

## **Magic Era 221**

### **Chapter 221: Fortune Box**

It obviously couldn't escape.

Even a Draconic Beastman couldn't escape from the binding power of the Flame Shackles, let alone some weeds.

Under the rotation of the Magic Arrays, the Flame Shackles burst with high temperature and turned the weeds into ashes in less than a second. At the same time, a shadow escaped from the ashes. It was as fast as lightning as it instantly escaped from the binding of the Flame Shackles.

Lin Yun then saw a flower appear in front of him as it passed through the Lava Shelter, apparently planning on escaping into the forest.

But Lin Yun didn't seem to be in a hurry.

Just as the shadow passed through the Lava Shelter, Lin Yun raised the Spiritual Magic Staff in his hand and cast Mind Intimidation. The spell didn't have much destructive power and was typically used by mages to pressure inferior opponents. But now, only a sharp hiss could be heard as the lightning fast shadow froze in place.

The shadow stopped moving, but it wouldn't be for more than a second.

"Syudos!" But for Lin Yun, one second was more than enough. As his Magic Arrays rotated, the Upper Rank Flame Spirit was already rushing out.

In a flash, the flame and the shadow became entangled.

Syudos, as an Upper Rank Flame Spirit, was already a very powerful existence. Although the shadow was ever-changing and had the ability to absorb the best features from all the plants that it encountered, it was still far too inferior in front of Syudos. Syudos had transformed into raging flames and wrapped around the shadow. Although the latter was still struggling, it was slowly becoming powerless...

In the end, the shadow completely disappeared in the flames, and the originally thumb-sized Syudos had now turned into a plump ball the size of a fist, while the fierce flames that had been raging seemed to have mellowed out after swallowing that shadow, as if they had eaten to their heart's content and needed to sleep.

"Truly delicious," Syudos lazily belched as he licked his flaming lips before returning into Lin Yun's body. Under the help of the nine Magic Arrays, he began digesting the power of that shadow...

"..." Lin Yun scratched his cheek, thinking, 'Why are they all gluttons...?'

"Merlin..." Solomon was dumbstruck as he called Lin Yun's name, but he remained silent because he didn't know what to ask...

“It’s nothing, just a spirit.” Lin Yun knew what he wanted to ask, but there was no time to go into the details. Once the soul of a Parasitic Tree disappeared, its body would wither in less than ten minutes. Lin Yun had to hurry and find the body of the Parasitic Tree during that time.

After hurriedly dealing with Solomon, Lin Yun cast eight Mage Eyes in a row, and the search was a lot smoother this time. He hadn’t even needed Solomon’s help as it only took two or three minutes for the first batch of Mage Eyes to find a short sapling not far from there.

It didn’t seem too different from an ordinary sapling, but after examining carefully, he discovered that this short sapling was growing extremely well. The branches were covered with leaves and gave off the feeling of being full of vitality. It could clearly be seen that this sapling was growing next to a Spirit Absorbing Tree. Spirit Absorbing Trees were very precious magic materials, and a Magic Staff crafted from a Spirit Absorbing Tree would sell for 10,000 golds at the very least.

Moreover, the fruits of a Spirit Absorbing Tree had some mana amplification effects. Many mages liked to have the fruits laid out when receiving guests.

But Spirit Absorbing Trees had a special characteristic.

Once rooted, they would plunder all resources nearby... Sunshine, air, moisture, mana, everything within ten meters would be used to help the Spirit Absorbing Tree mature. No other plants could exist there, not even weeds.

But now, this sapling was growing next to the Spirit Absorbing Tree and didn’t seem to be affected by it at all. And not only did it seem immune to the harmful effects, but it even was slanting towards the Spirit Absorbing Tree. From the state of the soil, it could also be seen that the roots of the short sapling were also spreading in the same direction and would soon be entangled with the Spirit Absorbing Tree.

Such aggressiveness and shamelessness, if it wasn’t the Parasitic Tree, then what else could it be?

If not for Lin Yun and Solomon, it might have slowly coiled around the Spirit Absorbing Tree, just like a spider webbing its prey, coiling and binding it before leaving it to choke.

“Merlin, you were looking for this?” Solomon looked at it for a while and couldn’t see what was so special about it. He couldn’t help frowning as he asked.

“Yes, with this sapling, I’ll be able to compound a Rebirth Potion for you once we return. If you are lucky enough, you’ll only need three months before being able to return to Okland with the status of an Archmage.”

“Allow me!” Solomon didn’t raise any objections and pulled up his sleeves to start digging.

A few minutes later, Lin Yun threw the Parasitic Tree into his spatial ring before he and Solomon started converging with Fran and Suyass.

The two seemed to also have had a good harvest, especially Fran. When they gathered, Fran’s face was so red from excitement that there was no need to ask to know that he had definitely gotten something good.

After the four of them arrived, they chatted a bit before talking about their harvest. Of course, they hid many things within their words. Who would be foolish enough to tell everything to others from

potentially competing factions? Thus, the discussion could be considered rather lighthearted, as they just chatted for the sake of chatting.

"I studied the Maze Array just now," Suyass said before fishing out a few pieces of paper from his pockets. "I found out that I seemed to have missed a crucial module, but I'm not too sure... Great Mage Merlin, take a look at it..."

"Fortune Box." Lin Yun only took one glance and knew that Suyass indeed had made a mistake.

The Fortune Box was a small array typically inlaid in relatively large-scale arrays. It could be used as a module, but most of the time, this module was used for escaping because the Fortune Box's only function was teleportation. It triggered random teleportation within a fixed range.

Many alchemists liked to add a Fortune Box on top of their defensive arrays so that they could use the random teleportation to escape if the defense was broken.

But to add a Fortune Box in a Maze Array was a bit reckless.

Unfortunately, the twenty members of the joint exploration team had become victims of that recklessness.

"Yes, Fortune Box, I truly didn't think that someone would embed a Fortune Box in a Maze Array. Was he not afraid that the random teleportation function of the Fortune Box would cause the destruction of the array...?" Suyass thought about it and couldn't understand how there could be such a reckless alchemist.

"Haha..." Seeing Suyass' vexed appearance, Lin Yun couldn't help chuckling.

But in his heart, he was more and more suspicious about the Maze Array. The appearance of that Fortune Box confirmed his conjecture that this didn't suit Vaughn's style. With Vaughn's cautiousness, he definitely wouldn't do something so reckless that could cause the destruction of the entire Maze Array. Vaughn was someone who pursued perfection through details.

"But since it's a Fortune Box, the others shouldn't have too much trouble..." Lin Yun thought for a bit before smiling.

"Yes..." Suyass was also a Master Alchemist, and his understanding of the Fortune Box wasn't much inferior to Lin Yun's. The random teleportation function of the Fortune Box was limited to a fixed range. The botanical garden the four of them ended up in was definitely within Vaughn's laboratory.

In other words, the others very likely had been teleported somewhere within the laboratory. Thus, they would inevitably end up meeting each other.

"Merlin, well, you see..." Suyass didn't dare to consider Lin Yun as a mere Great Mage anymore. He even changed the way he addressed him to be more familiar.

"We should leave this place first." Lin Yun looked around and concluded that they were at the edge of the botanical garden. He thought for a bit before adding, "But be careful..."

"Ah?"

Suyass was a bit confused, as this was only a botanical garden. Besides all kinds of plants, they hadn't found a single living animal, not to mention any other dangers...

"Merlin, aren't you too careful? This is only a botanical garden, nothing more..." Perhaps due to his previous harvest being quite sizable, Fran was currently in a good mood. After not having said anything to Lin Yun for a few days, he now said a rare few words to him.

And as he said that, he brazenly stepped forward.

"Careful!" When Lin Yun saw that, he inwardly scolded, 'Truly a pig-like teammate.'

Unfortunately, there was no time. Just as Lin Yun's warning echoed, a ray of magic brushed past Fran's head.

No, not just one...

There were several rays...

From the quiet botanical garden, several dozen rays of magic shot in all directions: ice, fire, lightning, light. All kinds of elemental rays suddenly shot at the four of them, making them crouch down, unable to raise their heads.

## **Chapter 222: Alchemy Puppet**

"Fuck, what did you do, Fran!" Suyass was overwhelmed by the rain of magic rays and couldn't even lift his head. If this spread, it would make people laugh.

The problem was that Suyass was truly afraid of getting hit. Each of the rays was only 2nd Tier or 3rd Tier, but when dozens to a hundred of them were firing at the same time, it wouldn't be any different from a 6th or 7th Tier spell. Suyass was a newly advanced Archmage, and he couldn't deal with such a concentrated rain of magic rays, so he could only helplessly lower his head and hide within the dense thickets.

At the same time, he vented his anger on Fran.

"I... I didn't do anything!" Fran felt that he had been wrongly accused. 'I didn't do anything, so why did this happen?'

"You..." Suyass was green from anger. He didn't want to bicker with Fran at such a critical time, so he had no other choice but to reign in his anger while giving a "we will deal with that later" look to Fran.

"..." Fran saw that glance and knew that it wouldn't turn out well for him. He withdrew his neck and tried to make himself invisible.

"I read somewhere that Vaughn always had some assistant puppets in his laboratory..." At this time, Lin Yun, who was also hiding in the thickets, suddenly inserted a comment.

"Ah?" Suyass was stunned at a first, before holding his breath...

Indeed, it was rumored that Vaughn didn't trust anyone and that his only helpers were puppets...

But those who truly understood Vaughn knew that it wasn't just because he was paranoid. It was more because Vaughn had inherited a huge legacy.

