

## **Magic Era 441**

### **Chapter 441: Intimidation**

“In fact... There is some news that was sealed off by the Merlin Family. If it spread through Okland, it would trigger a storm. Last night, our Merlin Family clashed with the Charlotte Family in the Cold Wind Plane...” Ofran was no longer smiling as he mentioned this matter. Three hundred years ago, after the emergence of Santon Merlin, the young genius who crushed the Charlotte Family, the Charlotte Family’s resources had been decimated and the entire Charlotte Family walked into a dead end. They remained very low-key in Okland, and besides Hanson Charlotte’s matter, the Charlotte didn’t do anything big in the past few years.

But Ofran was in disbelief when they conquered the Frost Leaf Plane. Even the Merlin Family wouldn’t be able to conquer the Frost Leaf Plane so easily in such a short time.

Yet the Charlotte Family did it...

And not only did the Charlotte Family conquer the Frost Leaf Plane, but after doing so, they directly threatened the Merlin Family’s Cold Wind Plane. A conflict had occurred on the previous night. Ofran wasn’t able to sleep well after receiving that news.

After saying this, Ofran looked at Lin Yun and found out that the young mage’s mood hadn’t changed at all, which couldn’t help but make Ofran feel disappointed. Such an outstanding youth had no sense of belonging towards the Merlin Family, it was such a pity. However, he could understand it when he thought about the events from three months ago. Those Elders were impatient to snatch Mafa Merlin’s Gilded Rose, and even though they didn’t end up getting it, a few of them still had to compensate with their lives. It was inevitable for Mafa Merlin to have some bad feelings about it.

Had Ofran been in his shoes, he would have felt the same.

After a faint sigh, Ofran said, “I sent someone to tell the Charlotte Family to negotiate. The Charlotte Family’s Patriarch, Wollings, should be here soon...”

“This matter might not be that simple...” Lin Yun smiled while remaining calm. He had already determined that this whole matter was linked to the Thousand Souls Sacrifice, but he didn’t intend to reveal the secret of the Thousand Souls Sacrifice, because that would just bring trouble to himself.

In any case, the Charlotte Family and the Thousand Souls Sacrifice had to be dealt with sooner or later.

Lin Yun recovered a lot of energy after meditating for more than half an hour. At that time, they finally heard news of the slow Patriarch Wollings. One of the guards rushed in with the Charlotte Family’s patriarch.

“Ofra, sorry, I’m late...”

A terrifying mana fluctuation followed that voice, and although his words were apologetic, he didn’t sound sorry at all. The door was roughly pushed open, and an old man walked in, seemingly in his sixties. After coming in, his eyes swept across the surroundings. He didn’t even stop on Lin Yun before looking back at Ofran. He squinted and coldly said, “I heard that you were looking for me, Ofran?”

“There is something I wish to discuss with Patriarch Wollings...”

Ofran’s gaze turned cold. He knew from the moment Wollings entered that the negotiations didn’t have much meaning. When they met before, Wollings would respectfully call him Patriarch Ofran, or Sir Ofran. Since when did he dare to call him directly by his name?

When Wollings became the Patriarch of the Charlotte Family, he acted very sly and simply didn’t dare to offend anyone. He would show him the utmost respect in every possible way.

It was a lot different from his current appearance.

Wollings had a very tough attitude right now.

“If there is anything you want to say, say it quick,” Wollings said with an icy expression. Impatience could be seen on his face as he sat opposite Ofran. “Don’t waste time, I still have something to do, just say it...”

Ofran’s expression hardened even more. Anger was overflowing within his heart. ‘That Wollings is too rampant, he doesn’t even put the Merlin Family in his eyes. I’ve been patient enough, but he can’t even tell what’s proper. Does he really think that the Merlin Family is afraid of the Charlotte Family?’

“I’m in no hurry. Patriarch Wollings should speak first, you are a guest, after all...” But as he thought of the current situation of the Merlin Family, Ofran had no other choice but to rein in his anger. Thus, he just put on a fake smile as he talked.

“Haha, Ofran, you are too polite...”

Wollings shot a glance at Ofran with a smirk on his face, as if everything was normal. He put his withered hand into his pocket and fished out a sheet of yellow paper. He then carelessly threw it on the table in front of Ofran. “Ofran, take a look at this. I came this time because I want to take back a piece of territory in the northern part of the kingdom. That place originally belonged to our Charlotte Family, so there should be no problem with taking it back, right?”

“No way! This is definitely out of question... Wollings, I’m telling you, your Charlotte Family shouldn’t even entertain those thoughts!” After picking up the paper, Ofran’s eyes widened. He didn’t even think and directly refused. ‘Hell, Wollings should wake up already, to dare make such a request...’

To be more accurate, the paper a deed for the territory in the northernmost part of the Andlusa Kingdom, bordering Gaugass. The amount of resources it brought every year was comparable to a private plane, and even if his life was on the line, Ofran wouldn’t agree to this condition. Furthermore, such a major decision would have to go through the Elder Council in the end.

The territory did belong to the Charlotte Family a few centuries ago, but it was a complicated matter.

Three hundred years ago, the Merlin Family was facing a crisis. They were suppressed by the joint effort of the Watson Family and the Charlotte Family, and many of their territories had been divided by the two Families. They seemed to be headed towards their downfall, but the appearance of Santon Merlin thoroughly reversed the situation and his abrupt rise gave a huge advantage to the Merlin Family.

The power struggle between the Families was no longer in the dark, so in order to prevent the Charlotte Family from rising up again, they did everything they could to weaken the strength of the Charlotte

Family. As for that bounteous territory in the northern regions, it had been ceded by the Charlotte Family.

But that territory was truly fertile, and for the following years of exploitation, the Merlin Family invested a great amount of financial and physical resources and turned it into one of its primary economic sources.

And now, Wollings brought a deed and wanted to get back the territory for nothing. That was truly crazy.

“Wollings, you should clearly know what’s going on with that territory. Over two hundred years ago, an ancestor of your Charlotte Family took the initiative to cede that territory and asked our Merlin Family to accept it. You think you’ll get it now just because you are asking for it?” Ofran had already been restraining his anger, but when he heard Wollings’ unreasonable request, he couldn’t help sneering.

Besides, he wasn’t making it up, this was a fact.

“Hmpf!”

Wollings had an icy expression on his face as he couldn’t help but look back on past events. Killing intent directed towards Ofran could be seen in his eyes, but he then smiled and fished out a crystal card from his pocket and threw it on the table, coldly saying, “No matter what, the Merlin Family has to hand over that territory today. It obviously belongs to our Charlotte Family, why is your Merlin Family occupying it? You think the Merlin Family can hide the truth from Okland?! I know the Merlin Family spent a lot of effort developing that territory, and our Charlotte Family isn’t unreasonable. There are a few dozen thousands on that crystal card, this shall be regarded as proper compensation...”

Recalling what the Charlotte Family had experienced in the past few centuries, Wollings couldn’t help gnashing his teeth. That had been an extremely humiliating period, and it was all because of that Santon Merlin that the Charlotte Family fell from prosperity and sank without any hope. All their resources and wealth had been divided up by the Watson Family and the Merlin Family.

But that was a matter of the past.

The Charlotte Family wasn’t easy to bully now!

It wouldn’t take long before their former enemies would be destroyed, starting with the Merlin Family.

The Thousand Souls Sacrifice, who had remained silent for close to a millennium, had recently promised that he would do his best to help the Charlotte Family. This kind of support was a great boon to them, and in a mere two days, the Charlotte Family completely conquered the Frost Leaf Plane! Moreover, this was only the beginning. After some time, they planned to make a move against the Cold Wind Plane and weaken the power of the Merlin Family.

When the time was ripe, he would instantly defeat the Merlin Family and ruthlessly stomp on that hateful Family...

He couldn’t wait...

This time, he took the deed of the northernmost territory of the Andlusa Kingdom to get it back. It had great significance. He wouldn't allow any failure because this represented not only a piece of land, but if he could get it, it would declaring to Okland's forces that the Charlotte Family had returned!

Moreover, it was stronger than it had been at its previous peak.

"Wollings, wh... What are you trying to do!" Ofran didn't bother to hide his anger. 'That damn Charlotte Family is shameless. Did they think that such a pittance would be enough to get that territory back?' Ofran coldly said, "Your Charlotte Family is deluded... Haha, Wollings, we don't welcome you here, please leave."

The Charlotte Family was definitely provoking the Merlin Family's honor by raising this request, so Ofran naturally had no plan to negotiate peacefully. 'Do you really think the Merlin Family is afraid of your Charlotte Family?'

"Want to make me leave? How could I let that happen? I'm telling you Ofran, your Merlin Family has to hand over the territory, or else... Hmpf!" Wollings wasn't angered, an expression of ridicule appearing on his face. But after saying those words, he emitted shocking mana fluctuations.

"What?"

#### **Chapter 442: Return to the Ancestral Land**

Ofran looked at Wollings with disbelief when he felt those mana fluctuations. His throat moved, but he couldn't make any sound. Wollings was already a 5th Rank Archmage, and an extremely powerful one at that.

Even if he was also a 5th Rank Archmage, Ofran felt alarmed when faced with these mana fluctuations. He would definitely not be Wollings' opponent.

But, when he saw Wollings a month ago, the latter was only a 3rd Rank Archmage...

How could his strength increase so quickly?

No wonder he was so arrogant...

"Ofran, the current Charlotte Family isn't the same one from before anymore. I advise you to hand over that territory. If you keep refusing, our Charlotte Family won't mind shedding all pretense of cordiality and attacking in the open." Wollings ridiculed him. He saw the look in Ofran's eyes and couldn't help displaying a prideful expression.

"Sir Wollings, are you deaf? Didn't you hear Patriarch Ofran telling you to leave...?"

At this moment, a cold and sharp voice echoed.

Wollings' expression instantly soured when he heard Lin Yun's voice. He looked at the source and saw that it was the young mage he had recognized earlier.

Speaking of which, the Charlotte Family hadn't troubled him...

Mafa Merlin was a child of the Merlin Family stranded outside who had returned several months ago. And this Mafa Merlin possessed the huge gold-making machine known as the Gilded Rose, enjoying the monopoly of the alchemy market in the eastern part of the kingdom. He even spent over thirty million golds in an auction a few months ago.

This had all been investigated by Wollings and wasn't considered a secret. More importantly, during the auction of the Star Gem, that young mage and Hanson of the Charlotte Family had a disagreement. After the end of the auction, Hanson and a few people he took with him disappeared without a trace.

After obtaining the information, Wollings had suspected that Hanson's death was linked to this young mage.

But this young mage's strength hadn't reached the stage where he could contend against Hanson. Wollings clearly knew of the Charlotte Family's secret. Even an Archmage or a Sword Saint might not necessarily be able to kill Hanson, so he'd wondered if it had been a powerhouse of the Merlin Family.

Thinking of this, Wollings' expression gradually became cold. He looked at Lin Yun with killing intent and said, "Ofran, look at the youths of your Family, what kind of child is that? As his elder, you should properly discipline him. A youth like him doesn't have the qualifications to butt in on our discussion!"

