

Magic Era 401

Chapter 401: Ten

Lin Yun's alchemy knowledge transcended this era. Just by looking at it for a moment, Lin Yun had been able to discover a flaw in the array and confirmed it with the Magic Array's calculations.

That array existed only to scare people.

A peak Master Alchemist like Karon might be able to find the flaw in the array pretty fast, but he would need at least a few days to come to this conclusion.

"No way..."

Delson looked at Lin Yun with shock, he didn't dare believe that the array that had been stumping them for a few days would be described as a smokescreen by the young mage.

He knew of the young mage's power, but that was something completely unrelated to alchemy knowledge. After all, alchemy knowledge was something that needed to be accumulated overtime, and the youth in front of him was in his early twenties.

'Even if he had some understanding of alchemy, he should at most be a Great Alchemist...'

In their group, Olaro was a Master Alchemist, and even he could not understand the array. So how could Mafa Merlin?

Naturally, Delson wasn't foolish enough to directly question Lin Yun's words.

After hesitating, Delson said, "How about we keep studying the array?"

"Studying? Hey, Sir Delson, did you not hear what my cousin said? That array is fake, it's used to fool people..."

William rolled his eyes, feeling disinclined to look at Delson. He felt before that Vice Leader Delson was a decent person and had taken good care of them over the last two months. But for some reason, the more William looked at him, the more he felt that Vice Leader Delson wasn't very pleasing to the eye.

'To keep studying the array means that he didn't believe Cousin Mafa's words...'

'How could Cousin Mafa be wrong...'

'If even Cousin Mafa is wrong, then you guys would have to spend a hundred years researching this array!'

'Moreover, has Cousin Mafa ever been wrong?'

William didn't hesitate and rushed towards the door, his magic staff flickering with a bright light as he Insta-cast a Frost Spike towards the array. Nothing happened to the array after a few seconds and William immediately said with a laugh, "Sir Delson, Cousin Mafa was ri..."

But, before William could finish his sentence, a small change appeared. The originally still entrance suddenly shook. At the same time, low cracking sounds could be heard.

These sounds came from the entrance!

Everyone was startled, holding their breath while attentively watching the entrance, afraid of some powerful existence coming out.

“Cousin Mafa, what, what... What’s going on?” William was also startled, he looked at Lin Yun in disbelief, ‘Did Cousin Mafa really make a mistake? This is clearly impossible...’

“It had nothing to do with the array...” Lin Yun knew what he was thinking and shook his head. Just as he finished speaking, the tightly shut entrance was opened with great power. They all looked at what was on the other side of the door, there were ten paths!

But the most important part was the group of puppets coming from the other side of the door.

A total of ten puppets, all Battlemage Models. They were all wearing plate armor and holding a spear, but the power of these puppets was uneven. The strongest two were comparable to 5th Rank Archmages! And four others weren’t much weaker, comparable to 2nd and 3rd Rank Archmages. As for the remaining few, their power was below the Archmage realm.

It took an instant for the ten puppets to reach them and start attacking.

There was no probing, they instantly launched a fierce offensive. These Battlemage Model Puppets were waving their crystalline spears while releasing the spells enchanted on their bodies. The hall sank into chaos in an instant, and the elements were roused to their peak.

Battlemage Model Puppets were hard to handle, their frames were built out of Gold Essence and was incredibly hard. Moreover, they had ten or more defensive buffs enchanted on their bodies. Tier 1 and Tier 2 spells simply had no effect on their bodies.

Solan Monchi was currently fighting one of the puppets, it was actually one of the two most powerful puppets whose might was even comparable to a 5th Rank Archmage. He was facing its fierce body, accurate and powerful spear attacks, as well as the spells that kept appearing one after the other. Under such circumstances, Solan was strangely able to cast at ease.

He had already become a 5th Rank Archmage a while ago...

At the start of the battle, Solan had been struggling because he was unfamiliar with his power. Even if he went all-out, he couldn’t injure a puppet.

But, as the battle continued, his control over his power became more and more refined.

After twenty minutes of fighting, Solan had gained the upper hand and one powerful spell after the other exploded on the puppet’s body, “rumbling” sounds constantly echoing. A large part of the puppet’s Gold Essence’s frame had been dented around the chest, and every other part of its body had suffered some damage.

All in all, Solan Monchi’s robe had barely been touched by dust, there was no trace of him being injured. It had to be said, Solan Monchi truly had the power of a 5th Rank Archmage.

Another high tier spell accurately exploded on the body of the puppet followed by some Gold Essence being broken off. The body of the puppet was a bit sluggish, but the spear it waved and the enchanted spells it cast towards Solan were still as fierce.

In ten minutes, at most, Solan should be able to finish his battle.

Solan took the time to glance around and checked Lin Yun's location. He discovered that the puppet the other side was fighting was still intact, which made Solan squint.

At the start of the battle, everyone knew which puppet they should handle, Solan and Lin Yun chose the two most powerful, while the higher-ups of the three mercenary groups, Dean, Delson, Olaro, and Rolf, chose to battle the other four Archmage-rank puppets. As for the remaining four, they were divided between the three Merlin Cousins and Xiuban. Was it a coincidence that ten puppets came out to face ten people?

After glancing at Lin Yun a few times, Solan secretly shook his head. He suddenly regretted cooperating with Lin Yun, Lin Yun didn't seem as strong as he imagined.

'He can't even handle a puppet...'

He saw Mafa Merlin display power comparable to a 4th Rank Archmage, but that was all, he wasn't comparable to himself. Solan already planned on killing Lin Yun after leaving this place.

Lin Yun who was focused on disassembling the puppet's components naturally hadn't noticed Solan's strange gaze. Battlemage Model Puppets were very strong puppets. Instantly dismantling, or severing the mana source or mana circuits became extremely hard when faced with this puppet comparable to a 5th Rank Archmage.

It wasn't that he didn't understand the structure of the Battlemage Model Puppet, but rather, that puppet had four or five Haste enchantments on his body, making this puppet extraordinarily fast. Even when Lin Yun raised his speed to his limits, even with his disassembling speed, it was very hard to sever the mana circuits.

Thus, this deadlock lasted twenty minutes

If he used his power on that puppet, he wouldn't be able to avoid damaging its structure. In this era, Battlemage Model Puppets weren't easy to find...

In these twenty minutes, Lin Yun dismantled many parts, which had great use to him. The puppet he had found in the Bone Plane had already been restored and wasn't weak, it could walk unhindered in the Bone Plane. After getting parts, he could use them to upgrade that puppet. Lin Yun was certain that the power of that puppet would reach a whole new level.

After disassembling one component after the other, the outer layer of the mana source was soon revealed and the puppet's speed was clearly a few times slower. Lin Yun cast Haste on himself and raised his speed to his limits before instantly arriving behind the puppet. He softly moved his hand and the puppet remained rooted on the spot, motionless.

The puppet then collapsed into a pile of components.

Solan's battle also reached its end, a High Tier Spell exploded on the puppet and sent it flying. It stood up, but what awaited it was a flood of spells. But Solan also noticed the end of Lin Yun's battle. He was looking at Lin Yun as if he was a monster.

Lin Yun crouched down and took out a specific thing. This was the most useful part of the puppet, the mechanical system which supported the puppet's fighting. It could also be said to be the core of the puppet. He intended to use this mechanical system to remodel the Bone Plane's puppet. If nothing unexpected happened, after being remodeled, he would have an obedient level 30 puppet.

The speed at which he would amass Soul Fires would be raised four to five times.

After Lin Yun and Solan finished their battles, they went to help the others and quickly put an end to this fight. Then, everyone's eyes fell onto those paths, suspicious expressions on their faces.

'Strange, too strange...'

'This definitely isn't a coincidence...'

'The mercenary groups' side amounts to four people, the Merlin Family side plus one Beastman amounts to five, when Solan is added on top, we just happen to have ten people...'

'Ten people, ten puppets, ten paths...'

'This...'

Lin Yun tightly stared at the paths, but didn't say anything. He had a strange feeling earlier, as if a mysterious force, or existence, had discovered them and arranged everything. But, this was too inconceivable...

Chapter 402: Sand Beast

What force, or who, could control the magic tower?

"This place is very strange, if you are not careful, you'll encounter danger. I recommend staying grouped..." Solan said in a deep voice. After saying that, he looked at Lin Yun, waiting for his answer.

"Sir Solan, you are right, but there are ten paths. If everyone explore one path together, how long will it take until we find the real path?" Lin Yun softly added, "Divide and conquer..."

After Lin Yun was done speaking, everyone apart from Solan nodded. Although Solan's suggestion was safe, if they explored each path one by one, when would they find the real one?

They had ten people and there were ten paths.

Solan had a solemn expression, but he didn't say anything else.

"Then, let's do as High Mage Merlin suggest, let's split up..." Delson nodded with a heavy expression, before taking out ten purple crystals from his pocket. He gave one to everyone and said, "If you find the way, use the crystal in your hand to tell everyone the news"

"Whispering Crystal..."

Lin Yun knew that this was a high grade advanced item produced by the Crystal Workshop. It was usually used to transmit information even when separated by thousands of kilometers. But the Whispering Crystal's transmission function was a bit unstable.

The Crystal Workshop was Noscent's peak alchemy workshop, its headquarters was in the Odin Kingdom and they had branches almost everywhere in Noscent. Even the test tubes and beakers Lin Yun used in his alchemy workshop in Thousand Sails City came from the Crystal Workshop. But Thousand Sails City was too small, the Crystal Workshop wasn't willing to establish a branch there. It was mainly because of that that the tools in his laboratory were severely outdated.

Everyone got a Whispering Crystal, and after spending some time to finalize the details, the ten people took different paths.

Lin Yun chose the leftmost path, but just as he took one step forward, a fierce spatial fluctuation almost ripped apart his entire body. When he opened his eyes again, the surroundings had changed, the ground had become sandy and the sky dusky. A blood red sun could be seen hanging in the sky, emitting heat and sunlight. Gusts of winds were whistling past, carrying around the sand, and the air was extremely dry.

This scene shocked Lin Yun!

This was a desolate desert...

"Fuck!"

Lin Yun subconsciously cursed. A cold feeling suddenly rose up from his feet to his head. He was certain that this place was completely different from the magic tower. 'I just stepped on a path, how come I suddenly ended up in a desert? Damn it.'

