

Magic Era 161

Chapter 161: Setting Out

Thinking about it, Hoen's face suddenly became pale.

He finally understood...

Recently, the most sensational matter in the Cloud Tower was definitely the Fanrusen Formula being cracked. Star Sage Jouyi had spent over twenty years on it and finally proved that for thousands of years, Noscent's mages had always tread an incorrect path. This had a hard to assess impact on the entire Cloud Tower, on the entire Noscent's world.

Although Hoen had just returned from the Pale Plane, he still felt the impact when he was in Okland, thousands upon thousands mages were praising Sir Jouyi, thanking him for using his wisdom to point out a bright path for them, the hostile Black Tower's mages included.

Now, Sir Jouyi's influence had reached the peak in Okland.

But another rumor spread inside the Cloud Tower, they all said that the biggest contributor to Sir Jouyi's breaking the Fanrusen Formula was a young mage.

At that time, Hoen naturally didn't think much of it.

Sir Jouyi already was the biggest authority on the Fanrusen Formula in the Andlusa Kingdom, no one could compare with him. If Sir Jouyi couldn't solve it, then who could? Don't mention a nameless young mage, even peak Archmages from other major mage forces would concede defeat in front of Jouyi.

Thus, when Hoen used those to reason with the Cloud Tower's mages, a few friendly High Mages threw sympathetic gazes at him...

Hoen remembered what they said at that time...

"So regretful, you missed the chance to witness a miracle."

Now, Hoen finally knew who was the young mage that helped Sir Jouyi unlock the Fanrusen Formula and let many of the mages of the Cloud Tower witness a miracle.

Indeed, it was the Mafa Merlin before his eyes.

It could be said that the only reason why he was able to get the seat of Head of Magic Department was because of Mafa Merlin making a move and solving the Fanrusen Formula decades earlier, otherwise he might have stayed in the Pale Plane for a long time. When Sir Jouyi broke the Fanrusen Formula, he sent him back from his mission of collecting basic datas and after his return, Hoen sat on the seat of Head of the Magic Department..

But because of anger, he rushed over and not only wanted that person to undo Leon's Mana Shackles, he also wanted to seal his mana for three years.

'Thank god, thank god...'

'Fortunately Sir Jouyi appeared...'

'If not for Sir Jouyi's timely's appearance, I would have already made a move... And based on the battle matrix analysis, I would die as a 9th High Mage at the cost of three Spiritual Magic Tools.'

Thinking about this, cold sweat fell off Hoen's forehead.

"Fuck off to the Cloud Tower!" Jouyi waved his hand as if he was swatting a fly, "If I see you in Thousand Sails City again, I'll let you know the consequences..."

"Yes, yes, yes, Sir Jouyi, I'll immediately leave Thousand Sails City..." Hoen wiped the cold sweat off his forehead while carrying Leon Merlin out of the Gilded Rose's lobby. While passing by Lin Yun, he said filled with fear, "My apologies, Great Mage Merlin..."

After saying this, Hoen and Leon immediately left the Gilded Rose...

"Teacher, why did Sir Jouyi..." After the two left the Gilded Rose, Leon was unable to stop himself.

Leon Merlin still couldn't understand why Star Sage Jouyi now appeared in the Gilded Rose, and why Jouyi was shielding Mafa Merlin to that extent.

After all, Mafa Merlin's father was just a small merchant. Although he had some reputation in a small town like Thousand Sails City, he was nothing in Okland. Not to mention that this small merchant had already died. Nowadays, Mafa Merlin's identity wasn't even acknowledged by the Merlin Family. Besides the Nether Iron Vein in his hands, there was nothing worth showing.

Even if Leon was a fool, he would still know that a Nether Iron Vein wasn't worth more than a few cabbages to someone like Jouyi.

What did he have that was worth Jouyi shielding him?

Leon Merlin thought about it, but he couldn't understand.

"Shut up!" As a result of opening his mouth, he was glared at by Hoen.

Originally, Leon Merlin could be said to be the most optimal successor to Hoen's legacy. But for some reason, Hoen suddenly felt that this disciple wasn't pleasing to the eyes...

Seems like he would have to consider another one after returning. Although Leon Merlin's talent was good, his character and eyesight were truly bad...

'Didn't you see Jouyi's attitude? Why are you asking such a dim-witted question...'

'Okay, it's decided. After returning to the Cloud Tower, I'll first remove Leon's Mana Shackles, but I have to find someone else to follow my legacy. I can't choose Leon, if he gets my legacy, his achievements wouldn't be too great based on his insight and character.'

Leon Merlin didn't know that his trip to Thousand Sails City not only resulted in him having his mana sealed, but he also lost a huge opportunity.

At the same time, in the Gilded Rose's lobby, Lin Yun just glanced at Jouyi and then laughed, "Hahaha..."

Being looked like that by Lin Yun, Jouyi let out two embarrassed chuckles.

Because he knew that his thoughts had already been seen through.

Hoen was a 9th Rank High Mage after all, even if he could be described as a cornerstone of the Cloud Tower, otherwise Jouyi wouldn't have put him at the seat of the Head of the Magic Department after he finished his task. That was one of the most important seats, specialized in the Cloud Tower's planar expansion project.

To any force, planar expansion was very important. For him to put Hoen at that seat showed how much importance he placed on Hoen.

It could be said that as long as Hoen could have some achievements at that seat, there would come a day he would enter the Council of the Cloud Tower. Even after thousands of years, there would be the chance to fight over the seat he left behind.

But that idiot went to provoke Thousand Sails City's Merlin on a whim.

Thinking about this, Jouyi suddenly felt his head hurt. Maybe to others Merlin was just an ordinary 5th Rank Great Mage with some outstanding skills, someone who didn't even join a force. But Jouyi knew that this young 5th Rank Great Mage's true abilities were far beyond that.

Just the amazing computing power he displayed on the Fanrusen Formula was far from what a 5th Rank Great Mage could possess. Furthermore, Merlin finished the battle matrix at nearly the same time as him. This showed that Merlin's ability with spell matrices were comparable to himself.

The height that such a person could reach would be far from being limited to the Archmage Realm.

At that time, it would be Hoen's turn to regret

After all...

Many years later, Hoen would have already become one of the top few of the Cloud Tower's Council. Every word and actions would decide the fate of countless mages. But when he would suddenly find that the young mage he had offended many years before was already standing at a height he couldn't reach, what kind of mood would he be in?

If Merlin's character was relatively lenient, he wouldn't have to worry about anything, but if Merlin actually held a grudge, at that time, let alone Hoen, maybe the entire Cloud Tower would be out of luck.

Moreover, after being in contact with Merlin for a bit, he could already see this young Great Mage's character, and the latter would most likely happen.

Thus, he flew into a fit of rage earlier.

As long as Merlin vented, he wouldn't go find troubles for Hoen later.

It fortunately looked successful.

After Jouyi's two embarrassed chuckles, he didn't mention the matter that just happened and just called Lin Yun and Solomon and prepared to rush to Oddrock City this very night.

"Why so anxious?" Lin Yun suddenly became startled. The Magic Hand's gathering was on the 15th, but it was only the 13th at the moment, so what was the reason behind Jouyi's being in a hurry?

“Oddrock City is very far...”

“Don’t play with me...” Lin Yun brooded. If someone else said that, then he might still believe it. But who was the one saying it? A peak Archmage a step away from the Heaven Realm. Using Flight to carry two individuals to Oddrock City would only take the time for a meal, ‘I wonder why you look to be in such hurry?’

“You are too troublesome. You just beat one of my people, I didn’t look for you to settle the bill yet.” Jouyi said in a fit of rage.

“...” Lin Yun almost puked blood, ‘When did I beat one of your people?’

‘Hoen came first, and his Wind Python almost strangled me.’

‘Moreover, the one who smashed the piece of paper on Hoen’s face, wasn’t it you?’

Unfortunately, it wasn’t good to argue with someone with Jouyi’s age and status. When Lin Yun saw his rage, he didn’t dare to let the dispute go on. He explained some stuff to Faleau and William and immediately followed after Jouyi and Solomon, leaving the Gilded Rose.

By the time they go out of Thousand Sails City, Lin Yun understood why Jouyi would say that Oddrock City was very far.

It was because the peak Archmage’s fast way of transportation was actually a carriage!

Chapter 162: Forest House

Indeed, Lin Yun didn’t see wrong, it truly was a carriage!

Jouyi wasn’t polite with Lin Yun at all, he called a carriage from Thousand Sails City and even made Lin Yun pay the fee. It shook on its way to the “far” Oddrock City.

When it was late in the evening, the carriage stopped at a small village near the Lullaby Forest.

Lin Yun gingerly went down, planning to find a hotel for the night.

Nothing could be done about it, he was the youngest of the three, moreover, Solomon was sick, and Jouyi was the master of the Cloud Tower. In any case, this could only fall on Lin Yun.

But Lin Yun discovered that Jouyi followed him down the carriage.

“It’s okay, you can go back.” Lin Yun then saw Jouyi throw a small pouch of golds to the driver.

“Thank you thank you...” The driver reached out to grab the golds while displaying a pleased expression. There was at least a hundred golds in that pouch. Not to mention Thousand Sails City’s fees, this was enough to buy ten such carriages.

“Sir Jouyi, this is...?” Seeing the driver leaving, Lin Yun was puzzled, ‘What is Jouyi up to?’

He used such a primitive way of moving to get there, but after reaching this small town, he used a pouch of coins to send it back. Wasn't it superfluous? Could it be that he would call another carriage tomorrow? Or are they going to be using Flight to hurry on their way?

Thinking of this, Lin Yun couldn't help looking at him with a strange expression.

If it wasn't for Jouyi being old, Lin Yun would have asked if he was playing around, could he not feel this process annoying?

"I want to meet someone, you two follow me."

"Ah?"

"Ah what? I won't make you run for nothing..." Jouyi threw a displeased glance at Lin Yun. Although he didn't know the meaning of the boy's gaze, Jouyi could guess that this was definitely not anything friendly.

"Where are you going?" Hearing that he wouldn't be there in vain, Lin Yun's tone suddenly changed. After asking, he didn't forget to ask, "Oh yeah, can I borrow Black Death Rune for another three months?"

"..." Jouyi didn't say anything, but his expression was pitch black as he led the two through the small village.

Soon, the three entered the Lullaby Forest.

