

## **Magic Era 861**

### **Chapter 861: Family Name**

Everyone was curious about Lin Yun's actions, but no one dared to disturb him. They only looked at those sheets of paper being continuously filled with writing and knew that Lin Yun was dealing with some important matter. William even followed him sometimes so that no one would approach.

For three days, Lin Yun walked through the entire Radiant Fort, and only then did he stop his seemingly aimless wandering.

"This is actually an array! The entire Radiant Fort is an array!"

After three days of intense calculations, slowly checking every corner of the Radiant Fort, the outcome ended up being exactly the same as his original guess: The Radiant Fort itself was an array!

Now, Lin Yun somewhat understood why the Radiant Fort was constructed a bit differently than the others. It looked a bit sturdier, and the materials used were relatively more precious.

The crude wall of the Radiant Fort was made of not only thick logs, but also some sturdy black stones unique to the Raging Flame Plane.

The entire Radiant Fort made up a huge array, and its biggest effect was to absorb Abyssal power through planes!

Obtaining Abyssal power without opening an Abyssal Gate wasn't simple. One might even suffer from a lurking Abyssal powerhouse and give that Demon an opportunity to descend.

Moreover, absorbing too little power would have no effect, while too much power would inevitably lead to being exposed.

The only method was to turn the entire Radiant Fort into an array, as only an array that big could suppress such mana fluctuations and absorb a large amount of Abyssal power over a long period of time.

The biggest effect of the absorbed power was to support the fierce barrier. The power needed to maintain such a huge barrier wasn't something a mage or two could provide.

Apart from this, the second greatest effect was to help the Black Iron Beastmen enhance their strength.

Half of the Black Iron Beastmen's bloodline came from that Greater Abyssal Overlord, so they could also absorb Abyssal power. Through an ancient ceremony, the Abyssal power absorbed by the array could accelerate the progress of Black Iron Beastmen.

To those Black Iron Beastmen, this array was just as important as arrays increasing mana density were to mages. This was like a place with extremely high mana density.

This was also why Black Iron Beastmen were known to be powerful and why it was rare for an adult Black Iron Beastman Warrior to not even have the power of an Expert Swordsman. The proportion of powerhouses among them was frightening.

Lin Yun had already guessed this outcome, but he felt that it wasn't quite right. Because according to the calculations, the barrier maintained by the absorbed Abyssal power should have been even more powerful than the previous barrier.

And the power absorbed by the array wasn't pouring underground but instead dispersed through the entire Radiant Fort. Thus, the Abyssal aura was extremely thick.

After looking at the sheets flipping before him, a trace of understanding flashed in Lin Yun's eyes.

"Sure enough, there really was a hidden array!"

After making some meticulous comparisons, Lin Yun discovered that this huge fort-array was hiding an easily overlooked array.

But saying that it was a hidden array wasn't right, because this array was definitely a part of the visible array, and its effects were also part of the original array.

The person who arranged the Radiant Fort had used a very clever method to compound an additional array onto the main array.

The same node might be part of the two arrays, and the two arrays wouldn't affect each other and could even be regarded as sides of the same coin.

That was the brightest part of this array. Another Artisan with a deep understanding of arrays would be able to notice that the entire Radiant Fort was an array if he was a bit careful. He would even be able to notice the effect of the array, but he would hardly be able to discover that there was another array at this seemingly normal part of the array!

Everything was in the open, so it was hard for someone to find the other array.

The person who arranged the array was highly skilled in the field of arrays and should be at least a Saint Alchemist or an Artisan close to that realm. Moreover, his grasp of alchemists' minds was perfect.

No alchemist would pay attention to those very obvious areas. They would instead search for hidden things.

By the time those alchemists found those clues they thought had expected to be hidden, they would overlook the most obvious parts.

As for Lin Yun, he felt that this "hidden" array was the most important part!

Because the most important effect of this "hidden" array was to intercept a part of the Abyssal power absorbed by this huge array and let it flow underground!

After all, the power extracted by this huge array was enormous, far from the power of an Archmage.

