

Magic Era 281

Chapter 281: Rematch

“Stan Watson!” Ross suddenly flew into a rage when he heard that name and roared, “I’ll step on him sooner or later and show everyone that Ross Merlin is a hundred times stronger than Stan Watson!”

“What happened to him?” Lin Yun asked William with a strange expression. He didn’t listen to Ross or even spare him a glance.

“Well, in the past...” William didn’t try to act tactful and he said this with a loud voice so that Ross would hear.

“William, shut up!” The enraged Ross became furious like a lion. He clenched his fists as his eyes turned red and glared at William with fury and killing intent.

To Ross, Stan Watson’s name was taboo.

This was an open secret in the Merlin Family. Few people would dare to mention his name in front of Ross.

Three years ago, Ross entered the depths of the Raging Flame Plane and charged into the Crimson Fort occupied by a thousand Raging Flame Beastmen. He spent seven days and nights there fighting them before he defeated the army and took control of the Crimson Fort.

After that fight, Ross’ position in the Merlin Family had skyrocketed. From a member of a side branch, he became one of the core members of the Merlin Family, one of the three geniuses alongside Leon and Aube, and he even gained a seat at the Elder Council.

But...

While Ross was flushed with success, the Watson Family joined the fight over the Raging Flame Plane.

That was the first Planar War that Stan Watson participated in.

This young genius of the Watson Family became a dazzling light in the Planar War. The Watson Family’s planar legion was an irresistible force under the leadership of Stan Watson, managing to defeat the Merlin Family’s three planar legions. Hundreds of Merlins died at Stan Watson’s hands, including Ross’ younger brother.

In the end, the two dazzling geniuses had a decisive battle at the foot of the Crimson Fort.

That battle caused a commotion all through Okland. Who knew how many people had rushed towards the Raging Flame Plane to try to catch a glimpse of their decisive battle when they heard about it?

But...

That battle had already ended.

It had only taken ten minutes for the 6th Rank High Mage, Stan Watson, to toss away the 4th rank High Mage, Ross Merlin, who was just one step away from the 5th Rank.

This battle left everyone disappointed.

It also showed that the 5th Rank was a dividing line that couldn't be broken. The Endless Spring lost, and Ross Merlin fell down from his lofty position. He spent three years hating Stan Watson continuously, thinking of that disgrace and wanting to avenge his younger brother.

But no matter how hard Ross trained, when he lifted his head, he would only see Stan's back.

Day after day, year after year...

Stan Watson had already become Ross' nightmare.

He would become crazed every time his name was mentioned.

"Haha..." William chuckled.

William naturally knew why Ross hated Stan Watson...

But Ross didn't know that William hated Stan even more.

Besides William and his father, not many people knew of this matter.

Earlier, when William and Lin Yun left Ofran's study, William had said something as they walked. He once had an older sister who died in the Raging Flame Plane.

Lin Yun didn't say anything about it before.

But William knew that Stan Watson was already dead.

"Why did you waste a Runic Shield in front of that Fire Dragon?" Lin Yun completely ignored the raging Ross, but he also didn't pay attention to William wanting to get back at Ross. He only looked at him with concern as he asked that question.

"I..." William looked awkward.

"Don't tell me that you don't know? In a battle between High Mages, whoever is forced to use their Runic Shield first tends to lean towards their defeat. What were you thinking?"

"I only..." William subconsciously lowered his head under the criticism, his voice extremely low. "I just felt that I couldn't handle that Fire Dragon..."

"Fire Dragon is only a 5th Tier Spell!" Lin Yun was dissatisfied.

"But, his Magic Conducting Rune is the Endless Spring..."

"Haha, he might have the Endless Spring, but don't you have Metamagics? Did you forget about it after becoming a High Mage? As long as you had Empowered Spell and used an Ice Field, it would have let you resist over half of the damage. If you had used an Instant Spell afterwards, you would have easily taken care of that Fire Dragon. But you chose to use Runic Shield. Didn't you know that you would have no decent defensive spells in reserve if your Runic Shield broke?"

"I know, but..."

"But what? Didn't you feel the outcome? You were swatted like a fly after using that Runic Shield."

“I’ll pay attention next time...”

“I don’t have that much time to spend on you. Go now! If I see you using Runic Shield negligently again, I’ll have a chat with you about you taking advantage of my matters!”

“...” William suddenly paled.

Although Lin Yun hadn’t said anything specific, how could William not know that he was referring to Stan Watson?

After half a year in Thousand Sails City, William had gained a good understanding of his younger cousin.

That young High Mage wasn’t concerned about the life or death of Stan Watson. To him, Stan was only a ticket to the Ancestral Land. Whether the ticket was intact or damaged, this young High Mage simply didn’t care.

But if someone took advantage of that in the middle...

That would definitely be a problem.

Mafa wasn’t Ross.

Ross’ fire spell would at worst injure him seriously...

But it would be a lot more serious he made Mafa unhappy.

The Draconic Beastman had made him unhappy in the treasure house.

In the end, Xiuban had nightmares for two weeks.

Every time he saw a flame, he would weep, howl, or laugh hysterically. William felt his blood run cold when he thought of Xiuban’s condition.

“I’ll go immediately!” William didn’t dare to hesitate, and he picked up his magic staff before walking over. “Ross, you coward! You heard Stan Watson’s name and started soiling your pants! If you aren’t frozen in terror yet, how about coming for a second round? I shall see if the Endless Spring is as frightening as you make it sound!”

“William...” Ross’ eyes were originally already red at the mention of Stan Watson’s name, but after hearing William, he became downright terrifying. “Are you courting death?”

“Yeah, I am courting death, bite me!”

“Good, I’ll do as you wish!” After saying this, Ross’ aura changed as the Endless Spring activated once more, bursting out with full power. Vast amounts of mana flew out like a tide, even causing the mana in the surroundings to be crazily absorbed like a whirlpool.

“Shit...” William was stunned.

It seemed that Ross hadn’t used the Endless Spring to its full extent earlier. The current Ross was the one who single-handedly took over the Crimson Fort and defeated a thousand Raging Flame Beastmen. These mana fluctuations could only be described as terrifying. Even a High Mage like William felt dread as he stood in that vortex of mana.

But...

It was only a wisp of dread.

This couldn't compare to having to face his younger cousin.

William unhesitantly tightened his grasp on his magic staff and started casting the first spell of this battle. It was a Flame Burst, a Flame Burst that held his determination. William wanted to gain the initiative by striking first.

He had only said those words in order to enrage Ross.

In William's eyes, a furious Ross would inevitably rush and attack, so the Flame Burst he sent out should be able to get some results. Even if he couldn't injure him, it should still make Ross flustered.

But he hadn't expected that before his Flame Burst was even launched, Ross had already prepared a Counterspell.

"Fuck..." William cursed.

This Counterspell was too disgusting...

It stopped the Flame Burst at the most crucial time.

If he hadn't changed his Meditation Law Set to Crimson Heart, greatly improving his control over fire spells, this Flame Burst would have left him in an awkward situation.

'Shit, that Ross is too crafty...'

William suddenly discovered that after the start of the fight, Ross was no longer as riled up as before. He kept his emotions in check and was like an accurate machine, relying on his Counterspell to gain the advantage before retaliating with some accurate spells that were troublesome to deal with.

William was in a miserable state.

"I see, you are truly foolish..." At this time, a helpless voice resounded from behind. "Although your Meditation Law Set is the Crimson Heart, does that mean that you are limited to fire spells?"

"Hmmm?"

Chapter 282: Spell Backlash

William suddenly reacted.

'Shit, I've been so flustered by that crafty Ross and the negative effects of the counterspell that I limited myself to fire spells, completely forgoing the other types of spells. I'm so stupid.'

Thankfully, this reminder came right on time.

After William realized his problem, he immediately changed his approach. He mixed many different types of spells within. Although the power of these spells was far from comparable to that of his fire

spells, after being strengthened by all kinds of Metamagics, they gave William the opportunity to breathe.

'Whew...!' William finally sighed in relief. The situation had gone from terrible to bearable. He hadn't been able to retaliate against Ross' rain of spells before, making him feel like he was only a small boat facing a storm. If not careful, he would drown under the waves.

Fortunately, he managed to recover some ground. As long he was able to push back from the disadvantage that the Counterspell had put him at, the battle's situation would be the same as it had been the start.

As he thought of this, William couldn't help smiling. He was an expert at being patient.

But his smile didn't last long before a voice came from behind.

"What are you still waiting for? Are you waiting for him to invite you for dinner? Such a great opportunity, yet you aren't taking it. Are you trying to eat a second Counterspell? Hurry up, my time is limited, settle that fight or I'll go back..."

"..." William almost slipped up.

If not for the battle being so intense, William would have already turned to ask, 'Big Brother, don't mess with me, I'm being suppressed, how could there be an opportunity?'

"I see, you are truly stupid. Did you calculate Spell Cooldown timing? Did you even study the Round Table Theory? How could you not see the opportunity?"

'Spell Cooldown, Round Table Theory...'

Ross' flurry of attacks was still as fierce as before, but William's eyes were getting brighter and brighter.

After the reminder, it felt as if a door had opened in front of him.

Or it might be better to say that a thread suddenly came out of the complicated ball of numerous threads in his mind.

William had been passive during this duel due falling into a disadvantage at the start. He only managed to get some breathing room after being prompted to use a wider variety of spells, but he was still busy casting, forced to go all-out.

Up until that reminder.

