so, Agalon would be surely safe, and could definitely crush that ascetic. The gap between them was significant. The Natural Demi-plane alone ensured that Agalon would have an absolute advantage.

Agalon was already able to change laws without igniting his God Fire, which meant that he could crush all the other Heaven Rank experts.

"Don't bother those rabid dogs. They have offended countless people, and made a lot of enemies over the years. Do you really think they have any powerful supporters? Nobody is willing to attack the level-9 Heaven Rank holy light mages, because they can hardly be killed. Otherwise, the Holy Light Alliance would've been destroyed a million times.

"Our main focus is still the north of the Odin Kingdom and Andlusa. As for the south, just open one branch as you proposed. It will be good enough if we can strike deals with the southern forces and exchange for what we need.

"If the rabid dogs of the Holy Light Alliance dare to cause trouble again, just fight back. We won't suffer any loss even if it gets huge. There are a lot of people who don't like them."

Lin Yun wasn't too worried, but Faleau was.

The Gilded Rose hadn't been developing smoothly in the Odin Kingdom, but all its enemies only set obstacles for greater returns. When the Gilded Rose showed its strength and promised copious returns, the enemies would soon change their attitude.

Take the Lodney Family for example. It wanted to swallow the Gilded Rose at the beginning, but after it lost its teeth, it soon backed off. If it had fought on, the Lodney Family wouldn't have gained anything, but would've suffered a heavy loss. Seeing that the Gilded Rose was unstoppable, it came for negotiation again. It was only pursuing interests.

But the rabid dogs of the Holy Light Alliance were different. They didn't care about interests or returns. Sometimes, they would bite crazily at the cost of hurting themselves. They were unreasonable...

Although he was still worried, there was nothing he could say. After all, Lin Yun had already made a decision.

Shaking his head, Faleau took out a space ring.

"Sir Merlin, these are the materials I've exchanged for in the past months. But many of the materials in the inventory aren't available yet.

"The beast blood that you asked me to collect has been found. It's inside the space ring."

Transferring all the collected materials to his Natural Demiplane, Lin Yun was ready to go with the blood of the dark beast.

All the materials were for the construction of the Shelter Tower. The blood was from a beast named Blood Bone. Such beasts didn't have bones. Their internal organs were simple too. They didn't have what most normal creatures had, and blood was their bones and internal organs. They looked like blood that was wrapped in a thick skin. They were out-and-out monsters.

Also, after they were wounded and started bleeding, they would constantly generate blood until they died. Only such beasts could meet Lin Yun's demand. He needed such a huge amount of blood that it would essentially be a river.

He was about to set off when Myers suddenly arrived.

"Sir Merlin, we've found something about the thing you asked us to investigate."

There was undisguised excitement on Myers' face. He had come to the Gilded Rose with a huge pile of paper. Over these days, the Thorny Crown had been investigating with all the intelligence and connection networks it had. They didn't expect to find anything, but they had made a surprising discovery.

Seeing the shock on Lin Yun's face, Myers became even more excited.

The leads were so few that I thought it would take years before we found anything, but we've had a critical discovery in only one month. After this, Sir Merlin will surely treat us differently. It's possible that he'll even accept us for real.

The potion he gave me last time changed my transplanted bloodline significantly. Not only is it melting into my own bloodline, but it is also getting more powerful and stable. This is a methodology that can be applied to all transplanted bloodlines.

As long as we accomplish Sir Merlin's mission, the future and hope we cannot see will become a road of brightness...

Lin Yun was indeed rather surprised. He glanced at the thick pile of paper, and put it down. Then, he looked at Myers.

"Sir Myers, what did you find? Just tell me. It's really too much for me to read."

Myers almost lost his cool. What Lin Yun said was simple, yet it carried a deeper meaning. If Lin Yun were to read the proof, it would mean that this was just a deal, and he wasn't trusted yet. But Lin Yun asked him to report the conclusion, which meant trust and acceptance.

Myers took a breath of relief, and calmed himself down. He had finally found a solution to the problem that had bothered him for years. For countless years, the Thorny Crown had been hiding in the dark, and everybody was an unsteady bomb that might explode anytime. At this moment, they had finally seen hope. Those who didn't have a similar experience could never understand that...

"Sir Merlin, honestly speaking, I was quite surprised at the critical discovery too. I thought it would take a couple of years before we found anything useful.

“During the 1,000 years that you gave us, Sir Merlin, the narrow, long central part of the Odin Kingdom was very chaotic. There were too many small mage families to count. Every year, a lot of them declined, and just as many rose.

“So, we looked into those mage families. After all, only they could have probably left critical leads...”

Myers reported every detail of the investigation, fearing that they might have been misled by anything that they thought to be true.

The connections and liaisons that the Thorny Crown had established over the years did play a critical role.

The date of the 73rd God’s rebirth was unspecific. Even if he left the Raging Flame Plane, it didn’t mean that he would be reborn immediately. That was why Lin Yun asked them to investigate a span of 1,000 years.

However, in that period, the central part of the Odin Kingdom was quite chaotic. It was not very wide, but was extremely long. Also, because of the trouble that the north and the south instigated, it had never been at peace during the millennium.

Many mage families were established, and many were destroyed. Even a High Mage was bold enough to establish a family or a mage tower there. After they set up their own force, their demand for resources would soar. The central part had a limited area. They could only fight and compete with each other.

They didn’t dare to compete with the forces in the south or the north, and could only fight amongst themselves, which made the historical records horribly messy. Not much useful information was left behind in Noscent.

A mage tower that was built in one year might be destroyed the next year, so it was pointless to keep a record of it. There were few descriptions of that period even in the archives of the Starry Sky College that had been kept for thousands of years.

However, when looking into what happened in the center during the 1,000 years, the records of the forces that existed back then were the most valuable materials for investigation.

Therefore, the Thorny Crown focused on investigating the small forces. It searched for a couple of months, and found that most of the forces that existed back then were already gone, or couldn’t be found.

They tracked down each of the small forces that had ever existed during the 1,000 years.

Luckily, they found a descendant of one of the mage families, which was relatively powerful in the center of Odin back then. Its founder was not a High Mage, but a level-8 Archmage, who was already very strong in the center where people were weak in general.

Although the family was inevitably destroyed, its offspring and legacies were passed on. The Thorny Crown found a descendant of the family, who was only a poor Magic Apprentice, but he still kept the records of his family.

Attracting the poor Mage Hand as a peripheral member of the Thorny Crown, they got all the information easily, and found important leads, which were descriptions of unusual phenomena, in it.

The leader of the family noticed the unusual phenomena and investigated them. The first batch of investigators reported that it was a normal meteor, but those who were very close to it could detect a vague, unusual aura from it. After the meteor crashed, the aura was gone.

Whoever detected the aura would soon forget it. The leader of the family, who was relatively strong, had already forgotten about the meteor before he left the site of the crash. He even forgot why he went there.

But then, he found a channel to the underground world near the site. Naturally, he entered the underground world, and encountered many dangerous and formidable underground races. He also found many things that didn't exist in Noscent.

In the end, he encountered a strong creature. He was able to return, but got heavily wounded. When he was dying, he suddenly remembered what he had forgotten, and asked his children to write down the strange phenomena.

There were also an underground map and a simple introduction to some of the materials, which were even more precious!

The information had been hidden in normal records. After so many generations, the descendant of the family had even lost his family name. Also, the news that the family leader returned with grave wounds was never leaked. Everybody thought that he perished in the underground world.

Someone else had investigated the matter too, but didn't find anything. If the Thorny Crown hadn't promised the poor Magic Apprentice to let him advance, or offered the Gilded Rose's Hope Potion, he wouldn't have admitted that he carried the family's bloodline.

Hearing Myers' description, Lin Yun was both surprised and enlightened.

He didn't know that the underground channel was related to the 73rd God. When he investigated the 73rd God earlier, he had discovered something about the channel by accident.

At that time, he was interested in the underground races and the special resources down there. The resources were not really important, because the abyss had all the resources that the underground world had. A lot of such resources had been offered from the abyss every month. They were much better than those from the underground world.

Chapter 1346: Unexpected Explorers

But the abyss didn't have the races he needed. There were only records of Cave Gnomes and Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers in the underground world.

When Lin Yun saw the information, the very first thing he thought of was the two races. He never considered if the 73rd God was involved.

Come to think of it, it was very possible. So many years had passed. By logic, after the 73rd God was reborn, even if he wasn't very strong, he should definitely be unimaginably talented. Even if he lowered his speed of advancement, he should still be a very famous genius.

If he had transformed into a human being, he would've been in level 8 or 9 of the Heaven Rank. If he had transformed into a beast, he probably should've just been as strong. Even if he had transformed into some sort of foreign species, there should've been news about him.