That power not only maintained the defenses of the Radiant Fort, but it also provided all the Black Iron Beastmen with aura training assistance, upgrading the power of their bloodline.

The amount of power used simply couldn't be calculated, but at least 30% of that power was separated and sent underground. Just what was underground?

30% didn't sound like much, but if that power was supplied by spirit mana crystals instead, then even the Black Tower would be unable to handle that consumption and would go bankrupt in less than a year.

Lin Yun sank into contemplation. At that time, wanting to go to the Radiant Fort wasn't because he really wanted to swap, but rather because he vaguely recalled some matters regarding the Radiant Fort.

In the decaying library, he hadn't seen the name of the Radiant Fort, but rather a mention about the place called the Raging Flame Radiant Origin.

As others talked about the Radiant Fort, Lin Yun became aware that this desolate place was the Raging Flame Radiant Origin.

It was recorded there because at the peak of Noscent, a powerful mage's research came out. This place involved the secret of a powerful peak Heaven Mage. It was recorded that this peak Heaven Mage had left ruins behind.

But because something unexpected happened, the researcher hadn't had time to excavate the powerful mage's ruins.

That powerful Heaven Mage was called Bill George!

He had once been a prince of the 3rd Dynasty, in the same time period as Barov, but he hadn't been up to much during the first part of his life. As a prince, his power wasn't very high, so he was bound to meet a tragic end.

For some unknown reason, he lost his royal status. That part hadn't been recorded. After that, he was even expelled from Noscent.

Bill George completely disappeared from Noscent for many years before finally coming back as a Heaven Mage.

After coming back, Bill George didn't seek his former royal status and instead established a force in the current Sten Kingdom's location.

Now, Lin Yun confirmed that there was certainly something in the Radiant Fort. Whether it was the "hidden" array, or the 30% of the power poured into the ground, there was something...

It showed that the unconfirmed record within the decaying library was true!

Lin Yun didn't believe that anyone other than a powerful Heaven Rank powerhouse could leave such a huge and sophisticated thing behind. There was no chance of finding the remains left by another Heaven Mage accidentally.

Those Black Iron Beastmen whose brains were half-filled with lava and half-filled with muscles definitely wouldn't have produced such an array in several dozen millennia.

Moreover, Lin Yun had been even more doubtful after encountering Wagner.

Because of Wagner's family name!

George!

There might be a lot of people in Noscent with that last name, there was only one such Family, and a peak force at that.

Although the George Family was now in the Odin Kingdom, Lin Yun had also researched this and knew that the root of their Family had originated from the Sten Kingdom even though they had been in the Odin Kingdom for many years now.

Unless Lin Yun was mistaken, Wagner was probably a descendant of Bill George. Only someone like Bill George would have been able to leave such a powerful Family behind. Even the name Bill George had been something he had chosen after returning to Noscent.

He used a very common family name in Noscent, but it turned into a very distinct and well-known name.

It was partly due to the surname George that Lin Yun tacitly accepted Wagner's shamelessness and let him follow behind.

If this place was really Bill George's ruins, then Wagner might be useful for something.

After determining that the Radiant Fort had ruins below, Lin Yun started gathering manpower for the excavation. After performing some calculations, he found out that the entrance to the ruins was right in the center of the Radiant Fort.

At that location was an altar of the Black Iron Beastmen. The altar was firmly affixed there, and there was no way to get to the entrance.

## **Chapter 862: Bill George**

After spending a few minutes performing calculations while walking around the altar, Lin Yun determined that the altar had no effect on the entire array. The only effect was to increase the speed at which Black Iron Beastmen progressed, and it had no effect on humans.

It was because of this that the altar was able to remain in the Radiant Fort for so long. Even if the Radiant Fort was breached, the Black Iron Beastman wouldn't let this altar suffer from any damage.

With a wave of his hand, Lin Yun dispatched some of his mages. The group surrounded the altar and took it apart in less than three minutes. Under this altar was a pitch-black hole. From standing at the entrance and looking down, one couldn't tell how deep the passage was. The rich Abyssal Aura transformed into a thin plume of smoke that kept spreading.