'Yeah, why didn't I think of calculating the Spell Cooldowns? Ross' waves of spells keep falling down and it's already been several dozen spells, as long as I can calculate the cooldowns, I could completely predict this battle's direction.

'Isn't that what I'm good at?'

William finally understood why his cousin always emphasized time: casting time, cooldown time, bursting time, channelling time, and so on. Sometimes, William even felt that his cousin had a morbid obsession with time. Casting had numerous variables. It was the same with spells and mages. In different circumstances, time was completely different.

Too many factors influenced time.

William had complained, but every time he did, he would suffer harsher treatment. That period of time for the foolish William was like hell. Sometimes William even doubted if it was just his younger cousin making fun of him.

This suffering had continued for three months.

In those three months, William almost went insane. He would have to keep casting no matter what he was doing, even eating and drinking. That period had already turned into a painful torture. An ordinary Wind Blade would need at least seven calculations, and if even one of them was wrong, what awaited William was an even more painful torment.

After three months, William had finally met the minimum requirements and gained a perfect grasp of all time-related information concerning the lesser spells.

William clearly remembered that his younger cousin hadn't said anything, only handing him a handwritten copy of the Crimson Heart.

From that point on, his strength increased by leaps and bounds.

From 5th Rank Great Mage to High Mage, it only took half a year.

He was even able to fight Ross today.

Before going through all of this, William would never have thought that he could ever do so.

After clearly understanding this, William wasn't just casting and fighting anymore. His mind was now focused on the cooldown calculations.

Under the guidance of the Round Table Theory, William quickly found Ross' casting pattern.

'Turns out it was possible to fight like this...' After accurately predicting again and again, William suddenly felt as if a cloud of fog around him had suddenly cleared up. William realized how precious his cousin's teachings really were. This completely overturned how mages normally fought.

William had already recovered his lost initiative, so he and Ross were back at the starting line. With William's altered strategy, the unbalanced fight had suddenly become deadlocked.

Lin Yun watched from the side without worry, only giving some pointers from time to time.

"You didn't notice such a simple pitfall? This is a trap to make you waste your Counterspell..."

"Careful, careful, I told you to be careful, what are you doing, don't use Runic Shield casually, don't you have other defensive spells to use?"

"Attack, attack! Fuck, is Sharp Mind in your spell lineup? You should have used it a minute ago, didn't you see that it was your best opportunity to burst out?"

...

Like this, the battle kept going until the sun set.

The power used in the fight between the two High Mages was quite amazing. Besides Lin Yun and the Draconic Beastman, everyone else had retreated quite far away. During that fight, the whole courtyard was almost completely destroyed. It was to the point that they couldn't even find proper footing.

At this time, both Ross and William were arrows at the end of their flight. The spells used by the both of them were slowly regressing in rank, from 6th and 5th Tiers to 2nd and 1st Tiers. It could be seen that they were already running out of mana.

"Ha... Haha, Ross, it looks like the gap between us isn't as big as you imagined..." William kept panting while taunting.

This fight had allowed William to blow off some steam.

Before today, he'd never even dreamt of fighting Ross on such close footing.

After all, he was one of the three geniuses of the Merlin Family, the owner of the most powerful Endless Spring. He had already advanced to become a 5th Rank High Mage half a year ago, while William was only a 5th Rank Great Mage at the time. The gap was so huge that they simply couldn't be compared.

But he was already standing on the same stage as Ross now!

He withstood the first Counterspell and held firm against Ross' rain of spells. He even forced Ross to run out of mana.

That was Ross Merlin!

The Endless Spring, Ross Merlin!

He managed to almost exhaust the Ross who managed to fight for seven days and nights in the Crimson Fort with the support of his Endless Spring!

In other words, the pressure William brought to Ross was far greater than the pressure Ross brought to William.

He had already won this battle, in a way...

And it only lasted this long because of the Endless Spring.

William had more than enough reason to be proud.

"Hey, you haven't won yet..."

"..." William's mouth twitched. He paused for a while before saying, "I'm running out of mana..."

"So you do know that you are running out, eh? Don't you know that your opponent has the Endless Spring? His mana recovery speed is ten times faster than yours. If you delay your offense and talk for a while, you'll be helping your opponent. Maybe after you finish talking he'll be able to cast a Flame Burst to turn you to ashes..."

"But..."

"But what? Didn't your soul inheritance teach you how to make use of a spell backlash to extract some mana?"

“Ah, Spell Backlash...” These words suddenly reminded William that he did learn the way to take advantage of a backlash to extract some mana.

But that method was too dangerous.

The theory behind it was to use the collision between two spells to take mana that burst out for one’s own use. In the process, he would have to bear with the damage that would have been dealt by both spells. This was too dangerous for a mage. The power bursting from two 1st Tier Spells colliding was no joke. If he wasn’t careful, he would suffer greatly before even being able to try to extract the mana.

Chapter 283: Audience

As he thought of the danger, William suddenly hesitated. He innocently looked at Lin Yun, hoping he could change his mind.

“Do as I say.” Lin Yun remained unmoved.

“Eh, okay...” William could only clench his teeth and agree.

“Now, it’s time to use the Runic Shield, no no, not to protect your body. You only have to form the basic arrangements of the Runic Shield, there is no need to completely release it. Like that, that basic Runic Shield will protect your Mana Whirlpool, allowing you to...”

“Cousin, will this really work...?” William asked in an anxious voice while trembling in fear.

But Lin Yun acted as if he hadn’t heard him.

He used a commanding tone to direct William through the Spell Backlash while still remaining wary of attacks.

The basic arrangement of the Runic Shield had been completed and the two Wind Blades were ready to be cast.

William ultimately clenched his teeth...

He heard a loud explosion, followed by his whole body shaking. Under the shock, William almost let his magic staff fall to the ground.

But he held on.

He felt a surge of mana pouring into his body. His dry Mana Whirlpool quickly rotated again after he received that quenching mana, familiar power returning to his body once more...

“Ross, you lost...” Feeling the mana filling his body, William felt full of confidence for the first time.

He felt like an upstart who had suddenly gained a large amount of wealth and didn’t know how to spend it.

After taking advantage of the Spell Backlash, William used a Counterspell.

Ross was still urging his Endless Spring to recover some mana, so how could he cast anything?

Counterspell had three effects. The first was to interrupt spells, the second was to inflict a short duration silence effect, and the third was to seal a spell. There was no need to explain spell interruption, and the short duration silence was also easy to understand, while the third effect was the most crucial effect. Spells like the Flame Burst that William wanted to cast were the best opportunities for Counterspells, because a Flame Burst being countered would usually seal the entirety of one's fire system spells. For mages specialized with fire spells, it would be like cutting an arm off. Even if William's Crimson Heart avoided the worst, he still felt stifled.

And even though Ross wasn't casting a spell, this Counterspell would afflict him with a second of silence.

Using a Counterspell like this could only be considered extravagant.

But William didn't care.

He wouldn't give Ross any time to react after that Counterspell. He took advantage of that one second of silence to directly cast a powerful Flame Burst.

And he didn't stop at one...

Three Flame Bursts were cast successively, each of them enhanced with a Metamagic: Instant Cast, Empower Spell, Magic Penetration. The three Flame Bursts destroyed the Ice Wall that Ross managed to put up with a lot of difficulty.

It was followed by a Wind Blade piercing through the Ice Fire Shield.

And then...

There was nothing after that.

An Icicle was already touching Ross' throat.

"Sorry, I won."

After saying this, William no longer cared about Ross' reaction and scattered the Icicle. He didn't even glance at him before turning to leave the destroyed courtyard with Lin Yun and the Draconic Beastman.

Ross stood there, alone. In the distance, a dozen Great Swordsmen, as well as Great Mage Harvey, were all standing there looking stunned. They had watched the most outstanding genius of the Merlin Family be defeated by William, who was someone of much lower status.

"How was it, Cousin, I did alright, didn't I?" William had already overtaken Lin Yun and revealed a wide smile as he started seeking compliments for his achievement.

"You are talking about that wasted Counterspell?"

"..."

"Or maybe those three Flame Bursts that completely lacked coordination?"

"Eh..." The happy William took a blow from Lin Yun's criticism and lowered his head. After a bit, he mumbled, "But I beat Ross Merlin..."

“Yeah, you beat Ross Merlin...” Lin Yun didn’t put him down this time. He only nodded with a smile.
“Thus, you’ll soon become of the focus of the Merlin Family.”

“Ah?”

“Ah what? Don’t tell me you didn’t notice? There were at least three Mage Eyes watching the fight. Oh right, there were also the magic fluctuations of a powerful divination spell. I think that your heroic stance must have been shown in a large crystal ball...”

“You mean...” William was suddenly startled. “You mean people were spying?”

“You shouldn’t call that spying, they were an audience...”

“...”

William’s courtyard was already deformed beyond recognition. Even if Lin Yun wanted to live there, he simply couldn’t. Thus, they had no choice but to find another place to stay. Fortunately, the Merlin Family Manor was large enough, so it wasn’t difficult for William to find another place to live in with his status.

Lin Yun wasn’t worried about this.

What truly grabbed Lin Yun’s attention were the three Mage Eyes and the traces of the divination spell. If Lin Yun wasn’t wrong, those three Mage Eyes had come from three 9th Rank High Mages, one of which might have already advanced to the Archmage realm.

If he guessed right, they should be of the same generation as William Merlin’s father, the true core of the current Merlin Family.