The Lullaby Forest was located between Thousand Sails City and Oddrock City. Although this place wasn't Edge Rift, being occupied by a powerful Rock Troll clan, there was still many magic beasts walking through the forest. Most of which were magic beasts over level 20, and if one was lucky enough, or unlucky depending on the cases, they might even meet a level 30 magic beast. Although Thousand Sails City and Oddrock City had numerous mercenaries, only the first five ranked Mercenary Groups of each town would hunt in the Lullaby Forest.

Naturally this was only for ordinary Mercenary Groups.

To the three that came tonight, it was just another matter altogether.

Of the three that came tonight, one was a 9th Rank Archmage, one was a 9th Rank High Mage, and the weakest was a 5th Rank Great Mage. But that weakest just proved in Thousand Sails City that he had the strength to force a 9th Rank High Mage to death.

This kind of group would rarely be found in the Andlusa kingdom. If they formed a mercenary group, maybe even the Silver Moon Mercenary would be forced to be crushed.

Naturally, they wouldn't be that bored.

The three entered the Lullaby Forest, Jouyi in the lead, Solomon in the middle and Lin Yun closing the formation. Like a charging bull, they charged their way through the Lullaby Forest, and on the way, Lin Yun only did one thing, that was to maintain the Light's illuminations. Everything else was left to Jouyi to handle.

At this time, besides a Runic Shield darkening and brightening at times on this peak Archmage's body, there was not the least bit of indicator showing a spell being cast. But with this, Not a single magic beast approached within thirty meters of Jouyi ever since he entered the Lullaby Forest.

Lin Yun saw a few magic beasts hidden in the thickets suddenly turning to ashes when they approached the thirty meters boundary.

This kind of omnipotent omnidirectional power made even Lin Yun alarmed. A few times, Lin Yun even pondered how long could he last if he was like one of those magic beasts, 10 seconds? Five seconds?

Jouyi used such a frightening method to leisurely stroll through the Lullaby Forest...

There was no need to mention Solomon...

Lin Yun had to keep the Light on, but besides coughing and walking, Solomon didn't move a single finger.

It's been a hour when Jouyi stopped near a thicket.

"Finally."

"Where is this?" Lin Yun followed Jouyi's sight and could see a wooden house a few hundreds meters away. The tree house seemed somewhat old-fashioned and had clearly went through many mending. It was covered with traces of wind and tears. And at the moment, the entrance to the wooden house was devoid of a door. In the evening wind of the Lullaby Forest, it issued a long grinding noise.

'No way, there is someone actually living here?'

The first thought appearing in Lin Yun's mind was that the master of this tree house was truly courageous. Although this Lullaby Forest had no Dragon Den or Tiger Lair, there were still some Level 30 magic beasts roaming around from time to time. Living in such a place needed more than just some courage.

'Hold on...'

Just as Lin Yun was secretly admiring, he suddenly felt something wrong. That exceptionally old-fashioned tree house seemed to be filled with very strange mana fluctuations.

Indeed, these mana fluctuations were truly too strange. They wouldn't give a very powerful feeling at first, but it felt as if they were everywhere. Lin Yun only stood a few hundreds meters away from these mana fluctuations, yet he could feel them slowly coil around him, moreover they were slowly invading his own Magic Array.

Fortunately, Lin Yun had the Magic Array.

After rousing the Magic Arrays, these strange mana fluctuations disappeared, but that pervasive feeling remained lingering in Lin Yun's heart. These mana fluctuations gave a feeling of déjà vu to Lin Yun.

"After going in, remember to talk less." Jouyi didn't answer to Lin Yun's question, warning him with a low voice instead, before leading the two to the wooden house.

Jouyi reached the wooden house and reached his hand to open the invisible wooden door. Lin Yun then felt a pungent assaulting his nose...

“Flame Flower?” Lin Yun was suddenly started. This smell was 100% coming from a Flame Flower.

That was a first rate magic material, and a very rare one. Many alchemists believed that Flame Flowers were already extinct in Noscent and could only be found in planes rich in fire elements.

Lin Yun was also skeptical about this.

Because in the following era, there has never been a Flame Flower appearing in Noscent, nor was there any potion concocted from it.

He didn't expect to come across the smell of one in a wooden house in the Lullaby Forest.

“Fuck, how come you are here again Jouyi, didn't I tell you to not come and bother me again, otherwise don't blame me for being rude...” Just as Jouyi opened the door, a very impatient angry voice passed out from the inside...

“...” Lin Yun suddenly held his breath. Jouyi was a peak Archmage, only one step away from reaching the Heaven Rank. The owner of that voice dared to use that tone with Jouyi, how bold was he?

Lin Yun then found out that...

That person not only dared to say that, he also dared to act.

Just as his voice fell, a beaker was thrown over. Even a bang was heard as it disappeared under his foot.

“Haha, hey, Osul, you don't need to be so violent when an old friend is visiting...” Lin Yun didn't expect peak Archmage Jouyi wouldn't even get angry... No, this wasn't just not getting angry, this time, Jouyi could simply be described as shameless.

Seeing Jouyi's flattering smile, Lin Yun even suspected that if a tail grew, Jouyi would wag it happily.

‘Damn! Is that the morals of a peak Archmage?’

Lin Yun felt his entire world being overturned.

‘But, Osul... Why does it sound familiar?’

While Lin Yun was secretly puzzled, a grizzled older man walked out from the room. At first look, the old man was almost 60. He was dressed in a washed out pale gray robe with visible stains. It shouldn't have been washed in months.

Although the mana fluctuations coming out from Osul were quite powerful, they were still far from Jouyi's Extraordinary level fluctuations.

“Fuck...” After the old man came out of the room, he instantly noticed Lin Yun and Solomon, afterwards, that old man's expression became heavy, “Jouyi, you bastard. You are disturbing my experiments again and even brought two people. Do you really think that I cannot take you on?”

Chapter 163: Dusk Fire

“Haha, I just came to visit an old friend, do you have to react like that?”

Seeing Jouyi like this, Lin Yun couldn't help feeling suspicious. 'Does that man have some dirt on Jouyi? Why else would such a peak existence shed his integrity and don a smiling face?'

"Visiting an old friend?" Lin Yun guessed right. Jouyi's words caused a huge reaction from Osul. The latter angrily looked at him and roared, "You are saying that? How many magic materials have I lost to you in the past few years! Last time you came, it was a bottle of Dragon Transformation Potion! The time before that you took two Time Potions! And there was another one before that... Hey Jouyi, did you think this place was your private alchemy laboratory? Fuck off for me, don't you dare think of taking even one more potion from me!"

"..." When Lin Yun heard that, he couldn't help glancing at Jouyi awkwardly. That Star Sage's accomplishments could be said to be glorious...

Two Time Potions, those weren't something an ordinary Master Alchemist could compound, just like the Ghost Potion that Lin Yun had taken out at that time. As long as he could compound the Time Potion, that would be equivalent to having a foot at the peak of the Master Alchemist Realm, just below a step away from being an Artisan. In the entire Andlusa Kingdom, the Master Alchemists capable of compounding the Time Potion could be counted on one hand.

And this was only with regards to the technical aspect.

The Time Potion needed a total of five magic materials, four of which could easily be found in the alchemy market. However, the last one had already become extinct during the middle of the 3rd Dynasty.

That was the Frost Witch Tear.

It was rumored to be a mysterious fruit that only grew in lands of extreme coldness. And its growing cycle was extremely long. One Frost Witch Tear needed at least several hundred years to completely mature, and it also contained a fragment of the Ice Law. A few Extraordinary Realm sealing spells were needed to use the Frost Witch Tear as a magic material.

However, very few Frost Witch Tears were produced. Let alone in Noscent, even among the various planes, only the Black Horn chamber of commerce's Glacier Plane could produce a few Frost Witch Tears. Moreover, those Frost Witch Tears would already be used by the Black Horn chamber of commerce the moment they reached Noscent. Over the years, there had never been a Frost Witch Tear flowing into the market.

And Lin Yun had never heard any rumors of Time Potions being crafted...

He hadn't expected that he would actually hear of such a shocking piece of news in a wooden house in the Lullaby Forest. Star Sage Jouyi actually took three Time Potions... No wonder that man would be so vigilant towards Jouyi. This truly wasn't Osul being stingy, Lin Yun would have already unleashed the watchdog to see if he would still say such rubbish.

At this time, Lin Yun looked at Jouyi with a faint hint of admiration.

Unfortunately, Jouyi wasn't enjoying this admiration, he was now busy apologizing.

He actually spent a lot of effort before managing to pacify Osul.

“So, what did you come for this time?”

“Haha, nothing, nothing, I mainly came to ask if you would like to go to the Magic Hand gathering the day after tomorrow”

“Do you have such good intentions?”

“Erm...” Jouyi looked at Osul guiltily while awkwardly fiddling with his thumbs. “I also need to ask, do you have a bottle of Shelter Potion?”

“...”

Let alone Osul, even Lin Yun felt that the morals of that Star Sage had truly reached the limits. The Shelter Potion was also a peak Master Realm potion. It was even more valuable than the Time Potion. One such bottle could be exchanged for a Spiritual Magic Tool, but that wasn't how Jouyi asked... He asked if he “had a bottle” while giving a frivolous feeling like he was asking if he had any cabbage.

“No, I don't have any!”

“Liar, I obviously smelled a Flame Flower...”

“That was for compounding Heaven Awakening Potions!” Osul was getting emotional, nearly yelling at Jouyi.

But he hadn't expected that Jouyi's eyes would suddenly shine at his words. “Haha, I knew you had Heaven Awakening Potions...”

Lin Yun almost laughed when he heard that.

No wonder that Star Sage acted like that after entering the wooden house. Turned out he was after the Heaven Awakening Potion...

This was actually quite normal. A Heaven Awakening Potion was the sign of an Artisan. A peak Archmage like Jouyi could fight for a day while using the power of a Heaven Mage after drinking it. Just this increase in power was enough to be regarded as gamebreaking.

Moreover, the impact it would have on Jouyi, who had already touched upon the limit to Heaven Rank, couldn't be estimated.

Using walking as an analogy...

The current Jouyi was walking on a path full on unknowns, and he didn't know how long that path was, nor what was at the end of the path, or even if he was walking on a side path or the main path. But after drinking that Heaven Awakening Potion and gaining the power of a Heaven Rank Mage, Jouyi would know where the path ended as well as how to get there in the most cost-efficient way.

