

Magic Era 201

Chapter 201: Crimson Heart

The Gilded Rose's carriage was quiet at this moment...

Xiuban was doing his best to hide in the corner of the carriage, tinkering and fiddling with that perfect combination of magic and toxicity, the hand-crossbow. William had already finished his meditation for the day and was cheerfully looking back at his progress for the day.

Sometimes, William really wondered what was in his cousin's head. How did he know so much about so many things? Not to mention the rest, just the Meditation Law Set his cousin had given him was enough to shock anyone with its effectiveness and novelty. Before they left for the Bone Plane, his cousin had given them three Meditation Law Sets, one for Faleau, one for the fifty Mages, and one for himself.

At the time, even if he was unwilling to admit it, he could feel that the Meditation Law Set was already more fitting for him than the Meditation Law Set that the Merlin Family had refined and integrated with their bloodline over the course of a thousand years.

And even more so after Lin Yun updated it in the carriage after ascertaining the extent of William's magical progress.

Now that he thought about it, he truly had been foolish at first...

That Meditation Law Set could only be described as heaven-defying, and what the Merlin Family used simply couldn't compare to it. In one month, the efficiency of his meditation had more than doubled, and moreover, this Meditation Law Set seemed to be specialized in strengthening Fire Magic. Over the month, he could feel that the power of his fire spells had far surpassed those of his former self...

He sometimes felt that he was very fortunate.

If those Elders from the council hadn't sent him to Thousand Sails City, how could he have encountered such an opportunity?

After all, he was one amongst many children of the Merlin Family back then, and at best he could have been counted within the top ten in terms of potential. There were many outstanding geniuses ahead of him such as Leon, who had already become a High Mage at such a young age, and also Aube, who also entered the Elder Council. What was he compared to them?

But it was different now.

He had gotten a second wind in Thousand Sails City. He had fifty Great Mages as subordinates and his strength was advancing by leaps and bounds. From being a 5th Rank Great Mage, he was now an 8th Rank Great Mage, and there was no resistance on his path to continue improving. This crazy speed surpassed all the geniuses from the Merlin Family. William even felt that he could keep this incredible pace as he advanced to become a High Mage. He wondered what kind of expressions the people from the Merlin Family would have when they saw him once again.

Thinking about it, William looked at the meditating Lin Yun with a complicated expression. There was fear, wonder, and even some worship, because William knew that everything he had gained these days was because of this younger cousin. His cousin was bound to shock all of Noscent, and sooner or later, there would be a day when he supported this cousin from behind as he stood at the peak of Noscent.

“Finished your meditation?” Lin Yun suddenly opened his eyes and glanced at William.

“Yes, I finished.”

“How do you feel?”

“I feel very good, very very good...” As the Meditation Law Set was mentioned, William felt excited. “I think I can enter the 9th Rank within two months.”

“Haha, I would doubt your talent if you still couldn’t become a High Mage after two months from now...” Lin Yun calmly smiled, not feeling any problem with this pace.

William was the leader of the mercenary group that Lin Yun chose himself. How could he convince others if he wasn’t good enough? Thus, before entering the Bone Plane, Lin Yun had personally chosen a Meditation Law Set for William, and it wasn’t an ordinary one.

At the gathering of the Magic Hand, Lin Yun had exchanged three Meditation Law Sets with eight formulas in each for a territory, some ruins, and sixty spirit mana crystals.

But the Meditation Law Set that he gave to William had a shocking ten formulas!

It was called Crimson Heart. In this era, it would definitely rise to become the best Meditation Law Set. If William had the power and opportunity, he could even rely on that Meditation Law Set to establish a force that would not be inferior to the Cloud Tower or the Black Tower.

But William’s understanding of the Crimson Heart was far from sufficient for now.

It looked like it only raised William’s meditation efficiency and the destructive power of his Fire System spells. But the true Crimson Heart was far more than that. It was famous during the peak of the 3rd Dynasty as the core Meditation Law Set of the Crimson Tower. After the destruction of the Crimson Tower, this Meditation Law was lost for a few millennia up until many years later, when an Archmage excavated some of the Crimson Tower’s ruins and obtained this set of ten formulas from within.

Naturally, there was no need to tell William about this.

When William deepened his understanding of the Crimson Heart, he would naturally understand the true power of this Meditation Law.

Lin Yun now needed to spend more energy on Xiuban.

The roguish-looking Draconic Beastman was cowering in the corner of the carriage, but Lin Yun knew that with the Beastman and Draconic Bloodlines in his body, his future was limitless. He would be a dual martial and magical powerhouse. After all, as a Sword Saint with a tyrannical force who also had innate Draconic Magic... what kind of monster would he become?

Moreover, Xiuban had already signed the contract to become Lin Yun's property, so there was no need to think about loyalty.

He would be wasting his potential if he didn't train with such good conditions.

"Xiuban, come."

"Ah?" The Draconic Beastman, who had still been fiddling with the hand-crossbow, shook when he heard Lin Yun utter his name...

Although Lin Yun had gifted him such an amazing weapon, in the Draconic Beastman's heart, Lin Yun was still a sinister Human Mage. Nothing could be done about that, as Syudos' lesson had left deep marks. It was to the point that Xiuban kept waking up from nightmares when he slept, and the first thing he would do upon waking was to raise his head to check if the frightening flames were around...

Of course, after being treated so harshly by Syudos, Xiuban wouldn't dare disobey Lin Yun. Although he was terrified of that mage, he still slowly moved over after hearing Lin Yun's instructions.

"Hold this..." Lin Yun searched in his pocket before taking out a silver necklace and throwing it to Xiuban.

"Thank you, Sir Merlin..." Xiuban was immediately disappointed as he received the necklace. He properly thanked the evil mage, while secretly despising him. 'That Evil Human Mage, why did he suddenly become so stingy... He called me just to give me a silver necklace. Is that a mana crystal? So miserable... It's not even the size of a toe...'

"Starting from today, you'll have to carry this necklace at all times. If I find out that the necklace disappeared... I'm sure Syudos will be happy to chat with you..."

"Yes, yes, yes..." When the Draconic Beastman heard the name Syudos, his legs suddenly shook. Lin Yun hadn't needed to say much. Xiuban hurried to fasten the necklace around his neck, feeling somewhat apprehensive. 'Such a wretched necklace, if I return to the Highland Beastman Tribe wearing this, wouldn't I be ridiculed?'

Fortunately for him, Lin Yun didn't know what he was thinking, or he would have been quite angry.

Indeed, that necklace was nothing by itself, as Lin Yun only spent a few minutes to craft it out of a silver ingot that Syudos melted.

But the pendant on the necklace...

That "miserable" mana crystal was actually invaluable.

It was a spirit mana crystal!

Lin Yun had sold his Meditation Law Set for sixty spirit mana crystals, but even though Mogg controlled Whistle Island, he couldn't pay him in such a short time. Mogg had only paid three on the spot, and the rest had to wait until Mogg returned to Whistle Island before he could slowly raise the money. Moreover, he would only be able to pay in installments. It might take a whole year for Lin Yun to receive the entire sum.

After the gathering ended, Lord Shawn had thrown a tantrum, and after eventually promising that he would go all-out and even risk his life to serve Lin Yun, he managed to get one of the spirit mana crystals.

And Xiuban got the second one...

This unremarkable silver necklace could sell for an unimaginable sum.

But Lin Yun had his reasons for giving it to him. Draconic Beastmen were like Dragons when it came to magic. They couldn't gather mana through meditation. Instead, they accumulated mana through sleeping and eating, which would store it in their blood. It would also increase as they aged, and the only way for them to increase the speed of that growth was to absorb mana from mana crystals...

Moreover, the more powerful the mana crystal, the faster the mana would increase...

Thus, Lin Yun had clenched his teeth and took out the second spirit mana crystal.

Lin Yun felt that after Xiuban wore the spirit mana crystal for a few days, his first mana pattern would appear and he would be able to cast spells.

As for the martial skills, Lin Yun didn't have to worry about that. Draconic Beastmen usually didn't need profound martial arts inheritances because they battled using just their bodies and instincts. Many of the Draconic Beastmen that appeared in Noscent had spent their time just sleeping and eating, yet they had still casually reached the Sword Saint realm.

Chapter 202: Arrival

After dealing with the Draconic Beastman, Lin Yun began focusing on the changes in his Magic Arrays.

After cracking the 8th character of the Book of Death, Lin Yun had been trying to use the runes to emulate these mysterious characters. When he was in Edge Rift's canyon, Lin Yun had made some progress... which had been erased by the reckless Rieser. Thus, Lin Yun had to spend a few more days on this.

Fortunately, Lin Yun's simulations weren't as tedious now due to his previous experience. He had a breakthrough just as the fleet of carriages was about to reach the Four Seasons Canyon and managed to simulate the first character.

In order to simulate that character, Lin Yun used over a thousand runes. If these were used to establish a spell matrix, it would be a 7th Tier Spell at the very least. In other words, this was already the power of an Archmage...

Unfortunately, Lin Yun didn't have the time to experience this himself. As soon as the simulation was over, the mysterious character made of thousands of runes was assimilated into the center of his Magic Arrays. The nine Magic Arrays were roused at the same time, and in an instant, the mysterious character was memorized.

It turned out that Lin Yun had made a very good decision.

Just as the Magic Array memorized it, the mysterious character collapsed before transforming into its most basic runic state.

It was inevitable, as these mysterious characters were simply too powerful. After all, three of these characters could open a Planar Path, two could complete positioning, and the final two were used for teleportation. This kind of power was unheard of, even to Lin Yun.

Lin Yun even suspected that these characters weren't from Noscent.

Even with his abilities, he could only try countless times and rely on luck to get the chance to simulate a mysterious character using runes.

And it was only a simulation...