It seemed that William would soon get some attention, and not just a bit.

As for those mana fluctuations that seemed to have been emitted from a large crystal ball, even Lin Yun was unsure as to where they had come from.

He only felt that the mana fluctuations emitted some dangerous aura.

Although Lin Yun was only a 1st Rank High Mage, when it came to fighting power, a 1st Rank Archmage like Suyass might not necessarily be his match. Only someone a lot more powerful would be able to make him feel danger.

There might be a 5th Rank Archmage, or perhaps someone even stronger, hidden behind those mana fluctuations...

But it didn’t matter, as he had to get to the Merlin Ancestral Land first before thinking about this.

The feeling of remaining stuck at 1st Rank felt terrible.

As he thought of this, Lin Yun stopped brooding on the spectators. He urged William to find a place for them to stay so that they could rest. He would find Ofran first thing in the morning to have him open the Ancestral Land.

“Cousin, this is where my sister used to live. It’s been a long time since someone put the place in order. We don’t have much choice, so let’s just spend the night there for now...” The group of three walked for about ten minutes before reaching a shabby house.

“Ah, err, Cousin...” William seemed to remember something as he opened the door and thus stopped. “My sister took in a girl before and she is now living her by herself, but she is a bit antisocial...”

“Okay, I got it.” Lin Yun nodded. What William was trying to say was clear. He wanted to let him know that this girl was a bit special so he shouldn’t bother arguing with her if he met her.

After the three entered, they found that this seemingly shabby house was actually clean and spotless. The table and chairs were wiped clean, and not a single speck of dust could be seen on the floor. This didn’t look like a place that had been left abandoned for a long time.

“Let’s go to the 2nd floor, there should be some vacant rooms there. I also lived on the 2nd floor last time I came,” William said while leading them up.

“Hmm?” Lin Yun felt something wrong just as he set foot there.

He felt as if he was being spied on.

At first, Lin Yun thought that the people that were spying on William before were doing it once again.

Lin Yun’s expression sank at that discovery.

He didn’t mind people watching William’s fight. After all, each of the words he’d uttered had gone through runic encryption. Even Ross, who was within hearing range, couldn’t understand him, let alone those three Mage Eyes.

But Lin Yun wasn’t happy about their continuous spying.

This was naked provocation...

As Lin Yun got ready to search for the Mage Eyes to give the spies a stern warning, he suddenly found out that it wasn’t a Mage Eye spying on him, but two glistening eyes.

In the shadows of the stairs, a malnourished and sickly small girl was standing there silently. The young girl was no more than 12 years old and signs of malnutrition could be seen on her pale face. Her hair was also in bad condition. She looked like a small twig that could break in the wind

Chapter 284: Regret

But the girl ran off just as Lin Yun turned around...

“Hmm?” Lin Yun looked at the small girl’s back with a thoughtful expression.

“What?” William, who was in front, stopped when he noticed Lin Yun’s situation. He followed Lin Yun’s eyes before saying, “She is Ranya, the child my sister took in. After my sister had an accident, no one took care of her. The family would give her some money every month and she kept living here. After such a long time, she became antisocial...”

“Oh...” Lin Yun nodded but didn’t comment.

The group of three went to the 2nd floor, which held three rooms. They were all clean and tidy, and the furniture was spotless. There wasn’t a single wrinkle on the bed. This was all very surprising... How could such a small girl clean such a big house by herself?

Of course, it didn’t really matter to Lin Yun’s group.

Mages would use meditation to replace sleep most of the time, especially ones like Lin Yun and William, who had already entered the High Mage Realm. Even if they didn’t sleep for a few days, they still wouldn’t feel too tired, and just a bit of meditation would be enough to recover their mana.

Thus, most mages wouldn’t be too fussy about the condition of their resting area. Forests, swamps, deserts... As long as it was safe, they could meditate.

But Lin Yun didn’t start his meditation after entering the room. He fished an item out from his pocket instead. This was the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel he had partly completed in Thousand Sails City.

The Ten Thousand Spell Wheel was very important to Lin Yun.

The Spell Wheel might be only half completed at the moment and couldn’t compare to a Superior Magic Tool, but this was only for now. Although the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel would even reach True Spirit Rank, as a bridge to the ten Magic Arrays, the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel’s complete form would appear when fused together with the Magic Arrays. It would be able to use the power of the ten Magic Arrays anywhere, anytime. When that happened, even if it was ranked as a True Spirit Magic Tool, its power wouldn’t be much inferior to the complete Book of Death.

Naturally, the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel in Lin Yun’s hands was far from being complete...

After closing the door, Lin Yun rested for a bit before starting to pour mana into the Spell Wheel, but he was doing it differently this time. Usually, Lin Yun poured mana into a Magic Tool in order to activate it and thus, it flowed in suddenly and in large amounts.

But now, he wanted to carve magic runes and engrave as many as 200,000 of them in the Spell Wheel.

It was called the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel because Latour Gold Essence had so much storage and could hold an unlimited number of runes; this was very similar to the Magic Array.

Lin Yun even thought of something. Once the Spell Wheel reached True Spirit Magic Tool rank, wouldn’t Enderfa become its Magic Tool Incarnation? At that time, he would have to discuss with Enderfa and see if he could use that property to clone a Magic Array over. With that, the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel wouldn’t just be a bridge to the Magic Array, but rather, another shape of the Magic Array.

Of course, that would be in the future.

The Ten Thousand Spell Wheel was only a partially finished product at the moment, so all that would be a long way off.

All Lin Yun could do for now was to carve the runes.

This was the first step into giving spirituality to a Magic Tool.

Only after completing this step could a Magic Tool have gain a Magic Tool's Spirit. Only then would the Magic Tool advance to Spiritual Rank.

This was very laborious work, and no mistake could be made or it would lower the might of the Magic Tool and even damage it. Thus, Lin Yun wanted to keep his mana output as low as possible, so he made the mana flow like water and gently pour into the Spell Wheel. One rune after the other appeared on the Spell Wheel. These runes were carved with mana and would fuse with the Spell Wheel to become its true foundation.

One hour, two hours, three hours...

As the hours passed, Lin Yun remained motionless. Even the mana injected in the Spell Wheel didn't fluctuate once. He was precise like a machine.

He continued up until midnight when he felt the mana injected in the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel meeting some sort of obstruction.

'Good enough...' Lin Yun stopped pouring mana in when he felt that obstruction.

Because he knew that after many hours of continuous mana injection, the mana had gradually become less pure. He had to undergo meditation before he could resume his work.

This was the most troublesome part of the Spell Wheel.

Only the purest mana could carve runes in it. It was also for this reason that Lin Yun had only completed a bit over half of the Spell Wheel since returning to Thousand Sails City.

But fortunately, it wouldn't be too hard to complete it.

Lin Yun took the semi-finished Ten Thousand Spell Wheel and carefully activated it with mana before watching the dazzling runes appear on it. He inwardly calculated that it would take ten days at most before he finished carving the runes. Then, he would have to find a powerful magic gem.

Originally, Lin Yun wanted to use the Spiritual Magic Staff's Elemental Amber.

But he gave up on it after checking it.

First, the Elemental Amber was already fused with the Spiritual Magic Staff and had been polluted by the Magic Staff's aura after thousands of years. There might be some unexpected problems if it was used for the Spell Wheel.

Second, the Elemental Amber's property was mana storage. This in itself decided that if he used the Elemental Amber as a core to make the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel, it would be used more for stocking mana and spells. It wouldn't be much help in empowering or combining spells, which he considered more important.

'It seems like I should visit Okland's alchemy market...' Lin Yun remembered that when they first arrived at Okland, William told him about the Black Horn Auction happening every three months. From what he heard, the next auction should be within a week.

He felt that he should take a look at it.

He could conduct a preliminary investigation of the condition of Okland's alchemy market on the way, and when the Gilded Rose expanded to Okland in the future, he would take Faleau and investigate the details.

After making up his mind, Lin Yun put the Spell Wheel back in his pocket.

...

Three hours of meditation later, the sun started setting.

Lin Yun came out from his room and intended to call William and Xiuban to eat breakfast outside when he suddenly smelled a delicious aroma.

"This..." Lin Yun took a deep breath and felt that the smell came from downstairs. When he got down, he saw the young girl precariously carrying trays to the dining table. There was a lot of food on the table, and with one look, it could be seen that she couldn't have prepared it alone.

"Ranya, this is our breakfast?" William happily asked as he casually grabbed a piece of toasted bread.

"Yes," the young girl said in a quiet voice while nodding. She seemed to be a bit afraid of William, and she turned and ran back to hide in the kitchen.

"Then I won't hold back..." William didn't mind her reaction. He had been busy the whole day yesterday. Fighting twice against Ross made him so famished that he just found a chair and started wolfing down his breakfast.

"Take your time to eat." Lin Yun shook his head before tearing a piece of bread and buttering it. He ate it as he looked around the kitchen.

"What's wrong?" It was the second time William asked Lin Yun.

William was too familiar with his younger cousin. He looked approachable, with his ever-present smile, but those who knew him knew that he was extremely cold-blooded. He wouldn't care about anything unrelated to his interests.

Sometimes, William felt that even if the entire world perished, as long as it had nothing to do with him, his cousin would just watch with a smile.

In fact, William clearly noticed that his younger cousin didn't pay attention to anyone after entering the Merlin Family Manor. He didn't even put the Patriarch Ofran in his eyes, let alone Ross, or even Stan Watson, who died in his hands.