He just realized how evil Luo Ning's magic tower was.

He had observed the path carefully before stepping on it, he had even used his Magic Array to analyze it, and even so, he didn't find anything wrong. Up until he took that step and the spatial fluctuations submerged him. Now that he thought about it, he had been careless.

He turned and cast a probing spell, but found out with disappointment that there was no teleportation or transmission array here.

He was very suspicious.

'What the hell was that...'

'There is no way I appeared here randomly...'

A bit over ten minutes later, Lin Yun had yet to discover anything. He softly moved and carefully walked in this weird desert. He was suffering from the sun's rays shining over various corners of the desert, and sweat soaked his robe before evaporating due to the heat.

Soon, Lin Yun found out that this extraordinary desert was exceptionally large, so large that it felt boundless. He walked for half an hour without seeing a building or a living creature. He could only see desolation.

At this time, the Whispering Crystal in his hand suddenly shone. He looked at it and found out that it was Leon's message. He immediately poured mana into it and heard an intermittent voice transmitted from the Whispering Crystal, "Where are you guys? I'm really unlucky, I inexplicably ended up in the Pale Plane..."

'Pale Plane...'

Lin Yun was suddenly startled, 'What's going on, Leon entered a path just like me, how could he be in the Pale Plane...'

'Where am I?'

'Some place in Noscent? Or a plane?'

Lin Yun still couldn't figure it out.

He needed to find more clues to solve the mystery that was bothering him...

At this time, Lin Yun noticed something in the scalding sand. A very low rustling sound which was soon followed by a python's head rushing out of the sand, its maws wide open. That python head was as thick as a bucket and was leaking a fishy smell.

When the python's body came out of the sand, Lin Yun was able to see its full shape. The python was ten meters long, and a light blue light was flickering on its body, like a runic pattern. It was frighteningly fast, it was able to cross a dozen meters in an instant. When that fierce head reached Lin Yun, the sharp fangs flickered with a cold light under the sunlight before rushing towards Lin Yun's head.

Lin Yun didn't wait to become the python's tasty snack and instead cast a powerful Flame Burst. With a rumble, that python let out a mournful cry as it was sent back a dozen meters by Lin Yun's Flame Burst. A head-sized scar could now be seen on the python's sleek body, it was the mark left behind by the Flame Burst and deep red blood was slowly leaking out of it.

Lin Yun frowned. He had a serious expression as he looked at the python, 'Where is this place for such powerful magic beasts to appear?' In that short battle, he clearly assessed the python's level, it was level 33.

The only lifeform he encountered since coming to this desert was this python, yet that python's level was a bit too high...

In the most dangerous part of the Tulan Mountain ranges, only a few magic beasts surpassed level 33. The hovering palace supposedly built by Emperor Zhantui was also a dangerous place, yet no magic beast surpassed level 33.

He really couldn't pinpoint the location of that desert, 'What kind of dangerous place is this, how come the first creature I encounter is level 33?'

If it was the previous him, he might have some issue surviving in this desert. Fortunately, he had established his Core Meditation Law Sets not long ago. If not for this, killing a level 33 magic beast would require him to spend some effort and a few Flame Bursts might not necessarily kill it.

But it was different now.

The blue light flickered on the python's body. That runic-like pattern on the python's body seemed to be giving it magic resistance, otherwise, that Flame Burst would have grievously wounded it.

After all, the current Lin Yun had fused three Meditation Law Sets, two of which were made up of sixteen formulas. It was no exaggeration to say that they were the best Meditation Law Sets in Noscent History. Moreover, he had reached 5th Rank High Mage, his casting speed, casting accuracy, and casting power had increased, and not just by a little bit.

The difference between his current strength and his strength two months ago could only be compared to the difference between heaven and earth, he was at least ten times stronger.

A ghostly silhouette flashed over as the python spat out its tongue, a fishy smell spreading all over as lights flickered in the ferocious eyes that were locked onto Lin Yun. With a very fast speed, it instantly reached Lin Yun and fiercely attacked.

Lin Yun remained unmoved. He softly shook his magic staff and another Flame Burst was cast, exploding on the python once again, followed by another miserable shriek. But Lin Yun didn't plan to stop this time, his magic staff kept flickering as Flame Bursts kept exploding.

3rd...

4th...

5th...

Lin Yun stopped after casting the 5th Flame Burst since the level 33 python had already reached its limits. Its entire body was covered in burn scars. It didn't let out any sound as it fell on the sand.

This level 33 python only endured five Flame Burst before it died....

After confirming the Python's death, Lin Yun cautiously moved over. He intended to take the spirit mana crystal, but walking on this scalding sand gave him an uneasy feeling. Just as he was about to take the mana crystal, the sandy ground shook.

'There is something underground...'

Lin Yun was suddenly startled and immediately cast Haste on himself to flee at top speed. He had been alert ever since he came to this desert, his Magic Array always revolving, yet, something appeared below him and he couldn't sense it.

This was a bit scary...

When Weiss, a Representative of the Black Tower and master of the Wind Element, had been hiding with Wind Elemental Incarnation, Lin Yun still managed to find him with the Magic Array, and that was when he was still a 2nd Rank High Mage.

He was now ten times stronger, yet the Magic Array hadn't been able to sense this underground lifeform.

"Rumble!"

A loud sound echoed as a magic beast whose head was a few meters tall emerged where Lin Yun had just been. The head that surged from underground swallowed the entire python whole, before the two dark red eyes stared at Lin Yun, not far from there.

'Sand Beast... It's really a Sand Beast, how could this be!'

Lin Yun almost went crazy, he was looking at that magic beast in disbelief. It was the first time Lin Yun lost it since he came to this era.

Chapter 403: Shelter Tower

Lin Yun lost it not because of the power of the Sand Beast.

But rather, because the Sand Beast didn't belong to this era.

A chill instantly spread through his whole body, cold sweat soaking his robe and dripping down his forehead.

'Ho-how... How could it be? Sand Beasts shouldn't exist in this era!'

After all, Sand Beasts appeared one after the other in Noscent at the end of the Magic Era. Once the mana was getting exhausted, Noscent was slowly moving towards its end. Countless powerful godlike mages fell one after the other, countless magic beasts went extinct. In all of Noscent, most areas had turned into deserts, and at that time, Sand Beasts were one of a small number of magic beasts. They lived under the desert and especially attacked humans...

Lin Yun had learnt the power of Sand Beasts back then. Sometimes, he would spend several days in the scalding desert to extract a bit more mana from the atmosphere, meditating without stopping. Just to disassemble puppet parts, he would spend ten days to half a month walking in the desert, and Sand Beasts were undoubtedly the greatest danger the desert had to offer.

Even someone as cautious as him had narrowly dodged the maws of Sand Beasts several times. Now, seeing the Sand Beast once again, those memories all floated back to his mind. He couldn't get rid of them, because the Sand Beasts had reaped the lives of countless mages at the end of the Magic Era. To someone of that era, Sand Beasts represented death.

A gust of wind whistled past, and suddenly, that Sand Beast rushed towards Lin Yun.

Sand Beasts were able to survive in Noscent at that time because they were relying on their fierce bodies. They couldn't use magic and didn't need to absorb mana. They could remain alive as long as they were nourished with flesh. When the Nether Storm came, they still remained, staying hidden underground.

Lin Yun now understood why he had been unable to detect the Sand Beast. Because Sand Beasts spent their entire lifetimes hidden in the desert, their aura was the same as the desert's. And Sand Beasts relied on their fierce bodies, not having a wisp of mana, so no wonder the Magic Array didn't sense any...

The Sand Beast pounced at Lin Yun like a gust of wind.

At this time, Lin Yun maintained his composure. He raised his hand and put a Mana Shield in front of him. At the same time, he Instant Cast three Frost Spikes, which flew towards the Sand Beast with a freezing aura. But only three “Cling” sounds echoed as the three Frost Spikes didn’t even put a scratch on the Sand Beast.

In fact, Lin Yun had very little combat experience against Sand Beasts in direct confrontations, because during that era, Noscent’s mana was exhausted and mages had very little mana. They would use it to survive, and no one was willing to use mana unless it was at a critical juncture.

But Lin Yun clearly understood the characteristics of Sand Beasts. Powerful bodies, no understanding of magic; it was this simple.

The three Frost Spikes were only probing attacks. That Sand Beast was roughly level 35, but in the desert, it was like a fish in water, the power it had there was closer to level 36 and was similar to the Lesser Flame Overlord they had met before.

It might have been difficult for the previous Lin Yun to handle a Sand Beast of that level.

“Rumble!”

A Flame Burst was cast. Lin Yun’s strength could only be rated as frightening when he went all out. A few Flame Bursts were enough to drown the Sand Beast in a sea of fire.

The might of Flame Burst never disappointed Lin Yun.

Even the Sand Beast, with its powerful body, could only let out two roars as blood dripped out of a sinister wound and fell on the desert before instantly evaporating.

By relying on Levitation, Lin Yun was able to hover in midair. Seemingly not wanting to lose the initiative, Lin Yun started recklessly expending his mana as one Flame Burst after the other was cast at the Sand Beast. A short twenty seconds later, close to a hundred Flame Bursts had fallen down on the Sand Beast like rain.

This was his first time going all-out ever since his strength greatly increased. This casting speed was something out of his range before. A rain of hundred Flame Bursts in twenty seconds was really terrifying.

Each Flame Burst created a fierce explosion when it landed, lacerating the flesh of that Sand Beast. It kept roaring, but it couldn’t do anything. It took so much damage that it even lost the ability to dash back into the sand to flee.

The vitality of Sand Beasts was extremely robust, at the top among magic beasts. Even when suffering from very serious injuries, they still wouldn’t die and could recover after some rest. Naturally, few Sand Beasts had been killed by humans during the end of the magic era.

Following the final Flame Burst, that tenacious Sand Beast let out an unwilling roar. Those two dark red eyes thoroughly dimming. With a rumble, the Sand Beast heavily fell on the ground, spreading a cloud of sand around.

After the Sand Beast’s death, Lin Yun didn’t even look at it. He stood there pondering over his location. ‘Sand Beasts in a desert, dusky sky, blood-red sun, as well as that faint Void Storm aura...

In fact, ever since he arrived at this desert, Lin Yun felt that this place was very similar to his memories of the end of the Magic Era. It was almost a perfect copy, and he hadn't been able to confirm this feeling before the Sand Beast appeared.