On second thought, the 73rd God might have been reborn in Noscent's underground world, which was chaotic enough to hide everything. Also, the more chaotic it was, the easier it would be for the growth of the 73rd God. After he grew up, he could march to the surface world from the underground world. That was a perfect plan.

It was possible that the 73rd God had never wanted to be reborn in Noscent's surface world. He had established a channel to the underground world with his power very quickly. Those who detected him all forgot the anomaly. Nobody realized that a god had been reborn in Noscent.

Also, the channel didn't exist very long, and had been destroyed before some of the major forces came. That was probably the 73rd God's doing too.

After sorting out all the leads, Lin Yun put on a smile. That was probably the truth of what had happened.

Also, being reborn in the underground world had a lot of benefits. It was truly a smart decision.

Not only could the 73rd God grow in peace, but he could also pretend to be an underground creature when he marched to the surface. He could compete with the surface creatures, and drag Noscent into the mud of total war.

Noscent would be the battlefield in such a total war. In the fiercest phase of the war, when the conflict between the underground creatures and the surface mages couldn't be reconciled, all of them would fight in Noscent. It would be no different from a nuclear war.

In a few decades, Noscent would be shattered, and nobody would be able to stop the 73rd God from destroying Noscent...

Lin Yun felt cold sweat on his back at the thought of that. Gods were strong, but their wisdom should not be underestimated. There were indeed some gods who had more brawn than brains, but the wisest of them were much more brilliant than current mages.

Take Constance, the Lord of Wisdom, for example. He was still regarded as the origin of wisdom. If the 73rd God succeeded, the destruction of Noscent would surely be greatly accelerated even if it wasn't destroyed immediately.

Lin Yun had planned to explore the underground world on his own. After all, he was only setting out to look for two races that weren't too powerful. It wouldn't be too dangerous whether he was to conquer or kidnap them. However, with the updates on the 73rd God, exploring on his own might be dangerous.

He grabbed Xiuban, who was sound asleep, from his Demiplane, and found Reina, who was dormant in the northern glaciers. He also took the legion mages, Lord Shawn, and Xiusi along with him.

Only Pabiete, who had been upgraded to level 45, was left behind in the Gilded Rose as a helper.

After the Gilded Rose released the Blue Demon Potion and the Luminosity Potion, in the north of the Odin Kingdom, even the forces that least liked the Gilded Rose had to hold back their anger and purchase the potions.

Someone had other plans about the Blue Demon Potion and the Luminosity Potion, but nobody dared to do anything anymore. The Gilded Rose wasn't weak at all. Besides, the Blue Demon Potion and the Luminosity Potion were so effective that all mage forces regarded them as necessities.

Whoever intended to let the Blue Demon Potion and the Luminosity Potion disappear had to ensure the other forces' interests, or they wouldn't dare to do anything.

To let a bunch of guys who were used to wine and meat consume cold water and dry food was like killing them...

Those mage organizations were too powerful for the Gilded Rose. More than 10 of them were more powerful than the Gilded Rose individually. At this moment, the Blue Demon Potion and the Luminosity Potion had become everybody's interests. Whoever attacked the Gilded Rose would affect all of them...

Also, so far, the raw materials had been delivered with magic battleships from the monster plane. They never entered Noscent. Every time, the experts of the Gilded Rose would appear in the boundless void via the space gate to meet the magic battleships that carried raw materials.

It was impossible to meet the magic battleships unless one knew the rendezvous point and the specific date of delivery. Besides, even if the magic battleships were found, who could possibly catch up with the magic battleships in the boundless void...

The monster plane couldn't be exposed, at least not until the Gilded Rose and Lin Yun grew strong enough to scare off any potential robbers, and the void city outside of the monster plane was built. At that time, Lin Yun would actually expose it voluntarily.

At that time, the monster in the monster plane would surely have been domesticated, and nobody else could take it away. Also, the void city would generate more revenue as a transfer and supply station in the boundless void than all of the Gilded Rose's enterprises in Noscent would. More importantly, it would be the place to collect the most and maximal number of materials which were irreplaceable...

Lin Yun left Neverwinter City for the south with his team. The place where the channel to the underground world appeared was exactly the geographic center of the Odin Kingdom.

Unfortunately, the place was not resourceful or peaceful at all. At the time of the 73rd God's rebirth, it was the center of the havoc in the center of Odin.

Even at this moment, there were no powerful forces in this place. The mage towers built by Archmages were among the most powerful forces here. The other forces were mostly puppets to the major forces of the Odin Kingdom. If Lin Yun didn't keep a low profile, he might be discovered by those major forces.

That Lin Yun could not tolerate. If a major force followed him into the underground world, then the underground world would become even more chaotic. There was also the reborn 73rd God. Those idiots might consider how to take advantage of the incident even if they recognized his identity.

Lin Yun came to the center of the Odin Kingdom, where some members of the Thorny Crown picked him up. They didn't alarm anyone, and soon came near the destroyed underground channel. However, they heard a piece of bad news after they arrived...

"Sir Merlin, we have a bit of a situation here. Three small families nearby are suddenly getting more active. They're investigating something within 100 kilometers. As far as we know, they're looking for the specific location of the destroyed channel.

"The three small families are just puppets to the Holy Light Alliance, the Chester Family, and the Storm Tower. We are unable to find anything from inside the families. Their defenses are quite meticulous. We failed to acquire more information. The only thing we're certain of is that some big shots of those three forces came here."

A member of the Thorny Crown reported a piece of information, which made Lin Yun look awful.

He had expected to see the Holy Light Alliance. He wouldn't feel surprised no matter what those rabid dogs did.

He wouldn't have been worried if the Holy Light Alliance had been alone. However, the Chester Family and the Storm Tower had both appeared, and were looking for the specific location of the channel to the underground world, so the whole thing wouldn't be so simple.

The underground world was technically underneath the surface of Noscent, but it was also a plane in a way. It was impossible to dig down and create a channel.

There was once a channel in this place, which meant that it was the only right way. Near the channel, Noscent's surface world and underground world overlapped. That was the only way of going to the underground world without knowing the specific coordinates.

Those people had to know the basic range, but not the specific location. Only the information that the Thorny Crown found mentioned where and how one could enter the underground world. It was very difficult for others to find the entrance. The fact that those people had come here suggested that they already had important leads, or even ways to enter the underground world.

The Chester Family was the most powerful family of summoners in Noscent. Very few people were aware of the name. However, they ran Home of Beasts, a store that sold beasts. The store was well-known in the Odin Kingdom.

Members of the Chester Family were all the best summoners. They could summon a huge number of beasts, and even contract one or more of them. Those beasts would grow with them, and sometimes could grow even stronger than them.

The Storm Tower was located in a peninsula to the east of the Odin Kingdom. That place was known as the Storm Cape because it was frequented by storms for more than half a year every year. It had the most active wind elements in Noscent. The Storm Tower was the most powerful force there, and was even slightly more powerful than the Holy Light Alliance in the south of the Odin Kingdom.

Those three forces couldn't have gathered here to appreciate the scenery.

After considering for a moment, Lin Yun dropped the idea of setting off immediately. He would surely be spotted if he appeared near the channel. Even if he entered the underground world in a different way, he might still get exposed. After all, he had to dig into the soil first in order to enter the underground world.

“Pay more attention to the small three families. No need to risk being discovered. It will be good enough if you find out whom the three main forces sent and how strong they are. Report to me immediately if they do anything.”

Giving an order to the members of the Thorny Crown, Lin Yun recalled the legion mages to the Natural Demiplane, and only kept Xiuban and Reina with him. They waited in a manor while receiving the intelligence.

On the third day, all the three forces took action together. Although they kept a low profile, the people of the Thorny Crown still noticed something. Also, surprisingly, all of them were marching towards the same destination, which was the destroyed channel.

After receiving the message, Lin Yun couldn't help but muse.

How did the three forces decide to cooperate?

Most of the Chester Family's combat ability was based on magic beasts. Their own strength was only mediocre. The Holy Light Alliance shouldn't have worked with them at all.

The Storm Tower was near the Holy Light Alliance, but there had always been tension between them. The rabid dogs of the Holy Light Alliance had a lot of conflicts with the Storm Tower to expand their influence. There seemed to have been a serious war between them.

The Chester Family and the Storm Tower might cooperate with anyone as long as they could earn interests. But how did the Holy Light Alliance agree to cooperate with them?

Lin Yun thought for a long time, but was still puzzled. In his impression, and according to the intelligence of the Gilded Rose and the Thorny Crown, the Holy Light Alliance had always been labeled as rabid dogs.

Baffled, Lin Yun could only follow them after a couple of days of waiting.

Standing in the middle part of a mountain, and looking at the people who were busy working in the distance, Lin Yun immediately realized that they had found the right location. It was very easy to enter one of the caves, and then press down into the underground world from there.

A few Archmages and Heaven Rank experts were searching meter by meter with a special probing magic tool. There were a few others who were waiting in silence.