It could be said that as long as he had a bottle of Heaven Awakening, the trouble to reach Heaven Rank would be lessened at least one or two times.

“Fuck...” Osul looked at Jouyi for a long time before cursing him.

At this time, how could Osul not understand that Jouyi had no interest in some Shelter Potion, rather, he was interested in the Heaven Awakening Potion that he had just compounded. 'That scoundrel must have known from the start. If he told me right away, I wouldn't have acknowledged it, so he went around it.'

'Fuck, I really need to get rid of that crook...'

"Osul, you aren't going to be like that, are you..." Jouyi was calm and collected now. He was smiling at Osul while not forgetting to add a few sentences. "When we found the Dusk Fire, I didn't even frown as I gave it to you. The only requirement was that I could get a few alchemy potions from you from time to time. I truly didn't expect you to be the kind of scum that would go back on his words after being helped... The Dusk Fire let you reach Artisan level from previously being a Master Alchemist, yet you don't even want to part with a few bottles of Heaven Awakening Potions..."

"A few bottles!" Osul looked as if his tail had been stepped on. He almost jumped up as he said, "Don't even speak of a few bottles, I don't even have one bottle!"

"You said there were some..."

While the two old men were arguing, a shocked expression suddenly appeared on Lin Yun's face.

He had finally recalled who that Osul was.

He was the renowned Saint Osul. One of the few in the Planar Colonization Era of Noscent's history that were titled as Saint Alchemists.

It was said that this Saint Osul had compounded countless potions during his time and was considered Noscent's most prolific potion crafter in Noscent history. Many people said that it was because Saint Osul had a True Spirit Magic Tool in his hands, the Dusk Fire.

The Dusk Fire was a True Spirit Magic Tool tailor-made for alchemists. It didn't carry a lot of power by itself, but the Magic Tool Incarnation was a spirit that could produce magic flames, and it was innately an expert at operating all sorts of magic flames. When used for compounding, it would make alchemist save half the work.

It could be said that the reason Osul could become famous as Saint Alchemist during the Plane Colonization era was mostly this True Spirit Magic Tool.

But the Dusk Fire's Incarnation shouldn't have awakened yet.

It was supposed to awaken three hundred years later, which is when Osul became a Saint Alchemist. In other words, Lin Yun could cooperate with this future Saint Alchemist so that they would get along!

This was a win-win situation in Lin Yun's eyes.

If everything went smoothly, Osul would be able to advance a few centuries earlier while Lin Yun would obtain a 2nd rich private plane.

Naturally, that was if Osul was willing to cooperate.

While Lin Yun was secretly plotting, Osul had already been cornered by the Star Sage. After saying “follow me” he turned back into his laboratory with the three people in tow.

“This is the Heaven Rank Potion you want!” Osul pointed at a beaker on a refining table, introducing it with a depressed tone.

“Eh...” Even though Jouyi’s achievements in the field of alchemy weren’t high, he still displayed an awkward expression after seeing that beaker.

The beaker was holding some golden liquid, sparkling like real gold. The Flame Flower’s unique smell assaulted their noses as it slowly spread from the beaker. It was just like the description of the Heaven Awakening Potion in the book.

The only difference was that no mana fluctuations were released from the beaker.

The Heaven Awakening Potion was a potion used to rouse potential. It was composed of all kinds of magic materials, and each kind contained a shocking amount of magic power. There would be only one situation where it would end up turning into a substance devoid of mana fluctuations, which was if Osul failed to compound the Heaven Awakening Potion.

“How about you try and drink it?”

“Eh, no need to be so polite...” Although Jouyi longed to obtain the Heaven Awakening Potion, he still wouldn’t have the guts to try a failed potion. If it turned out to be poisonous, wouldn’t he have only himself to blame?

“Sir Osul, this isn’t necessarily a failure...”

Chapter 164: Primal Chaos Theory

No one had thought that Lin Yun would actually step up at this time.

“Merlin...” Jouyi’s expression changed when he heard him. He had been friends with Osul for a few hundred years, so how could he not know that the character of that old fellow wasn’t very good? Now that his Heaven Awakening Potion was a failure, he needed a place to vent. And Merlin speaking up now was a perfect opportunity for that old fellow to vent.

Sure enough, before Jouyi could even finish his sentence, Osul’s face turned dark as he frowned.

“Who are you?”

“Merlin, come quick, I’ll introduce you. This is Osul, one of the three great Artisans of the kingdom. He has reached great heights in the field of alchemy.” Noticing that the atmosphere was souring, Jouyi hurriedly acted as a mediator, flattering Osul while throwing a meaningful glance at Lin Yun.

Jouyi was afraid that Lin Yun would create problems for himself out of ignorance so he clearly introduced Osul’s identity.

After this, Jouyi gave a somewhat critical look to Lin Yun. That young Great Mage was clearly a very intelligent person, why would he make a fool of himself here?

Osul was one of the three Artisans of the kingdom, and his success in the field of potioneering could be said to be second to none. He had already assessed the Heaven Awakening Potion as a failure, so why would he appear and say that this was not necessarily a failure?

Isn't that calling an Artisan's judgement into question?

Jouyi felt that this young Great Mage was impetuous, perhaps because of his great accomplishments at his young age. Solomon did tell him that this youth had some astonishing talent in the field of alchemy. Maybe he wanted to use some shocking ideas to leave a deep impression in Osul's mind.

With that deep impression, it would be easier if he wanted to ask Osul for pointers later on.

Unfortunately, this was the wrong method.

Jouyi inwardly sighed. A youth being ambitious was understandable, but being too impetuous, too extreme, this was somewhat dangerous. 'Well, after this matter, I'll find some time to get Osul and Merlin acquainted. We are all going to Oddrock City anyway. After being in contact for a few days, they will be friendly enough and Osul should be willing to give him some pointers. But as for now, I can only mediate this and calm Osul down first...'

But just when Jouyi was hesitating on what he should say, Lin Yun said with a smile, "Hello, Sir Osul. I am called Mafa Merlin and I come from Thousand Sails City. I also have some understanding on the field of alchemy and followed Sir Jouyi this time to ask for pointers."

"Haha, I can't give you any pointers," Osul immediately snorted in response.

Osul was around the same age as Jouyi. They were both old monsters who had lived for a few centuries, and he was also one of the three Artisans of the kingdom. He had seen all kinds of alchemists during his life.

He had seen who knows how many alchemists like this fellow deliberately throwing out a shocking point of view in hopes of using sensationalism to get his attention. At first, Osul still patiently gave them some pointers, explaining their analyses and letting them know the mistake in their point of view...

But over time, Osul found out that doing this was simply useless.

To these alchemists, their point of view wasn't important. They didn't care whether they were right or wrong. All they were concerned about was whether they could be noticed.

Many times, Osul would be interrupted while he was patiently explaining to them the errors of their ways, only to be asked whether they could become his disciple.

Osul found it both funny and sad every time it happened.

It would be better to pack up and go on a journey if your own disciple made such a low-level mistake, so how could he give them more opportunities to pester him?

The problem was that these alchemists simply didn't understand this argument.

Nothing could be done about the first few times, but as it happened more often, Osul would feel more and more annoyed. Since long ago, he would only sneer when he met those kind of people and not bother to talk to them.

In Osul's eyes, this Mafa Merlin was certain this kind of alchemist.

Thus, after sneering, he only kept a dark expression and didn't bother to look at Lin Yun, only coldly telling Jouyi, "Okay, Jouyi, you can see the Heaven Awakening Potion. I still have some work to do so I won't keep you."

These words seemed to be addressed to Jouyi, but in reality, they were for Lin Yun's ears, and they were quite rude. It meant: 'I don't welcome you here, hurry up and leave with Jouyi...'

"Hey, Osul, you are a bit too..." Jouyi's face angrily turned red. Although he already knew that this old fellow's character wasn't good, he didn't expect that it could be that bad...

But well, that old fellow was venting. With the blow he suffered from the failure of the Heaven Awakening Potion, he wasn't in any state to listen to an opposing opinion. Jouyi thought of leaving with Merlin first and finding a way to make Merlin apologize to him at the meeting of the Magic Hand.

As Jouyi's thoughts reached this point, he discreetly pulled at Lin Yun, planning to lead him out.

But he hadn't expected him to remain firmly in place.

Not only did the young Great Mage resist the tug, but he even took a step forward, standing right in front of Osul.

'Fuck, this isn't good...' Jouyi immediately knew that something bad would happen when he saw this. If Merlin said any more, he would see how ill-tempered Osul could be.

Unfortunately, it was too late to stop it.

When Lin Yun stepped forward, Osul's already dark face turned even more unsightly. His gaze was already filled with anger.

Jouyi couldn't help feeling anxious. This was the wrath of an Artisan! Not to mention a 5th Rank Great Mage, even a 5th Rank Archmage might not be able to handle it.

But Lin Yun seemed not to be bothered by it as he walked to Osul with a gentle smile.

"Sir Osul, not having the least bit of mana fluctuation doesn't mean that the Heaven Awakening Potion is a failure..."

"Ridiculous," Osul immediately snapped. 'Sure enough, he is just another one of those, throwing stupidly shocking erroneous opinions while making them sound plausible, only wanting to prove to me that he is talented and has some good ideas.'

If it had been before, Osul might not have paid attention to him after responding, but this time, Osul was truly angry. After calling it ridiculous, he didn't just let Lin Yun's idea slip by.

"Explain yourself!"

This time, Osul made up his mind. He would let him talk, and if what he said was no good, then he couldn't be blamed for being rude when people didn't put an Artisan in their eyes. How could alchemists that wanted to play the gallery call an Artisan into question?

'What do you think you are doing? Challenging the prestige of an Artisan? Since that's the case, I'll let you go on and see what you can say. Don't even think of hiding behind Jouyi if there is one mistake.'

But he didn't expect that this Mafa Merlin would actually be bold enough to say such rude words after being asked to explain himself.

"Sir Osul, you haven't even learnt the Primal Chaos Theory?"

"Merlin!" Jouyi suddenly jumped up. He couldn't be considerate at this time and his berating interrupted Lin Yun's following words.

'Too outrageous...'

Although the previous times he questioned him were excessive, it could still be explained. If he was thick-skinned enough, he could even describe it as an alchemy debate.