After going all-out, he was only able to simulate the mysterious character for a short moment. He wasn't able to control it afterwards and could only turn this character into its most basic runic state.

But this split second was already enough for Lin Yun.

In that split second, the Magic Arrays had memorized that character, which would make the next step much easier. With the powerful computing ability of the Magic Arrays, he would be able to slowly decipher the mysterious character before finally being able to merge it into the Magic Arrays.

In fact, the Magic Arrays were already working on that.

Lin Yun could clearly feel the nine Magic Arrays working at top speed within his body, continuously maneuvering large amounts of mana. The Magic Array was known as such because it was a complete system. Even if the mage supplied it less than half of its mana, the Magic Array would still be able to operate properly, which was different from the other Magic Conducting Runes.

But now, the complete system of the Magic Arrays needed such a large amount of mana. It could be seen from this how powerful that character was.

'Now, all that is left is to wait...' After making sure that the Magic Arrays were working properly, Lin Yun felt relieved and focused.

Moreover, he would have to wait for a very, very long time.

That mysterious character was simulated from over a thousand runes, and its complexity even surpassed a 7th Tier Spell. No matter how extraordinary the Magic Array's computing ability was, it would never be able to complete the calculations in a short time. After all, Lin Yun's Magic Array was still in its most basic form.

Unless Lin Yun could immediately enter the High Mage realm and properly fuse his nine Magic Arrays into a single Magic Array... At that time, the Magic Array would truly transform and its shocking computing ability would reach a whole new realm...

The next two days were as dry and dull as before. After the first few times, the leaders of the other eight major forces didn't come as often to Lin Yun's carriage. Only acquaintances like Solomon and Cadgar would occasionally come over to check on him.

But Sauss... He had been afraid of Merlin all along, and after he sold William out last time, the latter had some grudges. Since he was next to Merlin, he would misinterpret his words from time to time, making Sauss break out in a cold sweat. After the first two times, Sauss gradually stopped visiting.

Since no one was disturbing him, Lin Yun was happy about the peace and quiet. He gave William some pointers about the Crimson Heart Meditation Law Set while secretly taking notes on the Draconic Beastman's changes, keeping him quite busy.

The spirit mana crystal was indeed worthy of its name. Two days after the Draconic Beastman started wearing it, faint traces of mana patterns could be seen on his arms. This meant that Xiuban was no longer a simple Highland Beastman. The magical ability brought forth by the Highland Beastman bloodline was slowly appearing on his body.

It was just that Xiuban was far from being skillful with the casting ability he had.

"I'll say it again, focus your mind!" After an entire day of scolding, Lin Yun was already losing his temper.

Beastmen were Beastmen, and whether they were Highland Beastmen or other Beastmen, they were truly underwhelming in terms of magic. Xiuban could be considered blessed by heavens with his powerful bloodline, but he was still unable to skillfully master his mana pattern after practicing for a whole day.

If this happened to a mage, Lin Yun would have told him to jump under the wheels of the carriage and die.

"Sir, I'm just a Highland Beastman..." The problem was that Xiuban didn't feel anything wrong with that. How could Highland Beastmen focus on studying something? Usually, the battles were all about chaotic slashes, and they only needed to act on instinct. If they didn't know how to fight, sneak attack, dissimilate, or surrender, then they weren't Highland Beastmen...

"..." The excuse of being a Highland Beastman was too easy. Lin Yun almost choked from anger when he heard that.

In the end, Lin Yun throughly lost his patience.

"Syudos!"

"Sir, I'll immediately focus my mind!" The Draconic Beastman knew that things were taking a sharp turn for the worse the instant the Upper Rank Flame Spirit appeared.

But it was too late...

"Syudos, take my place and tell this Highland Beastman what concentrating is!" After leaving these words, Lin Yun closed his eyes once again and entered deep meditation.

As for what happened next, no matter how loud the screams and wails of the Draconic Beastman were, Lin Yun simply didn't care.

The next day, just after opening his eyes, Lin Yun saw the dying Draconic Beastman giving him a "please just end this" kind of look.

“Drink this.” Lin Yun shook his head and handed him a bottle of Health Potion. He watched Xiuban drink it, and just as he was about to ask about his progress, he felt the carriage coming to a stop.

“Merlin, finally!” Solomon’s voice echoed.

“Four Seasons Canyon?” Lin Yun opened the door to the carriage and saw a rugged and extremely narrow path. Only one person could go through at a time, and there were precipitous walls on both sides, as well as moist moss and wild weeds. It could be seen with one glance that this was a deserted place.

“Let’s go.” Solomon walked in front, following the rugged path towards the depths of the Four Seasons Canyon while telling Lin Yun, “Everyone’s troops arrived three days ago. They already established a camp in the Four Seasons Canyon and tried to explore a bit, but the situation is quite bad...”

“Ah?” Lin Yun frowned. He remembered that the Four Seasons Canyon was described as a desert... As long as they didn’t approach the Vaughn Laboratory, there wouldn’t be any danger, so why did Solomon’s words sound like there was a crisis?

“The magic beasts inside are very fierce. Level 17 and 18 magic beasts are everywhere, and there are also quite a few magic beasts above level 20...” Here, Solomon slowed down a bit. “Moreover, some plants underwent some mutations. They are very fierce and don’t differentiate between us and the magic beasts. Once they wrap around their targets, no one can escape...”

“Plants?” Lin Yun was startled...

‘What’s going on, magic beasts... And now plants? Is this the first major slip-up with my memory since I arrived? But how could it be such a big error...’

He clearly remembered that the Vaughn Laboratory was found about a thousand and seven hundred years later. At that time, alchemy was in its golden growth period. Figures that were important to the field of alchemy emerged one after the other. Just within the borders of Andlusa, four alchemists became Saint Alchemists, and they had no less than ten Artisans. The first person to break into the Vaughn Laboratory was an Artisan from Okland Magic School.

It was clearly written within the notes of that Artisan that the Vaughn Laboratory was a barren desert, without a single bit of green from north to south. The laboratory was buried under this desert and it took the creator and his team six months to dig it up.

‘Hold on... Time...’

As he thought of this, Lin Yun suddenly stopped.

‘It’s time!’

They were still 1,700 years away from that Artisan’s discovery. Something must have happened during that time to turn the Four Seasons Canyon filled with fierce magic beasts and mutated plants into a barren desert that buried the entire laboratory.

Chapter 203: Magic Beast Tide

'But what kind of disaster would cause that? No... Not a disaster...'

The Four Seasons Canyon was a few thousand kilometers wide. It was more than a dozen times bigger than Thousand Sails City. If it could be turned into a desolate desert by a disaster, then how shocking would that disaster need to be?

'It's fine if such a disaster happened, but it would have to be a very rare occurrence in Noscent's history, and it would give rise to large-scale mana fluctuations. Who knows how many mages would curse at such an event? How could it not be recorded in the books of the decaying library? Why would the Artisan who excavated Vaughn's laboratory not mention it?'

'But what if it wasn't a disaster? Could it have been man-made?'

"..." As he thought of this, Lin Yun felt a chill. If the cause had truly been man-made, then the Four Seasons Canyon wouldn't be as simple as he had thought...

The trees, the soil, everywhere... It could be said that the vegetation here was flourishing.

For such a huge change to happen, someone or something on the level of a Heaven Rank powerhouse would be needed. Only those who had mastered the Extraordinary power and could open a Demiplane using their own might would be able to create such a disaster.

"Merlin... Merlin..." Solomon had been walking ahead for quite a bit, but he hadn't heard Lin Yun's voice in a while, so he couldn't help asking, "What are you thinking about?"

"Nothing important." Lin Yun shook his head, temporarily putting away these chaotic thoughts before slowly following Solomon to the Four Seasons Canyon.

The small, rugged path stretched all the way down. At the end, there was a row of lush trees. When they entered the Four Seasons Canyon, Lin Yun even felt that they had entered an Elven Kingdom. This place was reeking of the aura of life. Tall trees, fragrant flowers, verdant grass, and the soothing sound of running water... Even the atmosphere carried a hint of sweetness.

But for some reason, Lin Yun kept feeling that this aura of life was too vigorous, to an abnormal degree. Yet Lin Yun couldn't pinpoint exactly why it felt so abnormal; it was just a feeling, after all.

From where they were, the two could already see the camp that the gathered troops had established. Several hundred tents were lined up, occupying an entire area at the foot of a cliff. There were a dozen sentry towers built around the camp, and the ones stationed there were the most outstanding archers of the Silver Moon Mercenaries and the Viper Nest. Countless traps and arrays were set up below the sentry towers. If the small groups of fighters patrolling were added into the picture, then this camp could truly be described as well fortified.

"Most of it has been arranged by the Silver Moon Mercenaries. After all, they are the ones with the most battle experience in Thousand Sails City... Careful!"

Just as Solomon was introducing the camp to Lin Yun, a shadow suddenly swept past the latter.

In fact, there was no need for Solomon's reminder.

Syudos had already appeared just as the air began to move. There had been no signs at all. A dozen Fire Arrows were cast, creating a loud impact. Before Solomon could even recover, the shadow sweeping at their back had already fallen down in despair.

“A Shadow Wolf.” Lin Yun squatted down and examined the burnt corpse, finding some characteristics exclusive to Shadow Wolves.

But this discovery made Lin Yun frown.

Shadow Wolves were merely level 12 or 13 magic beasts, and even the alpha among them wouldn't exceed level 15. But the Shadow Wolf that had pounced at him had shown power and speed surpassing that. Lin Yun had been able to handle it because Syudos was so powerful. But another 9th Rank Great Mage might have been in trouble facing this sneak attack.

It seemed that this was the mutation Solomon had been talking about...

Otherwise, how could an ordinary Shadow Wolf be this fearsome?

Thinking about it, Lin Yun inspected the Shadow Wolf's corpse even more carefully.