One of them was a mage who wore a white robe that had bright golden patterns. His hair was white, and he seemed quite solemn. Golden brilliance sprayed from the top of his head now and then. He was an expert from the Holy Light Alliance. He matched one of the profiles that Lin Yun had acquired. Obviously, he was Dalton, one of the 10 cardinals of the Holy Light Alliance and a level-5 Heaven Rank holy light mage.

There was another man who looked as brawny as a Sword Saint. He had a chiseled face, and was standing next to two giant lizards which were more than three meters tall even when crouching on the

ground. The two lizards even noticed Lin Yun's gaze, and looked in his direction. They didn't find anything, and continued their nap. He was Danason, known as the Venomous Lizard, from the Chester Family.

The last expert was slim and cold, wearing a bright purple robe. He was plain-looking, but he was actually the most famous one here. He was Levis of the Storm Tower. Whenever a storm appeared near the Storm Tower, he would certainly go there to learn the power of storms.

Lin Yun looked at those people with an awful expression.

Dalton was one of the saner people in the Holy Light Alliance, but he was also the most brutal one to heretics. He wouldn't have come here along with the Chester Family and the Storm Tower unless the returns were too abundant to refuse.

Danason had never been famous in Noscent, because he had been fighting in other planes ever since he became a Great Mage. He grew all the way into a level-5 Heaven Rank expert from cannon fodder. He was one of the most influential men in the Chester Family, and definitely had special abilities.

The two lizards he had contracted looked no different from normal venomous lizards, but whoever considered them normal should be prepared for a miserable death. No normal lizards could grow up to level 40.

Levis was a battle maniac. He spent half of the time every year learning the power of storms on the sea. In the storm season, the creatures in the Boundless Sea would attack the Storm Tower, and Levis was always on the frontlines to resist them. He had abundant battle experience and the best understanding of storms.

Every one of them was as strong as Lin Yun. If they joined their hands, they would definitely be stronger than Lin Yun.

Lin Yun didn't show up. He simply waited patiently. Half a day later, they did something new.

"Sir Dalton, we've found a place that we can enter. The records that we acquired by accident are correct. Let's go. Sir Dalton, you'll have to take it from here."

Dalton put on an ugly smile, and looked at Dalton. Dalton didn't really change his expression, and only said coldly, "Where's the Heart of Luminosity? I cannot do it without the Heart of Luminosity."

Danason smiled, and wasn't ruffled at all. He took out a glistening crystal pendant, and handed it over to Dalton without any reluctance.

Chapter 1347: Entrance

Translator: Henyee Translations **Editor:** Henyee Translations

The Heart of Luminosity was one of the True Spirit Magic Tools that the Holy Light Alliance had lost 1,000 years earlier. It was not very useful for other people, but for the holy light mages, it was as effective as a top True Spirit Magic Tool that matched them perfectly.

The True Spirit Magic Tool had been lost for a millennium until it was somehow found by the Chester Family. It was also one of the most important reasons for the Holy Light Alliance's cooperation. They couldn't refuse this symbolic magic tool, and had to hold back their fury no matter how angry they were.

Levis, who stood not far away, was holding a magic tool that seemed to be two connected crystal balls. It was the Sound of Wind, one of the best True Spirit Magic Tools of the Storm Tower that allegedly could talk to the wind. On the sea, one could see what was happening thousands of kilometers away with this magic tool.

The Chester Family initiated the joint exploration. It had acquired the critical records, and offered the Heart of Luminosity.

The Holy Light Alliance was just a cooperator that it looked for, and so was the Storm Tower, because it needed their help to find the most precise location, which was where the space was the thinnest. The traces of the channel had been left even though it was closed.

It was the Storm Tower's mission to look for the accurate location with the Sound of Wind. After the location was found, it would be the Holy Light Alliance's mission to open the channel with the Heart of Luminosity.

They were offering a True Spirit Magic Tool, which wasn't very useful to themselves, for the help in opening a channel. That magic tool was very important to the Holy Light Alliance. Also, the Holy Light Alliance had never been close to the Chester Family. They didn't know why the Chester Family was doing this at all.

They simply considered it a Planar Path, which, being in such a remote plane, couldn't lead to any resourceful plane. The people of the Holy Light Alliance didn't consider it a big deal. They were only asked to open the channel anyway. They could always come back later if they wanted to.

Danason didn't feel regretful at all, even though he had paid a high price. He was simply eager. He looked at Dalton and Levis, pretending to be regretful, but he was thrilled in his heart.

There was no telling what could be found in the underground world that the channel led to. Although it was in a different environment, it was part of Noscent anyway, and should contain a lot of resources.

There were also underground beasts and races, which were the most useful factor for the Chester Family that counted on contracted beasts in battles. They were even more valuable than the resources underground.

What could the Holy Light Alliance do down there? It was almost a paradise of dark creatures. There were no holy light mages in there at all. The Holy Light Alliance couldn't gain a lot of things from there, either.

For the Storm Tower, the Boundless Sea was where their interests lay and what they were most familiar with. They couldn't do anything in the underground world except for obtaining the resources they needed.

Danason waited quietly. Very soon, the magic tool in Levis' hand glittered. One of the two crystal balls displayed a fuzzy, twisted picture, and the other showed an arrow.

Following the direction of the Sound of Wind, everybody passed through the complicated caves, and soon came to their destination. Those caves were dug after the channel to the underground world was destroyed by people who wanted to find the access down there, but none succeeded.

They moved for half an hour in the caves, and arrived at the most precise location that the Sound of Wind pointed out. It was just a normal part of a normal cave, but it was the most suitable place to open the channel.

“This is the place. It’s where the space is the thinnest.”

After saying that, Levis canceled the Sound of Wind. He had accomplished his mission. Dalton would take it from here.

Dalton hung the Heart of Luminosity on his neck, and crossed his arms in front of his chest. He kept chanting spells that sounded like an aria. The hymn-like curses turned into glittering white runes that revolved around him slowly.

As he chanted the spells, the space in front of them rippled. Then, all the runes seemed to melt into space.

“...The Holy Light illuminates all existences that cannot be seen. In the name of Holy Light, reappear!”

The Realization Spell was known as a powerful spell that could achieve the effect of any other spell. As long as the caster of the spell said their purpose, the spell would accomplish the result accordingly, but the mana cost might be different.

With Dalton’s power and the help of the Heart of Luminosity, it was impossible to rebuild the channel that had once existed, but he was able to recreate one of the cracks that had existed back then.

However, although it was said that one could achieve anything with the Realization Spell, there were still too many restraints. It was barely effective on experts of the same level in battles. For example, if Dalton told Levis to die with the Realization Spell, Levis wouldn’t be hurt at all. Only if one party suppressed the other party completely could the Realization Spell be used in a battle.

After Dalton cast the Realization Spell, the stone wall in front of them collapsed, and the stones were absorbed into the darkness which was like quicksand in a desert. A dozen seconds later, a hole that was more than five meters tall appeared on the wall up ahead. It was completely dark, with tiny cracks of space on the edge.

Intense power of darkness leaked out of the hole, mixed with the air of chaos, explosion, and blood.

The moment he detected the aura, Dalton’s expression changed. The power of the holy light surged beyond his control. However, as he examined more carefully, he discovered an enormous world that had the same mana origin as Noscent did, which meant that the plane was part of Noscent!

Remembering the tales about Noscent’s underground world, Dalton opened his eyes, deep in thought. A few seconds later, Dalton put on a solemn expression.

“Darkness will be purged by light. This is a world of darkness. The holy light must arrive in this place!”

Then, ignoring Danason and Levis, Dalton entered the channel first.

Levis looked rather awful. Before he came, he had known that the underground world they would be going to would contain a lot of treasures and resources. The Storm Tower could likely gain more returns than it would've from developing relics from the Nesser Dynasty. However, the Holy Light Alliance jumped in. Even though he knew he couldn't possibly claim all the treasures on his own, he didn't feel very good...

Danason, however, remained calm. He had seen this coming when he asked the Holy Light Alliance for help. Would the Holy Light Alliance just leave after opening the door?

He would be dumb if he thought that those unreasonable people would honor their word. But it was fine even if they joined in. In the underground world, the people of the Holy Light Alliance would attract hateful underground creatures like a lighthouse...

The Chester Family, the people of the Holy Light Alliance, and those of the Storm Tower all entered the underground world through the narrow channel. After they all entered, the Realization Spell was gone, and the channel was closed.

After they all left, an owl quietly craned its head from the shadows of space not far away. Gazing where the channel was closed, it rolled its eyes and disappeared instantly.

"Sir Merlin, Sir Merlin, those idiots have left. They've entered another world through a space crevice," Xiusi exclaimed to Lin Yun, and looked at him pitifully. He even stuck out his short tongue and licked his beak. Seeing that Lin Yun was not responding, he turned around, and looked at Xiuban.