Yet...

His cousin seemed to be paying particular attention to Ranya.

"It's nothing..." Lin Yun shook his head but didn't tell William that this little girl named Ranya was far from being a simple outsider.

"This kid is quite pitiful..." William glanced at the kitchen and couldn't help sighing. "She was abandoned by her parents before luckily meeting my older sister. My older sister was very fond of her so she

brought her back to the Merlin Family, treating her as her younger sister. Those were good times... But later, my sister had that accident in the Raging Flame Plane and Ranya had no one to take care of her...

"I originally planned on sending Ranya to Okland Magic School to let her study magic and see if she could become a Mage, but I hadn't expected that she wouldn't have a single bit of magical talent. She couldn't complete the most basic meditation. There was nothing I could do, so I could only let her remain here. Even just this put a lot of pressure on me. You should know that those old geezers are inhuman. In their eyes, it would be better to raise a hunting dog than a girl with no magical talent.

"Haha, they'll regret it later."

Chapter 285: Quicksand Eyes

"Regret?"

"They'll understand what they missed later..." Lin Yun didn't explain any further and returned to his breakfast.

It was true that the little girl named Ranya didn't have any magical talent. Lin Yun was sure of it as soon as he saw her. She innately had no affinity with elements, which had always been an unsolvable defect, even 30,000 years in the future.

This meant that the little girl would never be able to feel the existence of elements.

Thus, it was normal for William to say that the girl couldn't perform meditation. If she couldn't feel the elements, how could she ever draw mana from meditation?

So the Merlin Family was right, and the little girl could never become a mage.

But Lin Yun felt that the Merlin Family was too careless. There were over a billion people in Noscent, and less than one in ten thousand could become mages. If she had to be abandoned, then how many people in all of Noscent would have to be abandoned?

Not to mention...

Not becoming a mage didn't mean that her future was bleak.

In fact, in Lin Yun's eyes, the achievements that little girl could get in the future would far outshine most of the Merlin Family.

Lin Yun could already see the path of the Heaven Rank spreading in front of her. She only needed someone to take her along that path.

As soon as he saw that little girl, Lin Yun knew that she had eyes that could rival the Sky Eyes.

This pair of eyes only appeared twice in Noscent's history.

One of them lived during the Nesser era, the famous Night Elf King, Salalys. He was the first Demon Hunter to surpass Heaven Rank with his new moon and thirteen moonlights. He left countless legends in Noscent. But Salalys was most famous for his amber colored eyes that were also known as Quicksand

Eyes. In the legends, Salalys could see through the fog of time with his eyes faster than even time itself. In those legends, there would always be a scene where Salalys' new moon appeared and the thirteen moonlights tore apart space, giving the feeling of time going backward.

It was almost impossible to imagine, almost indescribable.

The other pair of Quicksand Eyes appeared in the peak of the magic era. There had always been a Silver Elf girl at the side of Charles the Conqueror. She never spoke and would rarely directly make a move, but in the fight over the Undead Plane, one arrow killed three Undead Monarchs. News of this battle spread throughout Noscent. This elf also had dreamy amber eyes.

And now, that young girl in the kitchen that looked so frail and malnourished was the 3rd person with the Quicksand Eyes.

Of course, it wasn't unusual for the Merlin Family to give up on her, since after all, the Merlin Family was so huge, having countless children from various branches. They couldn't help each of them unearth their potential one by one, so they set standards. The Family would naturally nurture them, but if they couldn't meet the standards, they could only fend for themselves.

This was the world of large Families.

But it didn't matter to Lin Yun. He was only curious about the girl with the Quicksand Eyes, since it was his first time seeing them.

Not to mention, of the two other pairs of Quicksand Eyes that appeared in Noscent's history, one was from a pureblooded Night Elf, and the other was from a Silver Elf. Both were of the Elven Race.

And this pair appeared on a Human.

Lin Yun wanted to know if a Human with the Quicksand Eyes could reach the same heights as those two legendary figures.

It was just like the Draconic Beastman, Xiuban.

He only wanted to see how far they could go.

"Oh right, Cousin William..." After he finished eating, Lin Yun wiped his mouth and stopped glancing at the kitchen.

"Yes?"

"The Black Horn Auction should be in a week, right?"

"Yes, yes, the Black Horn Auction is in a week," William answered energetically. Lin Yun had only asked casually, not expecting William to become so excited all of a sudden. "Okland's Black Horn Auction is a lot more lively than the one in Thousand Sails City, we should definitely go..."

"You..." Lin Yun was puzzled for a brief moment before understanding.

William had followed him to the Four Seasons Canyon, gaining quite a lot on the way, especially in that treasure house at the end. William had received a share of the magic materials, and besides giving the

biggest part to Lin Yun to forge items, he still had a small part he intended on trading for gold and equipment.

It seemed that William wanted to take a trip to the Black Horn Auction to get some money.

“Then grab those materials later, I’ll take a look for you...”

“Okay, okay...”

After finishing breakfast, the two didn’t immediately leave the house. Instead, they looked through the magic materials for a while. Lin Yun only allowed William to put the ordinary ones in the auction, because he knew that the truly valuable magic materials could never be traded with golds.

Rather than put those rare materials in the auction, it was better to keep them in hand for a suitable opportunity to use them or trade them for some powerful item.

After their busy morning, the two geniuses recalled that they should see Ofran.

They believed that the news of Stan Watson’s death should have already reached Ofran’s ears, and thus, Lin Yun was about to get Ofran to open the Ancestral Land for him.

But Lin Yun hadn’t expected...

Just when they set off to see Ofran, they saw someone waiting for them there.

“William...” The one waiting there was Ross.

Just a day later, this most outstanding genius of the Merlin Family, possessor of the Endless Spring, looked a lot different. He looked haggard and listless. Yesterday’s battle might have brought him too much of a shock.

“What are you here for?” William remained cold and indifferent.

Originally, William’s older sister died in the battle over the Raging Flame Plane, and Ross wasn’t unrelated to that. If not for Ross separating from the main force to take over the Crimson Fort on his own, William’s sister might not have died.

Naturally, William also knew that this was only hypothetical.

But because of that, he couldn’t maintain an agreeable expression when looking at Ross.

“Who killed Stan Watson?”

Chapter 286: Bloodline Ceremony

“How does that concern you?” William remained expressionless. Although it had already been many years, the fact that Ross went against everyone’s advice and insisted on leaving to attack the Crimson Fort still weighed heavily in William’s heart. After saying that William ignored Ross and pushed him aside. “You are blocking our way.”

“...”

Ross stood awkwardly as he watched the two of them leave. He had heard people saying that the most outstanding genius the Watson Family had produced in centuries, the one who had disgraced him, Stan Watson, was killed in the Aurij Mountains.

Moreover, he had been killed while under the protection of the Red Dragon Mercenaries, in front of the 1st vice leader, Anna.

Ross was left stunned...

He had fought Stan Watson in the Raging Flame Plane, and since then, he had always used Stan as a lofty goal to strive towards. Ross could even say that he was the one who understood Stan Watson's strength the best. How could he not know how powerful he was?

There were countless members of the younger generation, and the only difference that mattered was power. Only a few of them could lead far ahead of the others.

Stan Watson was one of them.

Ross Merlin knew that Stan had already become an 8th Rank High Mage and that he'd been very close to advancing to the 9th Rank. He was so close that people already considered him an Archmage.

But this time, Stan Watson had been killed.

And this had involved the Red Dragon Mercenary Group, Okland's number three Mercenary Group. They were powerful enough that they could already be ranked among the twenty strongest forces in Okland. Ross had seen Anna fight with his own eyes and knew that she was a very powerful Expert Swordswoman. Few people could get the chance to study under the Storm Sword Saint Talos, and even fewer could learn the Sky Aura.

They had even taken fifty mercenaries with them, making that a group that could rival an Archmage. How could they let someone they were escorting die in front of them?

At that time, Ross recalled something William said.

Their younger cousin had asked how Ross compared to Stan Watson.

Back then, William had answered, "How could he be compared to a dead person?"

Ross then suddenly realized that the suddenly rising William might know some information that hadn't been publicly revealed.

Thus, Ross wanted to ask him how much he knew about Stan's death.

This matter was very, very important to Ross.

It was related to a secret that only Ross knew.

But things had unfolded poorly for him.

Ross knew that William's behavior was he'd always believed that his older sister died because of Ross' actions back then.

In the past, Ross wouldn't have cared about what William thought because the gap between the two of them was too great. No matter how unwilling William was, he would have no choice but to answer if Ross wanted to know something.

Unfortunately for Ross, it was different now.

William's sudden rise changed everything.

Even now, Ross still couldn't accept the fact that William had defeated him.

It wasn't Aube, it wasn't Leon, it was William.

Although William couldn't be considered mediocre among the younger generation, Ross had never thought much of him. The gap between them was huge, an entire tier! When Ross became a 5th Rank High Mage, William was only a 5th Rank Great Mage.

But now...

Just half a year later, William had shockingly stepped into the High Mage realm and defeated him in a one-on-one fight.

Ross couldn't understand how this had all happened.

The gap between them had already been breached, so it would be very difficult to get an answer from William.

But he couldn't help himself, so he still had to ask.

This matter was too important to Ross.

'What about Anna?' After thinking for a long time, Ross thought of the 1st vice leader of the Red Dragon Mercenary who had been present on the scene. 'She might be able to tell me something...'