“Eh...” Lin Yun soon found that its eyes were unusually red, as if blood was dripping out. Even though it was burnt up, its body still exuded a faint aura of life. Due to this discovery, Lin Yun finally understood why he had felt that the aura in the Four Seasons Canyon was too abnormal...

This Shadow Wolf was like an embodiment of the entire Four Seasons Canyon's state. The Four Seasons Canyon was in its death throes but was exuding its final radiance, and every organism living within was the same, giving a false appearance of vitality.

“Okay, let's go first.” Lin Yun clapped his hands and stood up. Just as he was about to call Solomon to get going, he suddenly noticed something. “Hold on, what is that sound?”

“What sound?” Solomon was at a loss at first, but a moment later, he also reacted. “Fuck, it sounds like Thunder Elephants! And over a dozen of them!”

“Twenty-three... Quick, let's go!”

Fortunately, the two weren't far from camp. The two had reached the camp just as the sound of the Thunder Elephants could be heard.

“Sound the alarm! Sound the alarm!” One of the vice leaders of the Silver Moon Mercenaries seemed to have found out about the situation, and under his command, over a dozen sentries fired several dozen signal arrows into the sky. The whole camp was roused into action, ready to deal with the upcoming battle.

The patrolling unit was the first to arrive. They were armed with swords and shields, and they formed a thick defensive formation behind the traps and arrays. They would be the second line of defense against the Thunder Elephants.

When over twenty Thunder Elephants were running at the same time, they would make the ground shake. These huge bodies made of rough hide and thick flesh could reach level 15 at the very least. They soon appeared hundreds of meters away from the camp, and all that was visible was the dust they

raised up. As they drew closer, their maddened red eyes made them look quite crazy. Steam could be seen coming out of their trunks as they raised a loud clamor while charging wildly towards the camp.

“What’s the situation?” At this time, some of the other leaders also came out from their tents, and they were a bit stunned when they saw the situation.

There were more than twenty Thunder Elephants stampeding at them! If they let them rush into the camp, then it might end up in ruins.

No, no, it wasn’t just the two dozen Thunder Elephants...

Just as everyone was feeling stunned, a huge red cloud appeared in the distant sky. From this distance, it looked as if the sky was igniting.

“Damn it, Flame Crows!” Badrack, the leader of the Flash Arrow Mercenary Group, was the only 9th Rank Spirit Archer of Thousand Sails City. He had the best eyesight out of all present. But after he looked carefully at that red cloud for a bit, he suddenly shrieked, “There are at least 3,000 Flame Crows!”

“No way...” Badrack’s shriek was followed by shocked cries.

If over twenty Thunder Elephants could turn this place into ruins, then the arrival of over a thousand Flame Crows would make it hell on Noscent...

Although Flame Crows were magic beasts that only ranged from level 5 to 10, they had the innate ability to control flames and loved to roam around in groups. The smaller flocks would have a few hundred, while the bigger ones could have over ten thousand.

Normally, a small flock of Flame Crows wasn’t much of a threat. Many mercenary groups would place traps under an active volcano in order to capture these small Flame Crows. Their feathers were commonly used as materials for alchemy. It could also be used as a casting component to increase the damage of some Fire System spells.

Flame Crows were usually about level five. They were rather weak in raw power, and their innate magic was quite inferior. It would be fine if there were only a few suicidal Flame Crows, as it would let the mercenaries gain some experience.

It seemed to some that it wasn’t such a big deal...

Only those who had actually seen Flame Crows moving in large numbers before would know how frightening a flock of over a thousand was. Just the rise in temperature was enough to roast a whole person, not to mention after the crows actually attacked with their flaming feathers. That could truly scorch a place bare in a matter of seconds.

Not to mention that there were over 3,000...

“Prepare to fight.” Sasu could be considered the most experienced with large-scale battle as the leader of Thousands Sails City’s number one Mercenary Group, so it had already been decided that he would take charge if there was an open battle.

When Sasu’s words resounded, everyone quickly got on the move. The people present could be considered true powerhouses, and although they didn’t have experience with fights on this scale, they

didn't have any issues carrying out orders. Everyone made their proper preparations the moment Sasu transmitted his order. A few High Mages even cast Float spells, prepared to rise into the sky and fight the Flame Crows.

"Wait." But there was an inharmonious voice in the team this time.

"Wait for what..." Sauss was quite irritated by the interruption. He had been readying himself for the fight, but when he heard someone telling them to wait, he suddenly felt like cursing.

But just as he opened his mouth to curse back at the offender, he noticed that the one to speak was actually Lin Yun.

He ended up swallowing his angry words.

Chapter 204: Thousand Eyes Vine

Lin Yun didn't plan on bickering with Sauss. He only shook his head and said, "Wait a minute."

"Ah... I'll wait.." Sauss might not have noticed at first, but he understood everything a few moments later.

Because just as he spoke, dust could be seen rising from just below the red cloud.

"Oh my god..." Sauss held his breath. That cloud of dust was simply ten times higher compared to the one around the large Thunder Elephants.

"... How... How many magic beasts are there?"

"There should be a few hundred..."

"I'll go organize the main force..." Sasu's expression also sank. With one look at their momentum, he was able to determine that this beast tide might be the end of this joint exploration of the nine major forces.

"Hold on... Leader Sasu." Lin Yun thought for a moment before telling Sasu. "I think that we should still rely on the camp for defense and try to hold on as long as possible without staking it all against these magic beasts."

"This won't do. In that scenario, the magic beasts would keep..." Sasu subconsciously shook his head, but he then seemed to think of something. "Merlin, did you discover something?"

"I didn't, but I have a feeling that the Four Seasons Canyon isn't too welcoming towards us." As Lin Yun said that, he sensed the mana fluctuations in the air, and he could clearly feel that there was some sort of strange power in the Four Seasons Canyon.

"The Four Seasons Canyon doesn't welcome us... What do you mean?"

"I can't explain it concretely, but the way I see it, we should defend the camp as much as possible, I'll lead a few people to see if we can find the origin of this magic beast tide."

“Okay.” Sasu didn’t ask much and only nodded to express his approval. In his heart, he already knew that this young Great Mage would never do anything he wasn’t sure of. Since he’d made this suggestion, he definitely already had some clues.

“Great Mage Merlin, I’ll go with you!” Sauss promptly volunteered.

“Leader Sauss, you have been operating in the Poison Fog Canyon for so many years, you definitely have some experience in defensive battles. It would be better if you remain on this side to help Leader Sasu. How about I take Leader Solomon and Leader Badrack with me to investigate?” Sauss’ fighting strength was still a bit inferior, so Lin Yun recommended Solomon and Badrack. One was a 9th Rank High Mage while the other was a 9th Rank Spirit Archer. With himself added on top, he was guaranteed to be able to move in and out of the beast tide.

“Okay.”

“No problem.”

After the two agreed, Lin Yun shouted to Xiuban, and the group of four left the camp. They followed a river that cut the Four Seasons Canyon in two and went around the beast tide.

“Merlin, did you actually find anything?” Solomon was blunt with Lin Yun and asked him right after leaving the camp.

“Yes, I did...” Lin Yun paused and then continued, “Didn’t you notice that the mana of the Four Seasons Canyon is a bit too vigorous?”

“Yes, I seemed to have that feeling. But what’s the issue with the mana being too vigorous?”

“The mana is too vigorous, it’s not supposed to be like that normally. It’s so abundant that you don’t need to do meditation to lure it towards you...”

“Then what’s wrong?” Solomon still couldn’t understand.

“...” Lin Yun irritably rolled his eyes.

It wasn’t as if Lin Yun had never been to a place with such abundant mana. The camp in the Bone Plane was the convergence of endless Soul Fires, condensing the mana within the camp into a liquid state. But when Lin Yun had walked through that camp, he had only felt that everyone’s aura was filled with mana. It definitely wouldn’t be like this, where mana would strive to rush over, as if it was seeking them out.

“And there was the Shadow Wolf...”

“What about the Shadow Wolf?”

“The color of the Shadow Wolf’s eyes was abnormal, a deep red, like blood. It had clearly fallen into some berserk state. Moreover, the Shadow Wolf had a very strong aura of life. Even after its death, it still had far more energy than the usual Shadow Wolf...”

“I still don’t understand...”

“Okay, I’ll be blunt... I suspect that the Four Seasons Canyon is being influenced by a mysterious force, and that the force is controlling the entire canyon. Mana, Shadow Wolf, beast tide...”

"I understand, you want to go around in order to find the source of this force?"

"Indeed, if we don't find that power source, then the magic beast tide won't stop. It might not be impossible to deal with twenty-three Thunder Elephants, a few thousand Flame Crows, and a hundred random magic beasts, but what happens after annihilating them? What if there is an even bigger wave? Such as another group twice the size? Anyways, if we can't find that source soon, we'd better pack up and return to Thousand Sails City."

"Do you know where that source might be...?"

"If my guess isn't wrong, it should be behind the beast tide."

"Guess?" Solomon didn't feel too reassured.

"Of course it's a guess..."

"Why don't you guess somewhere else?"

"High Mage Solomon, do you know how to ride horses?"

"What do you mean, of course I do!"

Lin Yun gave Solomon a strange look and asked, "Then when you are riding your horse, where do you use your horsewhip when you want it to go faster?"

"Naturally..." Solomon started to reply before abruptly stopping. He looked at Lin Yun before suddenly looking enlightened. "You are saying that the force... That force is herding these magic beasts?"

"I can't say that for sure, it's only a conjecture for now..."

"..."

The party of four cautiously circumvented the main part of the beast tide, trying to slowly infiltrate the rear. When they brushed past the beast tide, Lin Yun felt a cold sweat dripping down his forehead. This was too frightening. The army of Flame Crows covering the sky, the temperature they emitted... It truly felt as if the sky was melting. Meanwhile, several hundred magic beasts converged together and surged like a river towards the camp.