Now, seemed that everything here was an illusion based on his memory. It was a simulation based on his own memories of the end of the Magic Era.

The only explanation for this was that this was an illusion and everything was fake.

The fact that Leon was in the Pale Plane confirmed his conjecture. Leon was in the deepest area of the Plane Plane.

Lin Yun chanted an incantation, casting True Sight, the 3rd Tier spell known for seeing through all lies and illusions. Lin Yun's eyes suddenly flashed with radiance, but his surroundings didn't change. The dusky sky, the crimson sun, the endless desert, and the scalding sand, everything remained the same.

The result of the detection contradicted his conjecture.

Lin Yun was clearly dumbstruck. He suppressed the shock in his heart and came to the conclusion that the person who arranged this was extremely brilliant. He had arranged a place that was different from the real world but couldn't be seen through with True Sight.

'Heiss City! Yes, there should still be Heiss City...'

Heiss City was a city built by the mages when they realized that mana was slowly being exhausted during the end of the Magic Era.

'As long as I can find Heiss City, I can confirm that this is an illusion and not the real world.'

Lin Yun cast a guiding spell to follow the path to Heiss City he remembered and walked on the scalding sand the entire way.

During the ten days of walking, Lin Yun encountered many magic beasts, with no lack of powerful Sand Beasts. After dealing with them, he finally reached Heiss City.

Heiss City was exactly the same as he remembered. Although it looked magnificent, such a great city was desolate... There was no sign of life. Seeing Heiss City once again made Lin Yun reminisce like an old man. After all, he had once lived there for twenty years. He had watched as many mages had nervous breakdowns one by one due to the environment and left Heiss City, never to come back.

Lin Yun sighed, feeling a lot of emotions.

He walked with heavy steps as he entered Heiss City. He was very familiar with everything here and was observing all the buildings.

He walked aimlessly through that deathly silent street, wandering around randomly. Every time he saw something he remembered, his mind would return to that time when the world shook and darkened, when the buildings collapsed, when there were still people struggling to survive.

There was no one in this illusion apart from Lin Yun. Lin Yun was the only one walking in this desolate city.

After walking for a while, Lin Yun suddenly stopped and looked up, only to see the biggest building in Heiss. The crystallization of Noscent's civilization, the Shelter Tower!

The Shelter Tower was built at the peak of the magic era. The peak forces of Noscent had gathered, and countless alchemists participated, including several Saint Alchemists, and many Artisans and Master Alchemists. They took several hundred years to build this unprecedented structure.

The most shocking part was that the blueprint of Shelter Tower far surpassed the peak of the Magic Era. Even those Saint Alchemists could only exclaim in surprise at how exquisite the blueprint was. It could only be described as a masterpiece, and one of the Sword Saints who participated in the construction left a note in the decaying library.

It said that participating in the construction of the Heiss Tower was the proudest thing he ever did in his entire life.

But there were no relevant records mentioning the person who presided over the construction of the Shelter Tower. It felt as if that person never appeared in Noscent, as if no trace of his existence could be seen.

But there had been such a person... Someone had taken out the blueprint of the Shelter Tower and had overseen the entire construction of the Shelter Tower, but no one mentioned him afterwards.

Lin Yun stared at the huge building in front of him. It was left behind after the peak of the magic era and protected Noscent for a few millennia as Noscent's mana was getting exhausted and the world was facing its end. It managed to delay it up until the last wisp of mana was exhausted and the entire world sank in the darkness.

The Shelter Tower seemed ordinary, but it was engraved with the most advanced arrays. Even if Lin Yun could break True Spirit arrays, he couldn't see through these arrays. The magic materials that the Shelter Tower had been constructed from were the most precious materials in Noscent's history. Even 30,000 years ago, in the era of endless resources, it was very difficult to find those magic materials.

The emergence of the Shelter Tower completely exhausted the magic materials of the peak Magic Era.

Chapter 404: Behind the Illusion

Lin Yun entered the Shelter Tower and discovered that the spiralling staircase was spotless. He followed the stairs up and walked for over half an hour before reaching the top floor of the Shelter Tower. He never truly entered the Shelter Tower during the end of the magic era. During that era, the mages struggling at death's door believed that entering the Shelter Tower was blasphemy and wasn't allowed.

After reaching the top floor, Lin Yun discovered that this place wasn't empty, but rather had a tightly shut room. He walked over and softly pushed the door. The door wasn't locked and slowly opened, letting Lin Yun see what was on the other side.

This was a very spacious room, and after entering, Lin Yun shockingly discovered small arrays inscribed in a spotlessly white wall. It looked just like the control room of a magic ship. In Yun hadn't come into contact with many magic ships, as those had been abandoned when Noscent's mana became exhausted.

Without the support of mana, magic ships were nothing more than piles of junk. Lin Yun only studied them for a bit.

Thus, he had been able to associate this room with the control room of a magic ship. He walked to the wall and studied the countless runes making up the arrays. The techniques used in this array far surpassed his understanding, it surpassed the understanding of all of Noscent's magic civilization.

But, most of the arrays were dimmed, meaning that they weren't supplied with mana. There was only one array operating. Lin Yun approached and checked it out. Although he couldn't see through these profound arrays, he could still see that this part of the array played a role in the Shelter Tower affecting Noscent.

He was deeply shocked. All the mages of the end of the magic era, including him, had thought that the Shelter Tower was used to protect Noscent.

But it now seemed like this wasn't the case...

If it was just used to protect Noscent, then what about the arrays that weren't working? About 90% of the arrays weren't active... This showed that just protecting Noscent wasn't the Shelter Tower's only function. It was far more mysterious than he had thought.

The purpose behind the construction of the Shelter Tower was worth thinking over. After all, the most precious magic materials had been exhausted to build such a huge structure.

Its purpose wasn't as simple as just protecting Noscent. It was extremely possible that it was something like a magic ship that transcended the entire magic civilization.

Naturally, these were only conjectures, and the truth had yet to be discovered...

After leaving the Shelter Tower, Lin Yun went to the spacious decaying library. At the end of the magic era, he spent most of his time in the decaying library. The books here recorded all of Noscent's history, as well as the magic knowledge of the peak of the Magic Era. Those powerful godlike mages left behind the crystallization of their experiences and knowledge.

These books also accompanied Lin Yun for over twenty years.

He reached out to pick up a book with a black cover and gently patted the dust off it. This was a book left behind by a Heaven Rank Mage, recording his knowledge and experience. Lin Yun had been an amateur in the path of magic back then, and that book had been leisure reading material. After opening it again, Lin Yun finally found out how valuable the magic knowledge and experience of a Heaven Mage was...

Only rustling sounds could be heard echoing from time to time in the peaceful library, caused by Lin Yun turning the pages of the book. He didn't know how long he was there before he closed the book and put it back in its place. He then picked up a thick stack of books and went to a wooden table and devoted himself to reading.

Lin Yun completely neglected the passage of time, seemingly never growing tired of going through books and even taking out a quill and a piece of paper to make some calculations from time to time.

He had long been accustomed to this lifestyle, just like in the two decades he spent at the end of the Magic Era. Had it been someone else, they would have gone crazy if they tried to read all this.

During this time, he sorted out the information here and greatly benefitted.

The pieces of paper on the wooden table had long since turned into a pile due to him calculating a large quantity of formulas.

Lin Yun carefully closed a book and put it back in its original place before returning to the wooden table, frowning in deep contemplation. Many of the difficult problems that had been perplexing him had been solved, and his understanding of magic had taken a few steps forward.

At this time, the Whispering Crystal in his pocket suddenly shone, and after a quick look, he saw that he had received some news from Leon. He poured mana into the crystal and Leon's voice came out. "How is it over there? There is no danger for me at the moment, but after continuously fighting in the Pale Plane, I already fused my nine Arcane Rings and became a genuine 7th Rank High Mage, and even an 8th Rank High Mage might not necessarily be my opponent..."

After receiving this news from Leon, Lin Yun's frown accentuated. Ever since he knew that this was an illusion, he had been wondering... For what purpose were these illusions set up?

Was it to trap them? Or kill them?

No, there was no need to do that much for that... Lin Yun already had a strange feeling when the puppets appeared. There weren't many of them, only ten, and although they were powerful, they definitely weren't dangerous enough.

Then there were ten paths... The person arranging this clearly wanted to split them up and send them into the flawless illusions. There was no danger they couldn't have expected in the illusions, and instead, Leon and Lin Yun had both gained some benefits while exploring them.

Had Lin Yun not come to this illusion, he wouldn't have been able to return to the decaying library, and he wouldn't have been able to revisit the things he hadn't been able to clearly understand before. The magic knowledge he had learnt this time was extremely advanced. Had he not come, he would have had to spend a few decades without necessarily ever gaining understanding of this.

Leon Merlin also obtained a lot of benefits. After all, the Arcane Ring was a magic inheritance from the Gaugass King and was a top-class Magic Conducting Rune. Fusing nine Magic Conducting Runes wasn't something that could be done in a short period of time. Yet, Leon had been in the Pale Plane for such a short time and unexpectedly fused them. This was undoubtedly a shortcut which had saved him at least one or two years.

Thinking about it, an absurd thought popped into Lin Yun's head. 'This illusion... shouldn't be to help us raise our strength, right?'

He shook his head. He couldn't be certain with only that amount of information. He touched the Whispering Crystal and poured some mana within, calling out to William, Ross, and Xiuban. After doing that, he cautiously put the Whispering Crystal on the table and waited.

It could be said that Whispering Crystals were the most advanced communication tool in Noscent. They could receive information from thousands of kilometers away, but the stability was very bad. After waiting for a while, the Whispering Crystal flashed with a purple light. Lin Yun picked it up and saw that it was Ross contacting him. "Cousin Mafa, this is too inconceivable, you know what strange thing is happening to me? After I set foot on that path, I inexplicably landed in the Raging Flame Plane..."

"I didn't have much time to think about it before Stan Watson shockingly appeared before me, startling me. Didn't you already get rid of Stan Watson? I then fought him, but nothing could be done about it... He has a few ranks on me, he is a lot more powerful. It didn't take long before he defeated me. But, the freakish thing is that after being defeated, I actually went back re-experienced the scene of encountering Stan Watson again.