But those words...

That was truly too outrageous. Using this tone in front of an Artisan, asking if he didn't learn the Primal Chaos Theory... 'What are you doing? Ridiculing an Artisan? This is like slapping him in the face... Let alone you, even an Archmage wouldn't be able to bear the aftermath!'

As he thought of the consequences, Jouyi couldn't help complaining inwardly.

'Had I known earlier that it would become like this, I would have directly used Flight to take him and Solomon to Oddrock City. How could I be so foolish to insist on taking them to Lullaby Forest. In the end, there weren't any Heaven Awakening Potions, and Osul might be offended. And most alarmingly... Osul won't let Merlin off.'

If he had to make a move, he would definitely not be able to sit while a genius like this Merlin fell here, but like this, his friendship of a few hundred years with Osul would end here.

"Merlin, you are too unreasonable. How can you call Sir Osul's knowledge into question? If you want to ask for guidance, you need the proper attitude. Quickly apologize to Sir Osul. You are young, so Sir Osul wouldn't lower himself and bicker with you if you apologize..."

Jouyi berated Lin Yun from the side while sizing up Osul's expression.

He didn't dare to relax his vigilance at this time, out of fear that Osul would do something aggressive. It wouldn't be as simple as a young genius falling, it would be an unbearable loss to the Cloud Tower, to all mages.

Chapter 165: Thoradin Catalyst

When Jouyi saw Osul's face becoming more and more incensed, his heart sank. 'This is truly troublesome,' he worried.

This time, Jouyi was already thinking about subduing Osul if he made any moves. Although he would hurt the feelings of the Artisan, they were both a few hundred years old, and he would always have the chance to explain later.

When he saw Osul taking two steps towards Lin Yun with an ugly look on his face, he thought that he was about to harm him. But Osul stopped and frowned as he asked, "You can fix it?"

'What?' Jouyi had already moved forward to stop Osul, but he suddenly stiffened when he heard those words. As he looked at the two of them, his eyes were filled with unconcealed doubts.

'When did Osul become so self-restrained?'

Whatever the case, this finally let Jouyi sigh in relief. As long as Osul didn't become hostile, there would still be a way out. As he thought about this, Jouyi secretly gave Lin Yun a meaningful glance, wanting to make him take advantage of this opportunity to hurriedly apologize.

But he was surprised when Lin Yun immediately shook away his meaningful glance.

"Haha, of course I can't..."

"..." Jouyi felt like cursing. 'Fuck, if I weren't here, do you think you could speak so much with Osul? Do you think that there is any meaning in bothering an Artisan?'

Lin Yun didn't feel nervous at all. He didn't even care about Osul's worsening expression, and after chuckling, he added, "But an Artisan like Sir Osul shouldn't forget the 4th Formula of the Primal Chaos Theory."

Osul was distracted for an instant, before displaying a disapproving expression. "You are talking about the Thoradin Formula? That's impossible, although the Thoradin Catalyst could activate many effects, it can't reconstitute an already failed Heaven Awakening."

"What if you add Holy Sand?"

"Impossible!" Osul didn't think for long before shaking his head at Lin Yun's opinion. "Holy Sand contains the purest holy energy, it simply cannot blend into the Thoradin Catalyst!"

"Haha, Sir Osul..." Lin Yun's voice was neither slow nor fast as he calmly explained, "Who told you that Holy Sand must be blended into the Thoradin Catalyst, couldn't it be the other way around?"

Silence filled the wooden house after these words. Osul looked at Lin Yun with an extremely strange expression for no less than a minute, before suddenly jumping up...

"Fuck!"

Jouyi never thought that the Artisan that he'd known for hundreds of years had such a lively side. He watched as Osul rushed to his refining table and moved his hands as if he were performing tricks, grabbing four or five magic materials, one of which was a small bottle of golden sand that emitted a golden light and a holy aura when brought out, making everyone feel warmth welling up within them.

This was Holy Sand, rumored to be a rare material transformed from the first ray of dawn. Such a small bottle of it could easily be exchanged for at least one Spiritual Magic Tool.

Artisan Osul's work was like an alchemy textbook, accurate and smooth, almost machine-like. He completed the special Thoradin Catalyst in a short three minutes.

This Thoradin Catalyst was special because Holy Sand was used as a medium for it.

"Merlin..." Osul held this special Thoradin Catalyst but didn't dare to mix it with the Heaven Awakening Potion. After calling out to Lin Yun, he found out that he wasn't being respectful enough for someone asking a question, and thus changed his way of address after some hesitation. "That is... Great Mage Merlin, is it really effective?"

"Won't you know if you try it?"

"..."

Even Jouyi couldn't keep listening to Lin Yun's words. That was a Heaven Awakening Potion, which was worth a True Spirit Magic Tool! There would be only one chance to save the potion, yet he didn't seem to be taking it seriously.

Unfortunately, no matter how much Jouyi stared at Lin Yun, the latter didn't say a word.

Osul could only hope for the best as he poured the special Thoradin Catalyst into the compound that was devoid of mana fluctuations.

They now had to wait...

The Thoradin Catalyst was like that: it took a very long time to stimulate the effects of a potion, not to mention that this particular catalyst was very special, as it used the purest Holy Sand as a medium, increasing the time needed to take effect at least once over.

Osul naturally knew of the Thoradin Catalyst's properties and thus was prepared to wait. But this Artisan couldn't help being nervous as time slowly passed. After all, this was testing a brand new method. If he succeeded, it would lead to him making a huge breakthrough in the alchemy field.

As the seconds passed, more and more drops of sweat appeared on Osul's forehead. This Artisan had never felt that time was passing so slowly, even wishing that he could make it move faster.

One minute, two minutes, three minutes...

One hour, two hours, three hours...

By the time rays of light shone from the horizon, a weak mana fluctuation was emitted from the Heaven Awakening Potion.

"Come on!" Osul, who had been pacing in the wooden house, instantly jumped up when he felt this mana fluctuation.

"Don't worry, let the Thoradin Catalyst's effect stabilize." Lin Yun, who had been recuperating with his eyes closed, suddenly interjected.

"Yes yes, yes..." Osul had been about to rush over, but he stopped himself. With a voice that didn't have the same impatience as before, he happily said, "I was too excited, I was too excited..."

“Haha...” This was the third time Lin Yun chuckled at Osul since he entered the wooden house.

But this time, Lin Yun’s chuckle didn’t feel as annoying and ear-piercing as before to Osul. He attentively watched the Heaven Awakening Potion as if he was afraid the beaker would sprout wings and escape.

The mana fluctuations of the Heaven Awakening Potion gradually became stronger...

It was only a trace at first, but it gradually stabilized at the Extraordinary Realm. At this time, Osul no longer looked at the Heaven Awakening Potion because he knew the Thoradin Catalyst had already produced results. Next, the mana fluctuations would gradually increase until it reached the true level of a Heaven Awakening Potion.

This was like rising from Hell to Heaven for Osul.

After all, Osul had used over half of his collection for this bottle of Heaven Awakening Potion over the past few months. He had been full of confidence at first, but he had then met another failure in the end.

This was the 3rd time Osul failed to compound the Heaven Awakening Potion.

The moment the Heaven Awakening Potion failed, Osul started wondering whether there was a mistake in his knowledge of alchemy.

Otherwise, why would he fail three times in a row?

But now that there was a trace of mana fluctuations being emitted, he knew that he’d succeeded.

The successful compounding of this bottle of Heaven Awakening would inevitably give him a huge breakthrough in the field of alchemy.

And this all was because of that young Great Mage Merlin reminding him that he should use the Thoradin Catalyst. It was he who told him to use the Holy Sand as a medium.

“Merlin... Great Mage Merlin, I really don’t know how to thank you...” Osul stood there rubbing his thumbs, bewildered. He was nervous and excited at the same time, not at all like an Artisan towering on the field of alchemy. He actually looked like an Apprentice Alchemist who had just started to tread the path of alchemy.

“Haha, it was just a small effort, nothing more.” Lin Yun smiled, feigning modesty.

When it came to the field of alchemy, Lin Yun, as a Master, couldn’t compare to an Artisan like Osul.

But Lin Yun had over 30,000 years of knowledge on Osul.

Who knew how many prodigious talents had appeared in those 30,000 years? They summarized all kinds of experiences and developed all kinds of skills that simply couldn’t be reproduced in a single era.

Was it difficult to use Holy Sand as a medium in the Thoradin Catalyst?

Of course not.

Any Master Alchemist could accomplish such a simple task. But this Thoradin Catalyst had only appeared for less than a hundred years, and no one had thought of this particular use yet.

As time went by, the alchemists would have a better grasp on the Thoradin Catalyst and there would naturally be some geniuses who would try to change the recipe, and that would be when new techniques would rise.

The only thing Lin Yun did was to tell Osul about this technique in advance.

But to Osul, Lin Yun's small effort was like opening a door to the path to the peak of alchemy. It could be said that as long as Osul was willing, he could follow Lin Yun's train of thought and have even bigger breakthroughs with the Thoradin Catalyst, giving him huge accomplishments that would shock all of Noscent.

Chapter 166: Alliance

"Great Mage Merlin, you... You are too modest..." Osul's tone unconsciously became more polite. It was a very small change, but it showed how much Lin Yun's status had changed in Osul's mind now.

After all, in the beginning, Osul was very impatient and felt that Lin Yun was trying to get his attention to become his apprentice.

But now, Osul knew that he had guessed incorrectly.

Because it was no longer necessary.

He still had yet to see this young Great Mage's skill in the field of alchemy, but the technique he'd suggested wasn't something an ordinary alchemist could grasp... No, not just ordinary alchemists, even an Artisan like himself was shocked by this technique.

An alchemist that mastered the Primal Chaos Theory to the point that he could innovate from it... Even if he didn't have many accomplishments in the field of alchemy now, that would only be because he was too young, so he hadn't spent enough time fumbling with research.

Given enough time, a few decades perhaps, it wouldn't be long before he became a Master Alchemist or an Artisan. It would only be a question of when.

How could such an alchemist try to use such opportunistic methods just to become an apprentice?

Thinking of this, Osul couldn't help feeling embarrassed...

His words had been too bad. The other side had most likely seen through his way of thinking and had thus chuckled at him.