Xiuban was enjoying a roast leg that was more than half a meter long. Seeing Xiusi, he reluctantly tore off a piece of meat, and gave it to Xiusi. Immediately, Xiusi held the meat, and bit it in delight...

Yes, Xiusi had changed his diet again. His favorite food had been noble pastries, and he had never been interested in any meat, until he had Xiuban's roast meat once by chance. Then, he betrayed pastries.

The roast meat that Xiuban ate was all from beasts that were above level 30. Many of them were even above level 35. To quote what Xiuban said, only the beasts of such level could afford his biting.

Besides the taste, there was also the mana in the meat. The meat Xiusi had at the beginning was from low-level beasts that had little to none mana, which made him lose interest in all meat, until Xiuban's roast meat changed his attitude....

"Xiusi, do you even have teeth? Can you really chew it? You'll die of indigestion."

Xiuban cursed angrily. Then, he saw that Xiusi quickly bit the piece of meat into strands before he swallowed the strands one after another.

Lin Yun looked ahead with a floating smile, deep in thought.

Those idiots were in serious trouble. Did they think everybody in the underground world was weak? For a long time after the underground world had been truly discovered, it had been dominated by underground species instead of human beings.

They were no stronger than level 5 of the Heaven Rank, and yet they thought they could clear the underground world. How naive...

The mages of the Holy Light Alliance, in particular, carried the most unwelcome power in the underground world. Lin Yun hoped that Dalton would just be killed by the underground experts.

Lin Yun gloated, and ignored the three forces. His main purpose was to find the Cave Gnomes and the Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers. If he couldn't find any tribes of the two races, he would have to wait for 1,000 years before he found other Cave Gnomes and Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers.

Even searching for the reborn 73rd God had a lower priority. After all, according to history, the 73rd God wouldn't be able to accomplish his great ideal, and Noscent wouldn't be destroyed until tens of thousands of years later.

Therefore, building the complete Shelter Tower was the most important thing. Looking for the 73rd God wasn't as important.

The channel that the three forces entered was where the 73rd God had broken into the underground world years back. After so many years, no matter how it had changed, some underground races still had to be watching over it. If they swaggered inside just like that, they would be lucky if they weren't simply beaten to death by the underground races.

Lin Yun didn't enter the same way as the three forces did. Also, it wouldn't be easy to recreate the crack. He would have to use alchemy arrays without the Realization Spell, and the alchemy arrays would cause too much noise...

Leading his team into the caves, Lin Yun moved downwards continuously, and finally arrived at a running river an hour later.

The underground river flowed through complicated environments. Here, even the wind didn't have the power to reach every corner; only the water could. The power of earth did permeate the soil, but it was too massive and stable, and couldn't circulate. Every time it was active, it would result in a major earthquake on the surface.

Making use of the underground river's power was the most sensible choice. Going along the river and locating the thickest of its branches, Lin Yun calculated for a few minutes, and took out the dark beast's blood that had been collected earlier.

The blood was contained in a heart that looked like a strange meatball. The heart belonged to the king of the dark beasts whose power was based on their blood. Their king's heart was the core of their race. For the Blood Bone Beasts, their king's heart was an enormous space magic tool that could store a huge amount of blood.

Thanks to the blood it contained, the Blood Bone Beast's heart remained alive. Lin Yun threw it into the running river, and squeezed it with the Mage Hand.

Instantly, there seemed to be a channel to another plane in midair. Dark red blood flooded from the sky, emitting the stench of blood and the power of darkness. After it fell into the underground river, the river turned dark red in only a couple of seconds. There was a hint of redness in the dark river.

The river of blood was still running. Lin Yun took out a boat that was made of dark wood, and threw it into the underground river. He then boarded the boat with Xiuban and Reina. The boat drifted onwards on the river of blood towards infinite darkness. The squeezed heart was still gushing out red blood.

Standing on the boat, Lin Yun raised the Draconic Staff, and opened the Book of Death. The Origin Chapter glittered, enshrouding the Book of Death with black radiance. Enigmatic, creepy spells flew out of Lin Yun's mouth, and the power of darkness spread out around the boat like a drop of ink in clean water. The power inside the river of blood was activated too.

Gradually, everything around the boat fell dark. Xiuban and Reina, having completed extraordinary evolution, were able to see everything clearly in the underground world. However, they discovered that it was impossible to see the walls on the two sides of the river anymore. They seemed to be in the middle of boundless darkness. The river underneath their feet was all there was.

The boat floated onwards in the river for a long time. Lin Yun never stopped chanting the spells. His voice got more and more creepy and filled with the aura of darkness. He looked like someone who was mumbling to himself in boundless darkness.

Nothing except the darkness and the endless river could be seen. Even the passage of time could no longer be detected. Gradually, the dark red river underneath their feet changed into pure red.

It was like a river that was purely made of blood. The boat was still floating steadily.

Xiuban looked out of the boat, and saw countless shadows swimming in the bloody river. There even seemed to be ghastly monsters underneath the boat. Those creatures were pushing the boat forward.

"Damn, what are those things?"

Xiuban shrieked, and was about to attack with Carnage when Enderfa's left face mocked him.

"Idiot. Just keep your mouth shut if you don't want to expose your stupidity. They're the souls of Blood Bone Beasts. They're pushing us forward.

"If you want us to be forever lost in this unknown place, you may kill those souls immediately."

Xiuban put Carnage down in embarrassment, and sat down in the boat, ignoring Enderfa. Since Enderfa's advancement, the latter had essentially turned into three people. It was impossible to beat three tongues with one. After losing a few arguments, Xiuban learned better than to quarrel with Enderfa...

Enderfa's left face was upset after being ignored by Xiuban. It was going to continue mocking Xiuban when the face in the middle said solemnly, "Alright, stop fighting. Damn it. I don't want to fall into this bloody river. Who knows where it will take us?"

The Blood Bone Beasts were the most inferior beings in the plane of darkness. They were food to many dark races, and were often used as steeds.. The lords in the plane of darkness all had Blood Bone Beasts as mounts, which would lift their vehicle and carry them to the sky.

Chapter 1348: Tour Guide

When they traveled across planes, they would establish a river with the Blood Bone Beasts' blood, and have the souls of the Blood Bone Beast push them forward. It was similar to the Noscent mages' Planar Path.

Because they were moving towards the underground world, which was full of power of darkness, it was unnecessary to control the direction. This was the nearest place to the underground world. They could float there naturally.

The river of blood was still running, and Lin Yun's spells were continuing. He didn't have to use spells to control them, but he just wanted to play it safe.

After a dozen minutes, a glimmer of light appeared ahead, as if a firefly was floating on the surface of the bloody river. As they drew closer and closer, the light became dazzling, and seemed to be tearing the darkness apart.

The boat dashed towards the light. Instantly, all the darkness was gone. The sky was glowing, and everything became bright.

Lin Yun blinked, and the dazzling light around him dimmed. An enormous world appeared in front of them. They were falling to the ground from the sky.

Lin Yun unleashed his mana and floated in the sky, and the boat that was made of dark wood was stowed away.

The world he saw looked very strange. It was extremely dim, and didn't have a sun. However, somehow there was light in this world. When he observed the distance with the Hawk Eye, he could see an obvious upward curve on the horizon.

He looked around, and saw the same thing in every direction. He could see the terrain dozens of kilometers away with the Hawk Eye and the law runes. The view was the same in every direction. This was like an enormous bowl, and they were at its bottom. The land he saw had such a curve in every direction.

Also, the curve became deeper and deeper as he looked further away. As he stared at the views, the law runes in Lin Yun's eyes gradually combined into an illusionary wheel, which allowed him to see the general shape of the land. The land here was indeed curved, and it was curved in the opposite direction compared to the planets in the boundless void.

Except Lin Yun, who boasted special abilities, only those who were in level 8 or level 9 of the Heaven Rank would be able to see such views. Researchers might be able to reach the same conclusion by inferring it from data.

The underground world was like an enormous balloon, where all creatures lived on the internal surface. Gravity pointed at the internal surface of the balloon too.

The underground world had a diameter of more than 38,000 kilometers, which would be measured by the bored mages in the future. It meant that if one were to fly upwards from any place, they would reach the continent on the other side of the underground world after they flew for 38,000 kilometers.

Unfortunately, the center of this enormous spherical world had chaotic gravity and mana. Everybody who stood in the center would be torn to all directions by the power of the world.

It was possible that their head would be pulled upwards, their legs downwards, and their arms left and right separately. An ordinary person would've been torn into shreds the moment they got there. The pieces of their body might disperse across the underground world.

The power was not too strong. Any Heaven Rank mage could pass through, and fly upwards to the other end of the underground world. For a Heaven Rank expert, it wasn't a problem at all to fly tens of thousands of kilometers with the help of magic tools.