"Haha, Patriarch Wollings, you are a bit too controlling..."

Ofran sneered. 'With Mafa's strength, he even has the qualifications for me to treat him as an equal! So what if he wants to say something? He can even make a move against you if he wishes to!'

Naturally, Ofran wouldn't say those words out loud, but he knew how terrifying that young mage was. Three months ago, he fought against 5th Rank Sword Saint Thorne, and the victor hadn't been decided. Now, after meeting him three months later, the young mage gave him a very dangerous feeling. He knew that the young mage was a lot stronger than before.

"It's been a long time since a youth dared to talk to me like this. Haha, I really want to see what gave him the confidence to be arrogant..."

A gloomy aura suddenly spread to every corner of the study as berserk mana fluctuations rose up.

"Wollings! You dare to do this in our Merlin Family!?" Ofran exploded in anger as he instantly stood up.

Wollings didn't say anything, a serious expression on his face. He used his actions to answer Ofran's question as the mana fluctuations continued to flood the entire room. The pressure of a 5th Rank Archmage was unleashed onto the sitting Lin Yun.

But...

A simple book emitting an aura of death suddenly appeared in Lin Yun's hands. He gently flipped a page and the Truth Chapter, known as the source of all understanding that could annihilate all evil and make all lies and illusions disappear, burst with a bright radiance. Numerous characters appeared one after the other and quickly combined in the sky, turning into a huge rune containing a frightening power.

"Ah! What is that?"

The originally aggressive Wollings instantly felt scared. He felt as if he had met a predator and was panicking. After screaming, Wollings fell limp into his seat, the black mist covering him obliterated by the Truth Chapter.

As for Wollings, it seemed as if he had aged by ten years, and he looked very weak.

“Get lost.” Lin Yun looked at Wollings indifferently, before inwardly shaking his head. ‘Just as I thought, the Charlotte Family gained the support of the Thousand Souls Sacrifice and it made them become very arrogant.’ Just now, Lin Yun had used the Truth Chapter to erase the fiendish power covering Wollings.

“You, you...”

Wollings truly felt like dying. His strength had greatly advanced after obtaining the support of the Thousand Souls Sacrifice, letting him reach the 5th Rank and even be a bit stronger than Ofran. Because of this, he had the confidence that he could force the Merlin Family to hand over that territory.

But he’d never expected that young mage to take out such a mysterious Magic Tool and drain away his strength.

This was too outrageous...

He didn’t dare to make a fuss anymore, and he forced himself out of the chair while panting, hurrying out of the study.

“This, Mafa...”

Ofran was completely stunned. He was looking at the young mage in a daze, shock filling his mind. This couldn’t be described with a few words. He wanted to ask something, but he swallowed his question back and ended up reminding Lin Yun, “Mafa, you should take a trip to the Ancestral Land before leaving for the Raging Flame Plane...”

“Okay...”

Lin Yun nodded and directly left the study.

...

After staying in his residence for a day, Lin Yun left the room. He went out of the Merlin Family Manor and followed the Fallen Star Lake until he quickly arrived at the bottom of that cliff.

The Ancestral Land was always shrouded in a dense fog obstructing one’s sight. He simply couldn’t see anything inside. This was the most mysterious part of the Merlin Family.

It was passed down that the Merlin Family’s ancestor had come out of here and followed the Andlusa’s first king to establish the kingdom. He retreated after attaining some achievements and once again entered the Ancestral Land, never to come out again. From that time on, the entire ravine was filled with a dense fog.

Lin Yun also felt that this mysterious ancestor should have been hiding a huge secret.

The last time he entered the Ancestral Land, he had just arrived at the Merlin Family Manor and had needed to spend some effort to get Ofran’s approval. Moreover, that Ancestral Land did interest him

quite a bit. In the depths of that ravine, there were over a dozen magic towers with seven or more floors. This meant that in the Ancestral Land, there were at least a dozen Archmages, and there was even a tower with 9 floors, which represented the Heaven Rank.

It's just that that no mana fluctuations could be seen on that tower. It felt as if it had lost its master a long time ago.

But this was shocking enough. The Magic Era was still in its infancy, so the Archmage realm was a goal countless mages would pursue all their lives without attaining, let alone the Heaven realm.

When he first came to the Ancestral Land, his first target was the merging of his Magic Arrays. But back then, he discovered that the temple in which the bloodline ceremony was conducted had the style of the Nesser Dynasty, from the era of Dragons and Elves.

At that time, he knew that the Merlin Family was far more complicated than it appeared to be. His conjectures had been confirmed after going in the depths of the Tulan Mountain Range. In the 10th Floor of the magic tower, the scene reflected by that damaged Heaven Puppet made Lin Yun discover that one of the ancestors of the Merlin Family had followed Charles the Emperor and participated in the campaign to destroy the Throne of Life.

And in the 9th Floor's study, the Well of Stars that William obtained was a clue pointing to the gravedigger of the Silver Era, the greatest alchemist of all times, the Dark Sage. The current members of the Merlin Family were most likely descendants of the Dark Sage. Naturally, Lin Yun couldn't say for certain that this wasn't a coincidence.

Lin Yun walked for close to an hour before reaching the bottom of the ravine. When he left Ofran's study the day before, Ofran reminded him that Sir Ryan, who had appeared a few months ago, had told him to take a trip to the Ancestral Land before leaving for the Raging Flame Plane. Apparently someone wanted to meet him.

Lin Yun inferred that the ancestor who wanted to meet him should have a higher rank than Ryan, or else Sir Ryan wouldn't have personally relayed the message.

After reaching the bottom of the canyon, although still foggy, Lin Yun could see the silhouettes of the magic towers. It felt like a small town, and the surroundings were quite beautiful. It was difficult to see the end at first glance, but Lin Yun noticed a hidden fluctuation. If he hadn't been using the Magic Array, he would have had a hard time discovering it.

After carefully sensing it, he felt that the fluctuation was quite peculiar. In the ravine's dense fog, amidst the flickering radiance, there seemed to be several mysterious runes moving up and down, and that fluctuation felt as if those mysterious runes were fusing together. This should be the reason why it was hard to detect.

He had heard William say that the area around the Guardian Tower was very strange. There had once been a youth who came to undergo the bloodline ceremony who met a powerful magic beast in here, and that unlucky guy met the ghost of an ancestor and ran away, not even doing the bloodline ceremony. After returning to the Merlin Family, he became crazy.

Thinking of this, Lin Yun looked at the depths of the canyon with a strange expression. It was very hard to see through that layer of dense fog. He even doubted whether that strange mana fluctuation came from some magic beast, or the ghost of an ancestor.

### **Chapter 443: Crushed**

But then, Lin Yun knew that this didn't come from a magic beast or the ghost of an ancestor, but from a real person, and a very powerful one at that.

A gust of wind swirled past, carrying a foul smell. The mysterious runes flickered and, in a flash, over a dozen lifelike pythons pounced towards Lin Yun.

That was the 4th Rank Spell, Wind Python. Back then in Thousand Sails City, the Head of the Magic Department of the Cloud Tower, High Mage Hoen, had once tried to use that spell to deal with him. But the person who attacked now was a lot more skillful in his use of the Wind Python than Hoen was. Hoen could make nine Pythons appear out of the Wind Python spell, while this person could create almost twice as many. These seventeen pythons were equivalent to an Ultimate Wind Python spell in terms of power.

As the wind whistled by, the seventeen Wind Pythons charged at Lin Yun with impressive momentum. At that moment, Lin Yun's Doom Staff flickered and Ice Armor quickly spread around his body as a cold aura rose up. Immediately, a loud sound echoed. Countless stones flew out and a white silhouette flashed through the ruins. It was Lin Yun holding his Doom Staff. As mana was poured into it, the Doom Staff shone with a dazzling light, it was followed by Flame Bursts blazing towards a certain shadow.

"What?" An amazed voiced echoed.

The dense fog retreated like a tide and revealed the outline of an old and fat silhouette wearing a gray robe, a simple staff in his hands. That person seemed to be over seventy years old and was looking at Lin Yun in disbelief and shock. After all, Wind Python was the spell that he was the most proficient with and was close to an Ultimate Spell in terms of power when he used it. It wasn't any weaker than a 7th Tier Spell.

But...

The young mage before his eyes only used a Frost Armor to block his Wind Python...

From that point on, he no longer dared to look down on that young mage. He gently waved his staff, bursting with shocking power as he instant-cast seven Ice Walls to block. The five Flame Bursts exploded on the Ice Walls, melting them while penetrating through at the same time, before exploding on that ash-gray silhouette.

'To hell with it...'

The ashen-robed old man looked as if he had seen a ghost, but he quickly calmed down. Countless runes rose in front of his body, forming a huge shield. Then, those five Flame Bursts exploded on the man's Runic Shield. A loud sound could be heard as a crack appeared on the shield.

"That's..."



The ashen-robed old man no longer hesitated. He Hasted himself and quickly fell back. But just as he wanted to say something, he noticed that the staff in the young mage's hands was once again shining with dazzling lights as the aura of several Flame Bursts was once again directed towards him. The old man was shivering from fear. It reached the point where he didn't care what it was; as long as it was a defensive spell, he would use it.

The might of these Flame Bursts wasn't to be trifled with. His bones might fall apart under the impact of these explosions.

That battle continued for over ten minutes, and although that old man tried to say something several times, he was continuously interrupted and could only defend himself helplessly.

'Damn...'

The old man had a grim look on his face. His robe had traces of burns, and there were as many as twenty holes of various sizes. He was in an extremely awkward situation, and the worst part was that this young mage's attacks were extremely fierce, giving him no choice but to focus completely on his defensive spells. During those ten minutes, he hadn't successfully cast a spell to counterattack after the first Wind Python.

Moreover, his mana was slowly getting drained. He would at most be able to cast a few more defensive spells before his mana was exhausted.

He was getting worried.

He no longer cared about being humiliated. After defending against a few more fierce spells, he mustered the remaining mana within his body and cast an Elemental Shield to guard himself, and took this opportunity to yell, "Mafa Merlin, stay your hand! Quick, stop! This is a misunderstanding, I'm someone from the Ancestral Land of the Merlin Family..."

Rio Merlin really felt depressed.

He was one of the ancestors of the Merlin Family and had learnt several months ago that a youth named Mafa would become one of the Planar Legion Commanders of the Merlin Family.

To be honest, he admired that youth, and after asking Ofran about him, he was a bit startled. Having such power in his early twenties... At that age, Rio was still striving to become a High Mage.

Then, he heard that this young mage had used the power of two True Spirit Magic Tools to contend against Thorne, one of the three Sword Saints of the Merlin Family, while he himself was only a 1st Rank High Mage. That kind of power was around that of a 4th Rank Archmage, only a step away from the 5th Rank. This kind of powerhouse was certainly qualified to be a Planar Legion Commander.