"I wonder if Sasu can hold it..." Even Solomon was worried at this time.

"It should be fine for now, but..."

Lin Yun shook his head and didn't continue speaking, but both Solomon and Badrack understood the meaning. There might be more magic beasts after this wave. That might be something that the forces of Thousand Sails City couldn't handle.

After speaking for a bit, the group of four entered a forest. Solomon promptly reminded them, "Everyone be careful. The vegetation here is very..."

"Help!" A cry of distress issued from behind before Solomon could even finish his words. The three turned to see thick vines tightly coiling around the Draconic Beastman and pulling him into the depths of the forest as he kept struggling...

Lin Yun instantly sent two Wind Blades that severed the two vines in the air, sending Xiuban tumbling to the ground.

“Fuck, where did those damn vines come from...” The Draconic Beastman crawled up from the ground, cutting a sorry figure. He wiped his forehead while cursing.

“Shut up, just be careful...”

Unfortunately, just as Lin Yun chided him, a trembling noise followed and a few fierce shadows appeared like pythons coming out of the bushes, instantly coiling around the Draconic Beastman, once again.

“Help me, Sir, help me!” There were four vines this time, and each of them was as thick as a thigh. Their sharp thorns penetrating Xiuban’s chest. Blood could be seen flowing down the vines as Xiuban’s dark red face twisted from the pain.

“Fuck, I just told you to be careful!” Lin Yun scolded. He cast Haste on himself before flying forward ten meters like an arrow. Immediately after, the four vines pounced at him, but Merlin kept incanting, Slow, Wither, Weakness. He threw out a few debuffs in a row...

“Merlin, careful! Those are Thousand Eyes Vines!” Solomon warned. He also cast continuously raising two Ice Walls to seal the path of the Thousand Eyes Vines.

But the Ice Walls were too fragile for the vines. Just as Solomon cast them, a thick Vine rushed up from under a brush and only a snap could be heard as a hole appeared through both of the walls. Following the vine’s fierce attack, both walls collapsed, shattering into pieces.

At the same time, the four vines that caught the Draconic Beastman already disappeared within the depths of the forest.

Chapter 205: The Eye

But Lin Yun wasn’t slow. The Haste spell that had been strengthened by the Magic Arrays pushed Lin Yun’s speed to its limits. His feet kicked against the ground as he jumped more than a dozen meters, using his momentum to charge into the depths of the forest. Trees flashed past in his peripheral vision while the cries of the Draconic Beastman were resounding intermittently from the vegetation ahead of him.

‘Truly fast...’ As Lin Yun chased ferociously, he couldn’t help feeling shocked. The speed of those Thousand Eyes Vines was truly too fast. Unless they had extreme magic resistance, after suffering from the debuffs he had cast, they should have slowed considerably. But those Thousand Eyes Vines didn’t seem to be affected, dragging away Xiuban at an astonishing speed.

The damp and gloomy forest was covered with branches and leaves, not letting any sunshine pierce through. The ground was covered with rotten leaves, making it feel like he was slogging through a swamp. Lin Yun had to be very careful to keep his balance in this environment.

At that time, Lin Yun could feel the mana in the surroundings becoming agitated, and even the rotten leaves seemed to surge with mana. With every breath and every heartbeat, the mana would crazily pour into his body, making Lin Yun wonder if he would burst if it kept going...

'No wonder he is being dragged to that place,' Lin Yun thought while supplementing himself with a few buffing spells. He knew that the Thousand Eyes Vines would soon stop...

Sure enough, as Lin Yun cast Stoneskin on himself, the few vines ahead of him fiercely flung forward, throwing Xiuban into a swath of brush a few dozen meters ahead. At the same time, the powerful inertia made the vines stretch like a bowstring before a buzzing sound could be heard as the vines quickly shot out again, their speed even faster than when they had caught the Draconic Beastman.

But their opponent wasn't the Draconic Beastman this time...

When he saw this, Lin Yun immediately took out the Book of Death. He poured mana into it, and the Blood Vine spell mark instantly darkened, but at the same time, a red vine blossomed in the forest. This was an Ultimate Blood Vine, which couldn't be compared to an ordinary Blood Vine, its energy reaching a shocking level.

Dozens upon dozens of Abyssal Blood Vines instantly blossomed, just like vipers pouncing towards their prey, the Thousand Eyes Vines. The two kinds of vines began to twist and tangle together, and the thigh-thick black vines were particularly conspicuous among the sea of red vines. It was just like a fight between pythons and vipers. No one could know which would win at this point.

But Lin Yun didn't care which would win.

After he cast his Blood Vine spell, Lin Yun snapped the Book of Death shut and rushed past the entangled vines. Under the siege of the Abyssal Blood Vines, the Thousand Eyes Vines could only look helplessly as their prey was escaping...

"Help! Help..." Xiuban's cries for help kept coming from the bush. Lin Yun just summoned some of the idle Blood Vines and swiftly swept the Draconic Beastman up.

"Sir, Sir, there is something under me trying to prick me!" Xiuban complained.

"Prick you?" Lin Yun frowned.

He wanted to ask about it, but he suddenly felt the soil under them shaking. Countless leaves fell down from the trees in the surroundings.

"Still coming?" Lin Yun opened the Book of Death once again and poured more mana into it, dimming the mark of the Ultimate Flame Burst. A whistling sound pierced the air as a huge ball of fire shot out, leaving a trail of flames behind.

"Rumble!"

As the loud explosion echoed, the entire forest shook, startling countless beasts. And even the Thousand Eyes Vines that were entangled with the Blood Vines paused for an instant. As dazzling flames soared, a blazing wave of heat spread from it. Only a sea of fire could be seen within several dozen meters.

Lin Yun felt like he heard a scream within that world-shaking explosion.

The unstable ground started swaying violently after that scream, just like an earthquake. With another explosion, a large piece of the ground burst up, exposing a huge eye.

Numerous black vines were twisted together under that eye, making it look like an octopus that had grown far too many tentacles. From Lin Yun's position, he could clearly see that the large eye was suffering from burn injuries.

But it was precisely because of this that the giant eye broke out of the ground and impatiently launched an attack on Lin Yun. Countless black vines pounced over at Lin Yun like pythons...

There were over a hundred black vines, but as they were attacking at the same time, they looked like an inescapable net, sealing Lin Yun's escape route in an instant, snapping all the trees in their path, moving through the ground effortlessly.

But Lin Yun actually remained undaunted. He gazed at the eye in the distance while his hands repeated the same motions, opening the Book of Death, and instantly rousing the Ultimate Fire Arrows. Several hundred Fire Arrows instantly appeared in the narrow space he was in, densely packed and intertwining with each other...

The explosions of the Fire Arrows flowered one after the other, sounding rather like popcorn being heated by flames. A dense cyan smoke rose up, carrying a thick stench with it. As the Fire Arrows burst out, the net of black vines was utterly destroyed.

But Lin Yun made sure to keep watching the eye. Sure enough, just as Lin Yun cleared away the countless vines, a strange radiance appeared. Even through the smoke and swirling vines, Lin Yun could feel danger.

"It's coming!"

Lin Yun instantly cast an Ice Fire Shield before rousing the Magic Arrays and chanting a mysterious and profound character.

Then...

A dazzling light blossomed in the depths of the forest!

The Thousand Eyes Vines truly had a thousand eyes.

When the hundreds of Thousand Eyes Vines turned to ash, countless spells burst out of the giant eye. These spells didn't surpass the 2nd Tier: Icicles, Wind Blades, Earth Spikes, Fire Arrows... All kind of Lesser Spells... Even more than half were pure mana rays. But the sudden burst of spells was frightening. Lin Yun guessed that there should have been at least a few hundred spells.

That scene was incredibly gorgeous.

Countless magic runes flew up and down, countless mana lights flew back and forth... The mana in the depths of the forest flared up.

"Merlin! That's a Watcher! Run!" Solomon finally managed to catch up with Badrack and saw the appalling scene.

Unfortunately, that reminder came too late...

The Watcher was already bursting with power when Solomon had shouted...

The large, monstrous eye and the dazzling spells, this amazing scene couldn't be described with words. The depths of the forest had already turned into a whirlpool of mana, but Lin Yun, who was at the center of the whirlpool, didn't seem bothered by it. He only pulled the Draconic Beastman next to him, hiding him behind his body...

He then showed off an incredible display of casting.

Flame Burst, Flame Burst, Flame Burst...

Ice Wall, Ice Wall, Ice Wall...

In less than twenty seconds, Lin Yun had cast thirty Flame Bursts, while simultaneously casting thirty Ice Walls. Every Flame Burst was followed by an earthshaking explosion, and every Ice Wall let Lin Yun take one step forward. Thirty explosions, thirty steps... It wasn't much, but it was enough to let Lin Yun reach the giant eye...

The Watcher's Lesser Spells didn't even wrinkle Lin Yun's clothes. They had all been blocked by his Ice Walls while Lin Yun's thirty Flame Bursts had fallen onto the giant eye one after the other. What had seemed like such a prideful Watcher before had already turned to charcoal, struggling on the ground. But this didn't matter anymore...

Lin Yun was already opening the Book of Death for the 4th time.

An Ultimate Flame Spear blossomed into a dazzling light. It even reminded Solomon and Badrack of the legendary Fire Dragon Spear.

The Flame Spear left a trail of flames behind as it flew out, the raging inferno piercing through the eye in an instant. A mournful scream echoed through the forest, before silence reigned once again.

"High Mage Solomon, your reminder was too late, there was no more time to run..." Lin Yun turned to Solomon and smiled. He then bent down and carefully took out the mana crystal of the Watcher.

But the moment he picked it up, Lin Yun's expression darkened...

It was a level 25 mana crystal.