On the other side, when Wagner saw Lin Yun suddenly gathering subordinates, he immediately withdrew back to his room, but he then left his room and sneakily moved towards the next room over.

'Damn it, Mafa Merlin suddenly gathered all his subordinates! Is he planning on starting a war? No good, I have to hide before I get pulled into this. Hiding in my room wouldn't work, but it'll be harder to find me if I hide in the next room.'

'I'm only an 8th Rank Archmage... Without my army, I won't be able to beat those muscle-headed Beastmen.'

Wagner chuckled mischievously as he planned on secretly entering the next room, but he barely took two steps before a shadow suddenly appeared.

A loud explosion echoed as the earth shook. Wagner looked up and saw an impatient red-skinned Beastman holding a warhammer smiling awkwardly at him.

“Errr, Xiuban, right? Why are you blocking my path?”

Xiuban looked impatient as he reached out to grab Wagner’s collar.

“Damned scoundrel, you actually dare to make Lord Xiuban personally invite you? Pah, I’m scolding you, what about it? Sir Merlin said that we are going to explore some ruins and that you should follow.”

Wagner looked a bit uncomfortable as he awkwardly twisted his body, wisely not asking if he could be put down.

Facing this monstrous Beastman at such a distance, Wagner clearly understood that a simple pinch would be enough to shatter his skull. He could be crushed just as easily as an ant, so he was careful not to say anything that might infuriate this red-skinned Beastman that already found him unpleasant.

Xiuban carried Wagner like a chick and put him down at the center of the Radiant Fort, where Lin Yun threw them a quick glance.

“Good, everyone arrived, let’s go. Kurumu, you will be in charge of defending the Radiant Fort. If someone invades, just kill them directly, there is no need to think too much.”

Wagner originally wanted to ask something, but when he heard Lin Yun’s ferocious words and saw the group of mages leaking killing intent, he judiciously chose to remain silent and well-behaved as he followed behind.

But seeing that pitch-black passage that seemed to lead into the Abyss, Wagner’s neck shrank as he appeared reluctant.

Lin Yun led Reina, Xiuban, Enderfa, and the puppet, as well as Wagner, into the passage, while his cousins and the mage army remained at the Radiant Fort.

After entering the passage, Lin Yun immediately cast ten Mage Eyes, Detect Magic, Detect Undead, and Detect Life in succession.

He was surprised by the results of the detection spells: There was no magic reaction, and there were no living or undead lifeforms.

But after walking down the stairs, Lin Yun understood why there weren’t any defensive measures.

The straight passage leading downward suddenly forked into three paths. Lin Yun frowned and had three Mage Eyes enter them.

But after flying more than ten meters, the response from the Mage Eyes sharply declined, and the sight coming from them Mage Eyes rapidly became fuzzy. After twenty meters, they no longer had any response at all.

He summoned three Rock Puppets, but the result was the same. After going through twenty meters, the connection was severed. The remnant of the connection left let Lin Yun know that the three Rock Puppets hadn't disappeared, but rather, there was great interference within those paths.

There was only one way to progress: picking a path and going through that seemingly ordinary maze without using magic.

This seemingly simple passage completely removed the opportunity to use magic.

Lin Yun waved his hand and several floating pieces of paper appeared. He then held his quill and quickly made some calculations, using the Magic Array to help. The written data was extremely concise, with only some key pieces of data that went straight to the point.

After a minute, Lin Yun walked towards the left path.

Someone that didn't think much about it might just assume that the central path should be the continuation of the original path. Someone a bit smarter would be more cautious, and the first reaction would be that the left side seemed suspicious. As long as they had that kind of suspicion, the probability of choosing the left path would be very small, so there was a bigger chance that they would choose between the middle and right paths.

Lin Yun put down his quill after finishing his calculations and frowned. The master of these ruins seemed to have an outstanding ability to peer through people's minds.

When faced with a maze that restricted magic, ordinary mages were prone to follow their instincts. If he hadn't already studied the Radiant Fort's array, Lin Yun also wouldn't have chosen the left path.

But with all the data and clues, combined with the angle, position, and length, the left passage was the only one that should be leading to the correct place below the Radiant Fort.