"Every time I'm defeated, I appear there once again, collapsing time and time again... Fortunately, I always gain some new understanding between every fight, greatly increasing my power. I'm already a 7th Rank High Mage. Oh, I don't have time to talk any more, that bastard Stan Watson is there again..."

Ross' transmission abruptly stopped. Lin Yun was a bit amazed. Although he already knew that Ross was also in an illusion, he definitely hadn't expected this kind of outcome. Every time he failed, he would start over again. This was freakish...

Lin Yun clearly remembered that Ross was a 5th Rank High Mage before entering the illusion. It hadn't been long, yet he was now already a 7th Rank High Mage...

This kind of progress could only be described as advancing by leaps and bounds.

Lin Yun scratched his cheek. It seemed that his conjecture was right. There was no danger in this illusion. It was actually helping people increase their power. The only thing was... How could they leave the illusion?

After waiting for a while, he didn't receive any news from William and Xiuban. He thought that the Whispering Crystal had failed to send the message, since it wasn't stable after all. Just as he wanted to put the crystal away, a purple light flashed from it. It was news from Xiuban. After pouring mana in, the Draconic Beastman's lazy voice echoed.

"Sir Merlin, why are you looking for me?"

It was only a short sentence, but it made Lin Yun's expression darken. How could Lin Yun not guess from Xiuban's tone that the latter had just woken up?

'Fuck, he was actually sleeping... How come that bastard still thinks of sleeping at a time like this...'

"Where are you now?"

Lin Yun poured mana into the crystal and transmitted a short message to the Draconic Beastman. Soon, the purple light flashed once again, and after pouring more mana in, the voice of the Draconic Beastman echoed once more. But this time, it no longer had the lazy tone, it was rather cautious this time.

"Sir Merlin, how could I know where this is... I, I'm only a Highland Beastman. Sir, this place is too strange, I became very sleepy after coming here and for some inexplicable reason, I fell asleep and just

woke up. However, I seem to have become stronger, I should be... I should be a 9th Rank Swordsman now."

Chapter 405: Sand Beast (2)

Lin Yun's expression was very strange, but he didn't say much. He put away the Whispering Crystal and just remained seated, frowning. He was considering how he could leave the illusion.

He stayed in the illusion for a long time and kept an eye on the surroundings, but he didn't discover anything else about it.

'How did this come about...'

He was already certain that the person that arranged these illusions had no evil intent. This could be ascertained from the situations Ross, Leon, and Xiuban experienced. Not only was there no danger, but they were even gaining a lot of benefits.

But benefits were useless if they ended up trapped in the illusions forever.

'No... As long as it is an illusion, there should definitely be a way to crack it.'

Lin Yun was still pondering over this matter. He had first appeared in the desolate desert, and he hadn't discovered any arrays after a careful inspection.

The question was, how did he get in there?

Lin Yun's mind was restless at this moment. He was at the end of the Magic Era... From time to time, some fragmented memories appeared in his mind. Sometimes, he saw the scene of Noscent's destruction. Sometimes, he saw his dangerous experiences on the edge between life and death.

Perhaps the illusion would end with Noscent's demise... But when would that happen?

He didn't know when Noscent would be destroyed in this illusion... And if it was never destroyed, wouldn't he spend his life trapped here?

'This can't do...' Lin Yun massaged his temples. 'If that's the case, I might as well kill myself.'

But suddenly, Lin Yun's eyes shone as he recalled something. He got up and left the library without looking back. He crossed the deathly silent street and left Heiss City.

He actually recalled the first time he had danced with death. It was at the end of the Magic Era, before the world met its end, and it was the most frightening experience he had back then. He now wanted to try and see if he could get out of his current plight from that experience.

That time, he and thirty Mages travelled together to look for food outside Heiss City. Lin Yun, who had just come to the end of the Magic Era, clearly knew that travelling alone was very dangerous and that there was strength in numbers. Under the lead of more experienced people, the group didn't meet many dangers.... Up until they chose to take a different path to return to Heiss City. They were still thirty kilometers away from Heiss City when the group met a Sand Beast.

At the end of the Magic Era, Sand Beasts represented death...

Lin Yun hadn't thought too much of it at the time, since the group of thirty Mages was a huge force for that period. Let alone ordinary beasts, they could even handle Sand Beasts.

But... things didn't go according to his expectations.

That Sand Beast wasn't an ordinary Sand Beast. Its strength far exceeded Lin Yun's expectations. Two Mages ended up getting swallowed at the start of the battle, sending flesh and blood flying around. The group then fell into chaos. People cried for help and let out miserable shouts as the Sand Beast's fangs became drenched in blood.

Of the thirty Mages, Lin Yun was the only one that escaped this complete destruction.

Afterwards, the bloody scene remained in Lin Yun's mind. The Sand Beast even appeared in his nightmares for a few nights, with its bloody maw wide open as it leaked a bloodthirsty aura before pouncing on him. Every time he dreamt up to this point, he would wake up with a start, his body covered in sweat.

And the worst part was that these nightmares just wouldn't stop.

After leaving Heiss City, Lin Yun cast a guiding spell and followed the path from his memories, walking on the scalding sand in the direction he remembered.

The illusion should be shaped based on his memories. The desolate desert, the crimson sun, the dusky sky, Heiss City, Shelter Tower... These were the things he had a deep memory of. Since these things existed, that powerful Sand Beast should also exist.

He needed to kill that Sand Beast. Only in that way could he remove that sour memory, and perhaps get the opportunity to leave the illusion.

He absent-mindedly followed the path from his memory, feeling as if he had gone back to that time. The only difference was that he was alone now.

"Rustle..."

The shivering of a sandy area was caught by the Magic Array. It was so slight that even if one had their ear stuck to the sand, they wouldn't have noticed it. Only the almost omnipotent Magic Array could catch such a subtle movement. Lin Yun didn't act right away. He turned his head to look at the surroundings, and although he was still surrounded by the desolate desert, he had a familiar feeling.

He had come here once before.

Returning to this place many years later, countless memories flowed back.

Sure enough, his guess was accurate. The things he had a deep memory of were now in this illusion, and that powerful Sand Beast was no exception.

"Rumble!"

An earth-shattering sound echoed as the shivering sand was suddenly swept up. For a moment, countless specks of sand covered the sky. At the same time, a formidable, pitch-black figure emitted a

frightening aura as it covered the sky. A sinister monster appeared in front of Lin Yun, and just like in his memories, it was extremely huge, its body looked like it was made out of armor plating, its fangs were extremely sharp, and its two dark, crimson irises were staring down at him.

In a flash, that terrifying aura covered Lin Yun, and he finally had the answer to something that had been puzzling him for all those years.

What level was the Sand Beast that annihilated an entire team of mages?

He had thought about it many times...

But he now understood. The Sand Beast had the power of a level 36...

In that era, a level 36 Sand Beast was an unkillable existence. After all, the mana had been exhausted and the powerful godlike mages had fallen. No Heaven Mages had appeared in Noscent for the past thousand years, and very few Archmages appeared. Who could kill a level 36 Sand Beast?

With a deep roar, the enormous Sand Beast moved its mountain-like body toward Lin Yun. The two sharp fangs were shining under the moonlight while the tips flickered. One look was enough for anyone to feel their blood run cold, especially when facing that armored-body, it was so hard that one would despair when their attacks failed to harm it.

The Sand Beast was extraordinarily fast, and it only took an instant to reach Lin Yun.

The pressure that the Sand Beast gave Lin Yun was not at all inferior to Black Tower's Weiss. Its long tail covered in sharp thorns tore through the air. It felt as if no defenses would be able to withstand it.

Lin Yun's magic staff was raised the moment the Sand Beast rushed over, setting up a Mana Shield in front of him. The thorn-covered tail struck the Mana Shield heavily, letting out a loud sound. The Mana Shield, which would require Archmages to spend some effort to break, was pathetically weak in front of the Sand Beast. It only needed one hit to darken.

This was followed by a deep roar. The Sand Beast seemed infuriated by Lin Yun still being alive after the attacks, and a cold aura spread from it. A thick stench leaked from its wide-open mouth as it tried to bite Lin Yun. Those two sharp fangs fell onto the Mana Shield.

The darkened Mana Shield simply couldn't support this frightening power and it cracked the moment one of the Sand Beast's fangs came into contact with it. Even Lin Yun didn't expect that the Sand Beast would be that powerful. He raised his magic staff and cast three Ice Walls while Hasting himself and quickly moving back. He then cast three Flame Bursts.

Just as Lin Yun cast the Flame Bursts, the three Ice Walls were shattered by the Sand Beast. The Flame Bursts fiercely exploded on the Sand Beast's body, but those attacks only made the huge Sand Beast tremble slightly. The armor-plated body seemed to have high magic resistance. The Flame Bursts that could easily shatter an Archmage's Elemental Shield only left a few shallow traces on the body of the Sand Beast.

'Quite troublesome...'

Lin Yun's expression became serious as he quickly withdrew. In the Archmage realm, each step forward would greatly increase one's strength. Post level 35 was a huge dividing line. If the Merlin Family's 5th

Rank Sword Saint, Thorne, or the 5th Rank Archmage of the Black Tower, Solan, fought this beast, they would only be able to handle it for a few minutes before suffering a bitter defeat. They simply couldn't contend against this Sand Beast.

Although the difference was only one rank, the difference in strength was hard to describe.

In the Line Canyon, the Incarnation of the Desolate Overlord had yet to reach the Heaven realm, but it could easily kill a level 38 magic beast as well as two level 37s.

After level 35, one rank of difference would be comparable to the difference between heaven and earth. Even Lin Yun, whose strength greatly increased and had fused three Meditation Law Sets into one, would have to spend some effort to deal with this Sand Beast.

One Flame Burst after another fell onto the Sand Beast. A disk rose up behind Lin Yun as the latter was fiercely attacking, flooding the Sand Beast with countless low-tier spells. A single spell might not injure the Sand Beast, but if hundreds of spells were layered together, the armor of the Sand Beast wouldn't matter. The Sand Beast roared as it was drowned by hundreds of spells, its crimson eyes filled with boundless anger...

That Sand Beast was thoroughly enraged. At the end of the Magic Era, no one had ever injured it.

Today was its first time...

Chapter 406: Great Changes

After roaring fiercely, the Sand Beast took a few steps forward, shaking the earth and flattening the sand. Every attack of the Sand Beast carried frightening power and momentum. It turned into an afterimage as it used its fastest speed to rush towards Lin Yun. This terrifying speed could even be compared to lightning. Even 5th Rank Sword Saints wouldn't be able to dodge.