"Osul, this Merlin..." After the mana fluctuation appeared in the potion, Jouyi's face was filled with shock. His expression didn't change and it took a long time for this Archmage to recover.

"Jouyi, I really have to thank you this time." Osul interrupted Jouyi and said with excitement all over his face, "You can take this bottle of Heaven Awakening Potion."

"Eh?" Jouyi was all smiles when he heard that. "Then I won't be polite, Osul. I rarely see you being this generous..."

“Do you even know how to be polite? But I truly have to thank you this time. Had you not brought Great Mage Merlin, I would have certainly thrown this bottle of Heaven Awakening Potion away, and moreover...”

Stopping here, Osul looked at Lin Yun.

“Great Mage Merlin, thank you.” After saying that, under Solomon and Jouyi’s dumbstruck gazes, he deeply bowed to Lin Yun.

“Sir Osul, this was truly a small effort, you shouldn’t take it so seriously.” Lin Yun hurriedly reached over to help him right himself.

But he hadn’t expected that Osul would stubbornly shake his head. “No, Great Mage Merlin, this might be a small effort to you, but it is very important to me. If you hadn’t mentioned it, I might have spent a few decades or maybe even a hundred years before finding out that the Thoradin Catalyst could be compounded in such a way. We are both alchemists, you obviously know how important this knowledge is to an alchemist...”

“I only found out by chance.” Lin Yun smiled and accepted his gratitude.

In fact, Lin Yun knew that the alchemists of this era were like this. Their thirst for knowledge surpassed everything. Knowledge such as what he gave on the Thoradin Catalyst had priceless value to an alchemist.

“Haha, Great Mage Merlin, you are too modest...” Osul shook his head with a chuckle. Although he didn’t say much, how could he not know how discoveries would happen in the alchemy world? Any small discovery would have to be made through trials and errors.

‘Great Mage Merlin might be showing modesty by saying he made the discovery by accident, but wouldn’t it be ignorant to actually believe so?’

Overnight, Osul seemed to have become a completely different person. His impatience and narrow-mindedness had disappeared, and now this Artisan was like a true host, politely receiving his guests, and especially Lin Yun. He was treating him with respect and honor, always asking ‘Great Mage Merlin, how is it?’ After being urged by Lin Yun quite a few times, he started calling him Merlin, but his tone was completely different from before.

There was no need for Jouyi to convince him anymore; hearing about the Magic Hand’s gathering, he immediately volunteered to travel together.

The four men called for two carriages in the small town. Jouyi and Solomon rode in one while Lin Yun and Osul rode in the other, all the way to Oddrock City.

Riding with Lin Yun was Osul’s suggestion. This Artisan wanted to discuss various potioning techniques on the way, and the more he chatted with him, the more he admired his counterpart. It was at that time that Osul learnt that this youngster’s knowledge regarding alchemy was even deeper than he had thought. At first, the two probed each other, but in the end, it turned into Osul asking for guidance from Lin Yun.

It was inevitable, as the skills and knowledge that Lin Yun had mastered were far superior to those of this era...

Even if Lin Yun tried his best to avoid spoiling Osul, he would occasionally let something slip out that left this Artisan stunned. Then, he wouldn't stop asking for clarification and guidance and Lin Yun had no other way to quiet him down but to say a few things. Osul benefited a lot from this trip.

Naturally, Lin Yun's gains weren't small either...

Osul was a genuine Artisan, after all. Even if he couldn't compare to Lin Yun in alchemy theory, he had a few hundred years of experience and was like an encyclopedia. All kinds of details, all kinds of practical experiences... These were precisely what Lin Yun, who had top tier theoretical knowledge but not much experience, needed the most. The journey from Lullaby Forest to Oddrock City took about a day, but it was like spending a month in a laboratory for Lin Yun.

By the evening, two carriages stopped outside an ash gray tower.

"Ash Tower?" Lin Yun felt a familiar mana fluctuation. It was the same as what he felt from that Great Mage who died in the Poison Fog Canyon. It seemed to radiate a shocking amount of heat, yet it was deathly silent. Lin Yun knew that this was the Ash Tower's unique Magic Conducting Rune.

"Yes, the gathering of the Magic Hand will be held inside the Ash Tower." Solomon proudly smiled. As the biggest enemy of the Sage Tower, Solomon would usually fall under siege within a few minutes of entering the Ash Tower.

But it would be different for these few days.

It wasn't like they had any choice, since Jouyi was Solomon's teacher.

As the master of the Cloud Tower, Jouyi usually wouldn't care about the struggles between the Sage Tower and the Ash Tower. However, during the few days of the Magic Hand's gathering, who would ever dare to harm the disciple he brought with him?

Even if the Ash Tower were a hundred times more courageous, they still wouldn't dare to make a move on Solomon for the next few days. That wouldn't just be offending a peak Archmage's dignity, it would be provoking the entire Magic Hand!

Who would be able to bear the consequences?

Thus, Solomon could strut around in the Ash Tower for now...

"Merlin, the Magic Hand's gathering will last three days. Tomorrow morning, Jouyi and I will invite you to become a member of the Magic Hand. Like this, you'll be able to exchange knowledge at tomorrow's gathering. Of course, I personally recommend that you exchange some potioneering knowledge..." As the four entered the Ash Tower, Osul didn't forget to add a few sentences.

In that Artisan's eyes, Lin Yun was most suited for alchemy. After all, such a young Great Mage had already dipped into the knowledge of the Artisan Realm. This was something extremely rare in Noscent's history. He was a genius that could enter the Artisan Realm with some polishing. Becoming a Saint Alchemist in the future wasn't impossible.

Naturally, Jouyi definitely didn't approve.

'If you make a talented Great Mage with such a monstrous computing ability focus on potioneering, then who would be able to help the next time they come upon a problem like the Fanrusen Formula? You, Osul?'

"Haha..." Lin Yun chuckled, not being swayed by Jouyi and Osul's hints. He didn't nod or shake his head.

Because he already had a plan for this gathering.

Regardless of whether it was alchemy knowledge or magic knowledge, Lin Yun didn't lack any. What he truly lacked were all kinds of magic materials.

That Strongest True Spirit Magic Tool alone was enough to make a few dozen Lin Yuns become destitute even after pooling their resources. Now that he had such a good opportunity, if he didn't manage to get some to shore up his needs, Lin Yun wouldn't be able to forgive himself.

The four of them walked into the Ash Tower and were soon welcomed by a few High Mages. These were the higher-ups of the Ash Tower, but facing the high ranked people of the Magic Hand, they could only resign themselves to welcome the guests.

But these few high-ranked executives were relatively tactful. They knew that it was the important gathering of the Magic Hand, and thus, when they noticed Solomon, they only lowered their heads and pretended not to see him.

"Merlin, wait with Solomon here, Jouyi and I will go look for a few people and talk about you joining the Magic Hand."

"Okay."

After the two left, the two of them found a bench and sat down.

"Merlin, you really opened my eyes this time..." After sitting down, Solomon couldn't help shaking his head. He was reminiscing about the first time he saw him in the Sage Tower's library. He had never thought that in less than a year, that 1st Rank Mage would reach such a stage.

Fortunately, Solomon was quite open-minded and wasn't jealous of Lin Yun's miraculous rise. He could only inwardly sigh at fate, at those who mocked Locke Merlin's son, saying that he would forever remain an Apprentice Alchemist. What kind of expressions would they make if they saw him now?

When it came to magic, he was powerful enough to force a 9th Rank High Mage to die with him.

When it came to alchemy, he had made an Artisan bow his head.

Thousand Sails City was already too small of a stage for the current Merlin.

"Haha, High Mage Solomon, whether it is now or later, Solon will remain one of my best friends."

"Haha, in that case, the Sage Tower and the Gilded Rose should cooperate more..."

The two men's laughs seemed incongruous, but they each knew what the other wanted.

Solomon wanted Lin Yun to back Solon.

Lin Yun wanted the Sage Tower to cooperate with the Gilded Rose.

The two weren't easy to deal with. Two "Haha" were all it took for an alliance that would pressure the entire Thousand Sails City to be born.

"Oh? Isn't this Mafa Merlin?" But just as the two finalized their deal, a lofty voice echoed in their ears.

Lin Yun looked over and saw a mage in his twenties.

Chapter 167: A Trivial Matter

"Haha, Mafa Merlin, you couldn't fit in Thousand Sails City so you ran to Oddrock City? I heard about your dad dying at sea and the Flashing Gold chamber of commerce going bankrupt, leaving you all alone... You are truly pitiful..." The young mage in his twenties kept talking, spraying saliva everywhere.

The problem was that Lin Yun truly didn't know him, which made him feel rather angry.

'I don't know you, why are you coming over here to run your tongue?'

Lin Yun took a step back to avoid the saliva attack while giving Solomon a doubtful glance.

"He is Harrison Burns, the son of Kerry Burns..." Seeing Lin Yun's confused look, Solomon knew that this young Great Mage still had issues with his memories.

In fact, this was a public secret in Thousand Sails City. Almost everyone knew that Locke Merlin's son had been growing at a frightening pace this past year, but his memory seemed to have sharply declined... He would often look at people and ask who they were...

"Who is Kerry Burns?"

"..." Solomon twitched. He had clearly underestimated the degree of forgetfulness of this young Great Mage. Thus, the number one High Mage of Thousand Sails City had no choice but to remind him, "The leader of the Blue Moon, one of the seven chambers of commerce of Thousand Sails City. Like your father, he was involved in the alchemy business. When the Flashing Gold chamber of commerce grew bigger and gained a monopoly over the alchemy business, he diverted the core of his Blue Moon chamber of commerce to Oddrock City. Try to remember..."

Solomon's impatience could already be seen from his last words. He was a peak High Mage, the master of the Sage Tower, wasn't it too much to ask him to explain these trivial matters?

"Eh..." Lin Yun knew that it was a bit annoying, so he could only scratch his head at Solomon's comment as he searched through Mafa Merlin's memories.

In fact, that Kerry Burns was truly unfortunate...

Originally, the Burns family had been operating the alchemy business in Thousand Sails City for hundreds of years. But in Kerry Burns' generation, Locke Merlin had appeared. In twenty years, the Flashing Gold chamber of commerce rose up from nothing into a colossus that pressuring every other chamber of commerce. The Blue Moon chamber of commerce's market was slowly eroded away day

after day, up until it completely broke away from the alchemy market, being reduced to a stepping stone for the Flashing Gold chamber of commerce.