The quantity of calculations needed to determine this was simply astronomical. Another Artisan without a Magic Array would need an entire day to determine the correct path, and that was with the premise that they had the complete data from the Radiant Fort and its array.

Just one passage held such a seemingly simple yet disastrous choice.

Moreover, he didn't need to think about it to know that the other two passages definitely had mortal dangers of some sort. Lin Yun's forehead was covered with cold sweat. He was now even more certain that the ruins were Bill George's ruins. Only someone who had experienced so many tribulations early on in life could arrange this kind of simple yet treacherous maze.

Lin Yun used a Mage Eye and a Rock Puppet to explore a bit ahead of him, and still not feeling relieved, he opened a Hell Gate and summoned an Imp, using force to control it to find a path ahead of him.

No one understood why Lin Yun had become so excessively cautious.

But after following Lin Yun for a long time, they knew that there were very few situations where Lin Yun was so cautious, so none of them dared to take it lightly. Even the most simple-minded Xiuban was well-behaved and remained silent in the back.

They didn't go far before running into another intersection, which split in three again. Lin Yun made detailed calculations for a dozen minutes before figuring out that the correct path this time was the right side.

Wagner followed with a puzzled look, not understanding why he took so long to make his decision, nor why he was cautiously using three different methods to scout ahead.

'This is being too careful, isn't it? Wouldn't it be fine to just use an elemental lifeform to check out a path and discover any dangers ahead of time? That way you can just avoid that path. Mafa Merlin is really overly cautious... A Mage Eye and a Rock Puppet were insufficient for him, and he actually took the risk to open a Hell Gate to summon an Imp...'

After going through seven intersections, on the 8th intersection, they encountered three identical paths. Everyone was used to it by now and took the initiative to stop, waiting for Lin Yun to calculate the proper path.

After calculating, Lin Yun still cautiously cast a Mage Eye and had the Rock Puppet walk a dozen meters ahead.

There was nothing dangerous within that path, and both walls only had reinforcement runes. It looked no different from the previous path.

At least through the Mage Eye and the Rock Puppet, it looked no different.

But, as if facing a great enemy, Lin Yun forcibly controlled that badly behaving Imp and had it explore over twenty meters ahead to check the path.

There had been no changes when going through the first seven paths, but there suddenly was a change now. The Rock Puppet and the Mage Eye didn't trigger anything, but when the Imp went through the passage, some of the runes suddenly transformed, and the original reinforcement runes arranged themselves and combined into new runes. In an instant, the passage was filled with numerous Fire Bolts.

Several red flaming rays, as thick as fingers, shot out, forming a dense net in an instant. And the most frightening part was that there wasn't just one net, but several dozen nets spread every ten centimeters.

That sinister, drooling Imp was shot by three Fire Bolts, and a burnt smell immediately spread throughout the passage.

The Imp didn't move when it first suffered that attack, but when it twitched a bit, its body passed through the net of flaming rays and was instantly cut to pieces.

A large amount of purple blood sprayed out before evaporating from those burning hot Fire Bolts, and the Imp's body turned to ashes...

Lin Yun faintly frowned, a flash of understanding visible in his eyes.

'Sure enough, it's Bill George's style. That guy who suffered tribulations and depression at the start of his life loved this kind of trap that people would unconsciously fall into and be shocked by before their deaths.'

## Chapter 863: Choices

After entering this labyrinth that seemed simple and free of magic, Lin Yun knew that there was definitely a danger hidden within and that this place definitely contained a treacherous trap. Now, it looked like he was right.

There had been very few ruins left by Bill George, but even the least valuable ones also had some kinds of ordinary defenses that would lead to a deadly trap.

It was also because of this that at the peak of Noscent, many powerful mages thought of ways to excavate Bill George's ruins. Most of these people ended up never leaving the ruins, and only a lucky few made it out alive.

These flaming rays before his eyes were genuine 6th Tier Spells, the strongest single-target offensive spells in the 6th Tier. They were all enchanted on the wall, and several dozen spells burst out all at once. The only dangerous section of that passage was those few meters. This extreme approach was in line with Bill George's style.