The Sand Beast tore through the air and instantly reached Lin Yun. At that time, flames could be seen emerging from Lin Yun's body as he dodged with a Flame Flash. At the same time, a dozen Flame Bursts exploded on the Sand Beast's body.

Rumbles kept echoing as the dozen Flame Bursts exploded at the same location on the Sand Beast's body. Under such a fierce attack, even a 6th Rank Sword Saint's Aura Protection would be broken. Only a reddish flaming glow remained on the body of the Sand Beast, from which crimson blood kept pouring out.

Drops of blood fell on the scalding sand, before instantly evaporating due to heat.

Lin Yun relied on Levitation to float in midair, the Doom Staff held in a horizontal position in front of his chest. A large amount of mana was coursing through his body as his two Alchemic Mana Whirlpools also worked at full efficiency. After gathering mana, Lin Yun waved the Doom Staff and a bright radiance instantly burst out.

With one Flame Flash, he closed the distance between him and the Sand Beast. Lin Yun shouted that mysterious character and entered the Unlimited Mode. He completely disregarded mana consumption and burst out with countless fire spells, Flame Bursts, Fire Dragons, Flame Rings, Holy Flame Prisons...

The fire element was extremely dense in this area, and with the countless fire spells Lin Yun cast, the flames thoroughly submerged the Sand Beast.

It roared in anger and howled in grief...

The Sand Beast's roars were full of panic and despair. It was trapped in flames and was being burnt thoroughly, and even its fierce body was now colored red from the heat. Under the effect of the flames, the sand on the ground could no longer be described as just scalding... The Sand Beast let out a painful roar before suddenly rushing out a dozen meters forward.

But what awaited it was a torrent of spells. The Ten Thousand Spell Wheel flickered with a dazzling light, submerging the Sand Beast once again under several hundred spells. After those spells dissipated, the Sand Beast's huge body could be seen struggling on the ground.

At this moment, three Frost Spikes were already flying over. The Sand Beast could no longer resist and let out its last breath before the Frost Spikes could even pierce its body.

However, Lin Yun could already see the Sand Beast's figure becoming hazy before suddenly disappearing.

"Rumble!"

That sound came from above his head. Lin Yun immediately looked up, only to see a huge hole tearing through the dusky sky, continuously expanding, slowly covering the crimson sun and stopping any sunlight from coming out. Lin Yun could no longer feel the heat from the sand. The land in front of him was quickly disappearing.

No more dusky sky, no more desert, and the crimson sun had already disappeared. A fierce spatial distortion appeared and Lin Yun saw his surroundings change. He immediately knew that the illusion had disappeared.

'Where am I now...'

He looked around a few times and saw that he was still on the 11th floor of the magic tower after recognizing the construction style.

There was a portal ahead of him.

There was nothing abnormal about that portal, and no mana fluctuations.

That portal should lead to the 10th floor of the magic tower.

But he wasn't ready to take it. His cousins and Xiuban had yet to come out, so he would go to the 10th floor once they came out.

After going through that illusion, he knew that the person who set it up had no evil intent. In fact, the illusion itself was a stroke of luck. It was an extremely rare opportunity for him. Otherwise, who knew when he would have been able to understand all that profound magic knowledge?

He knew that Leon, Ross, and Xiuban had received a lot of benefits, especially the Draconic Beastman... He only took a nap and advanced from the 7th Rank to the 9th Rank. If he let him sleep for a while longer, he might even have a chance to reach the Sword Saint realm.

As he thought about this, Lin Yun's eyes were attracted somewhere. It was a cyan sapling growing in a crack. It didn't look strange on the surface, but Lin Yun was staring closely at it.

'Mana Vine...'

Lin Yun squatted down and looked at the cyan sapling with disbelief. He really couldn't believe it, and he looked at it for a while before confirming that it was indeed a Mana Vine.

'Mana Vine haha, a Mana Vine...'

It was a very mysterious plant. Before it became extinct, almost every mage wanted to nurture one, because Mana Vines could automatically absorb mana from the void. The poorer the environment in the void, the more mana it could absorb.

Moreover, after absorbing mana from the void, they would automatically transform and purify it, forming a Mana Pond to store liquid mana under them.

Because of this, Mana Vines were priceless. If a few Mana Vines were planted in a Demiplane, mana from the void would be absorbed day and night, and after being purified and poured into the pond, it would form a never-ending fountain of mana.

Unfortunately, Mana Vines needed a very harsh environment to grow, so harsh that it was almost impossible to find one in Noscent. No more Mana Vines appeared in Noscent over a thousand years ago.

But he hadn't expected that one would actually appear here.

The Mana Vine would have an unimaginable impact in his hands. There were currently two Soul Fragments of an Ancient God in his Demiplane, and under the effect of their power, the Demiplane's growth speed reached an inconceivable level. It was to the point that within ten years, that naturally born Demiplane would thoroughly mature, the Laws would be born, and it would nurture life. At that time, the Demiplane would become a genuine world.

And that world belonged to Lin Yun.

But, ten years was still a bit too long for Lin Yun. He sighed a few times, thinking that if he could get a Mana Vine absorbing mana every day and night and steadily offer that mana to the Demiplane, it would grow, and the growth of his Demiplane would reach a terrifying level.

The Demiplane should also mature a lot faster.

When he first entered the Demiplane, he visited Rudolph's library and obtained the book – Mana Vine Breeding –. At the time, Rudolph had most likely thought of using Mana Vines to accelerate the growth of that Demiplane.

But it seemed that Rudolph never managed to find a Mana Vine's seed, or else that Demiplane wouldn't have looked half-dead when Lin Yun entered. Mana Vines were already extinct in Noscent, so one might not necessarily find a seed if they looked through the entire land.

When Lin Yun obtained the Demiplane, he'd first thought of borrowing Osul's Dusk Fire to open a certain plane. He clearly remembered that there was a Mana Vine's seed in that plane. When the mana was exhausted in Noscent, a few Heaven Mages joined hands to go to that plane and obtain the Mana Vine. But the environment that the Mana Vine needed was too harsh. It didn't take long for the Mana Vine's seed to sprout and die.

Naturally, a Demiplane was a suitable environment for Mana Vines.

But Lin Yun was puzzled. 'How did this Mana Vine manage to grow here? This is simply illogical...'

If one was not careful, they would only think that it was a strand of grass growing in a crack and simply wouldn't even look at it. Lin Yun had also initially thought so, but after thinking about the fact that this was a magic tower that had existed for several millennia yet remained undamaged, he was a bit perplexed by the existence of grass.

He then checked it carefully and discovered that it wasn't a strand of grass, but rather, the Mana Vine he had been dreaming of!

He carefully brought the Mana Vine to the Demiplane.

After several months without checking on it, the Demiplane had once again greatly changed. Especially that river spanning the entire plane. He remembered that the last time he came in, that river didn't look as majestic as it did now, with waves surging forth. The river's length and width had almost doubled, and Lin Yun could see trees and grass spreading through the entire plane. There were some flowers growing.

Lin Yun was amazed by the Demiplane's changes every time he came in.

'Eh?'

Lin Yun suddenly noticed a slight change. There was some slightly chaotic power of Laws. Although they were a bit chaotic, Lin Yun quickly recognized them, the Laws of the four elements, Water, Wind, Fire and Earth.

What did the appearance of the four elements' Laws mean? Lin Yun knew that if the four elements' Laws were stable, the Demiplane would most likely nurture life.

Lin Yun soon found the location of the two Soul Fragments of the Ancient God. It was already a lush forest, and the deeper he went in, the more vigorous the vitality of the trees was. After reaching the center of the forest, Lin Yun noticed that the two Soul Fragments had already fused and were now calmly resting in the lawn.

And not far away was a pool emitting rich mana fluctuations.

Sensing such rich mana fluctuations, Lin Yun was startled.

Chapter 407: Surprise

He walked over to the pond and found out that the liquid in the pond wasn't water, but liquid mana...

What did liquid mana mean?

In the entirety of history from ancient times till now, liquid mana had only appeared in a handful of places...

Lin Yun stood by the pond and suddenly felt a stream of mana flowing out. His Magic Array revolved crazily, and it only took him ten minutes to recover the mana he had used during his fight with the Sand Beast.

As he recovered his mana, he unintentionally caught sight of a ray of light at the bottom of the pond... There seemed to be something there. With a wave of his hand, Lin Yun summoned a Water Puppet and had it dive into the water for him. The scene transmitted by the Water Puppet made Lin Yun grin from ear to ear.

It was unexpectedly a Mana Quartz.

A Mana Quartz which contained ten times the amount of mana within that liquid mana!

Something like a Mana Quartz was rare, even during the peak of the Magic Era, and they were even purer than spirit mana crystals. Although it was impossible to compare with the mana within a spirit mana crystal, its value was considerable. A palm-sized Mana Quartz could compare to a level 20 or above mana crystal.

When the Water puppet dissipated, Lin Yun checked his surroundings and finally found a suitable place to plant the Mana Vine. It wasn't far off... It was a flat piece of land, and he was very cautious when he planted the Mana Vine's sprout. At that time, the palm-sized Mana Vine showed some changes.

It actually grew at a visible speed and became half as tall as a human in a few minutes, and it was still growing! The size of a Mana Vine wasn't fixed. It was determined by its environment.

It was said that the growth period of a Mana Vine was two years. In these two years, the richer the mana around it, the faster it grew. By the time it matured completely, it could absorb mana from the Void.

Lin Yun estimated that the Mana Vine would take at most a few months to mature in this Demiplane. At that time, it would absorb a steady flow of mana from the Void and would speed up the growth of this Demiplane.

Since the matter of the Mana Vine was perfectly settled, Lin Yun didn't remain in the forest for long. He instead walked around. He had to say, the environment of this Demiplane was very good. The mana that surged forth made him constantly remain at his peak state. The first time he came, this place was just a shadow of itself. It was only a kilometer wide and had no Laws and no life, it looked empty...

But, he had acted without thinking and put the Soul Fragment of an Ancient God in that Demiplane. And the Demiplane ended up greatly changing. Now, half a year later, the Demiplane's surface area had greatly expanded and covered five hundred kilometers, and every corner was full of vitality. Even the Laws of the four elements showed signs of being formed.