As for this Harrison...

He was the eldest son of that Leader Kerry. He showed some good magical talent as a child and became a Mage in a dozen years. He then left to study at Okland Magic School for three years. He was already a 9th Rank Mage when he returned to Thousand Sails City.

Considering his age, he had been considered excellent among the younger generation, far above Mafa Merlin and Mason Monchi. At the time, many people compared him to Ryan Monchi.

But unfortunately, Harrison was far from being as good as Ryan...

Ryan came from the Monchi Family, one of the major forces of Thousand Sails City. Even after the rise of the Flashing Gold chamber of commerce, the latter didn't constitute a threat to the Monchi Family's status.

But Harrison was different. He came from the Blue Moon chamber of commerce. At that time, the Blue Moon chamber of commerce had already been pressured by the Flashing Gold chamber of commerce, and if not for Locke Merlin refusing to ruthlessly exterminate them, the Blue Moon chamber of commerce would have already had to declare bankruptcy.

When Harrison came back, he had become a 9th Rank Mage and was naturally proud and arrogant. Seeing the Blue Moon chamber of commerce in such a pitiful state instantly made him angry. He directly looked for an excuse to teach a lesson to Mafa Merlin.

One was a 9th Rank Mage and the other was a 9th Rank Magic Apprentice. The outcome need not be mentioned.

In short, Mafa Merlin returned covered with cuts and bruises and complained to Locke Merlin.

This Leader of the Flashing Gold chamber of commerce used all his power to sweep everything like a wind scattering dead leaves and spent the next month driving the pitiful Blue Moon chamber of commerce into a desperate state.

Just as the chamber of commerce was about to go bankrupt, Kerry Burns was no longer able to sit still so he took Harrison to the Merlin father and son and made the 9th Rank Mage, Harrison, bow his head to a 9th Rank Magic Apprentice and apologize.

Only then did Locke Merlin let the Blue Moon chamber of commerce off. But at the same time, he told Kerry Burns that he didn't want to see Harrison in Thousand Sails City again.

It was because of this that Kerry Burns transferred the business of the Blue Moon chamber of commerce to Oddrock City while Harrison became a member of the Ash Tower, leading to him becoming a Great Mage in less than two years.

"I remember who you are now..." Seeing Lin Yun's frown, Harrison felt elated.

That year, it was because of this Mafa Merlin that he'd had to apologize and his father's Blue Moon chamber of commerce had been forced out of Thousand Sails City.

The Blue Moon had developed well in Oddrock City, and he had also become a Great Mage of the Ash Tower. He had gradually forgotten about everything that had happened in Thousand Sails City.

But he didn't expect to meet Mafa Merlin here today.

This was a dramatic reunion. The humiliation caused by Locke Merlin back then would be repaid a hundred times to his son.

Harrison sized up Mafa Merlin.

He was wearing a brand new black robe, and besides the handiwork being pretty good, it didn't have many mana fluctuations. Moreover, he seemed to be empty-handed, not even having a magic staff. It seemed to him that the rumors about the Flashing Gold chamber of commerce going bankrupt after Locke Merlin's shipwreck were indeed true.

Otherwise, how could Locke Merlin's son fall to this point?

After all, when the father was still alive, he opened an alchemy shop in the expensive Victorious Return street just to make it easier for his son to learn magic.

Looking at him now...

Harrison couldn't help sighing. The arrogant young master of the Flashing Gold chamber of commerce had actually fallen to that degree.

"Well well, Mafa Merlin, what are you doing in the Ash Tower?" Harrison's voice carried a thick feeling of superiority. Someone unrelated might think that Harrison was the master of the Ash Tower.

"Only a trivial matter." Lin Yun naturally wouldn't let Harrison know that his "trivial matter" was actually to participate in the Magic Hand's gathering.

But Harrison interpreted that ambiguous attitude in a different way...

"Eh..." Harrison's voice dragged on for a long time, as if he feared that others wouldn't know that he had already understood.

But of course, he only thought he understood...

He thought that Mafa had come to Oddrock City this time because he'd heard the news that the Ash Tower was recruiting and wanted to try his luck.

This was quite normal.

The Ash Tower was one of the two major mages forces in the eastern part of the kingdom. It would recruit many Magic Apprentices and low-rank Mages trying their chances every year. Everyone knew that by joining the Ash Tower, their status would greatly increase. They would also have a chance to be taught personally by a Great Mage and come into contact with the deepest magic knowledge.

The various generous benefits that were typically offered were things that Magic Apprentices and low ranked Mages never even dreamt of.

Harrison couldn't help sneering. If he had come before, he might have had a chance to get in.

But he couldn't even dream of it this time.

The one standing before Mafa now was the one in charge of recruiting low-rank Mages and Magic Apprentices.

"Well, Mafa Merlin, joining the Ash Tower isn't easy..."

"Ah?" Lin Yun froze. 'When did I say that I wanted to join the Ash Tower?'

"What do you mean, 'Ah?'" My words aren't to be trifled with. Do you know how many low-rank Mages try to join the Ash Tower every year? Do you know how many succeed? It's not just me talking big. The treatment offered by the Ash Tower is the best in the eastern part of the kingdom."

"..." Lin Yun couldn't help turning to look at Solomon when he heard that.

'Fucker...'

Solomon suddenly felt like cursing when he heard that person. 'This bastard of the Burns Family. I just wanted to watch the play, but you had to offend me as if it's nothing? What do you mean by best treatment in the eastern part of the kingdom, do you think I don't know the ins and outs of the Ash Tower?'

Unfortunately, Harrison simply didn't know that he had just drawn the ire of a peak High Mage...

Harrison's thoughts were very simple. He was daringly bragging about the Ash Tower to annoy Mafa. The better the Ash Tower looked, the more humiliated Mafa Merlin would feel, and when he refused him, Mafa would be devastated.

"I tell you, the Ash Tower's Mages get a Life Potion every year, don't you know about the Life Potion? Having a Life Potion is like giving you a second chance at life when you are injured. Moreover, you have one opportunity to enter the Ash Tower's library every year. You can find the deepest magic knowledge of the whole region there. It is a temple of knowledge that all mages yearn for, do you understand now? With the opportunity to visit the Ash Tower's library, you would be able to become a Great Mage in three years..."

Lin Yun didn't say anything, but Solomon was trying his best not to explode.

'Fuck, little bastard of the Burns, are your eyes in your ass? Can't you recognize who is standing before you? That's the boss of the Gilded Rose, the quantity of alchemy items produced each month is way more important than what you will ever get to see in your entire life!'

Chapter 168: Ten Slaps

'Forget it, I can see that you are quite pathetic. I won't reveal that this person even gave pointers to an Artisan last night, or you'll be scared to death...

'Also, what Life Potion? Do you really think Thousand Sails City is a rural area? Who doesn't know that it is just a health recovery potion? What second life? As if that is the truth. You should know that because of a healing potion, Mason Monchi was forced to eat two glass bottles in front of him!

'Ah, and you are talking about the Ash Library? Fuck, he is participating in the Magic Hand's gathering tomorrow and participate in a knowledge exchange with peak mages of the Andlusa Kingdom, so why would he care about the Ash Tower's library, do you think it is that special?'

Solomon had entered the Ash Tower in an upright manner today, and he'd even reached a cooperative agreement with Lin Yun, making him feel exhilarated.

But before he could enjoy that feeling, Harrison jumped over and started yapping about the Ash Tower. He wouldn't stop talking about how it was the greatest in the eastern part of the kingdom, as if the Sage Tower were already extinct.

"Naturally, it's not as if you don't have a chance..." Harrison looked over and threw the bait that he had prepared for a long time.

"Eh?"

"I am the one in charge of recruiting this time!" Harrison proudly said as he pointed at himself with his thumb. "With one word, you can immediately join the Ash Tower and have all the generous treatment I talked about."

"Haha..." Lin Yun chuckled listlessly. He had watched over the Heaven Awakening Potion the previous night and had now hurried to Oddrock City through the day, chatting with Osul on the way. Lin Yun was looking forward to sleeping, so how could he care about Harrison's rambling about recruitment?

Unfortunately, Harrison interpreted Lin Yun's listless expression as extreme shock. He inwardly snorted, 'That's right! I'm not the same Harrison that lowered himself before you because of Locke Merlin!'

"But with one word, I can also make you forever unable to enter the Ash Tower. Mafa Merlin, do you want to try it?"

"Uh, Harrison, right?" Lin Yun saw Harrison getting more and more excited and knew that he wouldn't stop blabbering. In order to find a chance to go to sleep early, Lin Yun had no choice but to interrupt him. "If you have something to say, go ahead..."

"Haha, something to say?" Harrison sneered.

'Sure enough, you are the prideful young master of the Flashing Gold chamber of commerce. You came wandering to Oddrock City now that Locke Merlin died at sea and the Flashing Gold went bankrupt, yet you still dare to put on airs in front of me. Ridiculous...

'Who do you think you are? You are merely a low-rank, destitute Mage. If not because your father humiliated me that year, I wouldn't even bother to glance at you. But since you said that...'

"Good, Mafa Merlin, I'll give you a chance..." With these words, the smile on Harrison's face disappeared. "Do you remember that time in Thousand Sails City when your father forced me to apologize to you? I had to say 'please forgive me' three times..."

"That happened?" Lin Yun honestly couldn't remember.

"Haha, I've always been someone who could carry a grudge. I'll repay those who help me and I'll humiliate tenfold those who humiliated me. Mafa Merlin, I won't ask much from you. As long as you

kneel down in front of me in this hall and say “please forgive me” ten times, I’ll write off everything that happened before, and I’ll even let you join the Ash Tower!”

“Not happening...” The drowsy Lin Yun couldn’t help laughing when he heard Harrison’s words.

“Mafa Merlin, I already gave you the opportunity, it’s up to you to grab it...”

“So what if I don’t kneel down?”

“Haha, it’ll be very simple,” Harrison sneered. ‘You are not qualified to bargain with me.’ He then continued while pointing at the door, “Your only remaining choice is to fuck off from the Ash Tower and never again step foot in Oddrock City!”

“Then you’ll be the one in trouble...” Solomon muttered on the side. ‘He is someone that is going to join the Magic Hand’s gathering. If you kick him out, let alone you, the whole Ash Tower will be in trouble...’