Back then, Vaughn came out of a small mountain village and became a Master Alchemist in a mere ten years. Twenty years later, he stepped into the Artisan realm and became the Chief Alchemist of the empire. This kind of meteoric rise was rarely seen in history, not to mention that Vaughn's talent had only been known as being average. An Apprentice Alchemist with no background and no talent managed to obtain the seat of Chief Alchemist all because of that huge legacy.

It was because of the legacy of Dark Sage Igor.

Who was the Dark Sage?

The teacher of Emperor Charles, the gravedigger of the Silver Era, the dark hand behind the scene that schemed against the throne of the Elves and Dragons, the greatest Puppeteer Alchemist in history...

Given the long list of names of significant figures, he actually had a rather short life. Dark Sage Igor became a Saint Alchemist in the Silver Era and fell in the battle that led to the shattering of the throne of all things. He only lived for a hundred years, which was horrifyingly short for a Saint Alchemist.

During his life, the Dark Sage Igor only had Charles the Emperor as a disciple.

What Vaughn had obtained was only a portion of his legacy, and it was said to be the three puppets personally made by the Dark Sage. In the entire 3rd Dynasty, few people managed to see these three puppets, but everyone knew that they represented the peak of alchemy.

This could be guessed from Vaughn's status.

Vaughn didn't come into contact with the Extraordinary realm during his life, but his status at the end of the 3rd Dynasty was above that of numerous Heaven Rank Mages. From this, it could be seen how frightening the three puppets were...

It was even rumored that Vaughn didn't actually understand the puppets, yet those three puppets helped him establish a formidable puppet legion.

In any case, there were many legends and rumors...

But it was certain that Vaughn had a group of amazing puppets in his hands, and they were probably the reason behind the crazy storm of magic rays shooting at them.

Thinking about this made Suyass sweat. The puppets under Vaughn were well known in the 3rd Dynasty. This was a troublesome fight, a lot harder than he would have expected for this place.

Suyass tightened the grip on his staff as he cast Mage Eyes, one, two, three, and soon, dozens of Mage Eyes were released. Under the rain of magic rays, the survival rate of these Mage Eyes was incredibly low. Of the several dozens of Mage Eyes, only one survived long enough.

Moreover, that Mage Eye was swept away by a Frost Ray just as it flew out of the bush...

But this was more than enough for Suyass.

A total of three puppets, Shadow Wolf models, with abnormal speed even surpassing actual Shadow Wolves. At least two magic rays were enchanted on their bodies, and under the powerful system of arrays, each of their volleys could reach the level of a 6th Tier Spell. Moreover, the frequency of such attacks was extremely high, far exceeding that of the High Mage rank.

“Three Shadow Wolf puppets, very fast,” Suyass said to Lin Yun and Solomon while thinking of a means of counterattack.

This was by no means an easy fight...

Each puppet was enchanted with the ability to use two spells, and they were using a very powerful array system with a high activation frequency. There was nearly no interruption, so even if he used an Elemental Shield, he would at most block these attacks for ten seconds. After that, he would have no choice but to withstand the magic rays directly with his body...

The might of those attacks were comparable to 6th Tier Spells...

Besides those powerhouses standing at the peak Heaven realm, who could withstand such powerful magic with just their bodies?

But not doing anything wasn't good either.

If they kept hiding, they would sooner or later be surrounded by the three puppets. At that time, let alone ten seconds, they wouldn't necessarily survive even a couple of seconds.

The only way forward now was to take advantage of the fact that the puppets had yet to surround them to use cover and launch an attack. As long as they could paralyze one puppet, they could change the situation.

But, who would be the attacker?

The cover could only protect them for some time. Once the attacks of the puppets were drawn, they might survive the first volley, but afterward...

Suyass looked at the other three.

Although Solomon was a 9th Rank High Mage, he couldn't display his full power due to his injury. As for Fran, there was no need to mention him. He was only a 5th Rank High Mage. If it weren't for the fact that he had luckily mastered the Time Hand, his fighting strength would be inferior to that of a 3rd Rank High Mage.

As for Merlin...

Suyass hesitated a bit before shaking his head.

Forget it... Although Merlin indeed had fighting strength that far surpassed his rank, he was only a 9th Rank Great Mage. The flaw of only being able to use spells of up to the 4th Tier greatly restricted Merlin's combat capabilities.

After thinking about it, he came to the conclusion that he was the only one that could attempt an attack.

“Cover me,” Suyass Solomon and Merlin, his teeth clenched.

"I got this..." Lin Yun shook his head and didn't wait for Suyass to speak any further before casting Haste and rushing out at a lightning speed.

"Merlin!" Suyass was startled. He wanted to stop him, but he hadn't reacted in time, so he could only stare blankly as Lin Yun's silhouette disappeared.

Fortunately, Suyass' reactions were still very good, so he only froze for an instant before immediately helping. He couldn't care about following his original plan at this time, so he hurriedly cast an Elemental Shield and then started casting spells towards the mass of magic rays.

Solomon followed suit, his Runic Shield only half a second slower than Suyass' spell, because he had prepared his spell in advance.

It was because Solomon had more experience than him.

He had gone through similar experiences in the past by following Lin Yun.

One 9th Rank High Mage and one Archmage opened fire nearly at the same time. A Blizzard and a Thunderstorm instantly covered several hundred meters. The two spells of ice and lightning instantly attracted the attention of the three puppets.

After all, puppets were only puppets.

Although they were given incredible power through alchemy, they were far from being considered truly sentient lifeforms. Their conduct was based on very simple judgements.

Certainly, a 9th Rank High Mage and an Archmage firing off spells were clearly more threatening than an advancing 9th Rank Great Mage.

Suyass also understood this.

Since he didn't have the time to stop Merlin, he could only hope that their spells would be able to paralyze one of the puppets.

To this end, Suyass roused his mana to its limit. The Thunderstorm under Suyass' control displayed a power that could only be described as terrifying. The black, earth-shattering mass of thunder and lightning filled the area with deafening roars.

It was to the point that no one saw how that monstrous silhouette appeared behind a puppet, and no one saw what kind of spell he used, but he only softly moved his hand twice and the puppet stiffened and collapsed on the spot, falling apart into a pile of components.

"Merlin, careful, care..." At first, Suyass only noticed Lin Yun appearing within the range of the Thunderstorm and wanted to remind him to avoid being injured by the spell.

But he hadn't expected this scene to appear a blink of an eye later.

Thus, he didn't say anything after initially warning him to be careful.

What did he have to be careful of?

A pile of components?

“He was quite slow this time...” Solomon was smirking, thinking to himself, ‘And you call yourself an Archmage? Are you a sheltered mage who has never experienced the world?’

### **Chapter 223: A Bit Troublesome**

In Solomon’s eyes, everything was fine...

Last time, in the Ash Tower’s Secondary Plane, that young Great Mage did something similar. He complied with Merlin’s request for cover fire, and the young mage casually went over and dismantled the two puppets. How could it not be fine now?

Solomon was no stranger to Lin Yun’s actions.

As a layman in the field of alchemy, how could he know how complicated alchemy puppets were? How could he know what kind of skill would be needed to instantly dismantle puppets? In Solomon’s eyes, it was a matter of course. Weren’t puppets the result of alchemy? With a Master Alchemist here so close to them, weren’t they just waiting to be dismantled?

After returning from Oddrock City, Solomon had complained a few times to Thorpe, saying that puppets were truly too unreliable. If they could be dismantled so easily by alchemists, then the Sage Tower couldn’t rely on them too heavily for the defense of their territory. Hearing these words, Thorpe had looked at Solomon with a rather strange expression.

It was natural for Solomon to think this way because of his time spent with Lin Yun and his inexperience when it came to the subject of alchemy.

But Suyass was an expert...

Moreover, he was an expert among experts, to the point that there weren’t many people more skilled than him in the entire Andlusa Kingdom.

Solomon didn’t know how complicated puppets were, but Suyass most certainly did. Solomon didn’t know what instantly dismantling a puppet meant, but Suyas knew...

Suyass looked as if he had seen a ghost.

“High Mage Solomon, d-d-didn’t you see?” Suyass was staring foolishly at the scene and wobbling sluggishly, not even controlling the Thunderstorm as he rubbed his eyes...

‘There must have been something in my eyes, definitely...’

Suyas comforted himself...

But Lin Yun didn’t even give him the opportunity to comfort himself. As Suyass rubbed his eyes, the Hasted Lin Yun accelerated and used the cover of Solomon’s flashy spells to reach another puppet.

Then, his hands only softly moved twice more before that puppet stiffened and collapsed, scattering into a pile of components.



The remaining puppet was less troublesome. Lin Yun didn't even bother waiting for Solomon's supporting fire and used an Ice Fire Shield. He relied on the protection of the quickly rotating red and blue lights to rush through the magic rays and dismantle that puppet on the spot.

And after that... Well, there was nothing after that...

"Th-thi-this... This is broken...." Suyass' eyes were almost swollen from the rubbing. But as looked at the three pile of components on the ground, he almost went crazy.

'What kind of situation was that... How could he have done that so fast? Those were Vaughn's puppets, they had to be dismantled according to their original plan! How was this any different from sleight of hand?'

"High mage Solomon, yo-yo-you saw, right?" Suyass stammered before asking again.

"I saw, I saw..." Solomon casually answered and thought that Suyass was truly very sheltered for an Archmage. To him, this dismantling had seemed kind of slow. Yet, Suyass was almost scared into pissing his pants. What kind of expression would he have if he had seen what happened before in the Demiplane?

'How come such a person came out of the Mercury Tower? He is so weak-willed!'