With the Magic Array operating at full speed, Lin Yun soon captured the trajectory of a wisp of Law. He felt from it that the Laws were constantly changing indescribably.

But he knew that the Laws of the four elements were slowly getting more stable.

It wouldn't take long before the four Laws stabilized thoroughly. 'What kind of change will happen to the Demiplane when that time comes?'

He kept walking and walking, before suddenly coming to a stop. Lush trees could be seen everywhere, emitting vigorous vitality. But for some reason, the Demiplane still gave him an empty feeling, not seeming as natural as Noscent.

'Right, lifeforms...'

In a flash, he thought of the crux of the problem. The Three-Eyed Secret Wolf was actually being nurtured in this place, and with the expansion of this place, trying to find the Secret Wolf within such a large area wasn't that easy. He was also thinking of grabbing a batch of magic beasts to put them in the Demiplane when he had time.

A batch of magic beasts living in the Demiplane would surely raise the vitality a bit...

Lin Yun straightforwardly sat on the grassy lawn, his Magic Array roused as he followed the trajectory of that wisp of Law and started studying it.

The power of Laws was very mysterious. Even Archmages' understanding of Laws Archmages was only superficial. This was also the reason he had paid a large price to buy the Star Gem. After all, it contained World Power within, and even if it was only a wisp, for powerhouses at the Archmage realm, this would play a critical role.

At first, he tried to use his Magic Array to peek at the four elemental Laws, but he hadn't expected it to actually succeed, catching traces of the trajectory of the four Laws. In theory, using the Magic Array's terrifying calculation ability to analyze the four elemental Laws should be feasible, but...

After putting it into practice, he understood that his thoughts had been too simple. Catching the trajectory of an elemental Law was easy, but analyzing it was very challenging. Even with the almost omnipotent Magic Array, keeping pace with the trajectory of the Law was very difficult.

Perhaps only Heaven Mages had the ability to analyze Laws and control World Power.

As for the Magic Array, well, it was the Magic Array, after all.

A few hours later, Lin Yun was using his two Alchemic Mana Whirlpools to keep pace with the Law trajectory. With the Magic Array rotating at full speed, he analyzed the Law for four days before slowly opening his eyes. The mana within his body had long since been used up. Luckily, the Demiplane's mana was twenty times stronger than the mana in the outside world, and one of Lin Yun's Core Meditation Law Sets was the Void Forge.

After replenishing his mana, Lin Yun left the Demiplane and once again returned to the magic tower. After coming out, Lin Yun couldn't help shaking his head. It had been four days, yet the others hadn't come out of their illusions.

Lin Yun more or less knew how to break illusions due to his experience. Each illusion had its core. His own illusion was a bit special since it was the end of the Magic Era, but in Ross' case, defeating Stan Watson should be the key to leaving that place.

As he was thinking of this, a familiar mana fluctuation appeared not far from there. Lin Yun turned and saw Solan Monchi's silhouette appearing out of nowhere.

At that time, Solan Monchi discovered Lin Yun and was suspicious at first before his face eased up. He then walked to Lin Yun and asked, "The others...?"

"They have yet to come out..." Lin Yun frowned and poured mana in the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel, urging his Magic Array to its peak. He had no choice but to protect himself when facing the persistent Solan.

"Then we can only wait..."

Solan nodded and stopped near Lin Yun, only two meters away. In fact, he had been startled when he noticed Lin Yun there. He truly hadn't expected Mafa Merlin to come out of the illusion faster than himself.

When he had just stepped on that path, everything around him had changed and he had ended up in the Dark Azure Plane. He had stayed at least twenty years in the Dark Azure Plane before, so he was very familiar with the environment there. He knew where he was when he appeared.

He was indeed startled after recognizing where he was. No matter how strange that path was, it couldn't let him cross to another plane, could it?

He soon found a flaw. While backtracking, he didn't find the Black Tower's Planar Legion, and no matter how many times he contacted them, he received no answer. He then suspected that this was an illusion.

But he didn't find anything amiss after using True Sight to probe.

He then began looking around aimlessly, and only after half a month did he find a Dark Azure Dragon slumbering. Had it been the real world, he wouldn't have dared to disturb a slumbering Dark Azure Dragon... He had heard his teacher say that the Dark Azure Dragon had been slumbering for several millennia, and that if it woke up, the Black Tower would have no choice but to give up on the Dark Azure Plane.

He had been quite curious at the time. It was only a Dragon's awakening, so what could it do to a power like the Black Tower? Then his teacher told him.

The Dark Azure Dragon was an existence that surpassed the Heaven Rank.

Although he'd only been a High Mage at the time, he still understood what this meant. Such an existence had apocalyptic power and could stand toe to toe with the Ancient Gods.

The Dark Azure Dragon's lair was a forbidden place that no one dared to enter.

After learning that this was an illusion, Solan quickly recalled the Dark Azure Dragon and thought that it might be the key to cracking this illusion.

And he guessed right.

When the Dark Azure Dragon woke up, an unbelievable power burst out and smothered him. He kept repeating his actions up until he accidentally managed to collect some Dragon Breath, and the illusion disappeared. He then met Lin Yun back in the magic tower.

He originally thought that he had broken through the illusion very quickly, but Mafa Merlin had been faster than him. When he saw Lin Yun after coming out, he suddenly felt uncomfortable.

In fact, his hate for Lin Yun had long since reached the point where he would surely fight him until only one of them was left. He was only cooperating because of two reasons. The first being that this place was truly dangerous, and even if he had already become a 5th Rank High Mage, he wasn't at ease. Whether he would be able to leave this place safe and sound was unknown. Under this kind of situation, temporarily leaving their hatred behind and cooperating with Lin Yun would give the best chance of having a positive outcome.

The second reason was that he was afraid of Lin Yun's strength. In the Line Canyon, the 2nd Rank Archmage Solan was defeated without even being able to retaliate. He was almost killed, and he learnt at that time that Lin Yun had two True Spirit Magic Tools. After he advanced to become a 5th Rank Archmage, he still couldn't grasp Lin Yun's strength properly. That fight with the puppet was the perfect opportunity to check his power.

But, contrary to his expectations, Mafa Merlin didn't fight the puppet at all. He used a strange trick to dismantle it.

Thus, Solan just held himself back, waiting for an opportunity.

After collecting the Dark Azure Dragon Breath and leaving the illusion, he knew that this was an opportunity to kill Mafa Merlin.

The Dark Azure Dragon was an existence surpassing Heaven Rank. Even if it was only the breath from a sleeping Dark Azure Dragon, its might couldn't be looked down on. Even he himself as a 5th Rank Archmage would end up seriously injured after using all his defenses.

'If it's a surprise attack... Mafa Merlin will instantly die.'

Chapter 408: *You'll Die*

A sinister smile appeared at the corner of Solan's lips as he thought about it before straightening his face. He was certain that Mafa Merlin's house had a Planar Path that led to a very fertile and mysterious plane. 'How else could a 9th Rank Magic Apprentice like Mafa Merlin attain his present achievements? Oh, right, and those two True Spirit Magic Tools definitely came from that mysterious plane.'

Solan had good reasons to kill Mafa Merlin. Let alone becoming a Representative of the Council of Seven, even reaching Heaven Rank was very likely if he could snatch those two True Spirit Magic Tools as well as that mysterious plane.

Suddenly, a Dragon's aura was emitted from his body, and the Dragon Breath he had been holding was finally released and covered the entire hall, but the brunt of the attack was directed at Lin Yun.

Solan and Lin Yun had been separated by two meters, something he had planned. He estimated that Mafa shouldn't be able to react in time from such a short distance.

Even a Sword Saint with an extremely fierce body wouldn't fare well when hit by that.

What's more, Mafa Merlin was only a High Mage who relied on his two True Spirit Magic tools to defeat him, his own strength was pathetic.

The moment he released that Dragon Breath, Solan knew that Mafa Merlin was screwed. And everything Mafa Merlin had in Thousand Sails City would be his.

At this time, he saw the young mage's black robe fluttering under the blast and knew that the enchanted robe would soon fail to resist and the young mage would disappear from the face of Noscent.

But then...

"How, how... How could this be!?"

The over-excitement led to his face suddenly freezing, as if he had seen a ghost. His eyes were wide open as he looked in front of him with disbelief.

He had just seen the Dragon Breath reaching Mafa, and the young mage remaining motionless as if he hadn't noticed it, not even putting up any defensive spells. Yet, an incredible scene appeared when the Dragon Breath was about to hit the young mage. The young mage turned fuzzy and disappeared. Then, after the Dragon Breath dissipated, the young mage reappeared in place.

'Shit! Damn it...'

Solan really wanted to ask, 'Mafa Merlin, are you possessed by a Demon? How else could something like that happen? This simply shouldn't be possible...'

He had the urge to kill him, had schemed and used the most powerful method he had on hand to handle that young mage, yet he hadn't expected that young mage to easily deal with it. Let alone being injured, even his robe was spotless.

But...

At this time, a huge, black hand appeared above Solan's head and heavily slammed down.

This was a 5th Tier Spell, Earth Rending Hand.

Solan didn't even have time to react when that large hand fell down, and ended up pressed against the ground, turning deathly pale in an instant. Half of his defensive enchantments had been destroyed, and if not for those enchantments, he might have died.

"Sir Solan, this is embarrassing, you went against the mages' unspoken rule of honoring contracts. Our cooperation stops here..."

Lin Yun had a dark expression, not at all hiding his intent to kill. With a wave of his Doom Staff, three blazing Flame Bursts instantly appeared, dragging long, flaming trails behind them as they flew towards Solan.

He had already steeled himself.

On the 11th floor of the magic tower, he had been forced into this strange cooperative agreement with Solan due to circumstances. If the other side hadn't had the strength of a 5th Rank Archmage and had value, he would have already been killed.

If it had been just a dirty trick, Lin Yun might have been able to tolerate it.

But what just happened clearly exceeded what he could put up with.

In fact, Lin Yun was already paying attention when Solan came out of the illusion and approached him. His Magic Array was working at full capacity, monitoring Solan's every movement. When that powerful Dragon Breath appeared, the Magic Array instantly analyzed it and classified it Dragon Breath as an attack of a Dragon surpassing Heaven Rank.

Surpassing Heaven Rank...