Unfortunately, a large area around the center had been reduced to a lair of havoc and destruction because of the ripped mana, elements, and space. Even level-7 and level-8 Heaven Rank experts didn't dare to approach that place easily. So, everybody could only look up and see a gray sky. They never realized that there was another continent above their head.

The underground world was quite enormous with a diameter of 38,000 kilometers. Besides, it was almost a complete, independent world, whose laws were similar to those in Noscent. There were a lot of planes that were attached to the underground world.

In the future, many Planar Paths would be discovered in the underground world, which made it even more massive.

Lin Yun took out the map he acquired earlier to confirm his direction. There were a lot of things on the map that marked the direction. On the top of the map was a shoreline that was in the shape of a leaf. Lin Yun looked at his right side, and saw the ocean hundreds of kilometers away. Because of the upward curve on the horizon, it could be clearly seen from the sky that the part of the ocean was indeed like the end of a leaf.

At this moment, he was a bit off the center of the map, and that bit on the map equaled 1,000 kilometers.

Lin Yun calculated his position and checked the records. Immediately, he put on a smile.

"Great. We're closer to our destination because of the deviation. According to the records, if we move 2,000 kilometers to the east side of the map, we'll reach the place where Cave Gnomes were spotted. The Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers won't be far away, either."

They were both mentioned in the journal, which meant that their tribes couldn't have been away. Both of the races had few Heaven Rank members. They couldn't have migrated too far away, either, if they weren't eliminated yet. Several thousand kilometers was the max.

In particular, the Cave Gnomes and the Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers were never fond of moving. It wasn't easy for them to settle down, so the odds were not low that the two races might be found.

Lin Yun took out a floating boat, and slightly changed the mana on his skin, transforming from a plain-looking ordinary person into a dark mage that was enshrouded in dark mist. In the underground world, they were known as dark spellcasters. There were all kinds of races in the underground world, including human beings, except that the latter were a minority group here.

Disguised as a dark spellcaster, he moved forward on a floating ship, and flew for a dozen kilometers. Then, he saw a human-shaped creature who had wings and a lizard head. That was a lizard man. There were a lot of them in the underground world.

The lizard man was around level 40, but when he saw Lin Yun's floating boat and detected his powerful aura, he quickly descended and bent his back, waiting for the floating boat to pass by.

Lin Yun stopped his floating boat above the lizard man's head. His enigmatic and creepy voice came from above.

The lizard man down below was even more scared after he heard the voice. He fell on his knees in midair, and didn't even dare to raise his head.

"Esteemed dragon, what can I do for you?"

The lizard man spoke in the common tongue of the underground world, which was similar to Noscent's language, but with a strange accent that carried the grimness of the underground world.

Lin Yun was speaking the most natural Nesser Language, or the Nesser Dragon Language, to be precise. The language was slightly different from the Nesser Language. In the Nesser Dynasty, only the Chromatic Dragons were allowed to speak the language.

In the future, when the mages entered the underground world, they would find the Nesser Dragon Language and the tales of Chromatic Dragons here, but they wouldn't see any Chromatic Dragons, just their descendants. Still, the descendants were among the most powerful species in the underground world. Due to body structure, the other races could only understand the Nesser Dragon Language, but could not speak it.

Therefore, whoever spoke the Nesser Dragon Language in the underground world would be an expert dragon. The lizard man had already felt the natural pressure. He discovered three people on the boat, including a beastman and a dragon. Even the beastman was very awe-inspiring too. He couldn't identify the race of the last passenger, but that was the strongest man. He felt like he had died once just by detecting the aura.

The lizard man lowered his head, and regretted flying so high. If he hadn't flown so high, he wouldn't have encountered those three formidable beings. If the strangers disliked him, they could easily kill him, and nobody would stand up for him.

The lizard man was frightened, but Lin Yun didn't do anything after a long time.

Hiding in the dark mist, Lin Yun frowned. He had planned to pretend to be a dragon so that it would be easier for him to travel the underground world, but something seemed to be wrong with his spell. When he simulated the Chromatic Dragon's articulation structure, he could only utter simple words, and couldn't say anything complicated.

It took him 10 seconds to study the spell. Yet, his silence almost terrified the lizard man down below.

There were very few pure-blood dragons in the underground world. Most of the dragons had impure bloodlines. Xiuban could be considered as the descendant of hybrid dragons, but Reina was the descendant of Frost Dragons. Her bloodline was as good as the Chromatic Dragon's after the improvement.

Having seen a strong hybrid dragon, a pure-blood dragon, and someone who could speak the Nesser Dragon Tongue, the lizard man, who was only level 40, and hadn't even become a real extraordinary creature yet, had already behaved courageously enough.

After three minutes, Lin Yun's grim and cold voice finally dropped down from the dark distance.

"Where are the nearest Cave Gnomes and Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers?"

The lizard man was greatly relieved.

Oh my God, I'm really lucky. He's clearly the descendant of a Destruction Black Dragon. Good thing they aren't interested in lizard men, or I would've been eaten.

The Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers are still not extinct yet after being eaten for so many years. They're really lucky. But why is this formidable being looking for Cave Gnomes? Is he going to let those filthy creatures build a nest for him?

A lot of thoughts flashed in the lizard man's head. Then, he pointed in a certain direction without hesitation.

"Great dragon, move 1,800 kilometers in that direction, and you'll see a huge tribe of Cave Gnomes. There's a big barren mountain in that direction. 300 kilometers from the Cave Gnomes, there's a tribe of Red-Skinned Spirit Suckers. I passed by there 100 years ago, and saw them with my own eyes."

After the lizard man said that, a bottle of potion was dropped to him from the sky. Inside the bottle was a drop of a pure-blood dragon's blood, which was the best stuff for a lizard man. After he absorbed the blood, he would carry some of the dragon's bloodline. It would mean that he had received the favor of a dragon.

The lizard man stowed away the potion greedily in shock. His panic was completely gone.

"Great expert, allow me, humble Darri, to lead the way for you."

They moved onwards, with the lizard man Darri on the team. He was one of the scavengers among lizard men, and had been in level 40 since 200 years ago, but he'd never had an opportunity to grow into a real extraordinary creature, so he had been wandering, and looking for opportunities.

The opportunity came unexpectedly. The one drop of pure-blood dragon's blood that carried bloodline marks would be the best opportunity for him to advance into the Heaven Rank.

Darri was leading the way. He would rather fly at the cost of his mana than sit down in the floating boat.

"Damn you, Xiuban, you are truly an idiot. If you hadn't said that the lizard man looked delicious, he wouldn't have been too scared to board the floating boat. Do you see the consequences? We have to slow down and follow this stupid lizard man..."

Enderfa's left face seized the chance to mock Xiuban for 10 minutes without stopping. This time, the middle face didn't intervene. Xiuban sat gloomily in silence, and chewed a roast leg as if it were his mortal enemy.

As the Gilded Rose grew more and more powerful, Xiuban, being Lin Yun's chief bodyguard, had a high position too. He could eat anything he wanted. Even if he wanted novel beasts from other planes, Faleau wouldn't hesitate to pay a fortune for the meat, and Lin Yun certainly didn't care about the money, either.

Xiuban had already become picky. In Xiuban's eyes, human beings and beastmen were inedible. Undead creatures didn't look tasty. As for the other creatures, none of them couldn't be roasted or eaten. He had never met a lizard man before, and simply regarded him as a bizarre-looking lizard that he could taste...

However, what Xiuban said nearly scared Darri to death. He would rather fly with his full strength at the cost of his mana than approach Xiuban. To be eaten was definitely more terrifying than to be killed.

After they flew for more than 1,000 kilometers, someone stopped them when they were still halfway.

A flock of birds that had four wings, a crocodile head, and no feathers at all were flying in the sky. There was an elf on each of the birds' back.

Those elves' faces were entirely pale, without any hint of blood. Their eyes and hair were red. Bloody stripes could be vaguely seen on their skin. Some had stripes on their cheeks, some on their arms.

Lin Yun walked out of the cabin, and frowned when he saw the elves.

They were the Blood Elves in the underground world. The Blood Elves were undoubtedly one of the most powerful races in the underground world. They might not be as strong as pure-blood dragons as individuals, but there were many more Blood Elves than there were pure-blood dragons.

Nobody knew how the Blood Elves were born. Even tens of thousands of years later, the mages who studied them wouldn't reach any conclusion.

There were two famous theories. The first theory believed that the Blood Elves were born in the age of gods and devils. In the fierce battles, it should be very easy for the space barrier between Noscent and the underground world to be broken.

In some weak places, the space barrier was broken. After the gods and devils perished, their blood flooded into the underground world, and gave birth to the first batch of the Blood Elves.

However, this opinion was disapproved by the second theory because there had never been Blood Elves in Noscent. When the gods and devils perished, much more blood had flowed on the surface of Noscent than the blood that accidentally filled into the underground world.