Sadly, Harrison hadn’t paid attention to Solomon’s mumble, as he was looking at the motionless Lin Yun, remembering the humiliation he’d had to go through.

“Now, fuck off from the Ash Tower for me!” After saying that, Harrison raised his hand, a Fireball brightly shining in his palm.

“...” Solomon instantly rested his forehead against his hand. ‘The Burns Family is truly unlucky. They were first driven away out of Thousand Sails City by Locke Merlin, and they are now rushing towards a disaster thanks to this Harrison...’

Sure enough, just as the Fireball appeared, Lin Yun instantly used a Counterspell.

Lin Yun already had five Magic Arrays, and his casting speed would pressure all mages below the strength of a 5th Rank High Mage, never mind a Great Mage like Harrison. Even if Harrison were a High Mage, he wouldn’t be able to overcome Lin Yun’s Counterspell.

Lin Yun’s Counterspell directly cut off the flow of mana from Harrison and the recently roused mana fluctuations were instantly suppressed. Right after, Lin Yun rushed in and grabbed Harrison by his neck and slapped him.

This slap echoed loudly, silencing the entire hall.

Everyone’s gazes fell onto Harrison.

Some held astonishment, some puzzlement, but at this time, everyone seemed to be dumbfounded as they wondered what happened.

“You dare to hit me?” Harrison’s eyes turned red. He was slapped in front of so many people... Anger and shame bubbled up as a roar came from the depths of his throat. He was like a fierce beast struggling to get free, wanting tear away the hand that held his neck.

But Harrison’s struggles were fruitless as another loud sound echoed.

Lin Yun had backhanded him, slapping him again.

And with this, a commotion rose up in the originally quiet hall.

A few mages who managed to recover first came over with frowns. Harrison was a mage of the Ash Tower, but he was now getting slapped by someone while still on their turf. This wasn't a matter only related to Harrison, this was an insult to the entire Ash Tower.

"Young man, I advise you to let go of Harrison while you can. Otherwise, the Ash Tower will make you regret it..." The first mage to talk was a middle-aged High Mage, and from the mana fluctuations he emitted, he should be around the 2nd or 3rd rank.

Perhaps due to his eagerness, he released a Rock Cage at the same time. The ground distorted under Lin Yun's feet, and a dozen of sharp rocks suddenly burst out, splashing soil everywhere as they firmly trapped Lin Yun.

However...

Lin Yun acted as if he hadn't seen it and slapped once again, his right hand seemingly disappearing in a strange way, passing through the Rock Cage tightly surrounding him and reappearing on Harrison's face.

Moreover, as if to take revenge for the Rock Cage, that slap was particularly fierce. Only a loud sound was heard as a few of Harrison's teeth flew out...

This was a naked provocation, and this angered the mages of the Ash Tower.

But no one dared to act on that anger. Of the mages present, many were Great Mages or above, and there were three High Mages. How could they not see the depths behind that 3rd slap? It had directly passed through the seal of the Rock Cage. Just that power wasn't something an ordinary Great Mage could do. At this time, even the eager High Mage didn't dare to act again, hoping not to escalate the situation.

But Lin Yun wouldn't be polite with them...

With no one to disturb them, the slaps kept landing on Harrison's face one after the other, and only a continuous melody of slapping could be heard. As many as ten slaps fell on Harrison's cheeks, bloodying that Great Mage's nose and swelling his face, and at least half of his teeth fell down. Only then did Lin Yun stop to take a rest.

Ten pleas of "please forgive me" had been switched to ten slaps... Lin Yun felt that Harrison should be relatively satisfied.

But then, a voice came down from the 2nd floor. "Solomon, stop your man."

"Eh?" Lin Yun looked up and saw an old man wearing an ash-colored robe, and he seemed familiar.

That's right, he was the one who competed over the Hell Destroyer Incantation.

"Kid, it's truly rare to be that powerful at your age. But let me advise you, it's not good to be too harsh. Do you think that Solomon can protect you forever? Now, release Harrison and I'll act as if nothing happened..."

"Sure, I'll do as you say..." Lin Yun smiled, but at the same time, a high temperature suddenly spread out.

“You are bold!”

The old man angrily shouted, but it was already too late. Just as Lin Yun released Harrison, a Fireball flared up and an explosion resounded as it heavily smashed into him.

Chapter 169: Top Floor

The force from such a powerful Flame Impact at such close range wasn't something Harrison could withstand. Only a scream pierced the air as the young Great Mage flew out of the Ash Tower's entrance and fell heavily to the ground while wreathed in flames.

A few mages of the Ash Tower, but they couldn't help feeling fear when they passed Lin Yun...

By the time they rescued Harrison, the High Mage wearing an ash-colored robe had slowly walked down the hall. Lin Yun and Solomon remained still.

Especially Solomon.

Solomon had come today with a high authority pass. It was too bad for the Ash Tower. Who asked them to host the Magic Hand's gathering?

Now that Jouyi and Osul were there, the Ash Tower's mages wouldn't dare to make a move against him even if they were a hundred times more courageous. Thus, Solomon only looked at that High Mage without blinking as he curiously asked Lin Yun, “Merlin, this isn't like you...”

“Haha...” Lin Yun chuckled but didn't explain.

Because Lin Yun already knew that Solomon wasn't wrong. This truly wasn't like him. With someone like Harrison insulting him, he normally would have just exploded his head like a watermelon.

But in that split second, Mafa Merlin's memory flashed before Lin Yun's eyes.

It had been a thorough humiliation. Mafa Merlin had wept, struggled, and pleaded, but Harrison wouldn't let him off. It was just like a cat playing with a mouse, continuously teasing and humiliating him. Various low-level spells struck Mafa's body one after the other...

Harrison only knew that he had been driven out of Thousand Sails City after that time, but he didn't know that Mafa had been stuck in bed for three months, having nightmares every night and moving like a walking corpse all day long.

It was those memories that made Lin Yun change his plan.

Not to mention the High Mage telling him to stop, even an Archmage wouldn't have been enough to make Lin Yun refrain from casting this Flame Impact.

“Better let me take care of this...” Solomon shook his head, knowing that it was time for him to act as he stepped forward.

At this time, the High Mage had drawn closer and all the mages around made way for him.

“Solomon, step aside...”

“You are funny, if I step aside when you tell me, won’t I become a laughing stock?”

“I don’t care if others laugh at you, but for you to be able to enter the Ash Tower this time is entirely due to the reputation of your teacher, Star Sage Jouyi. Don’t blame me for being rude if you still don’t know what’s good for you,” Dylan said with an icy tone as he stood less than ten meters away from the two.

“Dylan, don’t you feel that your words are very interesting?” Unfortunately for him, Solomon wasn’t the kind to comply. “We have been fighting for decades. When have you ever been polite to me?”

“Solomon, the youth you brought over is not bad. He already has the strength to defeat Harrison at such a young age, showing that he is a rare talent. But don’t you forget that this is the Ash Tower. He seriously hurt Harrison in front of so many people, so he should have been prepared to pay the price.

Even Solomon had no choice but to admit that Dylan’s words were reasonable...

As the master of the Sage Tower, how could Solomon not understand this? Regardless of what Harrison did, as long as he stood within the Ash Tower, the Ash Tower had a duty to set things right for him and get him out of his predicament. Otherwise, who would be willing to join the Ash Tower in the future?

Moreover, Harrison was a Great Mage. There were plenty of those in the Ash Tower, and Dylan might not even remember his name, but Dylan had to let others see the attitude of the Ash Tower.

Unfortunately, Solomon had his own troubles.

And they weren’t small.

Dylan simply didn’t know the identity of the one who injured Harrison.

He was someone that Solomon’s teacher personally recommended to the Magic Hand, not to mention that there was also Osul. This Artisan definitely wouldn’t fail to support Merlin. If Solomon didn’t protect Merlin properly, the consequences would be too horrible to contemplate.

Thus, Solomon didn’t even pause to think before resolutely shaking his head.

“Impossible...”

“You...” Dylan’s face froze. Solomon’s firm attitude was completely unexpected to Dylan. He had already said this much, but Solomon still insisted on protecting this young man. He had the expression of someone ready for a war.

“Dylan, I won’t lie to you. Merlin is someone I cannot hand over. If you must act, then let me see how much progress you’ve made in the past twenty years.”

Just as Solomon said that, peak High Mage mana fluctuations were unleashed. In a flash, the entire hall was filled with a heavy pressure. A few of the weaker mages couldn’t help shrinking away in fear.

Dylan frowned, sullenly looking at Solomon, trying to see through his intentions.

The hall was filled with hostility for a long time.

“Solomon, come up!” But a voice came out of the 2nd floor at this time, from where Dylan had been earlier.

This time, it was Star Sage Jouyi.

Jouyi didn't even look at Dylan. He just beckoned Solomon to get to the 2nd floor while indicating him to take Lin Yun along with him. But such a simple movement immediately made the hostile atmosphere in the entire hall disappear without a trace.

“Solomon, you'd better stick around this young man to protect him,” Dylan threatened.

When Dylan had heard Jouyi's voice, he knew that he had lost the best opportunity.

Although he had the strength of a peak High Mage and might be slightly stronger than Solomon, he simply didn't have the qualifications to speak when facing a peak Archmage like Jouyi. Let alone him, even among the peak mages of the kingdom gathered in Oddrock City, there wouldn't be more than three that were able to contend with him. As for the others, even his own teacher, Shadow Ashes Kave, was still a bit inferior.

Thus, Dylan could only grit his teeth and mutter those words before leaving with the seriously hurt Harrison.

“Thankfully, that bastard was scared away...” Solomon let out a long sigh of relief when Dylan's shadow disappeared.

If the two mages had a fair fight, Solomon would only have a 20% chance of winning. He couldn't do anything about it, as ever since he almost died in a volcano, Solomon had been plagued with an injury and hadn't been able to progress for two decades. During that time, he had seen the 5th Rank High Mage Dylan slowly overtake him and then leave him far behind. It would be a lie to say that Solomon wasn't worried.

It was possible that he would die when Dylan entered the Archmage realm. His teacher had no direct relation to the Sage Tower, so the battle between the two major mage forces would be one-sided...

But fortunately, there was this Merlin in Thousand Sails City.