Solomon made a mental note.

"It's settled, let's go." Lin Yun had already finished picking parts out of the piles of components. It would be more appropriate to say that he plundered most of them, as every single useful component ended up in his spatial ring. After finishing, he noticed that Suyass' expression was a bit weird. "Is there something wrong, Sir Suyass?"

"Nothing, nothing..." Suyass recovered upon hearing Lin Yun's question, but his gaze was extremely complicated while looking at Lin Yun.

It was normal for him to be bewildered. After all, Suyass was a peak Master Alchemist, and he was bound to enter the Artisan realm. Moreover, he was in contact with Nolan and Karon on a regular basis, so he had seen a realm of alchemy that regular alchemists could never hope to see.

Suyass then found out that this young Great Mage had attained a high level of mastery over alchemy. Otherwise, how could Merlin have helped him crack a Maze Array close to True Spirit level by casually pointing something out?

But Suyass had never imagined that it would be this high.

This already couldn't be described as high, this was completely broken!

Suyass wasn't Solomon. Solomon was able to just think that all of this was normal, but Suyass was the disciple of an Artisan, giving him a great understanding of the workings of alchemical puppets.

But it was also because of this understanding that Suyass knew how frightening this young Great Mage was.

That dismantling speed could only be reached when one had a complete understanding of the puppets being taken apart.

The so-called complete understanding pointed to the understanding of every detail of each component. This could be explained if it had been the creator of the puppet, but that young Great Mage obviously had just encountered those three puppets for the first time like himself. He didn't even know the model of the puppets before the information from the Mage Eye came back...

From the time he looked at the puppets until he dismantled them, no more than a minute had passed.

But in that short minute, he had already been able to thoroughly understand the details of each of the puppets. What horrifying insight, what frightening computing ability...

There was also his dismantling skill.

Compared to the insight and computing ability, his dismantling skill truly rendered Suyass dumbstruck. Suyass had led puppet legions into battle for several years in the Golden Forest Plane, so how could he not know how frightening that dismantling skill was? It was like sleight of hand, a sort that had to be repeated a million times at the very least before it could reach this level.

An average person might just think that this technique was miraculous after having it explained, but Suyass knew that this wasn't as simple as being miraculous. It meant that this young Great Mage had incredibly deep knowledge of puppets. That kind of experience could have come from building countless puppets or from fighting countless puppets before he gained some sort of instinct against them.

That discovery made Suyass realize that he wasn't just a genius...

After dealing with the three puppets, the four of them left the botanical garden, but the way Suyass looked at Lin Yun was clearly different now.

"I think that we should be able to directly reach Vaughn's laboratory from this botanical garden..." Lin Yun actually didn't feel that anything was wrong with Suyass' expression.

As for dismantling puppets... There were indeed few alchemists in this era that could contend with Lin Yun; even the creators of the puppets wouldn't do. They just hadn't experienced that future era...

At that time, multitudes of puppets were buried in the deserts. They had lost the source of their mana and were just strewn about, immobile. After generations of dismantling and scavenging them for useful materials, the available parts became fewer and fewer in number. In the end, the puppets that Lin Yun could find in the deserts had been practically stripped bare.

But Lin Yun wouldn't even let go of these puppets. He would sometimes crouch in the deserts for nights in order to get a few screws or a few springs... After twenty years, Lin Yun had already seen all kinds of puppet models. After dismantling puppets thousands of times, he had already engraved all of their details in his mind.

As for his dismantling skill...

Anyone could reach Lin Yun's level of skill once they dismantled as many puppets...

“This is hard to say. Vaughn was the last Artisan of the 3rd Dynasty. A Great Mage like you can’t imagine how he did things. What if the botanical garden and the laboratory are separated?” Although Fran was surprised by Lin Yun’s way of dealing with the three puppets, he still acted contrary due to his grievances.

Unfortunately, he was opposing Lin Yun.

“Haha, High Mage Fran’s imagination is quite vivid.”

“You...”

“Fran, shut up.” Suyass’ expression turned unsightly.

Fran didn’t dare to say anything else after Suyass intervened. He only muttered, “But, what if...”

“What if what!” Suyass became angry, and his voice rose quite a bit. “If you were Vaughn, would you be foolish enough to establish an alchemy laboratory far away from the botanical garden? Don’t you know about magic materials that can only be preserved for a limited amount of time?”

“...” Fran stiffened, unable to retort, because he really had forgotten about that.

“Okay, it’s not far ahead...” Lin Yun didn’t pay attention to Fran and only focused on his Mage Eyes scouting the surroundings. After a dozen seconds, he had seen what he needed, causing him to frown.

“There is a bit of trouble...”

## **Chapter 224: Tower In The Sky**

“What?” Suyass quickly cast a Mage Eye to take a look.

The laboratory was indeed next to the botanical garden, two hundred meters away, through a small path paved with Ivory Stones.

There was a floating Sky Tower.

Through the Mage Eye, Suyass could clearly see that the tower was around two hundred meters above the ground. There wasn’t any support, and it was truly floating in the sky.

“Merlin, you...” Suyass worriedly looked at Lin Yun. Of the four present, there were two High Mages and one Archmage, so they would be able to use Levitation and Flight to reach the tower. But the last one was a 9th Rank Great Mage. At that rank, he couldn’t use either of those spells. Even if he drew from the power of Elemental Incarnation to use Elemental Flash, he wouldn’t be able to cross a distance of over two hundred meters...

“There is no issue with climbing the tower...” Lin Yun shook his head. Although he was only a 9th Rank Great Mage, he still had ways to reach it if he wanted to. He was actually troubled by something else.

“Don’t you hear a buzzing sound?”

“Ah?”

Suyass froze for a bit before frowning.

Because he clearly noticed the eight puppets circling around the tower. Whenever they turned, that buzzing sound would echo.

“Flying puppets!”

“And they aren’t weak...” Lin Yun scratched his cheek as he looked at those eight flying puppets and couldn’t help smiling bitterly...

The eight puppets were blocking all the routes to the tower as they circled around. Lin Yun knew with one glance that there was no shortcut, so they would have to steel themselves.

“Two for each...” At this time, Lin Yun didn’t dare to deal with everything by himself, even though these puppets weren’t as powerful as the earlier ones. Before he could reach the High Mage realm, aerial battles were his weak point.

“Alright!” Suyass didn’t say much and took Fran with him as they cast Flight and Levitation. The two flew into the sky, and just as they reached the fifty-meter boundary, five flying puppets began to bombard them.

Suyass’ true might could be seen there. An Archmage was truly an Archmage. Under the effects of Flight, he was like a fish in water, displaying his Mobile Casting ability to the pinnacle. His spells were simply unaffected by the high-speed flying, striking accurately and efficiently. He was actually holding his own against five puppets and didn’t seem to be at a disadvantage.

“Let’s go too.” Seeing Suyass start the fight so conspicuously, Lin Yun poured mana into the Lava Dominator. This time, Lin Yun activated the flying ability of the Lava Dominator.

Just as Lin Yun flew into the air, the remaining three puppets instantly pounced towards him.

“Such a fast reaction...” Lin Yun quickly changed his path and brushed past the three flying puppets. At the same time, he raised the Spiritual Magic Staff in his hand and an Ice Fire Shield appeared.

Sure enough, just as Lin Yun released the Ice Fire Shield, a large flurry of Wind Blades was already tearing through the air.

Amidst the numerous sharp sounds, the two radiances of the Ice Fire Shield quickly flickered as a large number of Wind Blades fell on it. It sounded like a bell being struck continuously. Lin Yun didn’t stay idle as he controlled the Ice Fire Shield. He tightened the grip on his Spiritual Magic Staff and fired off a Flame Burst.

It was followed by a loud explosion.

The Flame Burst smashed heavily into a puppet and caused a burst of sparks akin to glittering fireworks. The flying puppet was sent flying by the Flame Burst’s shockwave.

Lin Yun didn’t loosen his guard when the Flame Burst hit its target.

He clearly saw the puppet get blasted away, but neither its flying nor its combat effectiveness seemed to have suffered at all. That kind of defensive ability was quite scary, and Lin Yun felt that even the Bone Plane’s puppet’s toughness couldn’t compare...

‘Sure enough...’ After this discovery, Lin Yun didn’t dare to be careless and put most of his energy into the Ice Fire Shield.

No shortcuts could be taken in that fight. What skills? What tactics? They were all restricted by this battle environment. Since they were out in the open, it was just a battle of offensive spells against defensive spells.

At that time, the rank superiority was clearly displayed. After all, a gap of ten ranks wasn’t a joke. Suyass and Fran were in a fight against five puppets, suffering from the pressure of nearly two-thirds of the puppets. But thanks to Suyass’ strength as a newly advanced Archmage, they managed to finish their fight before Lin Yun and Solomon...

In the end, Suyass even helped them deal with the last puppet.

As the final puppet fell to the ground, it exploded with a loud bang. This battle made Lin Yun extremely uncomfortable.

“Wait...” Suyass and the others were just about to fly into the tower when Lin Yun suddenly stopped them. Before consulting with the others, he turned towards the still intact puppet...

And like before, he didn’t let go of any useful parts.

Lin Yun took a minute to completely dismantle it and put the parts into his spatial ring before flying back and joining up with the other three.

“Merlin, you are a bit too stingy...” This time, even Solomon couldn’t help commenting.

The esteemed boss of the Gilded Rose, someone who would gain thousands and millions of golds every deal... wouldn’t spare the defeated puppets. If that spread, some people would certainly think that it was strange.