The Mage Eyes wouldn't notice anything amiss, and even an elemental being like the Rock Puppet triggered no reaction, but when a living creature entered the trap, it immediately tripped the mechanism. Falling into such a trap unguarded would surely lead to death. It wouldn't be worthy of Bill George's name if someone fell into the trap and survived.

There had been no differences in the walls, and even if one paid attention to the runes, one couldn't carefully investigate the runes one by one.

After choosing eight entrances, even a cautious man wouldn't be cautious to such an extreme, so there was very little chance of such a hidden trap being discovered there.

The only defensive methods available after suddenly being set upon by a few dozen Fire Bolts at such close range in such a narrow passage was a Runic Shield and a Mana Shield... Only these two spells could be released in time, but anyone under the 8th Rank of the Archmage realm without a defensive Magic Tool would definitely die!

Even Xiuban might not necessarily come out of that trap alive. These Fire Bolts contained a special power, and their burst power was close to that of the 7th Tier, but it also carried penetrative power. Even Lin Yun would have been flustered if he fell into that trap.

That sudden event startled everyone else.

Xiuban had a greenish complexion as he felt his own body while looking alarmed. He clearly felt that his body might not be able to resist the cutting power.

Wagner was as white as a sheet of paper, with drops of cold sweat dripping down his back.

'Hell, how could it be like this? There hadn't been any danger all along, and now there was suddenly such a dangerous trap here!



'Is the owner of this place a nutjob? Reinforced Fire Bolts? Several dozen hitting a few-meter-wide area? Who can do such a thing?

'The master of this place must have been a terrifying Heaven Rank powerhouse, and one that was highly skilled in spell enchantment...

'Thankfully, Mafa Merlin was cautious... Otherwise, not only would they have died, I would have died along with them! My defensive Magic Tool has already been damaged, so if I fell into that trap, I'd be cut to pieces at the very least... No, I might have been turned to ashes.'

While the others had terrible expressions, Lin Yun's remained the same. He even sighed in relief.

As long as the trap was discovered, the rest would be a lot easier. Since the enchantments were found out, cracking them would be very easy for Lin Yun.

He remotely controlled a crystal pen and started writing on the walls. Using the wall's enchanted runes as a base, he quickly made some additions, and without affecting the reinforcement runes, he forcibly changed those reinforced Fire Bolts into something else.

After a short period of time, Lin Yun took back his crystal pen, and the Fire Bolts slowly stopped burning. After being extinguished, the wall's runes rapidly turned into another kind of rune.

Exploding Runes!

In an instant, several dozen Exploding Runes shone. If these Exploding Runes were roused in such a narrow passage, their power would definitely exceed that of an 8th Tier Spell!

Even if Lin Yun's group didn't die, they would suffer. And Wagner, he would definitely die.

Wagner looked at those Exploding Runes in alarm. He instantly cast a Runic Shield, a Mana Shield, and an Elemental Shield on himself, before using Haste to run.

But after taking a few steps, he realized that Lin Yun's group hadn't moved.

'Damn, are they courting death? A few dozen Exploding Runes would definitely collapse this place, it would be hard for anyone under the Heaven Rank to survive! Why aren't they running?'

Wagner's mind rapidly spun as his movements slightly slowed, and this time, he noticed that those bright runes were shining and that the pattern they formed looked like an array.

In an instant, those Exploding Runes turned into a source of mana that powered up an array, and the power of those runes was rapidly drained.

The array turned into rays of light stuck to the walls, rapidly spreading through the passage, giving a metallic luster to all the reinforced walls.

"This is... a reinforcement array?"

Wagner stood there awkwardly and slowly scattered the power around his body. He hadn't even noticed such a simple array.

That array was mostly used in construction. As long as there was enough power, they could keep strengthening the city walls. It was possible to make walls as hard as diamonds. The city walls left behind by the 3rd Dynasty had been strengthened over the years.

Xiuban turned around and disdainfully looked at Wagner like a higher-ranked lifeform would look at an idiot.