It was because he admired that youth that Rio decided to test him. He had been waiting in the canyon earlier, and when Lin Yun appeared, he used his Wind Python spell. He had been hesitating about it... He had become a 5th Rank Archmage this year, would he injure this youth?

After all, that youth had boundless potential, he was very valuable to the entire Merlin Family. If something unexpected happened, he wouldn't be able to bear the blame, even as an ancestor. After all, that youth was called to the Ancestral Land by "that person".

But Rio then thought about it. Since it was a test, restraining himself would prove nothing. Moreover, that youth even had True Spirit Magic Tools, two of them. Moreover, he should still have some cards he hadn't used yet. Thinking about this, Rio made his move.

Any 5th Rank Archmage would have to be cautious when facing a Wind Python spell with might close to that of an Ultimate Spell.

But...

The shocking part was that the young mage only used a Frost Armor and completely blocked the Wind Python spell. This young mage was too powerful...

Rio wasn't an ordinary 5th Rank Archmage. He had spent most of his time studying magic in the few decades he spent in the Ancestral Land. Even if he was a 5th Rank Archmage like Patriarch Ofran, the latter would only be able to last minutes against him.

But what made his heart sink when fighting the young mage was that he couldn't be described as merely being at a disadvantage. He had been completely crushed. With his insight, he could naturally tell that the young mage hadn't made any ruthless moves, and after the first round of attacks, he even let up a bit to give him the opportunity to breathe.

'Damnit, Ofran, you dared to trick me...' Rio was feeling resentful of Patriarch Ofran. This wasn't like Ofran's description. 'He only has the power of a 4th Rank Archmage? Even I am getting suppressed. If he used another True Spirit Magic Tool, he would definitely be able to contend against 6th Rank Archmages!'

He couldn't help feeling bitter, because this was a huge humiliation. He was an ancestor of the Ancestral Land testing a youth of the Family, yet he ended up in such a state.

If this spread through the Ancestral Land, he would become a laughing stock. How would he be able to face the others if that happened?

But humiliation was better than death...

Who could have ever thought that someone so young would be so fierce? Even he, a 5th Rank Archmage, was pressured.

"Don't talk nonsense, the ancestors in the Ancestral Land wouldn't try to kill me..." A smirk appeared at the corner of Lin Yun's mouth as shocking mana fluctuations rose up. The Doom Staff burst with a dazzling light as the incantations finished.

"I, I... I wasn't planning to kill you, it's a misunderstanding, a misunderstanding! I only wanted to test you! Mafa Merlin, I am Rio Merlin and I come from the Ancestral Land, you must believe me..." Seeing Lin Yun's movement, Rio was almost scared to death. Cold sweat steadily flowed down his forehead while his gray robe was drenched. He looked nervously at Lin Yun. He had exhausted his mana, so if another wave of spells arrived, he would be shedding a layer of skin.

To an old guy like Rio who lived for close to a hundred years, how could fail to realize that Mafa knew he was an ancestor? But the youth seemed to be holding a grudge. 'Damn, I should never provoke that guy in the future.'

“Eh? Turns out it’s Sir Rio...”

Lin Yun scattered the gathered mana, finally allowing Rio to relax. But the latter didn’t even have time to wipe his sweat before Lin Yun’s voice echoed once again. “But Sir Rio, if there is a next time, please greet me in advance so I have time to make preparations...”

“Okay, okay... No problem!”

Rio smiled unnaturally as he looked at Lin Yun with a strange expression.

‘Next time? Hell, how could there be a next time!? I’m not the kind of person that likes being abused...

‘I already brought trouble to myself once, how could there be a second time?’

“Well, Mafa, we have delayed for quite a bit, and there are still a few guys waiting to meet you. It would be best if I take you there...” Rio took a deep breath and forced himself to say those words as gently as possible. “I truly didn’t expect you to be far more outstanding than we had expected. You aren’t inferior to Santon Merlin back in his days. If those old geezers learn about that, they will definitely be very happy...”

#### **Chapter 444: Inside Information**

“Haha...”

When he heard the young mage laugh, Rio had the urge to run into a wall. He really hadn’t expected that his praise would only get a chuckle from the other side. This made him feel really embarrassed. Just as he intended to say something else, Lin Yun’s voice echoed again.

“Err, Sir Rio, can I ask some questions? Why are the ancestors of the Ancestral Land looking for me...?”

“...”

This question instantly made Rio choke back his words. When the Family’s young geniuses were summoned to the Ancestral Land, they didn’t even have time to feel happy, so how could they ask such a question? But after thinking about it, this Mafa Merlin wasn’t an ordinary person, so Rio stopped and answered, “As for the true reason, you’ll have to wait to meet them to ask. Their answer has more weight. But this matter should be related to the Raging Flame Plane. The Sword Saint going to the Raging Flame Plane with you, that Thorne guy, came to the Ancestral Land a few days ago.

“Oh...”

Lin Yun lightly nodded. He then landed beside Rio and walked into the ravine with him. Lin Yun suddenly recalled the mysterious Ancestral Land, and Rio, as one of the ancestors, should know many things. Thinking of this, Lin Yun asked, “Sir Rio, what’s going on with our Merlin Family’s Ancestral Land...?”

Rio smiled. He seemed to have been expecting this question. This was one of the secrets of the Merlin Family and couldn’t rashly be leaked, but the youth next to him wasn’t ordinary. He would know of some matters sooner or later. “Mafa... In reality, the source of our Merlin Family’s Ancestral Land has been an enigma to this day. No one knows how it appeared. The only thing I can tell you is that a

millennium ago, there was Lorr Merlin, our ancestor. He left the Ancestral Land and built the Andlusa Kingdom alongside the first king. After establishing the kingdom, he withdrew and returned to the Ancestral Land, and no one met him ever since.

Rio sighed as he looked at the dense fog, a complicated expression on his face. "Ever since Lorr Merlin disappeared, the successive generations of the powerhouses of the Merlin Family chose to live in the Ancestral Land, firstly to attack a higher realm, and secondly to wait for a certain matter to happen."

"Wait for a matter to happen?"

Hearing Rio's answer, Lin Yun was bemused. He could understand attacking a higher realm, but living in seclusion in the Ancestral just to wait for something... This sounded pretty strange. "Does Sir Rio know what that matter is...?"

"No. This was an ancestral teaching Lorr Merlin had left behind. Even if we don't know anything, we still comply with it," Rio said, perplexed. He didn't seem unwilling to answer the question, but he truly didn't know. He pointed to a tower in the distance. "That magic tower is said to be the dwelling of a Heaven Mage that disappeared, and in reality, the Ancestral Land is the true foundation of our Merlin Family. There are many Archmages here, and if ancestor Lorr is counted, we have three Heaven Rank powerhouses. As for the other one, you should have guessed. It is Santon Merlin. But he hasn't returned to the Ancestral Land for a long time and his last appearance seemed to have been in the Blood Moon Plane.

"The Merlin Family has truly exceeded my expectations, it's even deeper than I thought..." Hearing Rio's explanation, Lin Yun coughed with sorrow.

If he hadn't known the secret of the Merlin Family beforehand, he would have been truly shocked hearing this news. The Merlin Family actually had three Heaven Ranks!

The last time he came to the Ancestral Land was to undergo the Bloodline Ceremony. He didn't enter the ravine back then, but when passing by, he discovered the outline of over a dozen magic towers. Now, the deeper he went in, the more apprehensive he was. He finally understood what Rio meant by "many Archmages".

"This is only an Ancestral Land?"

Lin Yun walked alongside Rio for over ten minutes, but he was so shocked that he was speechless. He could clearly sense that this Ancestral Land was incomparably huge, just like a plane, and was ruled by the Merlin Family. It looked just like an independent kingdom. There were nearly a hundred magic towers with seven floors, and more could be seen in the depths...

Didn't that mean that the number of Archmage powerhouses was in the triple digits?

"Mafa, you can see now, this is the true Merlin Family..." On the way, Rio observed Lin Yun's expression and was secretly prideful. He then gave Lin Yun a bit of an explanation. "The most elite children of the Family would come to this place. This is the foundation of the Merlin Family. Not only are there many powerhouses here, but there are also all kinds of passages to various planes, some of which were conquered, and some still in the process of being conquered."

“Sir Rio, do the major forces of Okland have similar areas to our Ancestral Land?” Lin Yun didn’t doubt Rio’s words. The Ancestral Land was indeed showing such power and definitely had the qualifications to launch expeditions on every major plane. But he then remembered the Black Tower and the Cloud Tower.

It would be quite frightening if those forces also had places with the same layout as the Merlin Family.

“Naturally, those well established thousand-year-old forces also have their own locations similar to our Merlin Family’s...” Rio smiled gently. “In fact, this isn’t something you should have known, but you are already qualified, which is why I’m leading you to the Guardian Tower...”

Half an hour later, an imposingly large tower was now standing in front of the two. Just by standing in front of it, Lin Yun could feel rich mana assault his senses, and he couldn’t help looking up. The tower was built with incomparably profound arrays, and even with Lin Yun’s achievements in the field of alchemy, there was a small part he couldn’t understand.

Lin Yun and Rio entered the Guardian Tower together and followed the staircase up. After about ten minutes of walking, they reached the top floor of the Guardian Tower. Rio stopped and knocked on the door with a solemn expression. After hearing an answer from inside, he opened the door and entered with Lin Yun.

This place was a conference hall. It was extremely spacious, and a simple wooden table stood in the middle, around which seven old men were sitting. With one glance, Lin Yun felt apprehensive, because he saw that everyone here was stronger than Rio Merlin.

While he sized up these people, they also studied him, smiling to some extent.

“Very powerful...”

When Lin Yun’s eyes fell on the old man recuperating with his eyes closed on the other side of the table, his mind couldn’t help shivering. Although this man seemed to be sixty or seventy years old, there was no hint of his vitality declining, and he gave Lin Yun the feeling of an insurmountable mountain.

At this moment, a storm raged in Lin Yun’s mind.

‘That old man is too powerful.’

He hadn’t had that feeling before, even when he faced Star Sage Jouyi. That old man was definitely more powerful than Star Sage Jouyi!

He could sense that the old man had a hint of Extraordinary aura, but clearly, that old man still wasn’t at the Heaven Rank yet.

At this time, the old man opened his eyes and looked at Lin Yun for a few seconds before coughing. “Hey young man, we meet again...”

“...”

Lin Yun really wanted to spit up blood. He clearly remembered that a few months ago, Sir Ryan had said the same thing when he came to the Elder Council, but he really couldn’t remember when he met Sir Ryan and this person...

He could see that the old man who had just spoken had an important position among the seven people. One of the old men sitting on the side coughed twice and waved at Lin Yun, smiling kindly.

“Mafa, we meet again...”

That person was the Archmage that came to the Elder Council a few months ago, Ryan Merlin. He looked at the one who was almost Heaven Rank and said, “Mafa, let me introduce you. This is Sir Oren. He is the most powerful Archmage among the ancestors. He had even fought a Heaven Rank ancestor of the Watson Family over a hundred years ago and held his own. Oh, right, you should know of Ancestor Lorr, Ancestor Lorr is Oren’s father...”