“Hmph, we were busy dealing with more than half of the enemies, yet you are the one sneakily rushing to pocket the most valuable parts...” Fran, who had received two blows in the botanical garden before seeing Lin Yun loot the three puppets, had already been holding back his complaints, but in this battle, he and Suyass restrained six puppets, making this ostrich-like Master Alchemist finally show his head.

“Shut up...” How could Suyass care about a few components? He was actually surprised by Lin Yun’s actions. “Merlin, did you find anything?”

“Somewhat...” Lin Yun nodded, before taking out a mechanical system from his ring. It had just been taken from the flying puppet. “Sir Suyass, take a look at this.”

“What’s up?” Suyass felt somewhat strange, but after looking at it for a while, he couldn’t still find anything wrong with it.

“It was well maintained.”

“That’s surprising...” Hearing this, Suyass couldn’t help feeling that it was rather curious. ‘Indeed, that mechanical system is in a very good state. It doesn’t look like it has gone unused for two millennia.

After all, mechanical systems were different from other components. Some other kinds of components wouldn't have any issues after a few years, but mechanical systems would need to be cleaned at regular intervals, or else many impurities would accumulate and malfunctions could result. It might even lead to the mechanical system breaking down.

"It's not just these flying puppets. Even the puppets we saw in the botanical garden had the same peculiarity. If I'm not wrong, they had been maintained recently, around a week ago..."

"How could this be!"

Lin Yun's words didn't only surprise Suyass. They even made Solomon startled!

'How could they have been maintained a week ago! Vaughn has been dead for almost two thousand years... Who would come to maintain these puppets? Ghosts?'

"In any case, this laboratory is very strange..." Even Lin Yun didn't know the specifics. They would only be able to reach a conclusion after going in.

In the end, the four could only fly up to the tower with these kinds of questions in their minds.

They could clearly see the tower covered in moss, dust, and a large number of cobwebs. It truly looked as if no one had come here for a very long time.

The entrance to the tower was wide open, as the two wooden doors had already rotten away. Wind blew past from time to time, causing a crackling sound. A pair of puppets were there, one on either side of the door, but because it had been so long, their mana sources had already been depleted. They were now laying there, their bodies covered in dust and rust. They were completely different from the puppets they had seen before.

"Mage Breaker models..." Lin Yun took a quick look and then happily identified them. These two broken puppets were Mage Breaker puppets. If the mana sources hadn't been exhausted, they would have been in for a very challenging fight.

But fortunately...

With that in mind, the four of them pushed through the remains of the rotten doors and cautiously entered. After going through a long corridor, they quickly arrived in a spacious hall, hundreds of meters large. Above them hung six gorgeous lamps, and the floor was filled with square Ivory Stones. Each block had been cut like a huge gem, with delicate and complex designs, full of the aura of extravagance from the 3rd Dynasty.

The only other exit was across the hall, leading to a hallway that they couldn't see the end of. It was just shrouded in darkness, just like the maw of a ferocious beast.

"Okay, time to play 'find the differences'..."

**Chapter 225: Magic Iron Forge**

“Spatial crack?” Suyass had also noticed. In the face of a dangerous, hidden trap like that, the newly advanced Archmage also didn’t dare to be careless. He cast True Sight, and his expression became grave. “There are seven spatial cracks, how could they have gathered like that?”

“It probably didn’t happen naturally.” After the last two encounters with the puppets, Lin Yun had already made some mental preparations for the strange laboratory. Although the seven spatial cracks were treacherous, they weren’t threatening enough to make Lin Yun worry.

A few magic runes had already appeared as the two were chatting, and the seven spatial cracks were marked one by one. This was to make it easier on Solomon and Fran. Their mastery of True Sight wasn’t as good as Suyass’ ability with it, and they didn’t have Lin Yun’s abnormal Magic Array, so they could only rely on the magic runes released by the other two to guide their path.

With their help, moving through the hall wasn’t a big issue. Soon, the party of four crossed the pitch-black hallway and started climbing the stairs leading to the second floor. They didn’t meet any real danger on the way, although there occasionally were a few trap arrays, which were cracked by Suyass.

The space in the stone tower’s interior had clearly been expanded by an array. On the outside, it seemed to be only a hundred meters tall, but the second floor was an extremely wide expanse. There were as many as five libraries covering over several hundred meters of space, along with the discarded workshops on both sides and the various laboratory storerooms. Altogether, the entire 2nd floor was almost as big as the Victorious Return Street.

Unfortunately, the second floor had clearly been deserted for many years. Whether it was the libraries or the workshops, everything was covered in dust and spider webs. The four of them spent a lot of effort scouring the area to get a few intact books and materials from these places. And the laboratory storerooms were even worse. They were all empty, only filled with dust.

“How could Vaughn be so stingy...” Their gains were far too poor... How could the laboratory of an Artisan look like that? Solomon couldn’t accept it.

“This isn’t Vaughn being stingy...” Lin Yun wasn’t surprised.

From the Maze Array to the two encounters with the puppets, and now these absolutely empty storerooms... Lin Yun had already made some conjectures about the situation of the laboratory, but it was inconvenient to talk about his guesses before having a confirmation.

“Okay, stop complaining and let’s check the 3rd floor. I feel that there will be a great surprise on the 3rd floor...”

“Do you really think so?” Solomon had a dubious expression on his face. It wasn’t that he didn’t believe Lin Yun, but after seeing the empty first two floors, how could he have any expectations for the 3rd floor?

As a result, Solomon was gobsmacked when the party of four reached the top of the next flight of stairs.

“Where... Where is this?”

The 3rd floor was an entire workshop. In the center was a huge Magic Iron Forge, while several dozen workshops were producing different parts, forming an assembly line with the Magic Iron Forge as their

core. There was an alchemy puppet at each post. Some were welding, some were assembling, and some were monitoring.

This was definitely a huge workshop used to produce puppets. Moreover, the scale was huge, far greater than anything the four had ever seen. If such a huge workshop was running at full production, it might be able to manufacture a huge puppet legion in a single night.

Unfortunately...

The huge Magic Iron Forge didn't let off a single spark, as the assembly line had already stopped. The puppets had already used their last bits of mana.

The huge workshop had already been shut down.

"Now we know why the 2nd floor was completely empty..."

"This scale is so frightening. If production were reinstated, would it make enough puppets to attack Thousand Sails City?" Solomon was stunned, and just seeing a workshop of this size frightened him.

"Three of Thousand Sails City still wouldn't be able to resist."

While the two talked, Fran suddenly looked like he was suffering. "I... I'm feeling a bit dizzy..."

"What's going on?" Suyass suddenly frowned. Although he wasn't fond of this fellow disciple, they were both from the Mercury Tower. Seeing Fran like this, Suyass immediately became nervous. After carefully checking on him, he sighed in relief. "It's not that severe, it might just be that you aren't able to stand the radiation of that magic metal. You should look for a place to rest and stay away from the Magic Iron Forge."

"Ah..." Fran nodded. As he left, the other three could clearly see him dragging his feet as he staggered along his way.

"Master Fran needs to strengthen his body..." Lin Yun smiled as he said that after seeing Fran leave.

"Yeah..." Suyass helplessly shook his head. Fran had already left, so they could speak boldly about him. "When he was young, Fran clashed with the Merlin Family a few times. He was severely injured during one of the clashes and never truly recovered. The effects of his injury still resurface from time to time, and because of this, he would always be very hostile with the Merlin Family. Merlin, I apologize on Fran's behalf if he did anything to offend you, but please don't lower yourself to his level..."

"Haha, this is a trivial matter..." Lin Yun smiled while gazing at Fran's back and thinking about the irony of that statement...

Eventually, Lin Yun turned back to the other two. "We can see the size of this workshop. If I'm not wrong, the materials from the 2nd floor's storerooms should be here. It would be better to split up again and see what we can harvest, don't you think?"

"Okay, like before, let's gather here in an hour."

"Very well, let's do it as before...."



Solomon did as he said, a few minutes after they went their separate ways, the 9th Rank High Mage once again returned to Lin Yun's side and was welcomed by Lin Yun rolling his eyes at him. Solomon straightforwardly said, "Like earlier, you pick what you'd like and I'll take the scraps..."

"You are very stubborn..."

"Don't think I don't know why you wanted to get rid of Suyass that fast, you definitely found something!" After cooperating with him for a few times, Solomon already had a good understanding of Merlin. Solomon knew that regardless of the circumstances, as long as he followed that young Great Mage, even if he only got the scraps, his harvest would far exceed what he would have gotten otherwise.

"Then you definitely guessed wrong this time..."

"Impossible!"

"Really. This time, I plan on following Master Fran."

"Fran?" Solomon looked suspiciously at Lin Yun. "Fran didn't go rest?"

"No, did you believe those words? An esteemed 5th Rank High Mage being unable to bear the radiation of magic metals? I think this is only an excuse used to deceive Suyass, but I didn't expect even you to get deceived..."

"..."

As the two were talking, Fran was already getting further away.

After leaving the other three, the anguished expression had disappeared from Fran's face. His steps were also more lively. He was following the assembly lines towards the center of the workshop.

'Hmpf, Mafa Merlin...' As he got closer and closer to the Magic Iron Forge, the smile on his face grew wider and wider.

Before, in order to ask for help from the Mercury Tower, Fran wrote a letter to Nolan. In the letter, he mentioned that he had found some information that suggested that this place might be Vaughn's laboratory. When reading the letter, Nolan and Karon had both felt that this had been a pretext used by Fran.

Only Fran himself knew.

He had truly conducted some research about it.

But that had been a long time ago, when he was still a mere Great Alchemist, and it had been a coincidence. He had obtained some partially incomplete information.