Lin Yun was instantly startled. An existence surpassing Heaven Rank wasn't to be trifled with. Such a being could destroy him by lifting a finger. But how could Solan have a power surpassing Heaven Rank? In a split second, Lin Yun recalled the illusion.

'Right, it was definitely the illusion.'

Those who entered the illusion got some benefits, and the mana fluctuations on Solan's body were still at the 5th Rank Archmage realm, no different from before he entered the illusion.

It looked like the gain he got from the illusion wasn't an increase in power like himself and the others, rather, he obtained something.

He only understood when Solan released that Dragon Breath. Solan obtained that Dragon Breath in the illusion, and the owner of that Dragon Breath was a Dragon that surpassed Heaven Rank!

Just how frightening was its breath?

Even an accidental Dragon Breath, like a small breath expelled during its sleep, would be enough to kill an Archmage powerhouse.

After all, existences surpassing the Heaven Rank had power on par with that of the Ancient Gods.

Solan had released it two meters away from him, and completely without warning. Even if he discovered something, his defensive spells would be useless.

But Solan clearly would have never expected that Lin Yun had a naturally born Demiplane in which the four Elemental Laws had been born. In those four days, his Magic Array was crazily revolving and after four days of analyzing the four Elemental Laws, he finally made a connection with the Demiplane. Only then did he leave the Demiplane to go back.

When the Dragon Breath spread, his fading technique wasn't some demonic technique, but rather Lin Yun hiding in the Demiplane in that split second.

One of the benefits of connecting to the Demiplane was that he no longer needed to rely on the Book of Death and those seven characters to enter the Demiplane.

Just now, he entered the plane in a split second.

Had it been before, he would have needed at least thirty seconds to enter the Demiplane.

Establishing contact saved a lot of trouble, but the cost was high. Relying on his connection with the Demiplane to enter used almost all the mana contained within one of the Alchemic Mana Whirlpools, and they were both empty after his return.

This horrible consumption was something he wouldn't have done unless he needed to.

There was a reason behind that huge consumption.

As everyone knew, Heaven Rank Powerhouses could establish planes, and creating the connection between the powerhouse and his plane was something only a high-ranked Heaven Mage could do.

Lin Yun had just used the method of a high ranked Heaven Mage, so it would be very strange if the consumption wasn't huge.

"How could this be!?"

Solan let out a deep roar. He'd always thought Lin Yun was a lot weaker than himself and had been relying on the two True Spirit Magic Tools to defeat him.

But it seemed like it wasn't the case now.

That Earth Rending Hand could barely count as a superior 5th Tier Spell. The power was incomparable to the superior spells he'd mastered as a 5th Rank Archmage. And even if he got caught off guard, he shouldn't be injured by a High Mage with all the enchantments on his body.

But not only had that Earth Rending Hand managed to injure him, but it had also destroyed more than half of his defensive enchantments.

Being able to do this proved that this adversary was in no way weaker than him.

'But he is just a High Mage...'

Solan had no time to think about it, because those three Flame Bursts were already reaching him. He waved the magic staff in his hand and seven Ice Walls rose up in front of him. He also Hasted himself and used extreme speed to retreat.

As he retreated, he heard a cracking sound as his seven Ice Walls were unable to resist those Flame Bursts and shattered into pieces.

The fight lasted for ten minutes...

Every single fire spell put the 5th Rank Archmage Solan into an extremely awkward situation. It could be seen from the state of his mage robe. It was already tattered, and his chest and back had burn scars.

"Hell! High Mage Merlin! Solan Monchi, what... What are you doing?!" At this time, a startled shout echoed. It came from Vice Leader Delson. At some point during the fight, he had also come out of the illusion and saw the terrifying battle between Lin Yun and Solan.

Delson was suddenly anxious.

‘How could they be fighting? Weren’t they supposed to cooperate?’

Delson soon found out that 5th Rank Archmage Solan was at a disadvantage in this battle, as his body was in a sorry state. In contrast, Lin Yun was calmly casting spells. Delson could easily see that it wouldn’t take long before Solan would lose and be killed by Mafa Merlin.

“High Mage Merlin, please stay your hand. This is a very dangerous place! If we aren’t careful, we might encounter danger. Solan is still a 5th Rank Archmage, if you kill him, it might be harder to leave this place...” Delson could feel the undisguised killing intent and was startled by it. He knew that the young mage already planned on killing Solan. “What’s the matter? It won’t be too late to kill him after we escape this place...”

Lin Yun expressionlessly looked at Delson before gathering a large amount of mana in his hand. He then turned towards the ashen Solan and said, “Remember this, you owe your life to Vice Leader Delson...”

Delson only let out a relieved sigh after Lin Yun said those words. His back was drenched in cold sweat. He had already experienced the young mage’s temperament, but he fortunately pulled back...

“If there is a next time, you’ll die.”

Chapter 409: Something Inside

Delson wiped the cold sweat off his forehead, but before he could say anything, he suddenly felt berserk mana spread through the 11th floor of the magic tower.

His heart sank and he panicked. He tried to say something, but no sound came out of his throat.

The Doom Staff in Lin Yun’s hand burst out with a brilliant radiance and a hot aura spread everywhere. At the same time, a dozen Flame Bursts landed on Solan out of nowhere.

It was followed by a mournful scream.

Solan was instantly sent flying, and he crashed heavily against the white wall. Delson watched as the 5th Rank Archmage was suddenly attacked by the young High Mage without being able to react. His mage robe had long since been burnt to a crisp, and a large part of his chest had been lacerated by the Flame Bursts. And countless drops of blood flowed out of his wounds. Those wounds were incomparably sinister, and if anyone weaker than Solan had taken these hits, they would have already died.

Although Solan hadn’t died, his aura had reached an extremely depressingly low point. Perhaps even a Great Mage could easily finish off Solan in his current state.

From this, it could be seen how serious his injuries were.

Whether it was Delson or Solan, neither had expected that Lin Yun would suddenly do something like this right after apparently agreeing to compromise. And not only did he teach Solan a lesson, but he did it very ruthlessly.

Even if a 5th Rank Archmage’s defenses were solid, the flesh was still flesh. It couldn’t resist ten Flame Bursts. It was already a blessing that Solan didn’t die immediately.

A freezing aura spread all around. At this time, Delson noticed four Frost Lances being cast by the young mage. The sound of the air being torn apart as they flew echoed in his ears. The Four Frost Lances quickly arrived at their destination, followed by a blood-curdling screech. Delson looked at the terrifying scene and felt a chill run down his spine. Solan was actually nailed to the wall.

His limbs were pierced by the Frost Lances, and blood flowing down from them. Half of the wall was dyed red in a few seconds.

Delson shivered. His mage robe was already soaked in cold sweat and was sticking to his back, making him highly uncomfortable.

He no longer dared to say anything.

Because he could feel that the young mage was no longer in a talkative mood.

In fact, the life or death of Solan Monchi had nothing to do with him, he wouldn't dare to provoke Mafa Merlin for him.

"You won't die this time," Lin Yun coldly said. "I only want to check if there is something inside your body..."

Lin Yun slowly walked towards the wall, his eyes studying Solan Monchi. Although Solan had suffered an extremely grievous injury, he still retained a part of his consciousness. Hearing Lin Yun's words, he couldn't help shivering. He tried saying something, but no voice came out.

When Lin Yun met Solan on the 11th floor of the magic tower, the latter had already become a 5th Rank Archmage. At that time, he had already noticed some anomalies. And those were most likely the keys behind Solan's power-up.

Unfortunately, he wasn't able to detect what exactly those anomalies were.

Solan had changed in a lot of aspects. It wasn't just his strength... His personality was also affected.

Before entering the illusion, in that battle against the puppet, Lin Yun had kept an eye on Solan Monchi, but he hadn't been able to find anything. Up until that battle just now. Lin Yun had fought while rousing his Magic Array and making some calculations. He then shockingly found a wisp of demonic aura.

He was most amazed by Solan being able to completely suppress that wisp of demonic aura. He'd almost been fooled!

This was the most suspicious part about Solan Monchi.

Even at the peak of the Magic Era, those powerful mages who entered the Abyss to hunt Demons conducted various experiments, but in the end, they were unable to suppress the demonic aura and make it unnoticeable as Solan did.

Lin Yun had some conjectures about the change to Solan's body. He clearly remembered that Solan had disappeared for some time in Zhantui's palace, yet he was already a 5th Rank Archmage when he came back.

But what Lin Yun was curious about was, what happened to Solan's body?

'Is it related to Emperor Zhantui?'

Lin Yun frowned and took out various kinds of medicine and test tubes. He then placed everything side by side on the ground and held a test tube against Solan's wound. Soon Solan's blood entered the test tube and filled it. After securing it, Lin Yun cautiously studied it.

He used Flaming Hand to keep the crucible heated, and then discovered that Solan's strange blood contained something special. When the temperature of the crucible reached 200°C, that blood turned dark purple.

At this time, the blood let out a thick aura of sulfur. It spread through every corner as it continued to be emitted from the blood.

Lin Yun could already determine that Solan had gotten his power from a Demon, but for some reason, he had been able to completely suppress the demonic aura.

A sneer appeared at the corner of his mouth, and he couldn't help shaking his head. Solan was a complete monster now. Was the power of Demons so easy to get? Even during the peak of the Magic Era, those godlike mages didn't dare to rashly merge with demonic power, because doing so was no different from courting death.

Even if he didn't personally kill Solan, it wouldn't take long before that demonic power burst out. At that time, Solan would be unable to suppress it and would end up being controlled by that demonic power, completely losing any form of self-awareness.

Lin Yun picked up three potions from the ground. These potions' effects were targeted towards hell's lifeforms.

Solan was already half-conscious by now and could clearly see everything Lin Yun was doing. But his four limbs were already nailed to the wall. He tried to struggle a bit, but the sharp pain was unbearable. That kind of feeling was more painful than being killed.

When he saw Lin Yun holding three potions and pulling apart his mouth, Solan's expression suddenly changed. He was scared to the point of turning pale, beads of sweat dripping down his forehead. He wanted to curse, but he wasn't capable of doing so.

He could only try to keep his mouth closed.

But then...

"Slap! Slap!"

Two heavy slaps loudly echoed, leaving Solan in a daze. Lin Yun then pried open Solan's mouth and poured one of the potions inside. Wisps of black smoke could be seen coming out of Solan's body as he shook fiercely, as if he was under extreme pain.