Lin Yun looked at Oren in disbelief. Just the fact that he had fought a Heaven Rank ancestor of the Watson Family without being defeated shook him. Lin Yun clearly knew the gap between Archmages and the Heaven Rank, but Oren was able to contend against a Heaven Rank powerhouse despite only being a Peak Archmage. This was shocking.

No wonder that old man gave him this kind of feeling. It turned out that he had strength surpassing his rank.

Moreover, Sir Oren was extremely old. He knew that Lorr Merlin had come out of the Ancestral Land a millennium ago and helped establish the Andlusa Kingdom before vanishing. But Lorr being Oren’s father meant that Sir Oren was close to a thousand years old...

Lin Yun was startled speechless. If not for Sir Ryan’s introduction, he wouldn’t have guessed that Sir Oren was a millennium old. But it also explained his strength. Lin Yun knew that the most powerful in Noscent weren’t all geniuses. Some relied on their effort to steadily advance through realms and make up for their weakness. Oren might also be such a person.

After Ryan’s introduction, the old man known as Oren Merlin only smiled at Lin Yun, but he didn’t say anything.

Ryan smiled and nodded before looking at another person and starting to introduce everyone one by one.

“Chila Merlin. Became an Archmage three hundred years ago, already a 7th Rank Archmage.”

“Lyde Merlin. Became a Sword Saint two hundred and seventy years ago, already a 5th Rank Sword Saint.”

“Jass Merlin. Became an Archmage two hundred years ago, already a 7th rank Archmage.”

“Hodin Merlin. Became an Archmage two hundred and eighty years ago, already a 6th Rank Archmage.”

“Kara Merlin. Became a Sword Saint one hundred and fifty years ago, advanced to 7th Rank Sword Saint not long ago.”

## **Chapter 445: Volcanic Mountain Range**

Lin Yun was completely speechless. This was quite a formidable line-up. It wasn't easy to see high ranked Archmages and Sword Saints in Okland. The 5th Rank was a dividing line. Archmages before 5th Rank were classified as low-ranked Archmages. But after 5th Rank, they were classified as high-ranked Archmages. The difference in power between the former and the latter was huge.

But the seven old people in front of him were all high-ranked Archmages and Sword Saints. That kind of force was truly frightening.

The number of high-ranked Archmages and Sword Saints he had met before coming to the Ancestral Land was very small.

"Ryan, you seem to have forgotten to introduce yourself..."

Oren, who was sitting at the edge of the table, faintly smiled. He looked at Lin Yun and said, "He is Ryan Merlin. He became an Archmage two hundred years ago, and he is now a Peak 8th Rank Archmage. He is the Archmage with the best chance of becoming a Heaven Mage. Moreover, Mafa Merlin, I officially welcome you to become part of the Family Council!"

Although the old man had a kind voice, it also felt imposing. Lin Yun couldn't help feeling nervous when facing this old man. But he still had doubts. "What is the Family Council?"

"Haha... I almost forgot. In fact, the Family Council is the center of power of the entire Merlin Family. Not only for the outside Merlin Family, but also the Merlin Family in the Ancestral Land, in every major plane, and all the branches scattered throughout Noscent. They are all under the control of the Family Council, and you now officially became the 8th member of the Family Council."

In fact, Rio hadn't left after bringing Lin Yun in. Instead, he stood to the side. When he heard Oren's words, Rio was startled speechless and couldn't help looking at Lin Yun with envy. This was the Family Council, after all!

Rio, who had been in the Ancestral Land for several hundred years, clearly knew what the Family Council represented. It was the symbol of supreme authority, and they were in control of the entire Merlin Family's fate. He really didn't expect that this Mafa Merlin would become a member of the Family Council after entering the Guardian Tower for the first time.

If not because of the difference in status, Rio would have asked if this wasn't too careless.

After all, this was the Family Council.

How could one easily become a member?

Every single one of the seven members had lived for several hundred years, and they were qualified in terms of power and experience. These people were essential to the Family Council. But that Mafa Merlin was only a twenty-year-old youth, yet he became a member of the Family Council less than a year after entering the Merlin Family Manor. It felt like a dream.

But after recalling his own battle with the young mage, Rio couldn't help but shiver. Perhaps Sir Oren made the right decision. This youth was indeed not simple. Despite being just a 5th Rank High Mage, he had impressive fighting power, and even a 5th Rank Archmage wasn't his opponent.

If this kind of genius matured, he might end up becoming another Santon Merlin and becoming the Family's 4th Heaven Mage!

Moreover, the way the young mage said or handled things seemed very old-fashioned, not at all like a youth. Thinking through it, Rio more or less accepted the fact that Lin Yun was becoming a member of the Family Council. He was even looking forward to the path that the young mage would take in the future.

At this time, the way Rio looked at Lin Yun completely changed. There was a deep-seated fear within his eyes. What happened earlier made him realize that the young mage would easily hold a grudge. Now that he had become a member of the Family Council, he definitely couldn't provoke him.

"By becoming a member of the Family Council, shouldn't I be qualified to know the Merlin Family's true strength?" Lin Yun scratched his cheeks as he asked. Oren might have been speaking casually, but his words didn't give Lin Yun the opportunity to accept or reject the position. It was directly finalizing it, making him the 8th member of the Family Council.

But this clearly was something good...

He could naturally see that the standing of a member of the Family Council was extremely high. It was equivalent to being one of the decision-makers of the Merlin Family. To be honest, he hadn't cared much about the Merlin Family when he first came to Okland. He'd assumed that he would have no more contact with it after undergoing the bloodline ceremony.

But his way of thinking had changed as he got a deeper understanding of the Merlin Family. This force truly wasn't weak. Even in all of Noscent, the ancient Merlin Family should be at the top.

"Of course you are qualified..." Oren smiled. "In the past thousand years, three Heaven Rank powerhouses were born in the Merlin Family, but they aren't in the Ancestral Land. Santon Merlin's situation is not as bad. He last went to the Blood Moon Plane. As for the other two, there is no news of them. As for how many Sword Saints and Archmages there are, I can't give you an exact number right now, but it should be over 300! The current Merlin Family has about thirty private planes and a dozen more in the middle of being conquered. I can say for certain that what you can see right now is only the tip of the iceberg. A portion of the powerhouses aren't in the Ancestral Land but are instead divided among the major planes, or otherwise helping the Merlin Family expand in some part of Noscent.

"Regarding the troops, Ryan will show you. Alright, young man, do you have any other questions?" Oren's tone was monotone, as if he was narrating an insignificant matter.

"Sir Oren, I want to know the matters regarding the Raging Flame Plane..." After hearing Oren's introduction to the Merlin Family, Lin Yun remained silent for over ten seconds before asking this.

To be honest, he was already prepared when he asked about the Merlin Family's power, but he still ended up feeling surprised. Over three hundred Archmage level powerhouses, about thirty privately owned planes...

Was this really the Merlin Family he knew?

But then, Lin Yun quickly recalled the matter of the Raging Flame Plane, and after learning about the true strength of the Merlin Family, he didn't have to think much to know that the fight over the Raging



Flame Plane wasn't as simple as he had thought. Otherwise, Ryan wouldn't have come to the Merlin Family Manor a few months ago and chosen him as a commander.

It showed that the Family Council was very concerned about the battle over the Raging Flame Plane. It was a doubtful point by itself, not to mention the cooperation with the Watson Family.

After all, the Watson Family was a hostile force. Over three hundred years ago, they joined forces with the Charlotte Family and suppressed the outside Merlin Family. Had it not been for the young genius Santon Merlin coming out of Ancestral Land at a critical time and reversing the flow of the lost battle, the outside Merlin Family might have collapsed.

Naturally, after understanding some of the matters happening behind the scenes, Lin Yun understood that the true Merlin Family couldn't be so easily defeated.

Not falling out when facing a former enemy was good, and cooperation showed that there were many hidden secrets behind this.

But unexpectedly, Oren who had only been direct so far actually answered with a question unrelated to the Raging Flame War. "Mafa, you know about the Draconic War?"

Oren no longer had a relaxed expression, looking quite serious. Moreover, the atmosphere in the conference hall was a lot more solemn than when Lin Yun was announced as a member of the Family Council.

"I know..."

Lin Yun nodded. The Draconic War was famous in Noscent's history. How could he have not heard of it? That was a war that was sung about by bards and minstrels. It gathered many human powerhouses and happened at the end of the Nesser Dynasty. The dynasty ruled by the Chromatic Dragons and Pure-Blooded Elves was gradually heading towards its end.

All the Dragons appearing during the Draconic War were adult Chromatic Dragons that had reached Heaven rank. There were even terrifying existences such as the Three-Headed Gold Dragon.

That war was the beginning of the end of the Nesser Dynasty, and even though Mankind ultimately prevailed, they paid an extremely bitter price. Many Heaven Rank powerhouses had fallen.

During his trip to the Heaven Enlightening Plane, Lin Yun's cousin, William, obtained a crest of the Merlin Family. It was after seeing that crest that Lin Yun suspected that an ancestor of the Merlin Family had participated in the Draconic War, because only those who had participated in the war could use that kind of crest. It represented the highest honor.

Hearing Oren mention the Draconic War, Lin Yun linked the two together and felt that this might have something to do with the Merlin Family's ancestor.

"It's good that you know. In reality, the true ancestor of the Merlin Family can be traced back to the end of the Nesser Dynasty, and that ancestor was a very powerful existence, far more powerful than anyone could imagine. All the information concerning him clearly stated that this ancestor was far more powerful than Charles the Emperor. At the time, he used his own power to decide the outcome of the Draconic War." Oren seemed a bit emotional. "But all the clues leading to that ancestor are dead ends.

We can't seem to find out who he was. And in the initial stage of the 3rd Dynasty, the Merlin Family thrived for a very long time, but after the disappearance of that ancestor, as well as some unforeseen event, the Merlin Family gradually declined..."

"Unforeseen event? The Merlin Family gradually declined?"

Lin Yun was quite calm this time. Although he had been a bit surprised at first, he had already obtained a lot of clues beforehand, especially regarding the Well of Stars and the family crest, making him suspect that the Dark Sage was the ancestor of the Merlin Family. It reached the point where he was already numb when Oren told him these secrets.

It looked like his guess wasn't preposterous. The Dark Sage was most likely the ancestor of the Merlin Family, and even if he wasn't, he was definitely linked to the Merlin Family in countless ways.

"The information gathered showed that this ancestor had several disciples, and after the ancestor disappeared, one of them brazenly made a move against the Merlin Family and stole the inheritance left behind by the ancestor. Because of this, the Merlin Family lost their part of the inheritance and slowly started declining. Even now, we still don't know the identity of the ancestor." A trace of anger appeared on Oren's face. "The decline continued until a thousand years ago, when my father, Lorr Merlin, left the Ancestral Land and gradually let the Merlin Family recover."