The power that the Watcher had displayed was close to that of a level 30 monster. Lin Yun had felt that with enough luck, he might obtain a spirit mana crystal... But when he picked it up, he found out that it was only a level 25 mana crystal. How could Lin Yun not feel disappointed?

Chapter 206: The Tree

There seemed to only be a five level difference between a level 25 mana crystal and a level 30 mana crystal, but to Lin Yun, this gap was too large. One was an ordinary mana crystal, while the other was a spirit mana crystal. This alone was enough to make the gap between the two mana crystals more than ten times bigger!

‘Forget it, a level 25 mana crystal is still something...’ Lin Yun soon put this disappointment to the back of his mind. This was only an unexpected harvest, after all, he didn’t have reason to be picky.

He only hoped that this level 25 mana crystal contained enough mana. In that case, it could be used to feed Shawn.

As he thought of this, Lin Yun extracted a wisp of mana from the mana crystal. But he frowned as he absorbed it, and focused on it once again...

No, it wasn’t because it contained enough mana. In fact, the level 25 mana crystal only had the mana of a level 20 mana crystal at most.

But Lin Yun detected a few spell matrices from the wisp of mana.

None of them surpassed the 2nd Tier, just things like Fire Arrow, Wind Blade, and so on... But this discovery was enough to make Lin Yun forget his dissatisfaction. What if the level was too low? What if the mana was lacking? In front of these spell matrices, all that was meaningless. It could be said that solely based on these few spell matrices, the value of that mana crystal could be comparable to a spirit mana crystal.

And the existence of these spell matrices meant that this was a mana crystal with the ability to cast spells.

Lin Yun could even guess that the Watcher’s ability to cast spells was likely linked to the mana crystal.

After personally fighting a Watcher, Lin Yun knew more than anyone else how frightening this ability was, bursting out with several hundred Lesser Spells in an instant. Even if the Lesser Spells didn’t exceed the 2nd Tier, that kind of power wasn’t something a High Mage could withstand. Let alone an ordinary High Mage, even Solomon’s Runic Shield might break under the onslaught.

Even though it had looked like an easy victory for Lin Yun, using thirty Ice Walls and thirty Flame Bursts before finishing with a Flame Spear, in reality, Lin Yun had used the 8th character of the Book of Death, making him enter the unlimited state.

Otherwise, how could he cast those sixty spells? Only Heaven Mages that had grasped the Extraordinary Realm could completely ignore mana cooling and elemental exhaustion.

It could be seen from Lin Yun’s current appearance...

All the mana he had stored before had been exhausted, and he could only tightly hold his Spiritual Magic Tool and continuously extract the mana from within the Elemental Amber to recover.

This was the power of a Watcher...

If that mana crystal could reproduce the power of the Watcher, then it might not need anything else to rival a peak Spiritual Magic Tool. He would have the power to do one all-out attack with the strength of an Archmage!

“Looks like your harvest was good...” Solomon had already walked over. Seeing Lin Yun’s smile, he knew that the value of the mana crystal was definitely not insignificant.

'This young Great Mage's luck is shocking. We played thieves before the gathering of the Magic Hand and he managed to subdue a Flame Spirit there. From the power the Flame Spirit showed when turning the Shadow Wolf into charcoal, his strength should be equivalent to that of a peak High Mage...

'And now, here, he casually killed a Watcher and obtained that monster's mana crystal. From his smile, it's definitely valuable.'

As he thought of that, Solomon felt a bit disappointed. 'If I had known earlier, I would have rushed over to deal with it.' His eyes were fixed on the mana crystal in Lin Yun's hands for a long time before he finally managed to look away from it.

"It's only an ordinary mana crystal..." Hearing Solomon's sour tone, how could Lin Yun not know what that 9th Rank High Mage was thinking? Thus, he unceremoniously put the mana crystal into his pocket as he smiled. "Don't think too much about it, I have a damaged Magic Tool, and I need many mana crystals to restore it. I have far too few, far too few..."

"Oh right, Merlin, this is already the center of the forest. What about the force driving the beast tide? Where could it be?" Solomon was also straightforward. Seeing that Lin Yun didn't plan on talking about it, he no longer mentioned the mana crystal and went back to the important mission at hand.

"It shouldn't be too far from here." After saying that, Lin Yun roused his Magic Arrays and cast several Mage Eyes one by one, letting them fly in different directions.

"How do you know?" Solomon was a bit lost.

"Because that mana crystal is only level 25."

"Ah?" Solomon froze in bemusement. 'What does a level 25 mana crystal have to do with the beast tide?'

But Solomon soon understood. As he thought about it, he felt that it truly had a lot to do with it.

The power used by the Watcher showed that it was probably around level 30. That all-out attack at the end was truly on par with an Archmage's attack. Yet that kind of existence only had a level 25 mana crystal...

In other words, that Watcher was just like the Shadow Wolf. It had been affected by some force, making it possess a power close to level 30 despite only being level 25. That was a gap of five full levels. It could be said that it was the greatest increase in strength among all the magic beasts they had seen.

It was likely the one that had been most affected by that force...

Sure enough, as Lin Yun cast his 7th Mage Eye, a strange scene appeared in the transmission from one of his Mage Eyes.

"About two kilometers south!"

"Let's go!"

After a short moment, the group of four stood in front of an ancient tree. Its trunk was several hundred meters tall, towering over them, and its many lush branches nearly covered the entire sky above them. It was like a green giant standing in the center of the forest.

When he first saw the ancient tree, Lin Yun felt like he was back in the Bone Plane, like when he had met that powerful Giant Blood Tree. But he soon recovered and knew that it had only been his imagination. This huge, ancient tree emitted a pure aura of life. It was like black and white compared to the Giant Blood Tree's undead aura.

"What the hell is that thing?"

"Be careful, don't alarm it." Lin Yun quietly tugged on Solomon's arm and tried his best to hide everyone in the bushes. "If I'm not wrong, this ancient tree should be the power source that triggered the beast tide."

"What are we waiting for? Let's go and finish this matter once and for all..." Solomon suddenly got impatient when he heard that. "Although the life aura of that ancient tree is shocking, its mana fluctuations are only those of a level 10 magic creature. It's not a threat to us at all..."

"The problem is that it already triggered a beast tide..."

"..." Solomon suddenly paled.

Yes, it had already triggered a beast tide, who could guarantee that it wouldn't trigger a second one now? After all, the first beast tide had already put the entire exploration team in a dangerous situation. If he triggered another one, the four of them would be finished.

"Moreover, look at this place..." Lin Yun pointed his finger at the thick trunk. The tree trunk was covered in all kinds of strange and enigmatic patterns that intertwined with each other. "That is at least a True Spirit level array..."

"What should we do!" Solomon was startled. Even if Solomon wasn't good at alchemy, as one of the leaders of the Sage Tower, he knew the concept of True Spirit arrays. Facing that kind of array was like facing an Archmage...

"Let me handle the array, you deal with the rest." Lin Yun quickly explained their task before pouring mana into the Lava Dominator and activating the lava armband. At the same time, he opened the Book of Death and the final mark dimmed...

That was Sharp Mind!

This was the most powerful spell that could be stored after the Sage Chapter merged with the Book of Death, and it was also the spell that had surprised Lin Yun the most with its effectiveness. After being upgraded, Sharp Mind could increase Lin Yun's analysis ability by ten times!

In fact, it was because of this Sharp Mind that Lin Yun dared to tell Solomon to let him deal with the array!

"What do you mean by 'the rest'? Hey..."

Solomon didn't have time to finish before a flower suddenly appeared. By the time he recovered, Lin Yun had already covered a few dozen meters and was standing under the ancient tree.

Lin Yun raised his head and looked up at the huge tree trunk before quickly fishing out a quill and a bottle of Melted Snow Ink from his pocket. Melted Snow Ink was crafted by blending midnight sand and the blood of a common raven. It naturally had dissolving properties and was frequently used to destroy various arrays.

Lin Yun softly dipped the quill in the Melting Snow Ink before quickly beginning to write on the tree trunk.

One array, two arrays, three arrays...

With the support of the Ultimate Sharp Mind spell, Lin Yun was able to divide that True Spirit Array into countless fragments in his mind. These fragments formed the basic elements of that array. Each fragment only had a faint power on its own, but when these fragments were gathered together, they had frightening power.

What Lin Yun needed to do now was to shatter the fragments.

As long as he could do that, the powerful array would no longer exist.

The speed of Lin Yun's inscribing was simply frightening.

Although the arrays Lin Yun drew were simple ones, for the most part, the frightening speed was enough to make any Artisan gasp.

Chapter 207: Got It

"Hey, what's the rest!?" Solomon was still puzzled as Lin Yun completed a dozen arrays.

"Look behind you!"

"What? Behind..." Solomon turned, feeling that this was all rather dubious, only to cry out in alarm.

"Fuck, how could there be so many!"

He saw a dozen Green-Faced Sly Monkeys scuttling through the bushes. These creatures were natural killers in this jungle. They moved at the speed of wind, and their venomous claws would even make a High Mage worried if they brushed past them.

These scuttling Green-Faced Sly Monkeys were yelling with shrill voices as they pounced towards Lin Yun with their sharp claws. Even in this darkness, Lin Yun could see a faint light.

"Badrack!"

"Got it, High Mage Solomon!" Badrack, the head of the Flash Arrow Mercenary Group, was skilled, but didn't have as much fighting experience as Sasu.

Just as the Green-Faced Sly Monkeys appeared, that 9th Rank Spirit Archer was already nocking his arrows. Three magic arrows flickering with golden light flashed between his fingers as he didn't even

take the time to aim before three trails of light flew towards three jumping Green-Faced Sly Monkeys. They didn't even have time to scream before the arrows struck them.

An explosion followed as the fire spells sealed within the magic arrows burst. The three Green-Faced Sly Monkeys were burnt to charcoal before they even fell to the ground.