The author of the notes had once participated in the construction of the stone tower. It was just that everyone was killed after the tower was completed. The incomplete notes managed to circulate before landing in Fran's hands.

Thus, Fran understood some secrets of the stone tower...

The problem was that finding a never-before-seen stone tower was easier said than done. Fran only studied it for a while when he initially got the information, but then forgot about it.

He hadn't expected that this expedition would lead him to find the stone tower by entering Vaughn's laboratory, let alone that the stone tower would be the actual laboratory itself. At this time, Fran started paying attention to his surroundings and was shocked to find out that everything was exactly as it had been described in the notes...

That discovery made Fran feel overjoyed.

But Fran felt the need to be prudent here. When discovering this shocking fact, he didn't tell anyone and only endured as they went through the first two floors. When they reached the 3rd floor, Fran knew that he had to find a chance to move on his own. Because the most important thing written on the notes was regarding the 3rd floor of the stone tower...

That's why he feigned being dizzy as an excuse.

But unfortunately, he didn't know...

He wasn't the only one that had seen these notes...

## **Chapter 226: Crystal Scales**

"Well, Fran has already left us in the dust, so why aren't you in a hurry to chase after him?" Solomon, who was following Lin Yun's lead, was the one who seemed more anxious, and he kept telling him to hurry.

"What do you mean, chase? He can't escape..." Lin Yun wasn't the least bit worried as he slowly followed Fran's trail by sensing the residual mana fluctuations.

In fact, if not for Solomon urging him to, Lin Yun wouldn't even have bothered to track the mana fluctuations since he already knew where he was going.

There wasn't much information about the Four Seasons Canyon in that library in the future, so Lin Yun was as unfamiliar with everything here as Suyass and the others.

But it was different after entering the stone tower, especially after entering the stone tower's 3rd floor. It was then that Lin Yun had a feeling of *deja vu*, and after thinking about it remembered some information he had read, notes linked to the stone tower's construction. It was mentioned in those notes that Vaughn's set of Spiritual Magic Tools were put in the center of the huge workshop to keep the workshop operating. That set of Spiritual Magic Tools was known as the Crystal Scales.

The huge Magic Iron Forge was an anthill-like workshop, with assembly lines crisscrossing all around. Lin Yun believed that no alchemy workshop bigger than this existed. When he saw the 3rd floor and finally linked it to the notes for sure, he was rather stunned.

But Lin Yun clearly remembered that the information had come from the Mercury Tower.

And Fran pretended to be dizzy so he could excuse himself.

Since the situation unfolded like that, how could Lin Yun not know what Fran was planning?

After following the tracks, they discovered that Fran indeed hadn't gone to look for a place to rest and instead was sneaking toward the Magic Iron Forge in the center.

After all, the notes mentioned that the Crystal Scales were in the center of the forge.

After confirming this, Lin Yun no longer needed to keep following the tracks. He already had a pretty good guess of what Fran wanted to do, what he could do, and even how he could do it.

Ten minutes later, Fran was in the center of the Magic Iron Forge. After looking all around him and confirming that no one was following him, he finally fished out a wrinkled note from his pocket and started chanting the incantation written upon it.

Following Fran's incantation, a white smoke slowly rose up from under his feet. It was pretty faint at first, but it quickly became thicker and thicker before finally condensing into an aged face before Fran's eyes.

"Human, did you call me?"

"Are... Are you Sir Griffin?" Fran was startled and subconsciously took a few steps back as he asked the pale face, "The incarnation of the Crystal Scales?"

"I didn't expect someone to remember my name after so many years. Indeed, I am Griffin, the incarnation of the Crystal Scales. Human, why did you wake me from my slumber?"

"Great, Sir Griffin, I am called Fran, a Master Alchemist from the Mercury Tower. I learnt of your existence from an ancient document and piously and humbly came here hoping to obtain your power. Ah, I know that it takes a lot of mana to help you recover your freedom and I prepared a lot of mana crystals. As long as you are willing, I'll use these mana crystals to help you regain your freedom!"

"Ah?" The face condensed from smoke suddenly burst into laughter. "Human, you want me to serve you?"

"Ye-Yes!" Fran took one step back before summoning his courage and fishing out a bag from his pocket. The bag was filled with shiny, flickering mana crystals. The lowest one was at the 10th level while the highest one was even level 20. "As long as you agree, these mana crystals will be yours!"

"Haha, Human, what did you say your name was?"

"I am Fran."

"Good, Fran, you want me to serve you? Fine."

"Sir Griffin, you are agreeing?" Fran looked earnestly at the smoke.

"Let me see..." The smoke suddenly coiled close, doing a circle around him before merging back into an old face. "Not bad, 5th Rank High Mage and the Time Hand Magic Conducting Rune. This kind of strength is worthy of my service. But Fran, if you want me to serve you, you have to pay the price..."

"Of course, of course, Sir Griffin, I am willing to pay the price!" Hearing this, Fran's eyes shone. He didn't even ask what the price was and immediately agreed.

'These are the Crystal Scales... The Crystal Scales that even Teacher Nolan incessantly praised.' It was said that whoever controlled this set of three Spiritual Magic Tools would have the power of an Archmage and even their alchemy level would be forcibly pushed to the Artisan realm. At that time, his strength might even be able to close in towards that of his teacher, Nolan. 'What Karon? What Suyass? They would all have to look up to me! And as for that insignificant Mafa Merlin... I'll only need one finger to crush him!'

"Good, Human, sign this contract and I'll serve you." The smoky face chanted an incantation and the hazy smoke condensed into a contract written in Nesser.

"Contract?" Fran was suddenly brought back down to earth as he took the contract in his hands and carefully read it before calming down.

That contract wasn't that demanding...

Overall, the contract maintained the equal status of both sides, and although he could borrow the power of the Crystal Scales, he couldn't put too many restrictions on the other party. Naturally, it was also the same the other way around. Whenever he needed the power from the Crystal Scales, he would also have to give the Crystal Scales mana crystals in exchange.

It was a contract of equals.

An exchange of power for mana crystals.

"What? Not willing?"

"No, no..." Fran was already daydreaming about the power he was about to obtain. He became a bit confused when the Crystal Scales pressed him to answer. As he was rushed, he didn't focus on those details anymore... He only slightly hesitated before making his decision." I am willing. I'll sign immediately!"

After saying that, Fran bit his finger and used his blood to sign his name on the contract.

Just as he completed it, the face exploded back into smoke and disappeared into the contract.

"Sir Griffin?" Fran was startled. But before he could recover, he saw a magic staff and two rings appearing from the hazy smoke.

"Are these... are these the Crystal Scales?" The Spiritual Magic Staff and the ring emitted powerful mana fluctuations, leaving Fran stunned on the spot. After no less than a minute, Fran finally extended his hand and gently touched the floating magic staff.

Then, he felt a surge of power rushing into his body. Moreover, even though that power was surging ferociously, it wasn't uncomfortable. It felt as if that power was his own. That unprecedented feeling of power made him unable to stop himself and he immediately grabbed the magic staff and put the two rings on his fingers.

'Sure enough, it is the power of an Archmage...' Fran tightly grasped the magic staff and brimmed with newly found self-confidence. The extreme power made him feel as if he could sweep away any opponents that he might ever face.

Fran was feeling as if he had been reborn.

With the Crystal Scales in his possession, even if Karon was his opponent, no one would know who would end up being the victor. As for Suyass, who always berated him, only 70% of his power would be enough to easily defeat him.

This feeling was very euphoric.

Fran stood amidst the hazy smoke as he carefully checked the set of Crystal Scales and felt the power coursing through him. After a long time, he burst into elated laughter.

“Mafa Merlin, wait for me...”

Fran was completely immersed in the thrill of the powerup and hadn't noticed that Lin Yun and Solomon were already watching him.

“Merlin, you don't want to make a move before he sees us?” Solomon was burning with anxiousness when he saw Fran getting hold of that set of Spiritual Tools and his mana fluctuations reaching the level of an Archmage... Moreover, he seemed even stronger than Suyass now. At the thought of Fran getting revenge, Solomon couldn't help urging Lin Yun again.

“When did I say that I wanted to make a move?” Lin Yun looked at Solomon, feeling baffled. He cast a Haste spell as he added, “We don't have time to thank Fran, we have to move quickly because we have something important to do...”

“Ah?” Solomon's chin almost hit the floor. He watched Lin Yun for a long time before stammering, “Yo-you... You tracked Fran for so long in order to watch him get the Crystal Scales?”

“Of course, if he didn't take the Crystal Scales away, how could I dare look for that thing? Did you think that old fellow in the Crystal Scales was truly slumbering? I'll tell you, that old thing was fishing, luring Fran like an unwary fish. Just watch, Fran is going to be crying soon...”

## **Chapter 227: Alchemic Mana Whirlpool**

“What's going on Merlin?”

“There is no time to explain, hurry up, stop wasting time. We won't have a chance once Fran recovers to his senses...”

After saying that, he didn't wait for Solomon's reaction and roused his speed to the limit as he rushed through the cobweb-like assembly line, relying on the cover of the manufacturing workshop to quickly circumvent the elated Fran and rush towards the northern part of the alchemy workshop.

A few minutes later, Lin Yun was inside a huge warehouse.

This ought to have been the warehouse handling rejected products. All kinds of damaged components were scattered around. Dozens of discarded puppets were laying in the corners, even more magic materials haphazardly dispersed on the ground. It felt as if the two walked into a garbage dump.

Dust, rust, trash, the warehouse air even felt stuffy. Solomon pinched his nose as he coughed heavily.