"May I ask, how is this related to the Raging Flame Plane?" Lin Yun awkwardly interrupted Oren.

"Haha..."

Oren Merlin laughed, his anger gradually disappearing. He looked at Lin Yun and said, "I'm not done, so how could you know if it was related to the Raging Flame Plane or not? The family name of that disciple was Watson, the ancestor of the current Watson Family! He stole half of the ancestor's inheritance and it resulted in today's Watson Family. The truth behind the Watson Family wanting to suppress our Merlin Family a few hundred years ago was because they wanted to snatch another part of the inheritance. Doesn't it feel weird? Why would the Merlin Family cooperate with this kind of mortal enemy? In fact, the key reason is that inheritance."

"The inheritance is related to the Raging Flame Plane?" Lin Yun understood when he heard this and made a bold guess.

"Yes..."

Oren Merlin nodded. He took a deep breath and continued, "The ancestor left a ruin in the Raging Flame Plane, but all the relevant clues were incomplete. Only by collaborating with the Watson Family can we seek out the location. To be more exact, that ruin is in a volcanic mountain range."

"A volcanic mountain range..."

After saying that, Oren took out a damaged map from his pocket and spread it out in front of Lin Yun. After a few seconds, Lin Yun was stunned and in disbelief.

'It's that Volcanic Mountain Range!'

**Chapter 446: Enemies on a Narrow Path**

What shocked Lin Yun was that this place was too special. In the spacious decaying library, he had read the diary left behind by Starry Sky College's Wayate. It recorded Wayate's later years and contained all his experience, including how he led the Starry Sky College's Planar Legion to the depths of the Volcanic Mountain Range and ended up being besieged by a large amount of Raging Flame Beastmen. At the time, he scattered the Planar Legion and luckily hid away without being found. After exploring, he ended up discovering the Book of Ten Thousand Mantras.

As for the details regarding how he obtained it, Wayate hadn't mentioned it in the diary. He only vaguely said that it was in the Volcanic Mountain Range.

Although the Book of Ten Thousand Mantras, which could make countless mages envious, was hidden in the Volcanic Mountain Range, it definitely wasn't a safe place. After all, this was the headquarters of the Raging Flame Beastmen. Countless powerhouses were gathered there. To explore the ruin in the Volcanic Mountain Range was akin to suicide, so it was unknown how Wayate succeeded that day.

But when Lin Yun saw this map, he knew that he had to go to the Volcanic Mountain Range, whether it was for the Merlin Family or for himself.

"It looks like the location of the ruin can only be found when the map is pieced together, and the Watson Family also has a half. Several hundred years ago, the Watson Family's Ancestral Land also made a move against the Merlin Family for this damaged map. After several hundred years of silence, they finally suggested cooperation to jointly explore that ruin. This is the reason we are cooperating with the Watson Family." Oren's expression sank. "But, that is bound to belong to us. Our Merlin Family must not let the Watson Family get what they want..."

Lin Yun, the new member of the Family Council, stayed in the Guardian Tower for over an hour. He chatted with the ancestors for a long time before he was brought out by Ryan. According to Oren, he would be taken to experience the situation of the true Merlin Family.

The two of them walked side by side towards the depths of the Merlin Family, and after over half an hour, they appeared in front of a Planar Path. After stepping on the path, Lin Yun clearly felt that it was very stable and had most likely been set up by a Heaven Rank powerhouse.

His surroundings suddenly changed, and he appeared in a huge city, surrounded by countless buildings. There were many seven-floor magic towers. Silver-armored guards were passing through the street in a uniform manner, not a hint of disorder could be seen. After coming to this place, Lin Yun could feel that the mana was very rich here, making meditation more effective here than outside.

Although it was far from being on the level of his Demiplane, this kind of place was rarely seen in Noscent. Only the major forces could have places like this to nurture their young geniuses.

"Fiendish Aura, Undead Aura..."

Lin Yun suddenly felt two different kinds of auras and couldn't help frowning. How could such a place have both Fiendish Aura and Undead Aura? Curious, he cast a few Mage Eyes to fly in the surroundings, and after a few minutes, he caught sight of a very shocking scene. There were breaches in two different directions. Undead lifeforms and Hellish lifeforms were coming from the two breaches.

Caster Legions were fighting with these two different kinds of lifeforms. Although there were many of these foes, the Merlin Family's Caster Legions were quite formidable, even having some Archmages. They were currently dealing with the enemies, but they kept pouring in like an unending flow.

The Caster Legion wouldn't be able to avoid having some injuries during this kind of prolonged fight.

"Rumble..."

At this time, Ryan displayed his power as a Peak 8th Rank Archmage, bursting out and transforming into a huge Mana Hand as it rushed towards one of the breaches. The hand closed and countless Hellish lifeforms exploded, and that breach was slowly shut. Using the same method, the other breach was closed.

After finishing this, Ryan explained to Lin Yun, "The space here is very unstable. There are some lifeforms from different planes appearing here at regular intervals. But this is also good. It can temper our army and increase their fighting strength..."

Accompanied by Ryan Merlin, Lin Yun wandered around the city and found out that there was no difference from Noscent. There were many people living in it, and after listening to Ryan's explanation, he learnt that there were many young children and troops here. Moreover, there wasn't just one city. There were seven of them.

Ultimately, Lin Yun and Ryan left and returned to the Ancestral Land's Guardian Tower. They followed the staircase up, but when they reached the conference hall, they ended up meeting Thorne Merlin.

"Mafa Merlin!"

Thorne was clearly stunned when he saw Lin Yun inside the Guardian Tower, his gaze turning ice-cold. The person he loathed the most in the entire Merlin Family was Lin Yun.

He had placed all his hopes on Aube, but he ended up crippled.

Thorne was infuriated that Lin Yun wasn't punished after doing such a thing. With bloodshot eyes and a viper gaze, he hatefully said, "You have destroyed my son's Mana Whirlpool, turning him into a cripple. I'll never forgive you! Although I can't do anything to you now, just wait! I'll definitely carry out in the Raging Flame Plane what I promised that day! I'll throw you into the Wailing River."

Lin Yun's gaze couldn't help becoming icy. He frowned but didn't say anything. Instead, he poured mana into the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel and got ready...

"Thorne Merlin, so impudent! Do you know you are talking to?"

Ryan Merlin had naturally returned alongside Lin Yun. When he saw Thorne Merlin, he realized that something unpleasant might happen. He was very well aware of what had happened back then, but he hadn't been able to prevent it. Aube was crippled and Lin Yun fought against Thorne.

This gave him a headache. Thorne Merlin was a 5th Rank Sword Saint. Even in the Ancestral Land, he would be considered quite powerful. Sending him to the Raging Flame Plane with Mafa Merlin was most suitable, but unfortunately, there was deep hatred between the two of them, and it was very hard to defuse. However, Lin Yun's status in the Merlin Family had already changed, becoming one of the members of the Family Council.

Thus, Ryan severely reprimanded Thorne. His words had been improper, as the Family Council represented supreme authority in the Merlin Family. In other words, Mafa Merlin was worth a lot more than Thorne Merlin, to the point that Thorne Merlin could be convicted of a crime for speaking to him so rudely.

“Sir Ryan...”

Being suddenly reprimanded by Sir Ryan, Thorne was scared stiff. The last time he came to the Ancestral Land, he understood some secrets to some extent and he knew that the person standing in front of him had great influence over the entire place.

But he really couldn't understand why Sir Ryan flared up like this. After all, he was quite considerate towards him a few days ago.

Moreover, after being in contact with Sir Ryan for a while, he discovered that this old man with exceedingly high status was actually gentle and easy to get along with.

‘How come he suddenly got so angry? It looks like what I said to that Mafa angered Sir Ryan. But that doesn't make sense. What kind of person is Sir Ryan? He stands at the peak of the Archmage realm and has enormous influence. How could he care about Mafa?’

Thorne was confused by Ryan asking him if he knew he was talking to... After all, he was talking to Mafa Merlin...

‘Could it be that the person standing in front of me isn't Mafa Merlin? How could this be...’

‘I'd be able to recognize the scoundrel that crippled my son even if he turned into ashes.’

While Thorne was at a loss, Ryan's voice echoed once again. But this time, the old man's voice was solemn. “Thorne Merlin, you might be unaware, but Mafa Merlin officially became a member of the Family Council not long ago. We will not hold you accountable this time on the basis that you were unaware, but you must still apologize to Representative Mafa...”

After saying those words, Ryan smiled bitterly. He had noticed earlier that although the newly promoted Representative hadn't said anything, he had poured mana into his weapon and was ready to attack.

Although Lin Yun's actions weren't done overtly, and 5th Rank Sword Saint Thorne hadn't noticed, who was Ryan? He was an old fox that had lived for a few hundred years and was a Peak 8th rank Archmage. How could that little trick escape his sight?

However...

Fighting in the Guardian Tower of the Ancestral Land was really unprecedented.

Ryan was very clear about it. Others might not be bold enough to make a move inside the Guardian Tower, but what about this new Representative? After all, a few months ago, this new Representative not only caused havoc in the outer Merlin Family's Elder Council, but he even killed three Elders and crippled one.

Perhaps only Ryan himself knew that the reason he asked Thorne to apologize was actually to save Thorne's life. Because if Mafa Merlin really made a move, Thorne might not be able to handle it.

In fact, not long ago, Ryan had learnt from Rio Merlin about what had happened on the outskirts earlier. Even Rio Merlin, who had become a 5th Rank Archmage over half a year ago, was bullied within an inch of his life by this new Representative, let alone Thorne who had just become a 5th Rank Sword Saint.

It was no exaggeration. Ryan was truly saving Thorne Merlin...

## **Chapter 447: Change**

A few decades ago, Thorne Merlin had some outstanding achievements during a Planar War and was fortunate enough to travel to the Ancestral Land to undergo the bloodline ceremony. At the time, Ryan met him and mentally noted down his name. He paid attention to Thorne after that, and he wasn't disappointed, as Thorne made many great contributions during the past few decades.

In his eyes, Thorne was truly remarkable. He would be considered a powerhouse even in the Ancestral Land. He was qualified to lead an elite Planar Legion to conquer planes.

But...

But Ryan now felt that Thorne wasn't very pleasing to the eye...

"Family Council... Representative..."

Thorne was thoroughly stunned. He obviously knew of the Family Council. It was the true hub of power of the Merlin Family. Moreover, there were very few Representatives, and each of them had been famous figures, but they were now training in seclusion in the Ancestral Land. The Patriarch and the Elder Council of the Outer Family was simply a joke compared to the Family Council.

'How... How could this be? How could Mafa Merlin become a Representative!?'

He repeated Sir Ryan's words a few times in his mind and confirmed that he hadn't misheard. Mafa Merlin had truly become a Representative of the Merlin Family.

Thorne was startled speechless.

'A Representative...'

A Representative had supreme authority and exceedingly high status!

But, even though Thorne was thinking very hard about it, he couldn't understand. Mafa Merlin, who had disappeared a few months ago, just went to the Ancestral Land. How could he have become a Representative?