The second theory stipulated that the Blood Elves used to be Natural Elves or Forest Elves, and they entered the underground world by accident when the Noscent was suffering from a catastrophe. Those elves were accustomed to sunny worlds, and couldn't have been adapted to the underground environment.

Therefore, in order to survive, the only way was to be corrupted and fit in. The Blood Elves looked even more handsome than normal elves, but the power they controlled was completely different from that of normal elves.

Chapter 1349: Missing

Unfortunately, the second theory was never confirmed yet, either. The studies of the underground world showed that although it was impossible to tell when the Blood Elves appeared there, their traces could be found throughout the history in the relics, but there was no sign of elves in the earliest relics. Their earliest traces were left in the same period as the middle phase of the Nesser Dynasty in Noscent.

Lin Yun didn't know how the Blood Elves emerged, either, but like all the other elves, they were all favored by fate as natural-born spellcasters. Some of them were just more talented than others.

If the Blood Elves' reproduction weren't as difficult as that of all the other elves, and each new child might take years if not decades to conceive, the Blood Elves would dominate the underground world.

The largest population in the underground world was not beastmen, but half-beastmen. There weren't a lot of beastmen in the underground world, but half-beastmen were almost everywhere.

Their strong bodies made the half-beastmen natural-born warriors. Different races of half-beastmen had different talents. Each had their own features and strengths. Although their ratio of experts was far lower than that of Blood Elves, there were simply too many half-beastmen...

In the Blood Elves' tribe, there could be an Archmage among several hundred members on average, and one in several thousand people could advance into the Heaven Rank.

As for the half-beastmen, more than 95% of them were bottom-level beings in the army. Those half-beastmen usually couldn't become Great Swordsmen. There couldn't be one Sword Saint in 10,000 people. It would be lucky if there was one Heaven Rank expert in a tribe of hundreds of thousands of members.

Despite the huge ratio gap, it was impossible for the Blood Elves to conquer the half-beastmen, because the population of half-beastmen was hundreds of times that of the Blood Elves. Population was the foundation of the half-beastmen's position.

Lin Yun wasn't happy to see the Blood Elves, because they were famous for their arrogance and unreasonableness. They considered everybody else in the underground to be inferior species.

The Blood Elves had fought other races too many times for their prejudice. They fought half of their wars for similar reasons.

The arrogant Blood Elves even dared to decry dragons as giant lizards or reptiles, so there was certainly nothing they didn't dare to do. The most famous war in history would happen 10,000 years later, when the Blood Elves insulted the strong descendant of a Destruction Black Dragon. The Destruction Black Dragon's descendant was not a nice guy, either, and immediately destroyed a couple of the Blood Elves' cities, thus starting a war that lasted hundreds of years...

Lin Yun recalled information about the Blood Elves. Before he said anything, a bloody arrow of light had been shot towards the floating boat from thousands of meters away.

The expression of Darri, who was flying in the lead, changed, and he stood in the way of the arrow without thinking. Unleashing his aura, he transformed his hands into lizard claws that were two meters long, and hit the arrow brutally.

With a boom, the arrow exploded, and Darri was flung dozens of meters back. His claws were enshrouded in bloody brilliance. From the cracks on his claws, blood was gushing out like a spring. His aura glittered for a few seconds, and he finally stopped bleeding.

“Darri, you stupid reptile, how dare you appear in front of me? Do you think you can approach our territory now that you’ve found a bastard dragon as your supporter?”

A handsome male Blood Elf, who looked like a beautiful woman, was standing on the back of one of the weird birds, with a two-meter-long bow in his hand. He looked down at Darri with a cold smile.

Darri’s expression changed completely after he heard that...

What a stupid and arrogant man. Does he not detect this formidable sir here? It’s fine if he insults me, but how dare he insult those terrifying strangers. Does he want to get killed?

Stupid Blood Elf, even if you cannot detect the bloodline pressure, do you not feel their powerful auras? I wonder why he is still alive when he’s so stupid. He’s screwed...

That man is as good as dead. I don’t know the strength or the temper of the terrifying sir on the boat, but Lord Xiuban certainly does not have a good temper. Madam Reina doesn’t seem easy to deal with, either...

That guy is doomed. But I’m involved in this because of him too. What if that sir thinks that I’m the cause of the trouble?

Darri gritted his teeth, and had no time to consider whether he could beat the man. He roared, and was about to charge out.

“What an arrogant idiot. Since when was this place the Blood Elves’ territory? If you want to cause trouble, then I’m right here!”

But before he did anything, someone had rushed out of the floating boat. Xiuban, who had been infuriated on the way because of Enderfa’s mockery, couldn’t wait any longer after Lin Yun gave him permission.

While he was still flying, the brilliance of magic power had started glittering in Xiuban. Bloodlust, Power of Earth, and Power of Wind all enhanced his body. The tattoo of a bloody abyssal evil dragon appeared on Xiuban’s skin, and gazed at the Blood Elves with its wicked eyes.

Seeing Xiuban charging at them, the level-3 Heaven Rank Blood Elf sneered, and slowly drew the bow in his hand, gathering a bloody arrow of light on the string.

“Stupid bastard reptile, you don’t even carry the features of a dragon, yet you call yourself a dragon. Go to hell...”

In the blink of an eye, the arrow crossed thousands of meters, and approached Xiuban. With bloodshot eyes, Xiuban waved Carnage and smashed the arrow into pieces. Then, he continued charging at the Blood Elf.

The Blood Elf seemed slightly surprised that the bloody arrow he was proud of didn’t work, but he wasn’t bothered at all. He stretched his bow again, shooting another three bloody arrows.

Unsurprisingly, the three bloody arrows were smashed into pieces by Carnage. However, the broken pieces of the arrows turned into countless smaller arrows, and chased after Xiuban.

All the smaller arrows hit Xiuban. Immediately, he was enshrouded in red light.

The Blood Elf stared at Darri coldly.

“Darri, dumb*ss, is he the help you found? Let me tell you, this place will be the Blood Elves’ territory from today on, and it will belong to me. You will answer for your stupidity today.

“Your blood will become the source of my power. I will let you die in pain. The helpers you’ve found will die just as miserably...”

With sympathy on his lizard face, Darri lowered his head, and mumbled, “Arrogant idiot, goodbye. Sir Xiuban’s bloodline power is getting greater and greater. How terrifying. Did he only use 10 percent of his strength? He has become five times stronger all of a sudden, and he doesn’t seem to be reaching his limits...”

A roar burst out in the sky, and the bloody brilliant that enshrouded Xiuban exploded. The dragon tattoo on Xiuban’s skin seemed infuriated, and turned into burning flames. Instantly, Xiuban charged at the arrogant Blood Elf in a streak of light.

The Blood Elf was surprised. The bird he was riding flapped its wings, trying to dodge. It was very fast, but all of a sudden, it seemed to have detected something, and was too horrified to fly any longer...

The Blood Elf unleashed his mana, and left the bird’s back. He dashed 200 meters in the blink of an eye. Considering his speed and agility, Xiuban shouldn’t be able to catch up to him.

Unfortunately, not just Xiuban, but the dragon tattoo on his skin had been infuriated too...

The abyssal blood dragon’s source of power was blood. They were among the top five groups that were good at using the power of blood. Yet, someone had attacked it with a blood spell...

It was a pure insult that could only be repaid with blood...

Xiuban held Carnage with both hands, and the dragon tattoo on his skin slowly raised its head. As Xiuban moved, the abyssal blood dragon’s head suddenly reappeared a kilometer away, and bit the air.

Instantly, the Blood Elf, who was dodging agilely, emerged from nothingness. He had been bitten by the dragon’s head, and flames were burning on his skin. He cried miserably.

Immediately, the other Blood Elves, who were smiling and waiting for their leader to cut off the enemy’s head, were panicked. Bloody spells and arrows rained upon Xiuban.

Unfortunately, the Blood Elves’ spells didn’t work on Xiuban at all. They couldn’t even break his skin when they hit him. Also, most of their power was ignited by the flames on his skin, making the flames even more terrifying.

Ablaze with bloody flames, Xiuban wielded Carnage furiously, and smashed the Heaven Rank Blood Elf.

The terrifying power blew up the abyssal blood dragon's illusionary head. All the air and mana exploded under the force. The Blood Elf's body was shattered into a mist of blood too. All his blood and mana were ignited by the flames on Xiuban's skin.

In less than one second, the Heaven Rank Blood Elf was completely gone. Even his weapon was shattered into pieces by Xiuban's terrifying force.

After the strongest Blood Elf died, the other Blood Elves couldn't possibly resist Xiuban. Bloody flames flashed nonstop in midair. The weaker Blood Elves were ignited directly. Their bodies and blood were burnt into nothingness, and turned into even bigger flames.