...

As Ross left the Merlin Manor, Ofran looked anxious in his stone tower.

'How could it happen so coincidentally...' Ofran was sitting on his chair, a bitter smile on his face.

Originally, Ofran had raised that condition to get Mafa to back off for now.

But he hadn't expected something so fortuitous to happen.

Just as he raised that condition, Stan Watson died.

Ofran couldn't help cursing inwardly when he thought of that.

'You were a freaking 8th Rank High Mage, not much worse than me, how could you die like that? What should I do...'

'Do I really have to face the pressure of the Elder Council and let Mafa enter the Ancestral Land? This is very troublesome...'

'You trash, Stan Watson, couldn't you have just remained in the Watson Family Manor? Why did you have to go to the Aurij Mountains? How could you be so worthless as to die with fifty Great Swordsmen and one Expert Swordswoman guarding you?

'Hmm... It was mentioned that the killer was a young mage.'

As his train of thought reached this point, Ofran suddenly became puzzled.

'Could that be one of Mafa's helpers?'

After thinking carefully about it, Ofran couldn't help considering that possibility.

'Mafa Merlin, just who are you?'

Ofran tried to wrap his head around it.

'...The boss of the greatest alchemy store of Thousand Sails City, his wealth can only be described as tremendous. He also seems to have ties with Solomon of the Sage Tower, and Solomon is Star Sage Jouyi's disciple. It wouldn't be difficult for him to use his relationship with Solomon to hire one or two helpers from the Cloud Tower.

'The one who killed Stan Watson might be a young mage from the Cloud Tower... But who could it be...? Although there have been a lot of talented mages appearing in the Cloud Tower in recent years, I don't recall any being young and that frightening.

'Maybe he asked another force? After all, with the huge amount of wealth he possesses, it wouldn't be very difficult for him to have someone kill Stan Watson.

"Haaa..." Ofran couldn't help sighing.

He hadn't expected this to happen.

He'd only brought up such a condition because he knew that it was impossible for Mafa and William with their strength. He'd only wanted to buy time.

He hadn't expected things to blow up.

Moreover...

Link had yet to return, for some unknown reason. Ofran had already tried to call out to him twice, but he hadn't gotten any answer. Otherwise, he could have asked Link what had happened.

Ofran couldn't help feeling his head throb as he thought of this.

"Knock knock knock..."

At this time, someone knocked on the door to the reception room.

"Come in..." Ofran sighed. Who other than William and Mafa would come knocking at such a time?

And as expected...

The two young mages entered the room.

“Sir Ofran, as you wished, Stan Watson has died. Concerning the matter of entering the Ancestral Land...” Lin Yun went straight to the point after entering the reception room.

These words made Ofran feel a lot older. ‘Sure enough... It feels as if I ordered a hit...’

“Oh, this...” Ofran couldn’t help feeling bitter as he wondered, ‘What should I do? Do I really have to confront the Elder Council?’

“Sir Ofran, I hope you aren’t thinking of backing out?” Lin Yun asked with a smile as Ofran was hesitating.

“Backing out? No no no, of course not...” Ofran was startled at first before vigorously shaking his head to deny this. The person before him was the owner of the Gilded Rose. The wealth and the resources he held were tremendous. Delaying him was fine, but backing out on a deal could make him abandon any thought of returning to the Merlin Family. Who would believe a Patriarch who went back on his word? If he couldn’t agree to this, the other side might even worry whether they could keep their wealth after returning.

‘Forget it. If I have to confront the Elder Council, then so be it.’

With that thought, Ofran accepted the situation and made his decision.

“Mafa, I am happy that you can contribute to the Merlin Family. You already proved yourself, so you can enter the Ancestral Land anytime you want. Where do you plan on going?” After Ofran got over it, he simply conceded this favor.

Originally, the young mage would have to wait until the Elder Council negotiated the final result before he could enter the Ancestral Land. It might take ten days, but it might also take over a month.

But Ofran had decided to let him enter the Ancestral Land first.

In any case, he would have to slowly fight with the Elder Council, so why not make Mafa owe him a favor while he was at it?

Sure enough, Lin Yun smiled at Ofran’s answer. “Now, of course.”

“Good.” Ofran didn’t hesitate and opened a drawer before taking a crest out from it. “This is the proof needed to enter the Merlin Family’s Ancestral Land. William will lead you there later. Also, there are a few things I should remind you of before you enter. You’d best not run all over the place in the Ancestral Land, you should quickly come out after doing the Bloodline Ceremony. Some of the secrets of the Ancestral Land aren’t things that you should get into contact with at the moment...”

“I know.” Lin Yun nodded. Every powerful Family hid countless secrets in their Ancestral Land. These secrets weren’t secrets that could be shared with just anyone.

But Lin Yun wasn’t interested in these secrets.

What Lin Yun truly cared about was the Bloodline Ceremony.

William had once told him that after the Merlin children reached adulthood, they could undergo the Bloodline Ceremony in the Ancestral Land, provided they were outstanding enough. Even the oldest

members of the Merlin Family didn't know when the Bloodline Ceremony had been established. They only knew that regardless of how thin the Merlin Bloodline was, as long as they underwent the Bloodline Ceremony, they would be able to possess the power of the purest Merlin bloodline.

The Merlin Family hadn't declined after so many years because not only were they able to keep their bloodline pure, but they could also undergo this Bloodline Ceremony.

Lin Yun clearly remembered it.

The Merlin Family started declining several hundred years later, until Flame Ruler Doug was born in the Merlin Family. He was known as the strongest Archmage and made the name of the Merlin Family resound throughout Noscent overnight.

And this Flame Ruler's Magic Conducting Rune was the Magic Array that Lin Yun held.

It was said that this Flame Ruler crawled up from the bottom and was still a Great Mage when he turned fifty.

But after fifty, he found the Merlin Family's Ancestral Land and underwent an ancient and mysterious Bloodline Ceremony, transforming his bloodline into the purest Merlin bloodline. After that, Doug's strength skyrocketed, and within three months, he fused his nine Magic Arrays into one and stepped into the High Mage realm before taking another ten years to become the strongest Archmage in Noscent.

This was all because of that ancient and mysterious Bloodline Ceremony.

And it was because of this that Lin Yun wanted to enter the Merlin Family's Ancestral Land.

Lin Yun was convinced that the pure Merlin Bloodline was related to the Magic Array.

"Alright, if there are no questions, you can go there now..." After making this difficult decision with clenched teeth, Ofran felt as if his head was about to explode. He gave a hurried explanation and then waved his hand, hinting for Lin Yun and William to leave.

"Haha, many thanks, Sir Ofran." Lin Yun didn't hold back and nodded politely before leaving with William.

After leaving Ofran's stone tower, Lin Yun took the time to ask, "Cousin William, where is this Ancestral Land?"

"Do you see that place?" William pointed at the Fallen Star Lake. A precipitous cliff could be seen past the mist covered water whose bottom was covered by a dense fog. It was a bottomless canyon. "That canyon is the Merlin Family's Ancestral Land. It was said that the Merlin Family's ancestor came out of that canyon in his youth and followed the old king to establish the Andlusa Kingdom. Although many children of the Merlin Family have been into that canyon, no one knows how many secrets are hidden within..."

Chapter 287: Mountain Temple

The two left the Merlin Manor and walked alongside the lake shore. They soon reached the bottom of the cliff. Now that they were close, they could see the canyon covered in fog. They were surrounded by mist and they simply couldn't see the end of the canyon.

"Hmm?" Lin Yun stood at the top of the canyon. He looked down with a heavy expression.

"What is it?"

"This fog isn't simple."

"Yes..." William nodded when he heard this. "It is said that this fog wasn't here originally. The Merlin Family's ancestor left the Ancestral Land and followed the first king to establish the Andlusa Kingdom. Once the kingdom was established, he refused to stay despite the first king's entreaties and returned to the Ancestral Land. He was never seen since then. From that time on, the canyon has been filled with dense fog..."

"It's not just that..."

Lin Yun shook his head before pointing with his Spiritual Magic Staff. The Elemental Amber flickered. Under the surge of mana, the fog suddenly raged.

William, who had already reached High Mage Rank, could now see a faint flicker within the fog. Countless mysterious runes were roaming within the fog. Most importantly, William could clearly feel the huge mana fluctuations within the fog created by the mana injected by his younger cousin. It was neither berserk nor fierce, it was heavy and calm, just like a mountain range extending in front of them. Even by just standing there they could feel the pressure.

"This..." As a well known member of the younger generation, William had gotten close to the Ancestral Land many times, even if he hadn't undergone the Bloodline Ceremony.

In the past, William had only thought that the Ancestral Land was extremely mysterious and filled with countless secrets.

But now, William felt that the Ancestral Land wasn't just mysterious. The secrets it held were most likely greater than he had imagined.

"Let's go take a look." Lin Yun smiled and ignored William's stupefied expression. He followed the rugged, precipitous mountain path towards the bottom of the canyon.

The path was very long, and it took them almost an hour to reach the bottom of the canyon.

There were a dozen towers at the bottom.

The world at the bottom of the canyon was impressively open, and the landscape was more beautiful than they had been expecting. There was no end to this world. From the bottom of this precipitous cliff, a dozen towers could be seen spreading far in the distance. Faint mana fluctuations were emitted, quiet and mysterious. Lin Yun looked into the distance and noticed that the smallest tower was still seven floors tall.