After letting out a painful roar, Solan stopped shaking and lost consciousness.

"..."

Delson was terrified. The way the young mage handled Solan was a bit too frightening. First were the dozen Flame bursts, followed by the Frost Lances nailing him to the wall. And it didn't end there... He then took Solan's blood to study it and poured a strange potion in his mouth, causing such a big reaction that Solan ended up losing consciousness.

Delson had a feeling that the young mage didn't seem to think of Solan Monchi as a person, but rather, as a test subject...

He was a bit regretful now. If he had known, he would have delayed leaving the illusion.

Although he didn't know what happened between Solan and the young mage, he could guess that Solan had done something reckless and thoroughly infuriated the young mage? Why else would Lin Yun, who usually looked harmless, cause such a scene?

Thinking about it, Delson suddenly heard the passed out Solan letting out a blood-curdling screech. His face distorted, his body shaking violently. Due to the larger movements, the wounds on his limbs were agitated and a lot of blood flew out.

Delson looked away, as he didn't have the heart to watch this. He even thought that it was a miracle Solan could remain alive until now.

"Bloodline Curse..."

Lin Yun frowned. He really hadn't expected such an outcome when he started studying Solan. He just used a mind attack to forcibly cut a wisp of Solan's soul to integrate it to his blood research and ended up finding out that Solan had a Bloodline Curse within his body. It was because of the Bloodline Curse that Solan was able to suppress the demonic aura.

This should explain it...

But Lin Yun still frowned. There was still something puzzling him.

Besides their magic knowledge being extremely high, the members of the 3rd Dynasty's royal family were greatly proficient in Bloodline Curses. That was the power brought up from their bloodline, and the purer their bloodline, the stronger the power of the Bloodline Curse. Moreover, after their death, that power would linger for a very long time like a specter. It looked like Solan had obtained a part of that power.

Solan went to the palace left by Emperor Zhantui and ended up like this. 'Doesn't that mean that a member of the royal family of the 3rd Dynasty once died in that palace?'

And for a Bloodline Curse to increase Solan's power from 2nd Rank Archmage to the 5th Rank, it meant that the person wasn't just a minor member of the royal family.

Chapter 410: Unidirectional Mana Shackles

Lin Yun could only think of a few people of Emperor Zhantui's era who could have such a powerful Bloodline Curse after their deaths, including Emperor Zhantui himself, but it was quite clear that Emperor Zhantui returned to the Empire and died ten years later.

But with a Bloodline Curse being in that palace, Lin Yun was a hundred percent certain that a member of the royal family with extraordinary status died inside, but he just couldn't figure out who it was.

Lin Yun shook his head and extended his hand to scatter the mana. In a flash, those four Frost Lances disappeared, and Solan, who had been nailed to the wall, powerlessly fell to the ground. Solan was now covered in bloodstains, bloody holes remaining in his limbs, his hair in disarray, his face pale and wearing a lifeless expression. He was gasping for air in a daze.

"No one can do something wrong without paying the price..." Lin Yun coldly shot a glance at Solan Monchi. He'd had his soul torn, which wasn't something he could recover from easily. Moreover, he had been repeatedly tortured. Solan's path of magic could be considered crippled.

Although he still had the strength of a 5th Rank Archmage, he would never be able to become a 6th Rank Archmage. Of course, Solan himself didn't know that.

Lin Yun extended a hand, gathering mana as he chanted a few profound words. It was followed by a ray of mana entering Solan Monchi's body.

"That's..."

Delson frowned, a suspicious expression on his face. He had just seen the young mage casting a spell, and it looked very similar to Mana Shackles, but there was something odd he couldn't figure out. He stealthily tried to sense it, only to find out that the mana within Solan Monchi's body was still there. He then relaxed.

He had just been startled by the thought that the young mage might be trying to shackle Solan's mana.

A 5th Rank High Mage Mana Shackling a 5th Rank Archmage... This would be a bit too scary.

'Fortunately it wasn't... But what did Mafa Merlin do to Solan Monchi?'

Only Lin Yun knew the answer to that question. The method he used didn't belong to this era. Unidirectional Mana Shackles came from the peak of the Magic Era. The spell was developed by a Heaven Mage that wasn't particularly well known. It was from one of the books he had read out of curiosity in the decaying library.

The Unidirectional Mana Shackles were very complicated to set up, requiring a very high degree of control from the user. If not careful, the process might lead to the destruction of the target's Mana Whirlpool.

He managed to shackle Solan on his first try.

His mana existed within Solan's Mana Whirlpool in a special way. This mana wouldn't influence Solan when he meditated.

But if Solan aimed a spell at Lin Yun, the mana hiding in his Mana Whirlpool would violently conflict with his own mana, creating violent mana chaos.

Thus, this was known as the Unidirectional Mana Shackles.

After ten days, everyone got out of their illusions. Leon, who had gone through the Pale Plane, had already fused his Arcane Rings, and although he was only a 7th Rank High Mage, even a 9th Rank High Mage would have some trouble suppressing him.

Ross' experience was the most incredible, as he had just been repeating a battle.

It was the battle he previously lost against Stan Watson that day in the Raging Flame Plane. He had always been brooding about it, and he had been limited by the flaws of his Meditation Law Set, preventing him from increasing his strength. Later, Stan Watson had been killed by Lin Yun, and thus, that battle in the Raging Flame Plane was his eternal regret. But this time, after entering the illusion, he finally defeated Stan Watson after countless attempts and was already an 8th Rank High Mage.

Xiuban was the last one to leave his illusion. He looked a bit sleepy, and Lin Yun suspected that after he contacted him with the Whispering Crystal, that guy went back to sleep.

But regardless, the Draconic Beastman was now a genuine 9th rank Expert Swordsman.

After everyone was gathered, they took an hour to rest and reorganize before opening that door. Contrary to their expectations, they didn't meet any danger. Behind that door was a staircase spiralling downward, leading to a very dark place, most likely the 10th floor of the magic tower. The group followed the stairs down and quickly reached the 10th floor.

Once there, everyone was startled. The 11th floor spread for no more than several hundred meters, yet the 10th floor was huge.

It had clearly been extended via arrays.

To be more precise, this was an alchemy workshop specialized in producing puppets. That alchemy workshop was huge, several times bigger than the alchemy workshop Lin Yun had seen in Vaughn's laboratory. But this place was different from the 11th and 12th floors. It was covered in cobwebs, and the floor was covered with a layer of dust, looking dilapidated.

"Heavens, how many puppets can be produced here," Delson murmured, startled.

In the center of the criss-crossed assembly lines was a huge, black forge. After several millennia, it was still in good condition, but there was not a single spark within...

Suddenly, a slight sound of metal friction was captured by the Magic Array. Lin Yun frowned and sent a few Mage Eyes over to check on the source of the sound. There were about a hundred puppets rushing to this side...

After a short few seconds, the hundred puppets surrounded Lin Yun's group. There were various kinds of puppets: Magic Beast Models, Battlemage Models, Swordsman Models, and so on.

"Isn't this an abandoned alchemy workshop? How come there are so many puppets?" Ross looked at the three puppets and felt a bit numb.

Fortunately, the strength of these puppets was uneven and it was relatively easy to handle them. But the Mana Rays they had enchanted on themselves was a headache, especially when a hundred puppets would keep shooting Mana Rays continuously. Even if Lin Yun's group was powerful, they had no choice but to spend some efforts on their defenses.

After half an hour of battle, none of the puppets managed to escape, and they were all destroyed.

But this was still far from over. Lin Yun's group only walked a few hundred meters before being surrounded by a large number of puppets once again. There were fewer of them this time, only about thirty.

After dealing with these puppets, Lin Yun frowned. He suddenly had a strange feeling. After reaching the 10th floor, their group had stayed beside the forge for at least half an hour, and during that time, no puppets had attacked them.

But when they started walking towards the depths of the alchemy workshop, they encountered two waves of puppets.

He crouched down next to a Shadow Wolf Model and after looking at it, he quickly dismantled it, making everyone else dumbstruck.

"Something is amiss..."

After a few minutes of dismantling, Lin Yun shook his head in doubt.

"What's wrong..."

Hearing Lin Yun's opinion, Delson was immediately worried. He had experienced how strange that place was, especially that illusion. "High Mage Merlin, can you explain a bit for us?"

"They aren't moving based on scheduled procedures. It looks like they are being influenced by something. And their system has been altered..." Lin Yun frowned and got up. He looked into the distance and sent out a Mage Eye. After seeing the scene transmitted by the Mage Eye, Lin Yun pointed ahead. "There is a workshop producing puppets, and these puppets are also rushing out of that place. We should go take a look."

Under Lin Yun's guidance, the ten men rushed towards the workshop producing puppets. They were only a few kilometers away, and with their speed, it wouldn't take long before they reached it.

But after rushing over, they discovered that the amount of puppets far exceeded what they'd imagined. One after one, puppets dashed towards them.

The battle finally ended after six hours. Apart from Lin Yun, everyone was exhausted. Ross' side even got some light injuries.

Lin Yun gradually discovered that these puppets were extremely strange. Their goal might not have been to kill them, but to do their utmost to stall them. They seemed to be protecting something.

And those alterations to their systems was the key to this...

This huge alchemy workshop should have been abandoned for a thousand years, so Lin Yun simply couldn't understand what these puppets were protecting.

There were no puppets at the door to the workshop, so maybe all the puppets left in the workshop had already been killed by them. In the six hours of fighting, they killed no less than a thousand puppets. Such a quantity of puppets could form a Puppet Legion in any plane.

On the way, Lin Yun disassembled many puppets and got a variety of precious components from them.

“Is there danger inside?” Delson looked at the dark workshop and asked, seeming quite unsure of himself.

The group stayed at the entrance while Lin Yun was frowning. He had tried to send a Mage Eye to investigate the situation in the workshop. Whatever had been controlling the puppets was inside, so he couldn't be careless. But there were fierce mana fluctuations in the workshop, and the Mage Eye dissipated just as it entered.

“Be careful...”

Lin Yun had a very serious expression. The Magic Array was roused to its peak and he poured mana into the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel before finally taking a step into the workshop. Delson and the others hesitated before following him.

The workshop was extremely dark, and they could only see within two to three meters of themselves.

A Light spell was cast, and it gradually shed light on the surroundings.