At that time, Lin Yun took a quick glance over before going back to writing, tuning out the jumping Green-Faced Sly Monkeys as well as the sounds echoing from the forest.

This was the reason Lin Yun had chosen Badrack. It couldn't be said that Badrack was the strongest in Thousand Sails City, as Cadgar and Lys were definitely stronger, yet Lin Yun didn't ask them.

He had asked Badrack to come because archers were experts at forest battles, especially someone like Badrack, who was a peak Spirit Archer and was very experienced. Solomon and Xiuban didn't even need to make a move as Badrack used his bow to suppress the dozen Green-Faced Sly Monkeys.

"Looks like I don't have to help," Solomon said with a regretful tone.

But he quickly had to take those words back...

Because after Badrack shot down the dozen Green-Faced Sly Monkeys, fragmented sounds of footsteps had emerged from the other different sounds echoing in the forest. Only lights could be seen flickering among the bushes. These looked eerie and sinister in the dark forest.

After some time, some wolves could be heard howling one after the other, but their location was unclear. They could only see various shadows...

"Shadow Wolves!" Solomon was suddenly startled. He could detect a pack of several dozen Shadow Wolves...

Just thinking of the speed and strength of the Shadow Wolf that had ambushed Merlin at the entrance of the Four Seasons Canyon made Solomon feel worried. That had been a level 15 creature...

"Xiuban, go!" Lin Yun, who was still busy with the arrays, once again looked back.

"Eh?"

"Eh what? You are a Beastman Fighter, aren't you?"

'But... But I'm a Highland Beastman...'

Xiuban's face turned white. Highland Beastmen didn't have much experience in direct fights.

The Draconic Beastman looked pitifully at Lin Yun before drawing two curved blades from his waist and letting out a powerful battle roar to encourage himself as he rushed towards a group of Shadow Wolves...

Highland Beastmen were still Highland Beastmen...

The fighting instinct in their blood couldn't be altered. Xiuban's two curved blades quickly stopped the advance of the Shadow Wolves. Blood splattered as the blades flashed, making it hard to see if he was also bleeding or if it was just the color of his skin.

With Xiuban covering for them, Solomon and Badrack quickly took the opportunity to open fire. A 9th Rank High Mage and a 9th Rank Spirit Archer, two peak powerhouses of Thousand Sails City, were both unleashing a power that ordinary people could never imagine...

A third of the Shadow Wolves collapsed in a blink. It like like grass being mowed down as the Shadow Wolves were scattered about, leaving behind corpses.

But Solomon didn't dare to express his regrets this time.

Because he could already feel that there were more magic beasts gathering around them, possibly on the scale of that magic beast tide. They were only fighting a dozen Green-Faced Sly Monkeys and several dozen Shadow Wolves right now, but for how long? They might soon be flooded by a beast tide of various magic beasts...

"Merlin, hurry up!" At this time, Lin Yun was their only hope. Solomon sped up his reaping of the Shadow Wolves while urging him along.

"Give me ten minutes!" Lin Yun was just as anxious, but this was already his quickest speed. The arrays on that ancient tree were at the True Spirit level. Even Lin Yun could only use the Ultimate Sharp Mind to crack them in a forceful way.

This couldn't be done in a short time. The entire array had been broken down into countless smaller modules in Lin Yun's mind. He threw away the useless parts and focused on breaking the truly important ones...

In other words, Lin Yun needed to break over a hundred modules in ten minutes.

Such a workload was something that an ordinary Master Alchemist would never imagine attempting.

As time passed, Lin Yun completed one array after the other, and numerous lesser arrays were filling the tree trunk.

Lin Yun had already cracked most of the key modules and was slowly approaching the core of the array. He could clearly feel that the aura of life was getting stronger in the surroundings, almost taking shape.

Lin Yun knew that he had already touched the defense mechanism of the array, and although the array itself couldn't counterattack, that rich life aura would bring an even stronger beast tide over to them.

But he couldn't think too much about that for now...

The quill quickly wrote on the tree trunk as over half of the Melting Snow Ink had already been used on various lesser arrays, splitting the entire array.

"Shit, Merlin, hurry up, we won't be able to handle it for long!" Solomon once again issued a cry for help. At this time, the three of them were already facing the 6th wave. The quantity and quality of the magic beasts rushing over to attack them had far exceeded that of the Shadow Wolves from earlier.

The Draconic Beastman was cut all over. There were plenty of claw marks and no lack of bite marks, as well as other injuries that could only have been caused by magic. The Draconic Beastman was already covered in blood. There was no way to tell how much of it was his own, and how much was the blood of some magic beast. Moreover, he was only holding one curved blade; the other one had been lost at

some point during the battle. It had been replaced by the toxic hand-crossbow Lin Yun had given him, as he was doing his best to hold off several dozen Thunder Elephants.

Solomon didn't stop casting spells all this time. He chanted many powerful incantations while pouring his mana out like a flood, fluttering through the runes and the dazzling lights. Bloodstains could be seen on that 9th Rank High Mage's robe.

But Solomon couldn't worry about such minor injuries in this situation. A Flame Burst exploded on a Flame Lizard while a Frost Python over ten meters long was already pouncing at him. Solomon had no choice but to turn and use an Ice Wall to save himself from that bloody maw. However, a Shadow Wolf had already rushed out of the bush to attack him from behind, its sharp claws tearing into Solomon's arm.

Badrack, behind him, was the busiest among the three. Various kinds of flying magic beasts covered the sky: Common Ravens, Bullhawks, Toxic Dragonflies, and Wyverns. With the Green-Faced Sly Monkeys added on top, Badrack could only lament that he didn't have eight hands. He used his Spiritual Longbow to continually fire arrows with all kinds of properties, fully displaying the power of a 9th Rank Spirit Archer.

But...

It was all futile in front of the magic beast tide. Magic beasts would keep appearing, stronger and more numerous. Solomon already felt a surge of mana fluctuations from the distance, carrying a frightening aura. That had to be a true level 30 magic beast...

"Fall back, get closer to Merlin!" They already couldn't resist the beast tide, so Solomon led Xiuban and Badrack to retreat, casting spells to hold back the numerous magic beasts as he ran towards the ancient tree.

Ultimately, the three of them lined up behind Lin Yun. This was their last line of defense. Even the Draconic Beastman's eyes were resolute, because they knew that if the beast tide broke through this perimeter, they would all be finished...

"Got it!"

At this critical time, Lin Yun drew the last mana circuit on the tree's bark.

Chapter 208: Eighty

"What do you mean?" The battle had been going on for so long that even Solomon was already numb. He only knew how to keep casting, as if everything else had nothing to do with him. Even when he heard Lin Yun's rejoicing voice, Solomon only dispiritedly asked this question.

But after asking, Solomon seemed to realize something, and he quickly recovered. "You got it?"

"Yes, I did."

"Great..." Solomon truly was almost tearful.

As the two talked, the hundred or so lesser arrays Lin Yun had drawn on the tree trunk started working. They were used to sever mana transmission, destroy mana circuits, bypass mana, and attenuate effects. It was accurate and complex, like a machine with countless components.

As the lesser arrays operated on the True Spirit level array, the originally methodical mana flow suddenly became chaotic. All the mana circuits seemed to be blocked, unable to smoothly connect as they had been able to before. In a blink, several hundred mana nodes were terminated, and even the ones that hadn't been terminated were greatly weakened, unable to display their desired effects. In this short moment, the entire True Spirit array began to shut down.

After losing the support of the True Spirit array, the almost tangible aura of life started dispersing. At first, it was only thinning to some extent, but as the hundred lesser arrays continued to do their work, the life aura dissipated faster and faster.

The dense beast tide also seemed to feel it...

Most of them were frozen on the spot, feeling hesitant... On one hand, they felt the power that had been strengthening them now dissipating, but on the other hand, they would hate to part with the prey right before their eyes.

But now that Lin Yun was free from having to work on the array, it wouldn't be as hard as before. The Spiritual Magic Staff appeared in his hands, and Syudos came out of the Magic Arrays, spreading a sea of fire in the forest.

This was enough to turn a dozen magic beasts into coal.

"Still not fleeing?"

As if startled by Lin Yun's cold snort, the horde of beasts suddenly retreated. That last prey's display was too frightening. When Solomon recovered, not one living magic beast was left in the surroundings. Only blood and corpses filled his sight, all of which had been the result of the previous battle.

"Xiuban, gather the mana crystals."

"Sir..." Xiuban was lying on the ground, panting heavily. After going through such an intense battle, the Draconic Beastman only wanted to lay down to nap. Hearing Lin Yun's order to gather the mana crystals, he looked up sullenly, about to complain.

"You can have a quarter of them after gathering them all up."

"I'll go immediately, Sir!" When the half-dead Draconic Beastman heard that, he suddenly got up, no longer showing any signs of fatigue.

'Sure enough, using the carrot and the stick is the most efficient way to deal with a Highland Beastman.'

"Merlin, the camp..." Although the beast tide here had already been taken care of, Solomon was still worried about the camp.

"There shouldn't be any problem with the camp. You can go back to take a look if you want." Lin Yun was quite positive about that. After he cracked the True Spirit array, the aura of life disappeared and the

Four Seasons Canyon seemed to return to normal. There was no longer the vigorous mana and crazy vitality pervading the area.

“What about you?”

“I want to research this array.” Lin Yun shook his head. He didn’t plan to leave for now.

For a Master Alchemist, being able to research the array of an Artisan was a very rare opportunity.

Especially now, it was even more rare to be able to study an Artisan’s array that had been cracked.

This was like fully displaying the workings of the True Spirit array in front of Lin Yun, leaving all the secrets and details were plainly visible to him.

This was a temptation that a Master Alchemist couldn’t resist.

How could Lin Yun give up on such an opportunity?