Three minutes later, only the flames were floating in midair. Xiuban was enshrouded in one of the flames that was almost eight meters tall.

After all the enemies were taken down, the dragon tattoo on Xiuban's skin craned its head again and opened its mouth, swallowing the bloody flames like a vortex.

A few seconds later, Xiuban's face turned so red as if it were dripping blood. His aura rose crazily all the way to level 3 of the Heaven Rank before it finally stabilized again. The tattoos of four kinds of dragons also appeared on Xiuban's skin, as if they were coming to life. They slithered and didn't disperse until a long time later.

Xiuban spouted a mouthful of bloody mist and spat.

"Damn you, fool. You dared to curse the great Lord Xiuban? This is what you get. I shouldn't have let you die so easily. I should've roasted and eaten you."

Xiuban flew back, cursing, with Carnage on his shoulder. While cursing, he glanced at Enderfa now and then, as if he was warning Enderfa.

Enderfa's three faces rolled their eyes at the same time.

"Idiot..."

Darri was floating in midair, and still emitting the power of his aura. He was astounded to see Xiuban emerge unscathed. He couldn't understand what happened until a long time later...

So strong. He's so strong. Sir Xiuban's level didn't seem to be as high as that of the stupid arrogant elf, yet he killed that idiot so quickly...

Instant kill...

What a terrifying guy. Is he really a beastman? No, not a chance. Sir Xiuban might carry the beastmen's bloodline, but he's definitely a horrifying dragon. Maybe he just likes the appearance of beastmen.

Maybe Sir Xiuban loves smashing enemies with his giant weapon as a beastman. That's how he turned into this look.

Sir Xiuban is already so strong. Then how much stronger is the three-faced monster who keeps yelling at Sir Xiuban? Also, that cold-looking woman doesn't seem to respect Sir Xiuban, either.

Sir Xiuban's position seems to be the lowest here. Then how strong is that mysterious lord?

Darri floated in midair, frightened. He was truly scared. There weren't many top experts among the half-beastmen. The strongest he had met was only slightly better than the stupid Blood Elf.

He wasn't killed by the Blood Elf last time, partly because he ran fast, and partly because he had the strongest beastman help him. He didn't expect such a Blood Elf to be killed so quickly...

"My lord, in front of us is a tribe of Cave Gnomes. It was the biggest tribe I have seen. I don't think it's been destroyed in the last 100 years. Also, the Blood Elves must've come here to capture the Cave Gnomes as slaves.

"It's said that the stupid Blood Elf found a huge mine of Blood Crystals, but it's not easy to exploit the mine. He must've come here to capture the Cave Gnomes for that..."

Darri quickly reported the things he knew, and Lin Yun understood.

The Cave Gnomes were only a mid-level species in the underground world that wasn't appreciated, because half-beastmen and beastmen were better miners. A lot of half-beastman species were good at mining.

People never thought of Cave Gnomes unless they met huge mines that were difficult to exploit. The Cave Gnomes were able to dig complicated caves without letting them collapse. They were naturally talented in construction. Having built nests for the Destruction Black Dragons that were picky and bad-tempered back in the Nesser Dynasty, they certainly knew what they were doing.

Unfortunately, nobody appreciated their ability, which only allowed them to dig caves in the underground world for their own safety. Their mining efficiency was low, and they demanded a lot of food. It was possible that they would dig a way out and escape. They were not the best slaves.

It was better to enslave the half-beastman races that were stronger and more obedient.

The floating boat moved onwards. Soon, they saw a barren mountain and many caves one meter wide on the slope. Observed from the distance, the mountain looked like an enormous honeycomb.

Traces of battle were everywhere on the mountain. There were even a lot of dead bodies of gnomes, which had attracted a lot of scavengers. Some hideous monsters were even fighting over the dead bodies.

Not a living Cave Gnome could be seen. However, the dead bodies weren't a lot for the total population of the tribe. The survivors had surely escaped into the caves.

The Blood Elves had to have failed to capture the Cave Gnomes. Looking at the caves that were only one meter wide, Lin Yun could totally imagine how mad the Blood Elves had to have been...

But the Cave Gnomes were already hiding in their caves. It was difficult enough to find them, let alone subdue them. Obviously, none of them could possibly enter a cave that was only one meter wide...

Lin Yun was considering how he could communicate with the Cave Gnomes when Darri patted his chest, and announced, "Sir, allow me to talk to those filthy... Well, those Cave Gnomes. Sir Xiuban saved their lives by killing those arrogant Blood Elves. I'll be right back..."

As he talked, Darri walked to one of the caves. It seemed as if he had lost all his bones when he wriggled into the cave at a high speed.

Inside the narrow channel, Darri's eyes that looked like those of a snake glittered. His fork-like tongue stuck out of his mouth and waved. A few seconds later, Darri found the right direction, and moved forward quickly like an agile lizard.

Chapter 1350: Enough Food For Everyone

A few minutes later, after passing through the complicated narrow channel, Darri finally came to the bottom of the cave. This underground square, which was only five meters tall, was already a splendid building for the Cave Gnomes which were one meter tall on average.

A huge number of Cave Gnomes were hiding in the underground square, trembling with fear. They were panicked to see Darri emerge from one of the caves.

The gray Cave Gnomes, whose skin seemed to be contaminated by stone pieces, were like sheep in the presence of a ferocious tiger. Even the strongest of them was only in level 38.

The Cave Gnomes all moved back in fright, clearing the space in the square. The strongest of them, who were only as strong as Archmages, stared at Darri in fear, holding simple staffs made of beast bones or other shabby materials.

Darri looked at the terrified Cave Gnomes and the short spellcasters in disdain.

What a bunch of weak and filthy creatures. I can eliminate this tribe on my own. They'll be a waste of food even if they are sent for mining. I wonder why they are still alive, or why that great dragon is interested in them. Does he really want to let them build a nest for him?

"Those stupid and arrogant Blood Elves have been killed by a great dragon. You're truly lucky. The great dragon wants to see you. Who's the boss here? Come with me. Don't keep the great dragon waiting."

As he talked, Darri released the unique aura of a level-40 beastman, which swept throughout the square. Almost all of the survivors of the Cave Gnome tribe had gathered here to avoid the disaster.

Under normal circumstances, this place would've been the best shelter, unless the enemy were here to destroy the tribe. There was no way that the arrogant Blood Elves would crawl into the tiny caves that the Cave Gnomes dug out.

Also, the shelter was not right underneath the entrances on the surface. Even if the enemy had vented their fury by destroying the entrances, they would still be safe. However, the Cave Gnomes didn't expect that a level-40 expert was willing to crawl into the narrow caves, and even found them in the complicated underground environment.

If Lin Yun hadn't been here, Darri wouldn't have wasted so much time talking. He would kill some of them, and scare them first...

Darri didn't know why Lin Yun was looking for the Cave Gnomes, but considering how he killed a bunch of Blood Elves without hesitation, he was certainly not here to kill the Cave Gnomes...

Darri was already running out of patience. He had released his aura exactly to threaten the Cave Gnomes.

Feeling Darri's aura and his impatience, one of the Cave Gnomes who was holding the bone of an unknown creature as a staff gritted his teeth and walked out.

Bulinwon summoned his courage, and asked, "Sir, I'm Bulinwon, the leader of this tribe. Is there anything I can—"

Unfortunately, before he could finish, Darri grabbed him with one hand, as if he were a toy, and then quickly crawled into one of the caves.

Inside the narrow channel, Darri moved quickly on his fours like an agile lizard. He never even hit the walls on his sides. But Bulinwon was less lucky in his hands. He kept bumping into and scratching the walls as he was dragged forward.

When they appeared on the surface, there were already a tremendous number of bruises on Bulinwon's skin that seemed to be full of stone pieces.

Dropping Bulinwon to the ground, Darri quickly put on a big smile, and stood aside respectfully.

Darri had already terrified Bulinwon, but the three strangers here were even more terrifying. One of them was a red-skinned beastman, and one emitted coldness all over her body. Both of them carried the distinctive auras of dragons. The last one had such a pure and abundant dark aura that he felt suffocating.

"Idiot, your tribe has received a gift of fate. Those three great dragons have come specifically for you. Stupid weaklings, pledge your loyalty immediately, or be prepared to be burnt to ashes by Sir Xiuban just like the arrogant Blood Elves!"

Seeing that Lin Yun and his team didn't say anything, Darri immediately began to threaten the gnome.

Whether that sir was here to eat the Cave Gnomes or to let those dirty weaklings build a nest for him, he had to turn those creatures into slaves first. Naturally, Darri couldn't let that sir express his wish on his own.

Sir Xiuban was clearly unhappy. He was definitely disappointed because the Cave Gnomes were too slim, and didn't carry a lot of meat.

After Darri said that, Bulinwon simply fell on his knees, so frightened that he didn't even dare to raise his head.