'It looks like the foundation of the Merlin Family is deeper than I thought...' Lin Yun couldn't help sighing after seeing that scenery.

In Noscent, there was a strict norm concerning mages living in towers.

Mages could have two floors at most, Great Mages could have four, and High Mages could have six. Although this wasn't explicitly written anywhere, it had spread among mages over the years, and the mages strictly abided by it. The decorative design on mages' cuffs would also rarely be forged.

The world of magic seemed free and mysterious, but in reality, it was far more respectful of status than the secular world.

And the smallest tower having seven floors meant that the ones living in these towers were all Archmages at the very least.

Moreover...

Lin Yun noticed that the tallest tower had nine floors!

This meant that a Heaven Rank Mage had lived there.

But...

No mana fluctuation was emitted from that tower. It was deathly silent.

An ordinary person might be mistaken about this, but Lin Yun couldn't. After reaching the High Mage realm, Lin Yun became over ten times sharper when it concerned changes in mana fluctuations. He didn't even need to use the Magic Array to determine that the tallest tower had already lost its master.

In other words, the Heaven Mage of the Merlin family had already left, or he might have fallen. In any case, he wasn't present here.

But even if that tower had lost its master, just based on those seven-floor and eight-floor towers, it could be seen how frightening the foundation of the Merlin Family was.

They were all Archmages.

"Living in these towers are the ancestors of the Merlin Family. After long lives, they grew tired of the secular world and chose to live in seclusion in the Ancestral Land, naturally becoming the guardians of the Ancestral Land. We usually wouldn't get the opportunity to enter. It's thanks to Cousin that I have the opportunity to see these Guardian Towers..."

"Oh, what about Santon Merlin..." Lin Yun didn't care much about the ancestors of the Merlin Family, but as William talked, he suddenly recalled Ofran mentioning Santon Merlin.

"Santon Merlin isn't there."

"Hmm?"

"From what is written in the Family's secret tome, Santon Merlin didn't stop at a Guardian Tower after he entered the Ancestral Land. Instead, he headed for the depths of the Ancestral Land before disappearing..."

"The depths?" After hearing that, he looked further into the Ancestral Land, a bit curious.

But his expression suddenly changed.

The depths of the Ancestral Land seemed to have countless mountains, murmuring rivers, and dense forests, all of those forming a beautiful landscape. But Lin Yun noticed that he had a strange feeling when he looked at this scenery. It was as if something was blocking his sight. No matter how hard he tried, he could only see mountains, rivers, and forests, but no further.

This was a startling discovery for him.

After all, at Lin Yun's current level, he could already see the sources of things when observing the world. Just like earlier, when he observed the Guardian Towers that had stood tall for a long time. An ordinary person might see just a tower, but Lin Yun could see the mana flowing around, as well as the mana fluctuations emitted by the tower.

When Lin Yun observed something, he would see more than what most would see.

But here, he found that he could only see the same as others...

This made Lin Yun more curious about this place. What was hiding in the Ancestral Land? Why could he not understand what he was looking at?

"This..." William seemed to lack confidence as he looked around everywhere while Lin Yun was inwardly baffled. "Cousin, we shouldn't stay there long, I heard that the area around the Guardian Towers is very unusual. We might have an accident if we are careless. A child of the Family who entered to do his Bloodline Ceremony met the ghost of an ancestor here and was scared senseless. He fled and didn't even dare to do his Bloodline Ceremony. This genius who was supposed to have great potential and someday attain many achievements went crazy and fell before he could mature. The whole Merlin Family felt that it was a pity for a very long time..."

"Okay, we will hold the Bloodline Ceremony first." Lin Yun didn't worry about the strangeness of this place. Could it be worse than the end of the world?

He didn't have free time to research the Ancestral Land before doing the Bloodline Ceremony.

"It's not far ahead."

William led the way, and it wasn't long before the two left the Guardian Towers to reach an area under the cliff. At this time, they could clearly see a rugged path exposed in the cliff, that path went into the depths of the mountain and was covered with dense fog.

The two walked down this path for a long time before it suddenly opened before them. At the end of the rugged path, the spacious core of the mountain felt like spring. At the core of the mountain stood an ancient temple. The temple had been built in a very strange style... One could say that it was poles apart from the 3rd Dynasty's style, yet it also didn't resemble the style of the past millennium. It was rough and mysterious.

'Could it be...' Lin Yun stood in front of the temple, inwardly startled because of the two statues outside and the rough and mysterious style. It made him think of the distant Nesser Dynasty, the era of Dragons and Elves.

If that was really the case...

This temple would be far too ancient...

In fact, Lin Yun could feel a simple and ancient aura, created over the years as the temple experienced the passage of time.

Lin Yun had already discovered in the Heaven Enlightening Plane that the Merlin Family's ancestor most likely had participated in the Draconic War that caused the destruction of the Nesser Dynasty. And after the Draconic War, the Merlin Family nearly disappeared overnight, up until their renewed rise in the recent millennium. Such a temple shouldn't have been left behind.

"Let's go in." Lin Yun didn't wait for William and directly pushed open the temple's door, entering the simple temple.

Sure enough...

Just as Lin Yun entered, he felt that he hadn't guessed wrong. A powerful draconic aura spread through the temple. It was the aura of a Chromatic Dragon, the aura of the Black Dragon of Destruction...

Lin Yun was surprised by this because after hearing from William that the ancestor had participated in the Draconic War, he had speculated that the ancestor was most likely the Dark Sage.

Chapter 288: Heart

Among the Chromatic Dragons, the Destruction Black Dragon Clan was Noscent's most famous. Whether it was the evil Dragon capturing a princess, the carriage snatched by a Dragon, or the Dragons always living in volcanoes in the stories whose Dragon Breath had a strong sulfurous scent. They would mostly be Black Dragons.

Yes, the Destruction Black Dragon Clan was infamous in Noscent.

Even the pure-blooded Destruction Black Dragons were forced to flee to an unknown plane when Charles the Emperor shattered the Throne of Life. Only some mixed-blood descendants remained in the current Noscent, but the infamous name of the Destruction Black Dragons had already spread throughout, remaining ingrained in the hearts of every inhabitant of Noscent.

That was why Lin Yun felt shocked when he felt the aura of those Dragons.

They were the Destruction Black Dragons! One of the Chromatic Dragon Clans! They would have Heaven Rank power upon reaching adulthood and would rarely have opponents in Noscent.

'A Destruction Black Dragon actually fell here...' Lin Yun couldn't help remaining speechless in front of that empty temple.

In fact, when he confirmed that the temple had come from the Nesser Dynasty, Lin Yun had made some conjectures, but he hadn't dared to believe them since they were too shocking.

Very few temples would be built during the Nesser Dynasty, which was completely different from the 3rd Dynasty.

The 3rd Dynasty's royal family worshipped the Haiba Dragon God as the first Dragon born at the beginning of the world. The Haiba Dragon God loved wealth and offerings. The greater the offerings, the

happier the Haiba Dragon God would be. Thus, the Haiba Dragon God had temples everywhere in the 3rd Dynasty. Most of these temples hid shocking wealth. Countless legends of people becoming rich overnight appeared after the destruction of the 3rd Dynasty.

But it was different for the Nesser Dynasty.

The Nesser Dynasty was the Dynasty of the Elven and Draconic Empire.

Although the Elves and Dragons believed in their own gods, they never blindly worshipped them. There were very few temples during that period, and they would be erected to commemorate their fallen companions.

And it had to be a companion who made such great contributions that it affected the whole era.

It could be said that every temple of the Nesser Dynasty had an epic story behind it.

During his days in the decaying library, Lin Yun had read the famous – Elven and Draconic Requiem–, and in it were recorded the achievements of the fallen Elves and Dragons that could warrant a temple. It was a true poetic saga depicting formidable powerhouses. Their names were still passed down in songs after countless years, and the places they fell at were holy grounds.

Now, a Nesser Dynasty temple stood in front of them filled with the aura of a Destruction Black Dragon meaning that a Destruction Black Dragon had once fallen there.

‘It looks like I still underestimated the Merlin Family...’ Lin Yun stood in the spacious temple and took a deep breath as he thought of walking over to the altar in the center.

The altar was a dozen meters tall and was constructed out of some unknown stones. The ground seemed to be made of scalding flames as Lin Yun walked on it. At the top of the altar was a terrace a few meters wide. A fireball was raging in the center of the terrace.

“This is...” Lin Yun froze when he saw that flame.

That was a Dragon Heart.

To be more specific, it was the Dragon Heart of a Destruction Black Dragon.

The aura Lin Yun had felt had come from this ignited heart.

‘Hold on...’

As Lin Yun was inwardly amazed, a strange sound reached his ears.

“Badump, badump, badump...”

Hearing this powerful pulsating sound, Lin Yun’s expression suddenly paled. ‘This Destruction Black Dragon’s heart is still alive!’

Indeed, it was still beating. It looked really strange in this quiet temple.

‘No way...’ Lin Yun rubbed his eyes to make sure he was seeing properly.

Sure enough, the heart was beating. Through the flames, Lin Yun could clearly see the black diamond-like sparkling heart throbbing vigorously.

‘Is the key to fusing the nine Magic Arrays on that heart?’ Lin Yun carefully thought about it and felt that this might be possible.

Fusing the nine Magic Arrays into one would require a lot of patience and willpower as he did it very slowly, but it might also be possible to do it forcefully using incomparable power.

And that Black Dragon Heart held extreme power.

Lin Yun finally found a clue.