As he thought of this, Solomon eased up a bit. As long as Merlin was still there, as long as the Gilded Rose was standing, the Sage Tower wouldn't be eliminated by the Ash Tower.

The two of them took the stairs to the 2nd floor and found Jouyi already waiting for them.

“Merlin, we already came to a decision on the matter of you joining the Magic Hand, it was thanks to Osul this time. I never expected the opposition to be so strong,” Jouyi explained while leading the two to the top floor of the Ash Tower. “Oh, right, Merlin, I originally thought of letting you take a few spell matrices of the Fanrusen Formula tomorrow to exchange for knowledge and familiarize yourself with people. But it looks like you can't do as you please for now. Although Osul and I put enough pressure on the matter, you might have to take out some profound magic knowledge tomorrow and thoroughly leave them speechless.”

“Okay, I'll think of a way.” Lin Yun nodded. He didn't mind Jouyi's suggestion.

Originally, Lin Yun had come to the Magic Hand's gathering to trade magic knowledge for resources. He had the Soul Walker and the Strongest True Spirit Magic Tool, those two gluttons.

The Soul Walker was actually not that bad; he would be satisfied as long as he had enough mana crystals.

But the "Doom" Magic Staff was actually a bottomless pit. 28 arrays, 17 augments, this was enough to make a Heaven Mage go bankrupt.

If he wanted to make them recover their true power, Lin Yun could only find ways to get more resources.

Even if Jouyi hadn't told him, Lin Yun had already been ready to share some time-transcending magic knowledge to the gathering.

The three men quickly reached the top floor. That area had temporarily been expropriated by the Magic Hand, and even the Ash Tower's own mages weren't allowed to enter this area.

The gathering of the Magic Hand would officially start the next day. After being urged by Jouyi, the three returned to the rooms they were assigned so that they could rest.

Meanwhile, a young mage knocked at the door of Dylan's study.

"Cha... Chairman... That Mafa Merlin... He went to the top floor..."

"Ah?" Dylan frowned and suddenly got up.

The top floor of the Ash Tower had been commandeered for use by the Magic Hand. Besides those participating in the gathering, only their disciples could enter.

'Could it be that Mafa Merlin isn't Solomon's disciple, but Star Sage Jouyi's?'

Chapter 170: Heaven Rank Mage Relic

Dylan's expression worsened.

In the Ash Tower's hall, Dylan had told Solomon that he should stay close to that youth to protect him properly. He meant to imply that if Solomon ever moved away from him, even just a bit, the Ash Tower's revenge would fall on him.

This was something Dylan had to do.

Harrison's injury wasn't just his own problem. It also related to the reputation of the Ash Tower, to Dylan's reputation. If he really let that youth leave Oddrock City unharmed, what would happen to the reputation of the Ash Tower? What would be the point of Dylan having so many subordinates?

In fact, Dylan had already started planning as soon as he'd turned and left. If Solomon ever wasn't in a situation where he could keep watch over the young mage, Dylan would have someone make a move to exact their revenge on that youth. Dylan simply didn't care about Solomon's reaction. The Ash Tower had already been at war with the Sage Tower for so many years, the two had fought over ten times.

In other words, Dylan was unable to do anything because of Jouyi, but it didn't mean that Solomon could protect someone while in the territory of the Ash Tower.

But now, Dylan learnt that this youth might be Jouyi's disciple...

This changed things... Jouyi was different than Solomon, a genuine peak Archmage, an existence that already touched upon the Extraordinary realm's power. If he was unhappy, then let alone Dylan being unable to endure, even Dylan's teacher, Kave, would be unable to handle it.

After all, it was the day of the Magic Hand's gathering, the gathering of the strongest mages of the Andlusa kingdom. If the Ash Tower killed Jouyi's disciple at this moment, it would definitely blow up...

Dylan didn't dare to act further without thinking. He dispatched the young mage, telling him to keep monitoring them. Dylan himself softly chanted an incantation and issued an image transmission request through the crystal ball. The crystal ball's light flashed in response as a strange expression appeared in Dylan's eyes... It could be described as deferential respect.

...

Late at night, Lin Yun finished his daily meditation.

'The speed is too slow...' Lin Yun inspected himself. His 6th Magic Array was already starting to form, but it would take a long time before it was complete.

Lin Yun had touched the Reincarnation Eyes several times in the Prince Tomb. Each time he touched it was equivalent to experiencing a reincarnation. After over a month, he had accumulated no less than a hundred thousand, half of which had been used to increase his count of Magic Arrays to five, while the remaining half still hadn't been consumed.

This was because the 6th array was no longer as simple as just piling runes together. Lin Yun had to incorporate these runes into his magic system and make them fuse with his own magic. There was no shortcut unless he met something as amazing as the Reincarnation Eyes. Lin Yun had no choice but to use patience and willpower to carry out a war of attrition.

In fact, any Magic Conducting Rune needed a large amount of time invested. Let alone a complicated Magic Array, even the lowest and simplest Magic Conducting Rune such as Ice Spark would take at least a year or two, and possibly even up to four years for ordinary mages to complete it.

Lin Yun's speed was already heaven-defying...

But for Lin Yun, who had formed so many Magic Arrays in less than two months, this speed was somewhat unbearable. After a day of meditation, Lin Yun was already thinking about giving some benefits to the Merlin Family in order to get the chance to enter the Ancestral Land.

Perhaps he would be able to find clues related to the Magic Array there.

"Merlin... Merlin..." At this time, a voice deliberately trying to be quiet came from the hallway. Lin Yun listened carefully and discovered that it was Solomon's voice...

But why did the voice of this esteemed peak High Mage sound so secretive?

“Come in, High Mage Solomon...”

“Shhh, whisper...” Solomon rushed in on tiptoes, still carrying a vigilant expression. That aged faced made Lin Yun feel rather puzzled.

“High Mage Solomon, what are you doing?”

“Shh, shhh... Don’t say my name so loudly, lest someone hears it!” Solomon fussed while looking around. No one would ever think that this person sneaking around was Thousand Sails City’s Mage Guild Leader!

“Yes yes, I won’t mention your name...” Lin Yun rolled his eyes and remained silent.

After making sure that there was nothing unusual in the room, Solomon relaxed a bit and whispered, “Merlin, do you know why it is called the Ash Tower?”

“Ah?” Lin Yun almost bit his tongue.

An esteemed peak High Mage, the Leader of the Sage Tower, Thousand Sails City’s strongest mage, had mysteriously sneaked into his room in the middle of the night in order to ask him this?

Whether he knew why the Ash Tower was named as such?

Lin Yun wanted to ask if something was wrong with him.

“I’ll tell you. The Ash Tower is called the Ash Tower because...” Solomon didn’t know what Lin Yun was thinking about, so he kept going with his mysterious and furtive expression. “The last Heaven Mage of the 3rd Dynasty spent his last days here.”

“You are talking about the Hell Destroyer?”

“Yes yes yes, that one...” Solomon picked up a cup of water from the table and took a long sip, and he then continued, “It is said that when Rudolph passed away, a small flame was lit from his hand and burnt the entire tower to ashes. Many years later, Rudolph’s three disciples rebuilt the Ash Tower...”

“Oh?” Lin Yun was somewhat interested.

“In the past, people felt that Rudolph’s three disciples rebuilt the Ash Tower in order to commemorate their teacher. Haha, who would have thought that it was only for the relics of the Heaven Mage...”

“Relics?”

“Indeed, Rudolph was seriously injured in the Dusk War and knew that his life was at its end, so he buried everything under the tower. In order to get these relics, his disciples rebuilt the Tower of Ash...”

“How do you know?”

“Haha, this is all thanks to you...”

“This is thanks to me?”

“Have you forgotten that in the Black Horn Auction, you paid for half of a badly damaged incantation?”

“...” Lin Yun felt like cursing. No wonder Solomon spent so much energy. He had thought that Solomon wanted the Hell Destroyer Incantation, but it turned out that just like himself, Solomon was interested in the scroll itself.

“You don’t need to be so upset, only the master of the Sage Tower could see the secrets of this scroll because the Sage Tower’s inheritance also came from Rudolph...”

“Then why are you looking for me?”

“Naturally, to invite you. Those are the relics of a Heaven Mage, could it be that you aren’t interested? You don’t have a good relationship with the Ash Tower. If the Ash Tower holds a Relic, its strength would immediately advance by leaps and bounds. In that case, would your Gilded Rose have a good time?”

“Turns out it was like that...” Lin Yun attentively watched Solomon for a long time. He didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. No wonder Jouyi came to the Magic Hand’s gathering. Solomon had actually made such a discovery, finding out that there was at least a Heaven Mage Relic hidden under the Ash Tower...

Lin Yun thought about it, and his heartbeat accelerated.

But what made Lin Yun’s heart beat faster wasn’t the Heaven Rank Relic he talked about.

After coming from 30,000 years in the future, how could Lin Yun not know of the many relics left behind by Heaven Mages, especially those of the 3rd Dynasty? In the era of gravediggers, the relics of the Heaven Mages would rarely be left alone.

As long as Lin Yun wanted, he could recite the locations of seven or eight relics.

But unearthing them was another problem altogether...

Prince Barov’s tomb was a perfect example. The last two times he went in, he barely came out alive, but to this day, Lin Yun had only reached the Reincarnation Eyes. As for the core of the tomb, Lin Yun had yet to get that far.

It was common knowledge that world-shaking items were buried alongside a prince, but the question was whether Lin Yun dared to go farther in. Not to mention the fact that Lin Yun was only a 5th Rank Great Mage, even if he were a 5th Rank High Mage, he still might not have the courage to enter the center of the tomb.

What truly got Lin Yun’s attention was the story about the flame that Solomon mentioned.

Lin Yun had been envious of Osul’s Dusk Fire for some time.

The Dusk Fire was an innate Magic Flame Spirit. Although it was unable to offer a large boost in strength, it had a value for alchemy that couldn’t be estimated. It could be said that Osul’s ability to become a Saint Alchemist in the future could largely be attributed to that Dusk Fire.

Unfortunately, the Dusk Fire was already in Osul’s hands.

Lin Yun knew that even if he imparted Osul with heaven-defying secrets of alchemy, he still wouldn't be willing to trade the Dusk Fire. Thus, Lin Yun didn't expect to acquire the Dusk Fire as his own. He only mentioned that if there was the opportunity, he would hope to borrow the Dusk Fire.