"Sir Merlin, why are we looking for them? They're so dirty and slim. They don't carry a lot of meat. I'm sure they're not delicious..." Xiuban mumbled in disappointment.

Bulinwon fell into desperation, and cried, "Great dragon, I, humble Bulinwon, am willing to serve you. It's our honor to pledge our loyalty to you..."

The Cave Gnomes were originally slaves to dragons, especially the Destruction Black Dragons, which loved the nests that the former built. They were best at construction, and they had the special ability of building powerful magic buildings.

Unfortunately, after the Nesser Dynasty's fall, those weaklings lost their protectors. It was lucky enough that they didn't become extinct. They had managed to survive by digging caves and hiding underground. Being weak and short of resources, they couldn't build any powerful magic buildings.

It was not until they were found by the mages of Noscent that the best magic architects finally had a higher position. When they were more respected and given more resources, they had more top experts and a territory of their own, where they could build magic buildings.

But their life wasn't easy when they were still in the underground world. Their talent in constructing magic buildings was useless, but their talent in digging was well known. They were needed for dangerous mines that contained rare materials.

Their experiences during the past millennia in the underground world made them realize that it was best to prevent others from knowing about their talent. They were already so miserable after their capability of digging was exposed. If their other capability was found, they would probably all get enslaved very soon.

They had been dragons' slaves at the beginning, and they had seen dragons again. The natural fear had been etched into their bloodline...

Lin Yun gazed at Bulinwon. To be honest, he was a bit disappointed, but not exactly because the gnome was ugly. After all, all gnomes looked similar.

Gnomes all had a big head, big eyes, a short body, and four slim limbs that looked like bones covered with skin without any flesh. Different races of gnomes looked similar.

Lin Yun was only puzzled because this gnome didn't look like a great architect at all, but more like a foreman of slaves in a mine.

Had those guys completely forgotten their capability because they had been hiding it? Or was the knowledge lost?

That didn't look right. When the Cave Gnomes were found in history, they were only a bit unskilled. Given enough materials for exercise, they would soon pick up their talent.

The Cave Gnomes' capabilities largely depended on inheritance, and partly depended on teaching. They were so talented in building magic buildings that it was almost like cheating. As long as they inherited the knowledge, every Cave Gnome could build a simple magic building. The smarter ones, given enough materials for exercise, could even become an Artisan from an apprentice in one year in the field of magic buildings.

Lin Yun was worried that the Cave Gnomes had lost their knowledge. But all of a sudden, Lin Yun saw a hard pad on the Cave Gnome's wrist that was similar to his skin color. He would've overlooked it if the Cave Gnome hadn't moved his hand.

Seeing the pad, Lin Yun put on a smile. Only a Cave Gnome who had built magic buildings recently would have that on his wrist. It was their body instinct to protect their fragile hands. It meant that the Cave Gnomes hadn't lost their knowledge yet.

If the leader of this tribe hasn't lost the knowledge, then the entire tribe must be still passing on the knowledge.

"Do you know how to build a magic watchtower?" Lin Yun suddenly asked. Instantly, Bulinwon's big eyes almost popped out. He crouched on the ground, trembling with fear and desperation.

Bulinwon didn't reply, and Darri instantly burst into fury. His fork-like tongue stuck out, and aura flashed on his hand. He was going to slap Bulinwon, but then he stopped, fearing that he might accidentally kill the gnome.

"Idiot, great Sir Merlin asked you a question, yet you're not answering it? I can kill 10 weaklings such as yourself at once with one slap!"

Bulinwon didn't answer the question. He slightly raised his head, and found that nobody was beating him. He was less worried.

"I need you to build a special magic building for me. I know you still have your knowledge. You don't need to worry about what you're worrying about.

"Let me ask you again. Do you know how to build a magic watchtower?"

Bulinwon nodded.

"Yes. We can only afford the materials to build a magic watchtower. There's one here."

As he talked, Bulinwon walked away, and transmitted mana into a stone that was half a meter tall. Then, patterns appeared on the surface of the stone, which then transformed into a magic watchtower that was one meter tall. It looked like a toy watchtower that had been scaled down hundreds of times.

Lin Yun had been standing here for a long time, but never noticed the watchtower 100 meters away. The watchtower was so tiny that it looked just like an ordinary rock on the mountain. There were too many such rocks here.

Countless runes flashed in Lin Yun's eyes. He analyzed the magic watchtower thoroughly. It was quite shabby, and couldn't even raise an alarm voluntarily. Someone had to activate it in order to send the alarm out.

However, the shabby materials and making, plus the Cave Gnomes' racial talent, became wondrous. Lin Yun didn't discover the disguised magic watchtower that was only half a meter tall even though he was so close.

Nobody would probably notice the seemingly ordinary rock except the Cave Gnomes...

With the knowledge, given enough materials and time to practice, Bulinwon would surely grow into a real magic building master that was as good as an Artisan, at least in the field of architecture. They might not be as knowledgeable as other Artisans, but their magic buildings certainly met the top standard.

"Pledge your loyalty to me, and nobody will hurt you, or force you to do mining in dangerous places. Also, there will be enough food for all of your people without doing any work."

Lin Yun narrowed his eyes inside the black mist, and put on a smile. As he talked, he waved his hand, and threw out bags of cereals that were piled into a hill five meters high.

Bulinwon was completely shocked to see the hill. He quickly rose from the ground and jumped to the hill greedily, sniffing the cereals like a hound. He also looked like a devout pilgrim.

Then, Lin Yun took out another space ring, and threw it to Bulinwon.

“This space ring is yours. There are 10,000 bags of food in it, and eight kinds of food in total.”

Bulinwon gazed at the space ring. Seeing the bags of food inside the ring, he was dumbfounded. He counted the bags for minutes, until he lost track of numbers. Then, he didn't know what to think.

Holding the space ring, Bulinwon's expression changed quickly, and he dashed into one of the caves. A few seconds later, he ran back and stored the cereals on the ground into the space ring. He then disappeared into one of the caves.

Xiuban wasn't surprised at all. That was just a bunch of cereals that were worth 1,000 purple gold in Noscent. In particular, the Gilded Rose had its own farms that weren't suitable for magic plants, so they were used to grow food and vegetables. Such things were not valuable for mages at all.

In the Odin Kingdom, even the poorest ordinary people had enough food. Even if they pledged their loyalty to a swordsman apprentice instead of a mage, the purple gold they earned would be enough to feed hundreds of ordinary people.

Xiuban wasn't surprised, but Darri was completely shocked to hear about 10,000 bags of cereals. The half-beastmen were mostly omnivorous. Some of them only had meat, and some were vegetarians, but most of them ate both.

There was an enormous population of half-beastmen, but very few of them were good at farming. They couldn't feed all the half-beastmen. Their population was their foundation in the underground world, but it hadn't grown in years due to the lack of food...

The weaker half-beastman tribes might even have people who starved to death. How could they fight or strengthen themselves if they didn't have enough food?

Seeing that Bulinwon had run off with a bunch of food, Darri became angry, and was about to chase after him when Lin Yun said softly, “Just wait.”

Darri greedily and angrily stared at the cave, holding still.

That's 10,000 bags of cereals. 10,000! Those cereals smelled delicious, and are definitely the best food. Each bag of the food is enough for a lizard man to eat for a year. The food that can sustain a big tribe for an entire year was offered to the filthy gnomes for free!

This sir is truly terrifyingly generous! No, I have to pledge loyalty to him too. While the population of lizard men isn't small, our tribes are too far away from each other. It cannot be helped. If we gather together, we'll soon all starve. We have to split up and survive as small tribes.

I have to pledge loyalty to Sir Merlin. Yes. Sir Merlin already gave me a drop of dragon blood that can help me awaken my bloodline power. As long as I pledge loyalty to Sir Merlin, none of the children in my tribe will ever starve!

Thinking about that, Darri fell on his knees and crouched on the ground, which was a gesture of submission in the underground world.

“Great sir, allow Darri and his tribe to pledge loyalty to you. Your thoughts will be our faith, and your enemies will be ours!”

Lin Yun wasn't surprised at Darri's pledge of loyalty at all.

Every bag of the food he offered was huge, and contained at least 1,500 kilograms of food, and he offered 10,000 bags at once. In Noscent, they weren't as valuable as a bottle of ordinary potion. A good product in the Gilded Rose could be exchanged for tens of thousands of bags of such food.

But the situation was different in the underground world. This place had always been in chaos. Also, there were a lot of conflicts between the complicated races here. Besides, even among the half-beastmen, the contradictions of different tribes were quite serious too.

Because of the chaotic environment, and how very few races knew how to grow things, they had to feed on the plants and animals that existed in nature. A lot of the creatures here had huge stomachs. Some of them could even eat as much as a dozen human beings could. The lack of food was the most important reason why many races hadn't ever risen in the underground world so far.