Flame Ruler Doug most likely used the power of that Destruction Black Dragon to fuse his nine Magic Arrays and reach the High Mage realm in one go.

But...

How did he get that power?

He definitely didn’t extract it...

An adult Black Dragon was at least a Heaven Rank existence, not to mention a Destruction Black Dragon that earned a temple after falling. It would have been one of the powerhouses whose names could be recorded and sung in poems. They might be comparable to a Three-headed Golden Dragon.

Even if it only left a heart behind, the power contained within wasn’t something Lin Yun could extract.

In fact, Lin Yun could clearly feel that he had been capable of safely standing there only because the power of the altar had been suppressing the Black Dragon’s heart. Otherwise, let alone standing there, he would have faced the oppressive power as soon as he’d approached the temple.

Directly extracting the power would be suicide.

“Oh, right, Cousin...” Lin Yun suddenly stopped as he thought of something. “How much do you know about the Bloodline Ceremony?”

“The Bloodline Ceremony?” William also felt the Destruction Black Dragon’s power, and his strength was inferior to his cousin’s. Thus, he only hid on the side, hoping for his younger cousin to hurry up with his Bloodline Ceremony.

William couldn’t help freezing when he heard Lin Yun’s question, before recalling that his younger cousin’s grandfather had already left the Merlin Family, planning to never return. He probably hadn’t mentioned the Bloodline Ceremony.

“You drip a drop of blood on it!” William promptly yelled from a distance before anxiously looking at Lin Yun and repeating. “On that ball of flames!”

“A drop of blood?” Lin Yun felt doubtful when he heard that...

‘How could it be dripping blood?’

Usually, a ritual to purify blood would involve accepting a mysterious baptism in order to condense a bloodline that would reach the purity of an Ancestor's. In fact, dripping one's blood on a Dragon's heart seemed more like an offering.

But naturally, Lin Yun quickly threw those suspicions to the back of his mind. That was only his own point of view, but there were all kinds of rituals and ceremonies in Noscent. He couldn't know the principles behind each and every one of them. Perhaps the Merlin Family's ceremony was a special case?

But even if he did a sacrifice, how could one drop of blood have such a big influence?

Lin Yun no longer hesitated after thinking of this. He let out a precise Wind Blade, and under the accurate control of this High Mage, the Wind Blade only brushed past his left hand's middle finger and blood spilled as he gently shook. That drop of blood fell onto those flames.

It was immediately followed by a world-shaking Dragon Chant.

"What's going on?" Lin Yun was suddenly startled. That Dragon Chant clearly carried endless anger and unwillingness.

Unfortunately, before he could understand what had happened, the flaming black diamond displayed the phantom of a Black Dragon.

"This..." Lin Yun became deathly pale. The Destruction Black Dragon had world-shaking power, even if it was just a shadow. Let alone a 1st Rank High Mage like him, even an Archmage wouldn't be able to resist.

Lin Yun almost subconsciously brandished his Spiritual Magic Staff.

But before he could even think of counterattacking, the phantom had already pounced on him, followed by another resounding Dragon Chant. Lin Yun only felt darkness ahead of him as he was swallowed whole by the shadow.

Under the suppression of the immense Draconic power, Lin Yun even lost his ability to think. He seemed to have been lost in boundless darkness... It was the same feeling as when they floated in the Heaven Enlightening Plane. No, no, it was even more frightening and even more strange.

In the Heaven Enlightening Plane, he had been able to control his body and mind.

But now, he was incapable of moving while in the endless darkness. And it wasn't just that he couldn't move. His thoughts were extremely sluggish, and even the most insignificant reaction felt difficult.

Chapter 289: Bloodline

Lin Yun didn't know how long he stayed in that darkness.

It might have been an instant, it might have been a hundred years.

"Badump, badump, badump..."

Ultimately, the familiar heartbeat echoed once again in Lin Yun's ears. Lin Yun subconsciously opened his eyes but only saw boundless flames. It looked as if the whole world was ignited. Amidst the flames, countless scenes flashed, shocking Lin Yun to his core.

That was the Draconic War.

Countless Dragons soared through the sky, covering it in a rainbow of colors. Numerous Dragon Breaths swept the earth, scorching it. The figures of the pure-blooded Elves could be seen everywhere, both above and below. Silver Moon Elves, Dark Night Elves, Blazing Sun Elves, and the Sacred Song Elves. The four Elven clans which mastered elements as well as archery, spearmanship and holy light, all fought to the death.

The sky was torn in half, the earth caved in. Lin Yun once again witnessed the horrors closely resembling what would happen 30,000 years in the future, mountains crumbling and seas boiling, the world ending.

The Chromatic Dragons decayed while the Elves turned to dust.

Everything was engulfed in flames, blood flowed, corpses were mangled. Even if Lin Yun knew this was but an illusion, he couldn't help being shocked by this fierce scene. Even the thick smell of blood assaulted his nose.

'Who is the enemy?' Lin Yun tried to rush through the flames to see the realm's enemy in this tragic war.

But...

There was no enemy.

There was no enemy from the beginning. The casualties of the pure-blooded Elves and Chromatic Dragons came from the void storms, comets, from the sinking earth, the torn sky and the flaring seas. It looked like their true enemy was this world destroying disaster.

In the end, everything became quiet.

The world gradually recovered its peace, the surviving Chromatic Dragons and pure-blooded Elves converged and silently mourned their fallen companions. They didn't say anything, they didn't move, but pain and sorrow wordlessly spread before a Three-Headed Golden Dragon let out a loud Dragon Roar. His roar was full of anger and unwillingness while still melodious and dignified. A God-like Sun Elf came out of the crowd, a staff in his hand, and chanted a very long incantation.

A Planar Path then opened.

The surviving Chromatic Dragons and pure-blooded Elves silently approached that Planar Path. None of them aware where it led to.

"This is..." Lin Yun was startled, this scene felt familiar.

But the scene remained immobile, disregarding Lin Yun's attempts to see where that Planar Path led.

"Fuck!" Lin Yun swore. The scene that appeared within the flames carried too much importance to him. Lin Yun even felt that many of the unanswered questions in his mind would be solved as long as he kept watching.

Unfortunately, he couldn't get closer, the scene was locked on that location.

Lin Yun simply couldn't accept such a result.

Right at this time, an earth-shattering Dragon Roar echoed in Lin Yun's ears. Lin Yun raised his head with a mix of shock and hope. A black shadow flew across the sky. That was a huge Black Dragon covered in flames whose body spanned over several kilometers. His head, body, and wings were spreading flames in the sky.

Lin Yun held his breath.

That was the ruler of the Black Dragons, an existence comparable to the Three-Headed Golden Dragon, a powerhouse that could contend against a God, the Shadow Dragon!

When the Shadow Dragon flashed through the sky, he turned his head to look at Lin Yun. It was followed by an earth-shattering Dragon Roar, and by the time Lin Yun recovered, the Shadow Dragon's silhouette had already disappeared.

But Lin Yun was completely frozen.

Because Lin Yun very clearly heard the few Ancient Draconic sentences mixed within that Dragon Roar.

In the current Noscent, very few people would dare say that they understood Ancient Draconic. That was a language used by the Ancient Dragons of the Gold Era. Even in the Nesser Dynasty established by the Dragons and Elves, there would rarely be a Dragon that used Ancient Draconic to communicate.

Only those Ancient Dragons who experienced both the Gold and Silver Eras and whose lives were unimaginably long would use Ancient Draconic, and only accidentally or under specific circumstances.

Lin Yun knew about it because some mages at the peak of the magic era believed that the Ancient Draconic and Ancient Elven contained some mysterious power. They crazily researched these two extinct languages. After excavating many temples and ruins, overturning almost all of the Nesser Era once, they spent a few hundred years to sort what they found and assembled what they thought to be a rough book of Ancient Draconic words.

Unfortunately, they were both right and wrong. That set of Ancient Draconic words didn't actually hold any mysterious power, in fact, it was ridiculed by all Dragons. They said that this was completely different from the Ancient Draconic they inherited from their bloodline. Over time, mages put this specious Ancient Draconic to the back of their mind and went on to study other ancient languages. The research on Ancient Draconic serving only as a teaching material or a reference in studies of other languages from that point on.

When Lin Yun read that book, it had only been to study some language grammar composition, it was purely used as a leisure read.

He never expected it to be actually useful, he surprisingly managed to pick up a few of the words in those sentences...

"Unexpectedly... Saw... Descendant... Ancient War... Fragment... Balakra..."

Although it was only some scattered fragments, Lin Yun firmly engraved those keywords in his mind, especially that final one, "Balakra". Lin Yun felt that this might be a powerful True Name. As for who the owner of that True Name was, it would have to wait until Lin Yun returned and did some research.

With the Shadow Dragon sweeping through the sky, the surrounding's flames started dissipating.

His surroundings changed again and Lin Yun regained consciousness. Before his eyes stood that throbbing Black Dragon Heart. The drop of blood he had dripped on it was slowly soaking into the heart. William was still standing still not far from him, his expression unchanged.

Lin Yun realized that his previous experience might have been very long to him, but it might have only lasted a few seconds in reality.

Nothing seemed to have changed.

No...

'What is this!' Lin Yun was just about to walk down the altar when he suddenly noticed a trace of blood not of his own within his body.

That drop of blood was incredibly hot and carried a thick smell of sulfur. Lin Yun felt a sharp pain and realized that this berserk and flaming aura definitely came from a Destruction Black Dragon.