“Shit, this filthy place was what you were looking for?”

“High Mage Solomon, don’t make a conclusion so quickly...” Lin Yun answered while looking through a pile of trash.

Lin Yun looked patient and focused as he moved from one pile of trash to another in high spirits. It felt as if he couldn’t get tired of this.

“Merlin, I greatly admire you...”

“Yeah, yeah...” Lin Yun smirked, thinking, ‘If you experienced that era you would also happily dig through the trash...’

“Found it!” Just as Lin Yun was about to start inwardly cursing, a glimmer within the trash pile elicited a smile on Lin Yun’s face. He rushed over to grab that thing before wiping off the dust with his sleeve, revealing a few thumb sized metal balls.

These metal balls were actually soft to the touch and regardless what shape he squeezed them to, they would regain their original appearance once he let go, a perfect round ball. They were still emitting some glimmers in this pitch black trash warehouse.

“Merlin, what did you find?” Solomon came over to Lin Yun’s side, but after studying one of the balls for a long time, he couldn’t understand what these metal balls were used for.

“Don’t look down on these metal balls...” Lin Yun cleaned the metal balls clear while answering Solomon, “They are Vaughn’s greatest invention.”

“Ah?” Solomon was startled and almost let go of that metal ball, “Vaughn’s greatest invention isn’t the Hexagram Star?”

“What Hexagram Star...” Lin Yun snorted, “You aren’t an alchemist, the Hexagram Star has no worth to you, but these metal balls can increase your fighting strength...”

“What... What are these things?”

“This thing is an Alchemic Mana Whirlpool.” Lin Yun held one metal ball in his hand, “That’s no ordinary magic metal, this is Mithril. It is only produced in the 40th and lower layers of the Abyss. It is the material able to contain the most mana in Noscent. Vaughn spent decades to forge it into six Alchemic Mana Whirlpools...”

“Alchemic Mana Whirlpool?”

“To put it simply, they are alchemy items used to act as a Mana Whirlpool. If you can merge with the six Alchemic Mana Whirlpools, it would be like having six extra Mana Whirlpools. Think about it, what kind of concept is six Mana Whirlpools?”

“...” Cold sweat trickled down Solomon’s back.

What kind of concept was six Mana Whirlpools...

Let alone six, just one extra Mana Whirlpool would be heaven defying!

An ordinary 9th Rank High Mage like Solomon would have his power doubled! There would be no need to fight others, he could just scare them to death.

“How amazing...” With the six Alchemic Mana Whirlpools, Lin Yun’s face displayed a rare sincere smile. To him, these six metal balls were the most precious things in the tower. In contrast, everything he got before was just worthless. Even the Crystal Scales were far too inferior compared to these metal balls...

The set of Crystal Scales indeed had the might of a True Spirit Magic Tool while also strengthening magic and alchemy. As a result Fran had the power of an Archmage and Artisan now... But that power didn’t belong to Fran.

Lin Yun knew about the Crystal Scales tools set.

Even if Fran was currently elated, it wouldn’t be long before his only feeling would be despair.

But these six Alchemic Mana Whirlpools were completely different. Once merged, they would be considered one’s own power and each of them could double the power of a mage!

Thus, saying that these metal balls were Vaughn’s greatest invention wasn’t an exaggeration.

Unfortunately, Vaughn himself hadn’t realized that during his life. After being crafted, these metals balls were unable to be merged with and so these six Alchemic Mana Whirlpools were no longer a priority, even ending up in the warehouse for failures.

But when Vaughn became older, the research on the six Alchemic Mana Whirlpool was restarted. He spent a few dozen years on it before solving the merging issue. By then Vaughn was already too old and could no longer leave Crystal Island. In the end, he could only put the result of his research into notes and put them inside what would later be known as his tomb.

Years later, the Ivory Tower seized Vaughn’s treasury and found numerous notes within. Among which were the notes about the Alchemic Mana Whirlpool. But strangely, the Ivory Tower still came out empty-handed even after sending four teams to the Four Seasons Canyon, thus, the Alchemic Mana Whirlpools became an unsolved mystery.

When reading those notes, Lin Yun never expected that one day he would be able to enter the Four Seasons Canyon and find those six Alchemic Mana Whirlpools in the failure warehouse.

“So fortunate...” Lin Yun sighed while handing two metal balls to Solomon, “Here, according to our previous agreement, I’ll take four and you can get two. But I suggest you to only merge with one and keep the remaining one for Solon. That thing is very taxing and has very heavy requirements. One should be your limit.”

“Okay, I understand.” Solomon was very self-aware. One Alchemic Mana Whirlpool could double his mana, that kind of mana increase wasn’t something an ordinary person could bear.

“Find a place to do the merging. This stone tower is dangerous, having more mana would be safer...” After saying that, Lin Yun put away one Alchemic Mana Whirlpool, keeping three in his hand.

Lin Yun estimated that three should be his limit.

As for the remaining one, he would keep it for William.

Lin Yun had thought about this. He currently had three trusted subordinates: Faleau, William and Xiuban. Faleau would focus on the Gilded Rose and wouldn't spend too much energy on the field of magic, and there was no need to mention Xiuban... As a Draconic Beastman, the source of his casting ability came from his bloodline, he hadn't formed any Mana Whirlpool. Giving him the Alchemic Mana Whirlpool would be wasting it. William was the only one left and the most worthy of merging with the metal ball.

William currently had the strength of a 9th Rank Great Mage and could become a High Mage anytime. Once he fused with the Alchemic Mana Whirlpool, his strength would double and with the power of the Crimson Heart, he wouldn't fall behind a 5th Rank High Mage.

The two found a deserted corner of the warehouse, and just as they were about to proceed with the merging, Lin Yun heard a light sound.

"Ah?" Lin Yun was suddenly startled and cast a Light, suddenly illuminating most of the warehouse.

The light was followed by a magic ray flying towards Lin Yun.

"Fuck..." Lin Yun quickly reacted and erected an Ice Fire Shield, just in time to block the attack, allowing him to see what attacked him. A broken puppet...

That broken puppet was now laying in a corner of the warehouse, its arms already dismantled and most of its arrays damaged. Only the Frost Ray array on its forehead was still intact.

And precisely that intact array was the origin of the sudden attack!

This was outrageous!

In such a state, it still looked for trouble!

Lin Yun's hand quickly moved and a few Wind Blades were sent over. Only a few whistling sounds could be heard echoing as the few Wind Blades suddenly flew towards the puppet's forehead. The only intact array was instantly destroyed by the wave of Lin Yun's hand.

After doing this, Lin Yun still had some annoyance to vent and cast a Flame Spear towards the puppet's mana source.

But after casting, he was surprised to discover that after being pierced by the Flame Spear, the mana source didn't show any signs of exploding. Even the weakest mana source would have mana flow within, how could there not be a single spark after being skewered by a Flame Spear?

'How could it be like this?'

That Flame Spear was just stuck on the corpse, there was no reaction...

## **Chapter 228: Possessed**

'What is going on?' Lin Yun was surprised and crouched to examine that destroyed puppet.



The result of his inspection showed that the puppet had been severely damaged and the mana source had been exhausted for a very long time. The mechanisms had also been seriously damaged and 80% of the puppet's arrays were non-operational. Based on common sense, such a puppet shouldn't be able to move, let alone sneak attack someone...

This discovery made Lin Yun frown.

'What...?'

'How could a trashed puppet perform a sneak attack? Could it be... Possession?'

"Merlin! Watch out!" Solomon yelled at Lin Yun, who was lost in thought.

A sharp sound echoed suddenly. Lin Yun didn't even turn his head before a new Flame Spear was thrown out and nailed the creepily laughing puppet on the wall.

Lin Yun didn't relax after dealing with the sneak attack of the puppet, because just as the puppet was nailed to the wall, cracking sounds echoed from every corner of the warehouse...

"Fuck..." Lin Yun cursed.

This was indeed possession.

And it was mass possession!

Under the magical light, he could clearly see several dozen of scraped puppets swaying over from various corners of the room.

These puppets had all been thrown away due to mana source exhaustion, major malfunctions, or array damage. They shouldn't be able to work under normal circumstances. But under the possession, their arrays were filled with radiance and their mechanisms were set in motion just like normal puppets.

"It's really a fucking ghost..." At this time, Lin Yun couldn't deal with it and directly turned into raging flames before pouncing towards the closest batch of puppets.

"Boom, boom, boom..."

Lin Yun let out three Flame Bursts and the closest puppet didn't even have time to react before it was turned into pieces by the onslaught of spells.

To be honest, this wasn't the most efficient way...

Any mage with some understanding of puppets would know that the most efficient way was to attack the mana source. Just like the Flame Spear Lin Yun had cast earlier. One simple hit could thoroughly destroy the mana source, turning even the most powerful puppet into a pile of scraps.

But Lin Yun knew that these puppets simply couldn't be judged by common sense. They could move with damaged mechanisms, they could cast with damaged arrays, and exhausted mana sources meant nothing to them.

There was only one way to deal with these possessed puppets, completely destroy them.

After the first puppet was destroyed by the three Flame Bursts, Lin Yun didn't even take the time to breathe before ferociously piercing through the area with the most puppets. Lin Yun then displayed a casting style that was entirely different from his usual self.

Usually, Lin Yun's casting style was all about efficiency, if he could make do with one Wind Blade to cut an enemy throat, he wouldn't use two.

But Lin Yun had now given up on this kind of efficient casting style, at the present moment he was using a bursting style. It felt as if he was trying to Flame Burst the entire stone tower.