This was illogical...

After all, Ryan and the other members of the Family Council had been living in seclusion in the Ancestral Land for at least a hundred years and had the strength and experience required, so it made sense for them to be in the Family Council.

But this Mafa Merlin...

Whether it was his strength or experience, they were both insufficient. Moreover, just how long had he been in the Merlin Family for? Even if the few months he had disappeared for were counted, it would still be less than half a year!

Mafa Merlin becoming a Representative thoroughly shocked him, but apologizing was impossible! He unhesitatingly turned and left.

Ryan silently shook his head as he looked at that receding back, feeling somewhat dissatisfied with Thorne Merlin.

Lin Yun didn't say anything. He only smiled and secretly scattered the mana gathered in the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel. He chatted a bit with Ryan in the Guardian Tower before leaving the Ancestral Land to go back to the Merlin Family Manor.

He then stayed in the alchemy laboratory for over five hours, preparing some commonly used potions. After all, the Raging Flame Plane was very dangerous. Most lifeforms there had poisonfire, so Lin Yun had no choice but to prepare.

It was already night when he was done with this and returned to his residence. Just as he was about to start meditating, he recalled that group of Great Mages in the Demiplane. He had given them the Swift Star Mark and the Blazing Storm, and he was planning on helping explain things for them if he had time.

As they were a Magic Conducting Rune and a Meditation Law Set that came from the peak of the Magic Era, it wasn't easy to master them. Ross and Leon were extremely talented youths, so there would rarely be a part that they didn't understand while learning the Elemental Tide and the Arcane Ring. Lin Yun hadn't needed to explain anything to them.

But this wouldn't work for that group of Great Mages.

Their innate conditions were too inferior, and before meeting him, most of them would have had no chance to become Great Mages. They were able to advance with the help of Black Death Rune in the Bone Plane, but for them to understand the Swift Star Mark and Blazing Storm on their own was simply a fairy tale.

Lin Yun would lead the Planar Legion to the Raging Flame Plane the next day, and he might not be able to take the time to disappear for a while. Thus, he planned to use this last night to give pointers to the Great Mages.

After an incantation, an intense spatial fluctuation burst out. The next moment, he reached the naturally-born Demiplane and mist-like mana assaulted his senses, giving him a kind of godly feeling.

"Taji."

Lin Yun caught sight of a silhouette in the distance meditating on the lawn. In fact, Lin Yun hadn't been in contact with the fifty mages very often. The names he knew could be counted on his fingers, and this Taji was one of them. In Thousand Sails City, Taji was someone that had left a profound impression on him.

It hadn't been because Taji was outstanding... Rather, it was due to how slow-witted he was.

In the Bone Plane, when the mages relied on the Black Death Rune to transform Soul Fires into mana to advance to become Great Mages, Taji had been the last one in the group to advance.

“Boss...” Hearing this familiar voice, Taji opened his eyes and rushed to stand up. He was a bit overwhelmed and answered Lin Yun, “Boss, why are you looking for me?”

“Nothing much, I came to check on everyone’s understanding of the Swift Star Mark and the Blazing Storm...” Lin Yun smiled. “Taji, if there is anything you don’t understand regarding these two, you can ask me.”

“Eh...?”

Taji was obviously stunned, but he then said in surprise, “There doesn’t seem to be anything hard about them.”

Lin Yun’s expression suddenly became strange. He was staring at Taji in bewilderment. He didn’t dare to believe that Taji could completely comprehend the Blazing Storm and Swift Star Mark with his aptitude. Although they had only been in contact with the first part, which wasn’t profound, Taji’s words were quite unbelievable to Lin Yun.

But one thing was certain: Taji wouldn’t dare lie to him. This meant that Taji understood the Meditation Law Set and the Magic Conducting Rune. Thinking of this, he secretly extracted a wisp of Taji’s mana fluctuations and poured it into his Magic Array. After some time, his face suddenly paled and the way he looked at Taji changed.

“Boss, you... Are you okay?” Taji said anxiously.

“It’s nothing, you should go meditate first...”

After sending Taji away, Lin Yun frowned and stood there, lost in thought. He had lost himself just now because he had discovered something incredible. While rousing the Magic Array to analyze Taji’s aura, he accidentally found out a wisp of strange aura.

From the few times he came into contact with the Ancient God’s soul fragments, Lin Yun could easily determine that this wisp of strange aura was the aura of the Ancient God. This discovery shocked him. Taji was a human, so how could there be the aura of an Ancient God within his mana? This was too scary.

After all, no Ancient Gods appeared in Noscent after the end of the Ascian Dynasty. He could only link it to the Ancient God’s soul fragment in the Demiplane.

“Merlin, did you notice...”

A gloomy voice suddenly echoed beside Lin Yun’s ear as the elusive Enderfa turned into black smoke and came out from the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel, his three faces displaying different moods as it said to Lin Yun, “They are infected with taboo power, this is going to cause a disaster...”

“Taboo power?”

Enderfa’s appearance interrupted Lin Yun’s train of thought, making him frown faintly. “You mean that those Great Mages would obtain the power of Ancient Gods?”



“How could this be?” Enderfa disdainfully sneered before explaining, “You should know better than anyone how the mana of the Demiplane reached this point. As for those Great Mages, they are absorbing that mana, and after some time, their bodies will start gathering wisps of the Ancient Gods’ aura.

“Every Ancient God is an existence surpassing Heaven Rank. Even just one wisp contains extremely great power, and under the effect of that aura, it will cause qualitative changes in those Great Mages. That change wouldn’t reflect in their power, but rather, in their magic talent.”

“What...”

Lin Yun was almost startled speechless. The biggest weakness of these fifty mages was their poor talent in magic, and he wasn’t able to change it. After all, even he could hardly get hold of fifty Mana Baptism Potions. After hearing Enderfa, he realized that this might be a good thing.

With his insight, he could naturally see that these mages with poor magical talent would at most be able to fuse their nine Magic Conducting Runes together and reach the High Mage realm.

But the High Mage realm wasn’t as simple as accumulating mana. One would need an extremely high comprehension to be able to walk deeper and deeper in that realm.

The fifty mages with poor aptitudes clearly didn’t possess such comprehension. Lin Yun estimated that the group would reach their limits around the level of 5th Rank High Mages.

But a change beyond his expectations had happened. After meditating in the Demiplane, the aura of an Ancient God appeared on those mages’ bodies, and according to Enderfa, it improved their aptitudes, but Lin Yun was unclear as to what extent.

But one thing was certain: the qualitative improvement in these mages’ magical aptitudes would cut down the time they need to reach the High Mage realm to less than three months!

“Merlin, you shouldn’t forget that it is an Ancient God, it is taboo. Everything concerning them is taboo, including their power. That might not be all that changed with these mages. If they keep meditating in the Demiplane and absorbing this mana, the amount of Ancient God aura will accumulate and maybe, after ten to twelve years, it might condense into a drop of Ancient God Blood. Although it wouldn’t be pure, it would still be extremely frightening...” All of Enderfa’s faces had alarm plastered all over.

Lin Yun’s eyes twitched when he heard that. He felt as if it was a dream, as if it was unreal. He originally planned on making those fifty mages become High Mages to increase the Gilded Rose’s strength. However, Enderfa told him that these mages would not only have their magical aptitudes strengthened, but they might even have the bloodline of Ancient Gods in the future.

#### **Chapter 448: Planar Legion**

The former was already a huge surprise. After all, those mages that had inferior aptitudes could become High Mages in a short time in such a blessed environment. If their talent was strengthened, they were bound to walk further and further along the magic path. After becoming 9th Rank High Mages, they might even eventually become Archmages.

As for the latter...

That was something he didn't dare to think of. To have the bloodline of an Ancient God, even if it was just mixed blood, was scary enough. In Noscent, everything regarding Ancient Gods was taboo, but Lin Yun didn't dare to imagine how crazy the achievements of a group of mages with Ancient God Bloodline would be in the future.

He could be sure of one thing: this group of mages was no longer ordinary, it was the most special group of mages since time immemorial.

Enderfa soon returned to the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel, but the extremely excited Lin Yun couldn't calm down. He made a trip around the Demiplane, but this time, the way he looked at the mages greatly changed.

In the future, these people would become a terrifying force.

And he planned on sparing no efforts to nurture them.

Standing on the lawn, Lin Yun roused his Magic Array to its peak and covered the area where those mages were cultivating. Not long after, Lin Yun discovered that they were indeed progressing at a very fast pace, and three of them had already condensed their Magic Conducting Rune after just four days.

He could foresee that after three months, they would all become High Mages. At that time, the joint burst power of these mages with the Blazing Storm would be frightening. He had originally predicted that they would be able to deal with Archmages below 5th Rank, but the unforeseen matter of the Ancient God aura made this a bit unpredictable. Maybe even he would have some trouble when faced with those fifty mages.

After staying four to five hours in the Demiplane, Lin Yun returned to his room. It was already dawn, so Lin Yun prepared himself and opened his door, only to discover that William, Ross, and Leon were waiting for him.

"Cousin Mafa, these two guys want to follow us to the Raging Flame Plane." William helplessly said, rolling his eyes.

Who would have thought that Ross and Leon, the two geniuses with the greatest chance of becoming the next Patriarch of the Outer Merlin Family, would actually fall so fast.

The relationship between Ross and Leon was very precarious. After Aube was crippled, only the two of them remained in the race for the seat of the next Patriarch. If nothing unexpected happened, one of the two would become the future Patriarch.

The competition had already reached its climax.

They knew that Lin Yun would go to the Raging Flame Plane as a Planar Legion Commander, so they didn't slack off after returning from the Tulan Mountain Range because they were afraid of missing that opportunity.

They knew very well what kind of benefits they could get from following Lin Yun after their experience in the Tulan Mountain Range. This time, Lin Yun wanted to go to the Raging Flame Plane, so how could they not follow?

These two youths were competing. If one of them didn't follow, wouldn't he lag behind the other?

Lin Yun didn't refuse them and only smiled, allowing Ross and Leon to follow him. After interacting for a few months, he knew that these two were trustworthy individuals.

After that, they spend a lot of effort to wake up the slumbering Xiuban before the party was finally ready to head towards the Ancestral Land. As for the Draconic Beastman, he had gone straight to sleep after returning to the Merlin Family Manor and had just woken up. He was carrying Carnage while following behind Lin Yun, yawning and mumbling.

Half an hour later, they reached the Ancestral Land's ravine. Although the ravine was filled with a thick layer of fog and they couldn't see anything, Lin Yun could still feel the imposing momentum of the Legion rushing forth from all directions.

He had roughly guessed that this should be the Planar Legion that would follow his lead in the Raging Flame Plane. He discreetly roused his Magic Array to its pinnacle and was able to figure out the situation within a few hundred meters. This was a huge Planar Legion consisting of about a thousand people.

'They are all at least Great Mages...'

Lin Yun held his breath. Although most of these people were Great Mages and weren't particularly outstanding, when a thousand of them stood there and countless mana fluctuations and aura fluctuations mixed together, the momentum was quite powerful.