'Could it be that the Merlin Family Bloodline Ceremony was actually trading a drop of their blood for a drop of Destruction Black Dragon's Blood?'

'But if that is the case...'

'Wouldn't the Merlin Family's bloodline be the bloodline of a Destruction Black Dragon?'

This discovery toppled Lin Yun's knowledge.

Unfortunately, Lin Yun didn't have much time to think. After merging with his body, that drop of Black Dragon Blood burst with terrifying energy. Suddenly, Lin Yun seemed to hear a loud sound, immediately followed by that drop of Black Dragon Blood crazily swallowing everything. It instantly expanded like a snowball rolling in the snow and started flowing through Lin Yun's veins like burning lava. At the same time, a slumbering power seemed to be awakening in response to that Dragon Blood.

Lin Yun understood that this was the real bloodline ceremony.

Using the blood of a Destruction Black Dragon to awaken the bloodline slumbering within the Merlins.

'No wonder, the Merlin Family's bloodline is quite remarkable...'

Mafa's bloodline was too thin and Lin Yun gave up after studying it a bit. But now, this drop of Dragon Blood was awakening another kind of bloodline. Lin Yun finally realized that the Merlin Family might possess a top class bloodline.

Only a top class bloodline would need the blood of a Destruction Black Dragon to awaken it.

Lin Yun already made some conjectures.

He already theorized that in the Draconic War, the ancestor of the Merlin Family withstood the Destruction Black Dragon Clan, along with the Dark Sage.

Now, it could be assumed that the relation between Merlin Family Ancestor, the Dark Sage and the Destruction Black Dragon Clan might not necessarily be that of allies and enemies.

Unfortunately, Lin Yun didn't have much time to think about it now. That bloodline was on the verge of awakening.

It would have been a lot better if Lin Yun had been the true Mafa Merlin.

Mafa Merlin would completely transform if he let that bloodline awaken, whether it was potential or power, he would reach a very shocking stage.

But unfortunately, Lin Yun wasn't Mafa Merlin.

Lin Yun came from 30,000 years in the future and had magic knowledge transcending the era, he had ten Magic Arrays and already walked a magic path others never dreamt of. How could he be willing to be restricted by his bloodline?

Chapter 290: Bloodline (2)

It didn't matter how outstanding that bloodline was.

That bloodline might have been a dream come true for the former Mafa Merlin, or even to the whole Merlin Family.

But it was a restriction to Lin Yun. No outstanding bloodline could give Lin Yun what he wanted!

Thus, as that drop of Destruction Black Dragon Blood merged with his body and that slumbering bloodline started awakening, Lin Yun's Magic Arrays started crazily revolving, and before that slumbering bloodline completely awakened, he pulled the Destruction Black Dragon Blood towards his Magic Arrays.

Lin Yun's face became deathly pale.

The berserk and flaming power contained within the Black Dragon Blood flowed like magma in the Magic Arrays and instantly launched a terrifying attack on the Magic Arrays.

This pain was something ordinary people couldn't imagine.

To Lin Yun, the Magic Arrays weren't just Magic Arrays, they also formed Lin Yun's second heart. The first heart supplied his body with blood while the second heart supplied mana. Now, the second heart came in contact with that drop of blazing Dragon Blood, the power contained within was like a poison to the Magic Arrays. Over a thousand runes immediately scattered when that blood came in contact with the Magic Arrays. Lin Yun had to spend a lot of time and energy to merge these runes with the Magic Arrays, but now, that time and energy turned into nothing from that first clash.

And this all happened in a split second.

Lin Yun knew that it was a critical time. If he couldn't suppress this drop of Dragon Blood, then not only would that top class bloodline awaken, even the Magic Arrays within his body would completely collapse.

Lin Yun resisted that terrible pain and went all-out in his control over his Magic Arrays to re-merge with the runes that had been scattered before, but at the same time, more runes were dissipating under the assaults of the Black Dragon Blood. Lin Yun kept pouring mana in, continuously repeating the same task, but the Magic Arrays were never completely intact. Lin Yun knew that this was the conflict of bloodline and mana. Assimilating any top class bloodline would have a price.

Seconds slowly passed...

Lin Yun's pale face was already covered with beads of sweat.

He tightly clenched his fists, his nails already deeply piercing his flesh because he used too much force, blood slowly flowed down his fists before dripping down on the altar.

William looked extremely anxious on the side.

This was the first time William saw his younger cousin in such pain. After all, he has only ended up dusting his robe after fighting an Archmage, he had only been slightly pale after leading everyone through that dead plane and escaping that void cemetery.

William's impression of Mafa was that of someone calm and indifferent always planning in advance. William couldn't even think of a time his cousin lost self-control.

But now, William could clearly see that this cousin who never lost control of his emotions was now displaying an incomparably painful expression on the altar.

'What can I do? What can I do...'

The more William watched, the more anxious he became. He didn't dare to go over and could only pace around, agitated.

'It shouldn't be...' William couldn't understand, how could a simple bloodline ceremony end up like this?

The Merlin Family's bloodline ceremony was a millennium old tradition, as far as William knew, Leon, Aube, and Ross all went through that bloodline ceremony. He never heard of someone being in such pain during the bloodline ceremony.

'What is going on...'

Suddenly, a shocking burst of mana fluctuations created gales in the temple, and even those raging flames seemed to be wavering under those gusts of wind.

'What?' William was immediately frightened. He rubbed his eyes before checking the altar.

Then...

William saw an endless amount of runes ascending like a huge vortex, transforming into a rainbow-colored tornado. This kept going for ten minutes before it returned back into Lin Yun's body.

'This is... ' William was stunned when he saw that scene.

'This was the Magic Conducting Runes fusing together as one! The sign of the advancement to the High Mage realm!'

'But, wasn't Cousin Mafa already a High Mage?'

'How could he be fusing his Magic Conducting Runes now...'

'Could it be... Cousin Mafa didn't really fuse the Magic Conducting Runes as one when he became a High Mage?'

'This...'

'This is too terrifying.'

William was a High Mage himself, how could he not know how terrifying the increase of power from advancing to High Mage was?

'Cousin Mafa was frightening enough before, what kind of abnormal strength will he have now that his Magic Conducting Runes fused?'

'Moreover, that advancement lasted quite a long time...'

William only took ten seconds when he fused his nine Magic Conducting Runes.

It was said that Ross took a whole minute when he fused his nine Endless Springs...

What did ten minutes mean...

William could only feel numb as he thought of it.

"What is it?" Lin Yun had thoroughly fused his Magic Conducting Runes and walked down the altar. He couldn't help asking this question with a smile while looking at the dumbstruck William.

"No... Nothing." William subconsciously shook his head while being unable to resist stealthily glancing at that young High Mage.

He looked no different from usual, he still had a calm expression and still felt totally in control, there was also the usual smile on his face, but for some reason, William always felt that the one standing in front of him wasn't a regular Human, but a mountain that could never be crossed.

"Err, Cousin, did... Did you complete you bloodline ceremony?"

"It should be considered completed..." Lin Yun smiled but didn't explain. He only took the lead and left the spacious temple.

'What do you mean it should be considered completed...' William followed behind, inwardly mumbling.

'Completed is completed, not completed is not completed. How could there be something such as "Considered completed"?'

William would never have expected that even Lin Yun didn't know whether he had actually completed the bloodline ceremony or not.

Earlier, Lin Yun exhausted almost all his power to suppress that drop of Black Dragon Blood and used that opportunity to fuse the ten Magic Arrays into one, becoming a true High Mage.

From this point of view, Lin Yun truly succeeded.

But the strange part was that this drop of Black Dragon Blood didn't continue wreaking havoc, nor did it disappear, it actually fused with the Magic Array.

The Magic Array was in a very strange state, let alone Enderfa who was leeching a home from him, now there was also a drop of Destruction Black Dragon Blood within him. Even Lin Yun wasn't sure what kind of state the Magic Array was in.

He would have to wait for the completion of the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel before thinking about it.

After all, the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel would allow Enderfa to move to a proper home, at that time, Lin Yun would be able to study the situation with that drop of Black Dragon Blood.

It was already evening by the time the two left the Ancestral Land. They followed the rugged mountain path back as the sun set and once again crossed the dense fog before reaching the Fallen Star Lake.

None of them knew that two dozen powerhouses, at the Archmage realm or higher, were gathered in one of the Guardian Towers. They were sitting around a long table, and the one sitting at the head even emitted an Extraordinary Aura.

"Sir Balakra already spoke, he wants us to find who is the descendant who underwent the bloodline ceremony today, no matter the cost..."

"Impossible! Didn't Sir Balakra not say anything for a few hundred years? Last time he spoke was for that Santon monster. Right, where is that Santon now? Wouldn't that be two hundred years since he roamed the depths of the Ancestral Land?"

"Who knows, last time someone saw Santon was in the Blood Moon Plane, who knows what he is looking for..."

"Ah? Wasn't it the Shadow Plane? How did it become the Blood Moon Plane? Shit, is that lunatic Santon thinking of dealing with those Vampires?"

"That's hard to say, everyone knows that Santon's brain isn't quite normal..."

"Alright, everyone quiet..." The old man emitting an Extraordinary aura had been keeping his eyes closed to recuperate. When the others started going off-track, he coughed to remind them of the current matter, "We are talking about the young mage from today. I trust everyone felt the mana fluctuations, they clearly didn't come from an ordinary High Mage..."