About ten minutes later, Xiuban finished gathering the mana crystals and took his share without being polite. Moreover, Lin Yun noticed that the greedy Draconic Beastman took the mana crystals with the best quality.

Fortunately, due to Solomon and Badrack’s powerful backgrounds, they didn’t consider the pile of mana crystals as anything particularly valuable. To them, it was only a small, unexpected windfall, so they turned a blind eye as Xiuban stuffed his pockets and just took their own shares before rushing out of the field of corpses and blood.

After the two left, Xiuban and Lin Yun were the only ones remaining in the forest...

The surroundings were filled with corpses, and the blood had already dyed the soil red. But Lin Yun didn’t care about that. All his attention was focused on the True Spirit array. Relying on Sharp Mind, Lin Yun started analyzing the entire array, cutting, reorganizing, and deducing...

The whole process continued for no less than an hour...

Eventually, Sharp Mind’s effect gradually vanished. Lin Yun was smiling, feeling satisfied. The gains of that hour were simply too great. The problems he had been facing before had been solved during this hour, and Lin Yun could feel that he was approaching the Artisan realm.

From now on, the Artisan realm was no longer out of his reach, it was no longer something that only existed in his imagination. Since he touched upon the Artisan realm, it would only be a matter of time and opportunity.

After digesting what he had learned during this hour, Lin Yun stood up in front of the ancient tree.

It was somewhat strange... That ancient tree’s many branches were covered with lush leaves. It obviously looked like it was in the prime of its life, but after Lin Yun broke the array, the aura of life slowly dispersed and the ancient tree’s vitality seemed to quickly drain away.

“I might as well give you a hand...” Lin Yun saw this and knew that this ancient tree wouldn’t be able to survive. Once its vitality was completely gone, it would fall on its own.

Lin Yun steeled his heart and ruthlessly cast a Wither spell...

The 3rd Tier spell was very effective against plant lifeforms, and Lin Yun used the power of his Magic Array to further increase its might. The ancient tree that had already been slowly losing its vitality was now visibly withering.

The green leaves turned yellow, the huge trunk started losing its bark, and the lush branches drooped down powerlessly...

In the end, this tree that had been several hundred meters tall collapsed with a rumbling sound.

'I want to see what kind of secrets you were hiding...'

 Lin Yun walked to the collapsed tree and summoned five Rock Puppets to unearth it.

After another hour or so and four batches of Rock Puppets, the whole tree was unearthed. After everything was cleared up, a deep tunnel over ten meters wide stretched in front of him. The bottom of the tunnel couldn't be seen.

Lin Yun first cast a Mage Eye...

But that Mage Eye soon met a very powerful mana disturbance and dissipated before it could see anything useful.

"Eh!" Lin Yun suddenly shook. It had been a very powerful mana interference. He was now convinced that something strange was hiding down there.

After considering his options, Lin Yun cast Mage Sight on a Rock Puppet and cast a Light spell to shine into the tunnel before commanding the Rock Puppet to walk into the depths of the tunnel.

Sure enough, the tunnel wasn't bottomless...

It took the Rock Puppet three minutes to walk to the end of the tunnel, but the only thing it found was... nothing. There wasn't a single thing there that could have caused the Mage Eye to dissipate.

'How could this be?' Lin Yun felt a bit baffled. 'Is the secret deeper? If so, the excavating might take quite a while...'

Lin Yun thought about it, but he wasn't convinced easily. He sent the other four puppets and began searching every corner of the tunnel.

Only then did Lin Yun find a small flicker in a corner of the tunnel...

After checking it carefully, he guessed that it was a gem of some sort. It didn't seem to be of high quality, and it was only issuing a faint red color. It was about as big as an egg, with rounded ends and a plump middle, in an oval shape.

Lin Yun hurriedly chanted an incantation and ordered the five Rock Puppets to bring the gem out.

'Sure enough, it holds very powerful mana...'

 As the gem appeared before his eyes, Lin Yun understood why the Mage Eye had disappeared. It was because of the mana emitted by the precious gem. It was a mana crystal that was at least level 25 and extremely pure, to the point that even a Magic Apprentice could absorb mana from it.

But apart from that, Lin Yun couldn't see anything. After studying it for a long time, the fact that it had pure and abundant mana was still the only thing about it that seemed remarkable to him. Just as he planned to put it in his pocket to study it later, Shawn, who was always busy absorbing mana, exclaimed in shock, "To hell with it! Throw that away! Quick, throw that thing away! Do you want to die?!"

Chapter 209: Ancient God

"What are you doing!?" Lin Yun was startled, and he almost let the precious gem fall. After recovering, he scolded Shawn with a dark expression. "What kind of True Spirit Magic Tool are you, making a fuss out of nothing!"

"Throw away that thing in your hand! Quick!"

"Are you kidding? This magic gem is worth at least a few million golds. Are you going to pay it back after making me throw it away?"

"I'm not kidding, that thing in your hand, it... it's not a magic gem, it's only a disaster..."

"Oh?" Lin Yun smiled when he heard that. "Looks like you know something, Lord Shawn?"

"I don't!" Lin Yun had just asked to probe, but Shawn's answer was self-explanatory. He impatiently denied it, afraid that Lin Yun wouldn't believe him. "No... I don't know. But listen to me and quickly throw that thing away. It will only bring you disaster."

"So you don't want to explain." Lin Yun understood when he heard those words. Shawn definitely knew something, but he just didn't want to tell him. "But, Lord Shawn, you should know, right? The Doom Staff is a bottomless pit, it can easily handle dozens of spirit mana crystals, and you also consume a lot... Didn't you almost finish digesting that spirit mana crystal too?"

"I'm... I'm about to..." Shawn's voice lacked confidence. He indeed had almost finished digesting that spirit mana crystal. In the past few days, he had been scheming, trying to come up with a way to wheedle another one from Lin Yun.

"About to..." Lin Yun smiled and shook his head, pointing at Xiuban's neck. "And that good-for-nothing Draconic Beastman's magical development completely relies on gathering mana crystals..."

"But..."

"This is worth a few million golds, and you are asking me to throw it away. Tell me, if there is no reason, why should I waste it?"

"That thing can only cause a disaster..." But Shawn still only repeated the same thing and refused to say what the disaster was.

Lin Yun didn't have a way to get the answer out of him and could only helplessly ask, "Okay, let's leave the disaster aside for now. If it's not a magic gem, what is it?"

"This is a soul fragment..." After saying this, Shawn went silent for a long time. Eventually, he regained his courage and continued, "A soul fragment from a God..."

When the words “Ascian Dynasty” came out of Shawn’s mouth, Lin Yun held his breath.

Among Noscent’s legends, the story of the ancient Ascian Dynasty established by Gods had always been circulating. That was a true golden era, when the ancient Gods walked the earth. They had many abilities and endless power. They could tear open the sky and raise the earth. Under the rule of the ancient Gods, every race peacefully prospered and all of Noscent was thriving.

But that golden era was ended by a disaster...

And now, no one knew what kind of disaster it was. People could only find some simple records of the era saying that the Gods resisted the disaster and saved the world of Noscent, but that the price they paid was extremely heavy and the survivors had to leave Noscent, exiling themselves into spatial cracks.

That period, often called the Golden Era, was also known as the Mythological Era.

After the Golden Era was the Silver Era, when Elves and Dragons jointly ruled Noscent, up till several tens of thousands of years ago, when Charles The Great shattered the Life Throne. All legends came to an end and Noscent entered the era of mortal rule. That was what people called the Bronze Era.

Time passed and dynasties changed. Eventually, even the 3rd Dynasty established by Charles the Great disappeared in the river of time. In comparison, the furthest Ascian Dynasty could only be traced through epics and legends, and it was only a shadow of its former self.

In fact, even at the peak of the magic civilization, the existence of the Ascian Dynasty was frequently debated.

Lin Yun would have never thought that he would find a fragment of an Ancient God’s soul within the Four Seasons Canyon.

“Haha, Lord Shawn, that’s very funny...” Lin Yun’s first thought was that Lord Shawn was making up another story, just like he had done in Barov’s tomb when pretending to be the Desolate Overlord to scare him. It sounded exactly the same, using some fantastic excuse to make Lin Yun throw away the magic gem. ‘Ancient God? Really?’

But regardless of what excuse Shawn gave him, Lin Yun couldn’t suppress the shaking from his laughter.

“Can’t you tell if I’m joking? I have a master-slave contract with you, after all,” Shawn sneered.

“No way...” The magic gem in Lin Yun’s hand suddenly felt rather hot.

“Do you finally know how serious this is?” After coldly snorting, Shawn scolded Lin Yun like an elder teaching a lesson to a child. “This is the soul of an Ancient God. You must have heard of Ancient Gods, their limitless mana, and their ability to destroy anything with a single move. With one blow, an Ancient God could kill a hundred 9th Rank Great Mages like you. It’s quite bold of you to hold the fragment of an Ancient God’s soul. Who do you think you are? A wisp of that Ancient God’s soul fragment would be enough to obliterate you many times over!”

“Well, Lord Shawn, how do you know this?” Lin Yun looked at the soul fragment for a long time before looking suspiciously at Shawn.

“Because a certain lunatic once played with a soul fragment of an Ancient God, but that lunatic was far stronger than you...”

“You are talking about Barov?”

“That’s right, that lunatic.”

“So you are saying that the soul fragment I found here is the same kind that Prince Barov had?”

“Don’t ask again!” Shawn’s voice was filled with a degree of alarm that was hard to cover. “Don’t ask again, Ancient Gods are taboo, looking for these will bring you disaster!”

“Indeed.” Lin Yun actually nodded. He rarely agreed with Shawn’s point of view, but the problem was truly dangerous. Ancient Gods were taboo, and it seemed that the fall of the 3rd Dynasty was linked to that.