In fact, he was very surprised when he found out that all of them were at least Great Mages. This Planar Legion was very frightening!

Even in Okland, Great Mages weren't as numerous as this. Although each major force had its own method of nurturing powerhouses, nurturing a Great Mage wasn't that easy. After all, in Thousand Sails City, Lin Yun had to borrow the Black Death Rune and have it transform the Soul Fires in the Bone Plane into mana, which took three months to make those 50 mages become great mages.

Yet, the Merlin Family dispatched over a thousand Great Mages in one breath. How could he not be shocked?

With the insight of the Magic Array, he quickly found out that the amount of High Mages, Divine Archers, and Expert Swordsmen wasn't low in this Planar Legion either. There were close to a hundred of them.

The true strength of the Merlin Family was a bit scary.

"You are Mafa Merlin, the Planar Legion Commander?"

As Lin Yun was immersed in his amazement, a disagreeable voice rang out. Lin Yun then noticed two figures coming out of the dense fog. One of them was a middle-aged man with an arrogant expression, wearing a mage robe and holding a magic staff emitting a frightening aura.

'True Spirit Magic Tool...'

With one glance, Lin Yun knew that the magic staff was a genuine True Spirit Magic Tool, and from the mana fluctuations emitted by that middle-aged man, he should be a 2nd Rank Archmage. The power of

this middle-aged man with his magic staff should have exceeded his own rank, so he'd likely be more powerful than 3rd Rank Archmages.

When the middle-aged man appeared, Leon, who had been standing next to Lin Yun, frowned. It was clear that he had never seen that middle-aged man in the Merlin Family.

This meant that this person ought to be someone from the Ancestral Land.

Coming out alongside the middle-aged man was a thin and bony old man who seemed to be over seventy. His body was tightly wrapped in his black robe, and although he looked at Lin Yun in a bad way, he was a lot more polite than the middle-aged man. "You are High Mage Merlin?"

"I am..."

Lin Yun calmly nodded, squinting as he looked at the two Archmages in front of him. With his insight, he could naturally tell that these two should be some of the most powerful members of this Planar Legion.

"Acknowledged, I am Ida Merlin..." The middle-aged man shot a glance at Lin Yun expressionlessly. "Commander Thorne took a part of the Planar Legion and rushed to the Raging Flame Plane two hours ago. Mafa Merlin, you are a little late..."

Ida Merlin was from the Ancestral Land and had participated in countless Planar Wars in the past decades, contributing in every major plane.

To be honest, Ida wasn't looking forward to working with this young mage.

He thought about it a lot and couldn't understand the intention of the Family Council. They actually sent a 5th Rank High Mage as a Planar Legion Commander. This was insane!

Moreover, he had heard that this young mage had no experience of Planar Wars.

Ida had been shocked by this news and had wondered if there had been a mistake. How could such a person become a Planar Legion Commander? Was the Family Council deliberately planning to have the Planar Legion destroyed in the Raging Flame Plane? Why else would they send such a person as their commander?

He simply couldn't understand.

As he thought that he would have to unconditionally obey the orders of a commander who didn't know anything, Ida was driven mad. If possible, he would really like to withdraw from this Planar Legion.

In his eyes, the decision of the Family Council was too silly. Originally, the Planar Legion should have followed Thorne Merlin, but now, half of the authority was given to Mafa Merlin. In the Ancestral Land, Ida had heard of Thorne Merlin's battle achievements, and he would have no problem if Thorne had been leading the entire Planar Legion.

But reality wasn't as nice.

This young mage didn't have the slightest bit of self-awareness, hadn't experienced any Planar Wars, and wasn't obviously powerful. There was not a single good point. And Ida, who spent so much of his

time in Planar Wars, knew that a single mistake from a commander would have a huge effect and might lead to the destruction of the Planar Legion.

Thinking of this, Ida's expression turned cold. 'It looks like I have to wake up this Mafa Merlin early on. If he goes on like that, everyone will run out of luck, me included...' He then said, "Mafa Merlin, I heard you had no experience of Planar Wars? That's fine, this isn't a huge problem. Commander Thorne has a lot of experience, he's already participated in Planar Wars before you were even born and contributed greatly. I think you should carefully study under Commander Thorne, you'll benefit a lot that way."

"Oh, really?" Lin Yun scratched his cheek and threw a strange look at Ida, wondered if that guy was ill. How could Lin Yun not understand the meaning of those words? He was asking him to defer to Thorne in the Raging Flame Plane.

How could this ever happen...

### **Chapter 449: Flame Demon Fort**

Firstly, even if he agreed, the Family Council wouldn't agree. After all, the real purpose of this Planar War was to go to the Volcanic Mountain Range to explore the ruin of the ancestor.

"High Mage Mafa, it would be best to listen to Commander Thorne's opinion before making a decision. This would prevent many risks..." The black-robed mage chuckled. He was clearly also questioning Lin Yun's ability, but he was more reserved than Ida. "High Mage Mafa, I'm sorry, I almost forgot to introduce myself. I am Yuri Merlin. I've been transferred from the Ancestral Land."

"Sir Yuri, this matter can wait until we are in the Raging Flame Plane..." Lin Yun couldn't help frowning. After saying that, he gave the cold shoulder to Yuri and Ida and inspected the Planar Legion. He knew that this was only a part of the Planar Legion, as Thorne had most likely brought the majority with him.

They didn't remain there. Once the order was issued, over a dozen defensive towers flickered with radiant light and emitted frantic mana fluctuations. After a few seconds, space began to distort under the fierce forces and a stable Planar Path appeared, leading to the Raging Flame Plane.

It took quite a bit of time for a thousand people to go through the Planar Path. Lin Yun waited until they all went through before following suit. His surroundings changed, and the first thing he felt was a stifling and burning hot aura. Lin Yun raised his head and saw a fiery, bloody sky in which a crimson sun was scattering its relentless rays everywhere.

There was a strong killing intent filling the surroundings.

This was the Raging Flame Plane...

All major forces in Okland never gave up on their plan to conquer this plane. It was an extremely huge plane that was rich in materials. Including the Merlin Family, all the top forces of Okland had obtained indescribable benefits from this plane.

But, after undergoing a thousand years of Planar Wars, the Raging Flame Beastmen were still holding the front line. Even if all of Okland's major forces went all-out, they might not be able to completely conquer this plane.

Nothing could be done about it, because the Raging Flame Beastmen were truly troublesome.

Who knew how many young geniuses had been buried in this place? Okland's major forces would usually send their geniuses to this plane to get experience. However, many of them would forever remain there, never to leave.

Even youths like Leon, Ross, and William had set foot in this Raging Flame Plane, and more than once.

When Lin Yun landed on that pitch-black soil, he began to walk as he quickly roused his Magic Array. He soon discovered that the Elemental Laws of this plane were very different from Noscent's. In fact, he had read a large amount of information pertaining to this Raging Flame Plane before leaving. Although the plane was rich in resources, it was also incomparably dangerous, and there was quite a lot of lava. But this kind of environment was very advantageous for the Raging Flame Beastmen.

Right now, he and the Planar Legion were in a fort. From the information he had read, he knew that this was the Flame Demon Fort controlled by the Merlin Family. The Merlin Family was in control of three forts in the Raging Flame Plane, and the Flame Demon Fort was the most important one...

After all, the Flame Demon Fort was known as one of the Seven Great Forts of the Raging Flame Plane. It was at a strategic location and had extraordinary significance. All the other forces were envious of that place.

It was said that several hundred years ago, the Raging Flame Beastmen had once formed an alliance with a Flame Demon from the Abyss. Following this alliance, the Flame Demon helped them defend this fort, making many of Okland's forces suffer disastrous losses while trying to capture the fort. That Flame Demon's strength was beyond their expectations.

After that, although many forces coveted the Flame Demon Fort, none of them dared to make a move on it.

Up until three hundred years ago, when the genius of the Merlin Family, Santon Merlin, killed that Flame Demon in one strike, letting them easily take over the Flame Demon Fort. Since then, the Merlin Family had always remained in control of this fort, and its impact had been monumental.

It could be said that the Flame Demon Fort was the foundation of the Merlin Family in the Raging Flame Plane.

"High Mage Mafa..."

At this time, the Archmage called Yuri hurriedly rushed over, looking anxious. He was panting by the time he reached Lin Yun.

"Sir Yuri, what's wrong?"

Seeing Yuri's flushed visage, Lin Yun couldn't help frowning and realized that something must have happened.

"The Planar Legion led by Commander Thorne is currently in battle with an Elemental Legion. High Mage Mafa, please pass down the order to reinforce Commander Thorne. Otherwise, even the Flame Demon Fort might face a huge crisis," Yuri said with a grave expression.

Lin Yun didn't immediately respond. He urged his Magic Array to its pinnacle and caught the aura of Elemental lifeforms, as well as some chaotic mana. The battlefield was roughly a few kilometers away, and after sending out three Mage Eyes, he could see the situation there.

Although he had made mental preparations, he still couldn't help holding his breath. He could see volcanoes fiercely bursting and lava flowing everywhere within that ten-kilometer area. Raging flames were ignited everywhere and the temperature in that region had reached frightening heights.

Just as Yuri said, the enemy was an Elemental Legion, and through a Mage Eye, Lin Yun could see that the swarms of Elemental lifeforms were practically endless. In the fiery sky, numerous Flame Crows were gathered. There were at least several tens of thousands of them, and Lin Yun knew that these weren't true Flame Crows... They were Volcano Spirits.

Volcano Spirits were similar to Flame Spirits, but their bodies were a lot smaller. They could transform into Flame Crows and would usually appear in large numbers. Even an Archmage would feel numb when meeting thousands of them.

These countless Volcano Spirits, in the form of Flame Crows, were covering the sky. Their fire attacks were falling down like raindrops, covering the whole area. Although the power of a Volcano Spirit wasn't worth mentioning and couldn't even break through a Great Mage's Mana Shield, the Mana Shields wouldn't be able to handle so many of them.

But the ones who could truly constitute a threat to the Planar Legion weren't the Volcano Spirits, but rather the Ash Spirits on the ground. The power of this kind of Flame Elemental was many times higher than that of the Volcano Spirits. Their bodies were similar to those of the Earth Puppets and were emitting a thick aura of sulfur.

It was different from the aura of lifeforms from Hell, as it was actually a poisonous gas.

Although the Ash Spirits moved extremely slowly, the highly toxic gas they emitted darkened any Mana Shield that it came into contact with. The shields simply couldn't resist the highly toxic corrosion, and in a short few seconds, the skins of those mages would become inflamed. It was a symptom of their blood slowly congealing and their fighting power being forfeited.

In this chaotic battlefield, everyone only had time to look out for themselves. Losing power was equal to dying.

"Rumble..." A loud sound came from the battlefield.