This kind of casting style was very burdening. Even Lin Yun had to keep his Magic Arrays working at full speed to make every spell burst with the greatest might.

Fortunately, there was still Solomon.

Although Solomon couldn't guarantee that each of his spell burst out with their greatest might like Lin Yun, he still displayed the power of a 9th Rank High Mage. Although 6th Tier spells couldn't be described as heaven defying, they were still quite powerful.

With Lin Yun under Elemental Incarnation holding down several dozen puppets, Solomon could comfortably cast spells. He was just like a fort, raining down spell after spell on these puppets.

The battle lasted for no less than ten minutes.

Ten minutes later, Solomon used a Flame Dragon Blast and destroyed the last two puppets. No puppets remained intact in the entire warehouse after the fight, everything had turned into true scraps. Several dozen puppets had been torn into pieces under the joint efforts of the duo.

"I'm exhausted..." After confirming that the last puppet had been destroyed, Solomon sat down, gasping for air.

But Lin Yun didn't plan to rest.

After Solomon's final Flame Dragon Blast, Lin Yun cast a few Mage Eyes to check every corner of the warehouse.

"Merlin, what are you looking for?"

"The mastermind..." Lin Yun bluntly answered.

"What mastermind..."

"You didn't feel the strangeness of these puppets? They were clearly damaged and deformed, yet they suddenly became active and their fighting power was even a bit stronger than intact puppets..." Lin Yun controlled the Mage Eyes while explaining to Solomon.

"Eh?"

As he explained, Lin Yun suddenly felt the connection to a Mage Eye being severed.

'What happened?' Lin Yun was doubtful as he sent another Mage Eye over. But this time Lin Yun had meticulously added a thin Mana Shield around the Mage Eye to make it survive longer.

It was unknown whether it was due to the Mana Shield, but that Mage Eye did make it further than the previous one.

But what Lin Yun saw made him freeze.

In the corner was an intact puppet...

Of course, it was "intact" when compared to the other puppets.

To be more precise, it wasn't torn to pieces...

At the moment, this still "intact" puppet quietly laid in a corner of the warehouse. Lin Yun suspiciously looked over, and it only took one glance for him to become deathly pale.

It wasn't that the puppet was frightening.

In fact, there was nothing special about the puppet, there was some evident damage rendering the mana source to be unusable, and the mechanisms were completely torn open. The frame was apparently cast from Magic Iron, and the color of that framework seemed deeper than the usual Magic Iron, possibly due to having been out of service for so long.

The only difference was that the previous puppets had ended up here due to an issue during their manufacture, while this one had clearly went through a fierce battle. The frame was riddled with scars and the mana source was melted. Lin Yun could imagine how desperate that final fight must have been.

Originally, that puppet had seven arrays carved onto it, but they had already been destroyed by some horrifying magic power. Only a third of one of the array's mana patterns remained on the puppet's body.

But this third was enough to make Lin Yun pale.

Because Lin Yun discovered that he couldn't understand that array!

What kind of concept was that?

Although Lin Yun was only a Master Alchemist, when it came to judgement and knowledge in the field of arrays, even Artisans like Osul and Nolan were far inferior to him.

Lin Yun came from 30,000 years in the future, a time when alchemy had already advanced to an unimaginable degree, to the point of creating a wonder like the Shelter Tower. Although Lin Yun didn't regard himself as someone at the peak of the alchemy field, he was far superior to the alchemists of this era.

But Lin Yun had now found an array that even he couldn't understand!

And the most frightening part was that although the array had stopped functioning, he could still feel a huge power brewing within. That kind of power even made Lin Yun feel as if he wasn't able to resist.

This was a first for Lin Yun.

Even when he was confronted with that True Spirit array in the depths of the Four Seasons Canyon, Lin Yun didn't get that feeling.

“Heaven Rank...” The pale Lin Yun stood there for a few minutes, before finally saying, “Heaven Rank puppet...”

Unfortunately, that Heaven Rank puppet was already destroyed, and only a damaged Heaven Rank array remained, as well as a seriously damaged magic system. Even if it could be restored, the power it would display would only be on par with the Crystal Scales.

‘Hold on, puppet?’ Just as he was feeling regretful, a thought flashed in Lin Yun’s mind, ‘Puppet? The Dark Sage’s puppet?’

## **Chapter 229: Is There Still Someone Alive?**

That sudden thought shocked Lin Yun.

After carefully considering it, he felt that this might be possible.

The number of Heaven Rank puppets that had appeared in Noscent’s history could be counted on two hands, and three of them had come from the Dark Sage. These three Heaven Rank puppets ended up in Vaughn’s hands, but they never appeared again after the latter’s death.

‘Could this be one of them?’

Lin Yun crouched to check on that trashed puppet. It was truly a Heaven Rank array, but it was too badly damaged. Only some external connectors remained, as well as a few of the most basic functional modules.

There was also the frame.

Lin Yun quickly fished out a glass bottle from his pocket and gently poured a drop of black reagent onto the frame. A red area the size of a thumb appeared where it landed.

“Ember Magic Iron!” Lin Yun clearly recognized it. No wonder he felt that this puppet’s frame looked like it was made of a deeper Magic Iron, it turned out to be Ember Magic Iron.

It was rumored that only the deepest layers of the Abyss could produce Ember Magic Iron. This was a kind of semi-natural magic metal. Ember Magic Iron would come into being when an ordinary Magic Iron Vein underwent the process of being burnt in the Abyssal Flames for thousands of years. Once the entire vein was burnt to ashes, a bit of its essence would be left behind, and this was known as Ember Magic Iron.

The production of Ember Magic Iron was horrendously inefficient, as a Magic Iron Vein would produce, at most, a piece the size of a fist.

But its rarity wasn’t the only shocking part. Ember Magic Iron had extremely high defensive capabilities. It could protect from almost all Heaven Rank spells and physical injuries. Having armor made out of Ember Magic Iron was like having an undying body.

Furthermore, it was also surprisingly flexible, and casting the frame of a puppet with Ember Magic Iron would allow it to be as flexible as a human.

Lin Yun remembered that during the end of the Plane Colonization Era, the Ruler of the Night, who became a Saint Alchemist through his puppeteering, was always followed around by a Sword Saint. In that era, that duo was unequalled. One Heaven Rank Mage and one Sword Saint swept through all enemies.

But the strange thing was that this Heaven Rank Sword Saint never showed his true identity, and no one knew his real name. People only knew that the Heaven Rank Sword Saint would only silently stand behind the Ruler of the Night. Only when he made a move would people feel the power of the Heaven Rank powerhouse.

People had speculated about the true identity of that Sword Saint for a long time...

Up until a few centuries later, when the Ruler of the Night fell into the Abyss. An Archmage found his remains by coincidence, the remains of a puppet. People then became aware that the nameless Sword Saint had been nothing but a puppet.

And the frame of that puppet had been cast from Ember Magic Iron.

The entire alchemy scene was stirred after this discovery, and all alchemists frantically looked for Ember Magic Iron. They were all eager to create a perfect frame out of the precious material to continue the legend of the Ruler of the Night.

It could be seen from this how powerful puppets made out of Ember Magic Iron were. They were very similar to humans and they could use any martial skills and spells.

Noscent's alchemists always called Ember Magic Iron the living magic metal.

'It does look like one of Vaughn's three Heaven Rank puppets...' After confirming that the frame was made out of Ember Magic Iron, Lin Yun was already certain that this was a puppet inherited from the Dark Sage.

In those years, the Dark Sage entered an Abyssal Gate and only returned ten years later, covered in dust. During those ten years, the Dark Sage walked through many layers of the Abyss, killing one Demon Lord after the other. It was already an open secret that he held a good amount of Ember Magic Iron. It was said that Charles the Emperor's body armor was forged from the Dark Sage's Ember Magic Iron.

'But how could an esteemed Heaven Rank puppet be here in this condition?' Lin Yun's mind was filled with countless questions.

An Ember Magic Iron Frame and less than half of a Heaven Rank array, these two alone were enough to confirm the identity of the puppet. This was a genuine Heaven Rank puppet.

The question was...

'Why was the Heaven Rank puppet broken? Did it fight another Heaven Rank powerhouse? Did Vaughn truly have a Heaven Rank guest visit him in the Four Seasons Canyon?

'But why did someone come here? For profit?'

This wasn't too logical. Very few things could attract the attention of Heaven Rank powerhouses. Vaughn's laboratory sounded very great, but it would be a lot less appealing to those that had already

reached Heaven Rank. And let alone Heaven Rank powerhouses, even someone like Star Sage Jouyi might not be that interested if someone dragged him to Vaughn's laboratory.

'But if not for profit, then why? Could it be that there is a secret hidden here besides the various magic materials and the set of Crystal Scales?'

Lin Yun thought deeply on the subject, but he couldn't come up with an answer. Thus, he only shook his head and focused on the Heaven Rank puppet once again.

The extent of damage suffered by the Heaven Rank puppet was truly shocking, to the point that even the skeleton cast out of Ember Magic Iron was irreparable. This was the metal known to protect against Heaven Rank spells! For it to be damaged to that degree, the fight must have been earth-shattering.

'Unfortunate...' Such a good Heaven Rank puppet, yet damaged beyond repair. Lin Yun felt that this was quite a pity.

Only the control center located in the head was still intact. Lin Yun thought about it for a moment before taking out a level 20 mana crystal from his pocket and embedding it in the mana source and then using some tools to restore a few mana circuits to temporarily link the control center and the mana source.

Lin Yun only wanted to try fixing the control center at first to check if he could make the Heaven Rank puppet recover some functions.