“Okay, okay, I have already explained, so quickly throw that thing away...” Seeing Lin Yun nod, Shawn finally relaxed.

“No...” But he never expected that Lin Yun would still shake his head. “Since this is the fragment of an Ancient God’s soul, I cannot throw it away...”

“You are insane!”

“Don’t worry, I have an idea.”

After saying that, Lin Yun opened the Book of Death and incanted the seven mysterious characters. His surroundings changed in a flash as a Planar Path appeared out of nowhere...

“I can put it in a safer place,” he said, before stepping into the Planar Path. After the surroundings stabilized, Lin Yun could be seen standing above the Demiplane. Nothing changed, and it was still quiet and desolate, just like Noscent in the future. But Lin Yun knew that there was a huge difference between both. Noscent was on the verge of dying because its life had come to an end, while this Demiplane was just recently born.

Because of its recent birth, it was still in its most primitive state.

But that primitive state could be changed, provided he had enough natural resources, just like Astrologian Agalon. After establishing the four elements, the world’s evolution of life would begin, and the desolate Demiplane would turn into an independent world.

Naturally, this would be a very long path.

Just establishing the four elements would have to wait until he reached the Archmage realm, and as for starting the world’s evolution of life, he would have to be a Heaven Mage before he could try.

But it wasn’t urgent.

Even if he immediately evolved the Demiplane into an independent world, he wouldn’t be able to harness the full power of that world yet. This was also something he could only do after reaching the Heaven Mage realm.

Before that, it would be better to treat this Demiplane as a warehouse of sorts.

Lin Yun put down the Ancient God's soul fragment before walking back to the Planar Path. After another distortion, Lin Yun returned to Noscent.

"Hell, you will regret it, I'm telling you, you'll regret sooner or later..." Shawn continued blabbering after they left the Demiplane.

"Okay okay, I understand, I'll regret it..." Lin Yun shook his head and ignored Shawn's complaints.

In fact, Lin Yun also knew that the most reliable way to handle that fragment was to put it back into the hole.

But Lin Yun was reluctant...

Chapter 210: Awkward Monchi

That was a soul fragment of an Ancient God...

What were Ancient Gods? They were the most tyrannical lifeforms in the history of Noscent, their strength only described in legends. This was the only opportunity for Lin Yun to see this kind of power, so he was quite reluctant to give up on it.

Shawn's words were right...

The Ancient Gods were taboo. Any search for their remnants would bring countless disasters. Even a true name could easily destroy a plane. Lin Yun leaving a fragment of an Ancient God's soul behind was a very dangerous matter, even if that fragment was stored in an empty Demiplane...

But Lin Yun still did it.

Lin Yun had personally witnessed Noscent's destruction, had personally felt the powerlessness of having knowledge but no power... In order to extract a wisp of mana, Lin Yun could sleep in the scalding desert for a week, in order to cast a lesser spell he would even spend a few nights without sleeping to build the ideal spell matrix just to make that spell use as little mana as possible.

Lin Yun's thirst for power wasn't something Shawn could understand.

For such an opportunity, Lin Yun was willing to take great risks.

"You are already insane! Just like that lunatic Barov, always yelling about some recurring disaster, you are already insane!" After roaring these words, Shawn angrily severed the mental communication, leaving Lin Yun at a loss.

He was confused by the scolding and wanted to ask Shawn to clarify, but the latter didn't say anything. No matter what threats or promises Lin Yun gave, he no longer responded at all.

In the end, Lin Yun had no choice but to pack up and lead the Draconic Beastman out of this open forest.

It was evening by the time Lin Yun and Xiuban returned to the camp.

As he'd expected, the beast tide had already withdrawn, and the camp had once again regained its order. A dozen bonfires were lit in the middle of the camp, and after the rough day, they were all grouped around their fires, eating roasted meat and drinking some alcohol, talking about the fight they had won and laughing very loudly...

To them, it had been a proud battle. By relying on their simple and crude camp's defenses, they had been able to withstand the attacks of twenty Thunder Elephants, over a thousand Flame Crows, and several thousand other magic beasts, before they managed to force the frightening beast tide back.

They didn't know the real reason the beast tide retreated.

No more than thirty people in the camp knew the real reason.

They were now grouped on the side of a bonfire, striving to be the first to express their gratitude to Lin Yun.

After returning, Solomon told everyone what had happened. Whether it was Sasu, Sausu, or even Monchi, they all knew that the beast tide had retreated because the young Great Mage had found the origin of the beast tide.

"Haha, everyone is too polite..." After saying a few perfunctory words, Lin Yun also sat next to the bonfire, asking about the circumstances inside the camp.

"Merlin, it is truly thanks to your reminder that our side's losses were minimal." The most qualified to answer was Sasu. As the commander of this battle, Sasu credited almost everything to Lin Yun.

"I was just lucky with my guess." Lin Yun shook his head and didn't say anything else.

After this battle, Lin Yun could clearly feel that the leaders gathered here were very enthusiastic towards him...

Of course, it didn't mean that they hadn't been before...

After all, quite a few of them had come to visit him during the trip, and their enthusiasm couldn't be hidden. But the enthusiasm at the time was purely due to their utilitarian natures, to curry favor and avoid conflict with him, making it somewhat out of place.

But now, it came from the bottom of their hearts.

It was pure gratitude.

They all knew that if they hadn't had this young Great Mage with them this day, they would have ended with two choices: withdrawing from the Four Seasons Canyon, or fighting the beast tide to the death. Regardless of the choice, it would have been an unbearable loss to all of them.

Fortunately, that young Great Mage stood out and saw through the origin of the beast tide, successfully resolving the crisis. Those who were still unfamiliar with Lin Yun's strength gradually understood the choices of the Black Horn Auction House, the Silver Moon Mercenary Group, and the Sage Tower...

They were the three closest forces to the Gilded Rose.

Especially the Sage Tower...

Solomon almost always called on the young Great Mage whenever something happened.

They couldn't understand before, but they all started to understand now.

With such a seemingly omnipotent ally, why wouldn't they call on him?

Among the major forces, only one of them was in an awkward spot, which was naturally the Monchi Family.

Monchi was regretting quite a bit right now.

If he had known that Mafa Merlin would reach such heights, he wouldn't have participated in causing Locke Merlin's shipwreck, and certainly wouldn't have agreed with Solan's arrangement to scheme for the house that Locke Merlin left behind.

He wouldn't have stepped foot in the alchemy business and opened the Twin Moons Splendor.

Unfortunately, these hypotheticals couldn't fix the past...

He had already caused Locke Merlin's death and schemed to try to get his house. As for the Twin Moons Splendor, it was open all over Thousand Sails City, and although it struggled under the pressure of the Gilded Rose, everyone knew that it was the Gilded Rose's competitor.

All of this had already happened...

It put Monchi in a very awkward situation.

He didn't dare to think of setting himself against Mafa Merlin or against the Gilded Rose now. It was already like a sun in Thousand Sails City, and even the Sage Tower was showing signs of abdicating their position as the most powerful force of Thousand Sails City.

As for Mafa Merlin himself, he was even more unfathomable. The unruly Sauss didn't dare to get angry in front of him. Thousand Sails City's strongest High Mage, Solomon, treated him as an equal, and even the Alchemist Guild's Leader, the newly promoted Master Alchemist, admitted that he wasn't as good as Mafa Merlin in the field of alchemy.

It was as if there was a halo above Merlin's head now.

Unless Solan came back from the Dark Azure Plane as an Archmage, he wouldn't have the slightest opportunity to raise his head in front of Mafa Merlin.

But how could it be easy to enter the Archmage realm?

If it were easy, Solan wouldn't have entered the Dark Azure Plane, and neither would he have convinced his brother to act against Merlin.

At that time, Monchi thought of acting like the other leaders, taking advantage of this opportunity to show some goodwill towards Merlin.

Unfortunately, he couldn't.

Other forces might be able to show some goodwill, but that was because they had never had any grudges towards the Gilded Rose. But that wasn't the case for himself. He had acted against the Gilded

Rose quite a few times, and even if he tried to extend an olive branch now, it was hard to say if the other side would accept. And if he was refused, the reputation of the Monchi Family would be trashed.

Monchi's current mood was very awkward and confused. He wanted to show appreciation, but was afraid of the consequences... But he was also afraid of reprisals if he didn't...

With such a contradictory mood, it was hard for Monchi to sit near the bonfire with the others.

Fortunately, while he was suffering in silence, a shadow reached the camp and interrupted this rare bonfire party.

"I'm looking for Fran." The newcomer with a serious expression and ostentatious blonde hair was one of Nolan's numerous disciples, second only to Karon, Suyass.

"Sir, you are?" Solomon was the first to stand up and use this rare honorific, because he had clearly seen that this middle-aged man had entered the camp using Flight.

It was the sign of an Archmage.

Even if Solomon was a lot more courageous, he wouldn't dare to be rude to an Archmage. The difference between a 9th Rank High Mage and an Archmage was a thin line, but that line was the horizon separating heaven and earth. There were countless 9th Rank High Mages in Noscent who spent their whole lifetimes chasing after that line, but unable to go past it.

"Who I am doesn't matter. I'll say it once again, I'm looking for Fran."

"Haha..." Solomon was the disciple of the Star Sage. Even if the other side was an Archmage, it was very normal for Solomon to get angry when faced with that kind of attitude. But Solomon didn't dare to explode in anger and only forced out a chuckle as an answer.

"Fran! Come out!" Fortunately, Suyass had no intention of arguing with Solomon.

Suyass hadn't yelled very loudly, and it was just as if he was talking normally, but his words spread through the entire camp, echoing in everyone's ears.

"Su... Suyass, how come you are here?" And 'everyone' naturally included Fran. After hearing that voice, Fran rushed out of his tent in panic. His expression filled with shock and fear when he saw his fellow disciple...