It felt as if the earth was shaking as a huge silhouette appeared in Lin Yun's sight. He couldn't help being startled. A hundred-meter-tall silhouette emitting a blazing aura came out of the flames. It was a Lava Giant. Lava Giants were covered in flowing lava that would splatter whenever they moved. And this lava contained fierce poisonfire. It would be very hard for these Great Mages to survive if they came into contact with it. They would turn to ashes.

If there had only been a few Lava Giants, then they might not have been enough to cause any losses to the Planar Legion, but there were several hundred of them. They were like mountains towering above the mages, and their frightening power made everyone shiver. Countless people died under their hands.

Lava Giants were relatively high-level Elemental lifeforms. The weakest was comparable to a High Mage.

But in this battle, the Planar Legion led by Thorne Merlin didn't show any signs of disorder when faced with such a terrible enemy. Under Thorne's directions, they uniformly attacked and defended. At this time, countless spells flew towards those Elemental lifeforms. Especially from the center of the formations, where a large number of Divine Archers were shooting volleys of arrows towards the sky, causing countless small, red dots to fall down. These were Volcano Spirits.

As for Thorne Merlin, he was leading the Planar Legion's strongest powerhouses to attack those Lava Giants.

Thorne did have some skill when it came to leading a Planar Legion to battle. In fact, the difference in power between the Planar Legion and the Elemental Legion was huge. Had it been any other person leading them, chaos might have already broken out and the Planar Legion might not have been able to retain the majority of their strength.

But even so, the battle was in a deadlock, and a part of the Planar Legion was already showing some signs of fatigue and mana exhaustion. The most frightening part was that the number of Elemental lifeforms hadn't decreased, and actually showed signs of increasing.

Even Lin Yun could see that the Planar Legion led by Thorne was facing a huge crisis.

If they couldn't ward off the Elemental lifeforms, the Flame Demon Fort might be at risk.

Lin Yun didn't hesitate and immediately gave the order to lead the majestic Planar Legion to reinforce Thorne Merlin. Soon, countless spells flew out and killed quite a few Elemental lifeforms. Under the fierce counterattack, it took a few minutes for the two Planar Legions to merge together and greatly increase their strength, thoroughly breaking the deadlock before they attacked together.

In this battle against countless Flame Elementals to defend the Flame Demon Fort, the Merlin Family's Planar Legion had a slight advantage.

"Phew..."

#### **Chapter 450: Crazy**

As a leader, Thorne Merlin, who was killing Elemental lifeforms at the edge of the fort, let out a relieved sigh. He had felt restless before Lin Yun's arrival. After all, there were too many enemies, and even with him leading this unprecedentedly powerful Planar Legion, he wasn't too confident about prevailing over so many enemies.

Suffering a defeat was equal to losing the Flame Demon Fort, and to Thorne, who was rarely defeated, it would be a disgrace.

Fortunately, Mafa Merlin led the Planar Legion over at an opportune time, which stabilized the situation. With his experience in Planar Wars, he came to the conclusion that the Flame Demon Fort was in no danger and that they should just deal with the enemies there. It likely wouldn't take long before they were victorious.

He slashed with his sword, his sword aura ripping apart over a dozen Ash Spirits. Suddenly, three silhouettes flew out from the fort and headed straight towards that endless Elemental Legion.



“He... He is crazy!”

Thorne was shaken and almost forgot to continue using his sword. He had recognized one of the three individuals that flew out of the fort. It was Mafa Merlin, while the other two were Archmages from the Ancestral Land.

‘He is definitely making trouble!’

Thorne’s expression suddenly became sour. He was filled with fury, but he couldn’t go deal with the matter. The sword in his hand kept slashing at the approaching Ash Spirits, tearing them apart.

The outcome of the battle was promising, and after the two Planar Legions joined up, they had thoroughly reversed the battle situation. But there were too many Elemental lifeforms. If they rashly pushed into the enemy lines, they would be surrounded by waves of Elemental lifeforms, putting them in huge danger. With his decades of experience, he knew that they could only fight defensively in such circumstances. Defending and counter attacking; only like that could they preserve the Flame Demon Fort.

‘What is that scoundrel Mafa Merlin doing? He actually dares to take two Archmages with him and charge into the Elemental lifeforms’ main force?’

Thorne truly couldn’t understand how such a brainless guy could have been appointed to the Raging Flame Plane by the Family Council.

He suddenly thought, ‘That guy just became a member of the Family Council! Is he trying to do something bold to establish his status as a Representative? Although he does need to consolidate his position, the situation has to be taken into account...’

In fact, Thorne’s mood had been very complicated when he saw Lin Yun take two Archmages out of the Flame Demon Fort. It was the damned scoundrel that crippled his son, after all. They had an irreconcilable hatred, and Thorne had resisted the urge to attack Lin Yun several times when he saw him before. He would definitely be very happy if Lin Yun died fighting the Elemental Legion.

But the situation was a bit special now...

He had experienced Lin Yun’s strength several months ago. By relying on the two Magic Tools, this young mage able to contend against a 5th Rank Sword Saint like himself. In the dangerous Raging Flame Plane, Mafa Merlin’s power could be considered at the top and could even reverse the battle situation. This was also why he sighed in relief when he saw Lin Yun and the Planar Legion coming to reinforce him earlier.

Although he loathed Mafa Merlin, he had no choice but to admit that this scoundrel wasn’t weak. He would play a critical role in this Planar War. If they lost such a powerhouse, the Merlin Family Planar Legion would have to act much more carefully.

This was the reason that Thorne was in a complicated mood. Although he loathed Mafa Merlin, he didn’t want him to die straight away. They had to win this Planar War in the Raging Flame Plane before he died.

Thorne was very scared and on edge at this moment. He had been fighting the Elemental Legion since he first reached the Flame Demon Fort. He clearly knew how frightening those Elemental lifeforms were. If Mafa Merlin was surrounded, then even if they were comparable in strength, it would be hard for him to escape. After all, no matter how powerful a mage was, they would still eventually suffer from mana exhaustion. Thorne felt that Mafa Merlin might really not be able to return to the fort when faced with the endless attacks of countless Elemental lifeforms.

“Heavens, those three are courting death! Could it be that they do not know how frightening the Elemental Legion is? They actually dared to rush straight at them...”

Thorne wasn't the only one who had noticed, the Merlin Family's forces were in the middle of a counterattack, and thus, several thousand members of the Planar Legion could see those three shadows. Many of them were startled speechless.

That really was suicidal.

“That young mage looked like High Mage Mafa Merlin, and the other two were Sir Ida and Sir Yuri...”

The group that followed Thorne to the Raging Flame Plane first naturally didn't recognize Lin Yun, but the ones that had just arrived did recognize him. Let alone the High Mages, even Expert Swordsmen recognized him. Rushing out like that was extremely dangerous.

For a moment, almost everyone in the battlefield was focused on Lin Yun. They weren't shocked by his boldness, but rather were looking down on him, because they could see that this young mage wasn't doing anything after being surrounded by the Elemental Legion. He was actually just hiding behind the two Archmages!

Not making a move in such a situation was not good, even if he was a Commander!

After all, Thorne, who was also a Commander, had never run from a fight and had always been guarding the edge of the fort, using his strength to shock the Elemental lifeforms and sharing the pressure of the entire Planar Legion.

‘But this Mafa Merlin on the other hand...’

The solemn Lin Yun naturally didn't know that he had already been despised by the countless onlookers. He only knew that this battle was far from being as simple as it appeared...

Ever since he led the Planar Legion to provide assistance to Thorne, he had discovered many suspicious points. This battle had been going on for over an hour and they had killed over ten thousand Elemental lifeforms, yet the quantity of Elemental lifeforms didn't show any signs of decreasing. In fact, by now it was quite clear that they were increasing.

Another point bothered him. Where were these Elemental lifeforms coming from? There had to be a mastermind behind this. And while operating the Magic Array, Lin Yun finally found a clue. To be more precise, it was a faint aura, and the owner of that aura seemed to be a Raging Flame Beastman!

In fact, catching a wisp of that aura wasn't that easy. The endless Elemental lifeforms within ten thousand meters, as well as the several thousand mages, swordsmen, and archers also emitted some

aura. Even with his almost omnipotent Magic Array, he had to spend some effort before catching a wisp of that aura.

After figuring out that this wisp of aura belonged to some Raging Flame Beastmen, he figured that they were probably behind everything. Otherwise, why would so many Elemental lifeforms appear without reason?

Moreover, they were Flame Elementals...

The Raging Flame Beastmen were well-known for their fire manipulation, and furthermore, this race's mages had extremely powerful summoning abilities. It was for this reason that many of Okland's major forces suffered huge losses here.

After discovering this hidden aura, Lin Yun knew that this war was in no way as calm as it was on the surface. Although the Planar Legion held the advantage for now and was stably defending the Flame Demon Fort, a huge crisis was hidden underneath. From Lin Yun's conjecture, these Raging Flame Beastmen should be hidden alongside the Elemental Legion, continuously summoning and manipulating Elemental lifeforms. The crisis wouldn't be removed if they were left alone, but would instead grow more severe.

And with the battle being in a deadlock, the Planar Legion would gradually be exhausted, and at that time, the Flame Demon Fort might be unable to defend against the danger. This wasn't an outcome Lin Yun was willing to see.

And right now, he was going through the Elemental Legion, relying on his Magic Array to seek the Raging Flame Beastmen. Only by taking care of them would he be able to quickly finish this battle.

But it was clear that those Raging Flame Beastmen weren't idiots.

They were meticulously hiding their auras.

Under normal circumstances, trying to hide one's aura from Lin Yun's Magic Array required power on par with Star Sage Jouyi's. This was something absolutely impossible.

But the situation was a bit special...

In this utterly chaotic battlefield, finding the aura of hidden Raging Flame Beastmen would normally be utterly inconceivable. But the most problematic part was that the aura of these Raging Flame Beastmen was very similar to the aura of Elemental lifeforms.

Although this still wasn't beyond Lin Yun's capabilities, it was still troublesome.

At this time, all his energy was focused on locating those Raging Flame Beasts. He simply couldn't fight if he wanted to find them, so he could only instruct Ida and Yuri, these two Archmages, to protect him.

As for the ignorant onlookers, they fiercely despised Lin Yun.

"Rumble..." A world-shaking sound echoed as several dozens of Lava Giants swept over and surrounded Lin Yun's group.

They were followed by many Ash Spirits, and for a moment, scalding lava flew down from a Lava Giant, so densely packed that it couldn't be guarded against.

Although Ida and Yuri were Archmages and could face these many enemies, they suddenly had a numb feeling. After casting one fierce spell after another, exploding great amounts of Elemental lifeforms, their expressions gradually became unsightly.

There were truly too many Elemental lifeforms surrounding the three of them. Ida and Yuri were sparing no efforts to try to open a crack out of that encirclement, but contrary to their expectations, the speed at which they killed Elemental lifeforms was far outstripped by the speed at which Elemental lifeforms gathered around them. They would need a lot more firepower if they wanted to get away safely.

But now that they had fallen this deep into the encirclement, where could they find a High Rank Archmage?