But he didn't expect that part of the array to suddenly shine after he inserted the level 20 mana crystal.

Lin Yun then saw the eyes of the puppet opening.

'Fuck...' Lin Yun was scared stiff. That was a Heaven Rank puppet! Even if it couldn't completely revive, just regaining a tenth of its power would be enough to instantly kill him and Solomon.

Lin Yun almost subconsciously jumped back while simultaneously casting the Ice Fire Shield, his hand quickly grabbing and opening the Book of Death. He was about to cast an Ultimate Spell when he suddenly heard the puppet talk.

"Is there still someone alive?"

"..." Lin Yun almost choked.

'Fuck, there are two people standing in front of you, yet you're still asking if anyone is alive? What are you trying to do?'

And at that time, Lin Yun found out that he had only scared himself. Although the puppet had opened its eyes and mouth, it was only due to the control center being resupplied with mana. The truly threatening mechanical systems had already melted away. Let alone a level 20 mana crystal, even if he specially repaired it, he still wouldn't be able to restore the mechanical system.

Moreover, a level 20 mana crystal wasn't nearly enough to sustain the needs of a Heaven Rank puppet.

He had panicked for nothing.

'Scaring people to death...' Lin Yun angrily scattered his Ice Fire Shield while putting the Book of Death back into his pocket.

"Is there still someone alive?" the puppet repeated.

"Alive, alive. Don't you see the two living people in front of you?" Thinking how he'd been scared by a scrapped puppet made Lin Yun rage out of shame.

But as if the puppet couldn't hear him, it repeated the same question. "Is there still someone alive?"

"What is going on?" Lin Yun felt rather bemused.

Sure enough...

"Is there still someone alive?"

"..." Lin Yun realized that this puppet would only repeat that sentence.

'Wait, that's not... Could this be... The Dark Sage was the one to ask that sentence?'

Lin Yun himself was an alchemist. Although he hadn't reached the level of the Dark Sage, he wasn't unfamiliar with puppeteering. How could Lin Yun not understand that the puppet was most likely repeating that sentence because it had been implanted by the creator of the Heaven Rank puppet?

In other words...

That question was most likely asked by the Dark Sage himself...

### **Chapter 230: No Path Forward**

'But why did the Dark Sage leave such a question behind? "Is there still someone alive?" The Dark Sage's question was too broad... If you had fallen for ten thousand years, would it matter to you if people were still alive?

'That question is too brainless. Why would it matter if someone was still alive? What is the point of asking repeatedly...'

"Is there still someone alive?" The puppet had repeated the same question for an unknown number of times.

"You are still not done..." Lin Yun softly cursed. He planned on severing the supply of mana, but just as he reached out, he froze...

'Is there still someone alive... Is there still someone alive...'

Lin Yun suddenly paled.

"Merlin... Merlin..." Solomon had been watching awkwardly for a long time. He didn't want to interfere earlier, but after Lin Yun's face turned deathly pale, he anxiously called his name a few times. After a while, he still hadn't received a response, so he raised his voice. "Merlin, what's going on?"

“Oh, nothing...” Lin Yun was roused by Solomon’s voice and subconsciously shook his head. But he could feel that his robe was soaked with cold sweat.

Lin Yun had suddenly become aware that the meaning of the puppet’s sentence wasn’t too broad, and neither was it brainless.... it was just that the question was asked in the wrong time period...

What if that question was asked 30,000 years later?

Gales, raging flames, deserts, meteorites, the destruction of Noscent, the despair of Heiss City. Everything he had forgotten once again appeared in his mind. Lin Yun subconsciously shook his head, trying put everything to the back of his mind, but he found out that he was unable to.

“Is there...”

“Shut up!” Lin Yun cruelly cut off the mana supply as the puppet was about to repeat its question again.

But that sentence kept echoing in Lin Yun’s mind...

“‘Is there still someone alive? Is there still someone alive?’

‘Is there still someone alive in Noscent in 30,000 years?’

“Merlin...” Solomon looked strangely at Lin Yun and commented, “You don’t seem to be in a good state...”

“It’s nothing, I just recalled something.”

“...Oh right, what about that puppet? Why would it keep asking ‘Is there still someone alive?’ over and over again?”

“That sentence should have been asked by the creator...”

“Is there something wrong with the creator? What would knowing if anyone was still alive have to do with him...?”

“Haha...” Hearing Solomon’s complaints finally let Lin Yun put aside the shadows within his heart, allowing him to focus on how to bring the puppet back.

That was a Heaven Rank puppet... just the Ember Magic Iron frame itself was invaluable. The entire framework was worth over a hundred spirit mana crystals. This would be the most wealth Lin Yun had obtained after entering Vaughn’s laboratory, and that was without mentioning the partly damaged array.

Although less than half remained, it was still a Heaven Rank array. The value of the research couldn’t be estimated.

And even though the current Lin Yun was completely unable to restore it, that didn’t mean that he wouldn’t be able to in the future. Perhaps when Lin Yun became a Saint Alchemist, he would be able to reproduce those seven arrays. At that time, he would be like the Ruler of the Night, walking with a Sword Saint bodyguard.

‘But... How should I bring it back...’



The spatial ring Lin Yun held came from the High Mage in the Bone Plane. It was only an Inheritance Spatial Ring. There was no problem using it to store various kind of ores and books, but it definitely wouldn't be able to store a Heaven Rank puppet.

That was something of the Extraordinary Realm. Even if less than half of one of the seven Heaven Rank arrays remained, it still wasn't something an Inheritance Spatial Ring could handle. Just a bit of power leaking would be enough to explode the ring!

"Do I have to carry it back myself?" Lin Yun got a headache. This was the first time he ran into such circumstances. The wealth was there, but he was having trouble figuring out how to bring it back.

It seemed that he should get a better spatial item after this expedition.

Returning was definitely going to be a pain.

Although the Ember Magic Iron wasn't one of the heaviest metals, a complete frame, along with various components, made the puppet far heavier than an adult. It would take a while if he had to carry it back to the carriage.

'Right, if I can't carry it, I have to be creative...' As Lin Yun was getting a bit annoyed, he suddenly noticed the various parts on the ground. 'Right, it doesn't matter if I can't fix it, I can still assemble it. Shouldn't it be able to move if I reassemble it?

'In any case, that Heaven Rank puppet had already been damaged beyond recognition. If I add a few arms and then rebuild the control center and mechanical system, it will become a completely new puppet once a mana source is plugged in. Whether in terms of functions or power, they'll both be far inferior to the Heaven Rank puppet, but that doesn't matter. I only need to get it to work so that I can get it back to Thousand Sails City... This is the best way.'

Lin Yun might have still been worried about the parts if he'd found it anywhere else, but this warehouse had so many discarded puppets. The components available here were enough to assemble ten puppets, so he'd just have to put in the time.

Having made his decision, Lin Yun started working on it.

He had a deep understanding of assembling puppets, so it only took him a few minutes to install two arms with the parts on hand. He kept a human shape for the puppet, and he now had to deal with the arrays.

Normally, Lin Yun would re-draw the arrays and build a new control center for it.

But when Lin Yun saw the remains of the array, he had another idea in mind.

There were plenty of connectors remaining on that part of the Heaven Rank Array... Why not he use these connectors?

That would be a lot easier than rebuilding the control center.

Thus, Lin Yun altered his plan and started studying the array. He was researching how to exploit these completely intact connectors, yet his hand didn't stop moving as he drew one array after the other and connected them to the remains of the Heaven Rank array, gradually forming a complete control center.

In the end, it was still the level 20 mana crystal.

The level 20 mana crystal was embedded in the mana source, and following Lin Yun's control rune, a completely new puppet smoothly became operational.

"There is no path forward, no future, no hope..."

But.

Just as the puppet became functional, it started talking.

"Ah?" Lin Yun was startled. "So... Solomon, did you hear that?"

"I heard... What no path forward? Trying to scare us..."

"Eh..." Lin Yun couldn't be as calm and collected as Solomon, because Lin Yun knew who the true creator of the puppet was. It was the greatest puppet master in history, Charles The Emperor's teacher, the Grave Digger of the Silver Era, Dark Sage Igor. If that person wanted to scare others, they would have no choice but to value his words.

Moreover, these words made Lin Yun realize that the Dark Sage didn't only leave the one sentence behind. Because of the excessive damage suffered by the Heaven Rank puppet, he had only been able to hear the first sentence, and due to him using the Heaven Rank array's connector, he now managed to hear the second sentence.

Was there more?

What did the Dark Sage want to say?

Lin Yun couldn't figure it out...

He only felt that the Dark Sage wanted to convey something very important...

But unfortunately, now wasn't the time to research this. After thinking about it, Lin Yun cut off the mana supply again and severed the connection to the Heaven Rank array. He spent another ten minutes building the control center and mechanical system, guaranteeing that the puppet was completely not dependant on the Heaven Rank array.

After he finished, Lin Yun rebooted the puppet.

Sure enough, the puppet remained silent this time.

It only followed Lin Yun and Solomon through Lin Yun's control runes. They headed back towards the Magic Iron Furnace and soon grouped back up with Suyass and Fran.

When they saw the two people, Lin Yun noticed that Fran was brimming with confidence. He wasn't avoiding his gaze like before, and Lin Yun knew that this was due to the Crystal Scales.

After obtaining the Crystal Scales, Fran was already confident that he could crush the two of them, and the confidence made him look like a completely different person.

'Smile while you can...' Lin Yun pretended to not notice his attitude as he inwardly mused, 'Fran naively signed the contract without even checking how evil the Crystal Scales are...'