“Moron, the person that could trap the great Sir Merlin hasn’t been born yet. Look at you, you aren’t even as smart as Lord Xiuban...”

Wagner awkwardly glanced at Xiuban, but didn’t dare to say anything. This really was too embarrassing. No one had tried to run except him, this was very shameful.

Lin Yun watched expectantly as the array’s effect was activated.

‘That Bill George is truly insidious enough... Even his trap was layered, one layer more sinister than the other.

‘If I hadn’t directed the power into the array, it would have truly blown up this passage. I had a feeling that those runes would change into Exploding Runes, and sure enough, I was right.’

With the power of the Exploding Runes being slowly absorbed, the surrounding walls were continuously strengthened. Looking at the stabilizing area, Lin Yun casually summoned a Rock Puppet and an Imp to continue pathfinding.

After confirming that there was no danger, Lin Yun led everyone forward.

After continuing for a while, there were another three passages spreading before them, but there was something different this time.

Above the left path was written *Path of Life* in Nesser Language, above the right path was written *Path of Death*, and in the middle was written *Path of Departure*.

“Sir Merlin, the owner of this path is so treacherous, the Path of Life must be the Path of Death, and the Path of Death shouldn’t be that dangerous!”

Xiuban looked as if he had seen through everything.

“Merlin, which one do we choose? Both the Path of Life and Path of Death should be dangerous... No, that Path of Life might not be dangerous, the master of that place should have thought that no one would pick the Path of Life here!” Enderfa’s three faces were at a loss as he looked at the three passages.

As for Wagner, he was a bit pale and couldn’t help saying a few words of his own. “Mafa Merlin, shouldn’t we leave? This place is too strange, let’s leave through that Path of Departure...”

At this time, Lin Yun finished his calculations and a strange smile appeared on his face.

“Okay, let’s go through the Path of Departure.”

His calculations showed that the Path of Departure was the true path to the ruins, while the other two paths led to some unknown place.

By this time, Lin Yun was already certain that they were heading for Bill George's ruins, as only his ruins would have such treacherous defensive methods.

Even if someone came, only powerhouses would be able to reach this place, and those with staunch resolve wouldn't choose to leave. Regardless of whether that Path of Departure was real or fake, they would immediately rule it out.

No matter how intelligent they were, they would only choose between the Life and Death Paths by this point because of the ruins, because everything that happened before was enough to make them determined to reach the end.

Thus, the powerhouses who were unafraid of death would choose between the left and right paths, and if someone was afraid of death, they wouldn't have made it here. Only those who chose to leave through the middle path would truly find the ruins.

But it was impossible for the ruins to not be guarded. That was the time for those who relied on strength to shine. Thus, regardless of who found it, the probability of coming out of the ruins alive was extremely small.

Those who researched Bill George's ruins would say this: Not the most powerful, but definitely the most treacherous and dangerous.

The mortality rate in the explorations of Bill George's ruins far exceeded the ruins of other powerhouses.

Lin Yun still sent out two Rock Puppets as pathfinders while he followed behind.

Enderfa and the others looked at each other in dismay, not understanding why Lin Yun chose the middle path, but they still followed.

After entering that path, they clearly felt that they were going up as the passage sloped uphill.

#### **Chapter 864: Upside Down**

Everyone was doubtful, but they didn't ask. After all, there had been too many weird things before. Who knew if there was also a trap in that path?

Lin Yun didn't sense anything. After entering, he did some more calculations and discovered that although they felt like they were walking up, they were in fact descending. This misconception was due to the fact that this place was constructed in a special way, creating a kind of illusion. It was also because they were getting closer and closer to the real ruins, which were creating a wisp of resistance that made people feel this way.

And finally, Lin Yun had figured out that there were changes caused by atmospheric pressure!

When underground, the atmospheric pressure would change with the depth, and that kind of change was completely ineffective on normal mages.

Ordinary mages only believed in their mana, and to them, their man was even more reliable than their eyes and other senses, so they naturally wouldn't pick up on a situation their mana couldn't notice.

They walked for a long while. Lin Yun remained silent the entire time, not saying anything.

The others couldn't feel it, but from his calculations, Lin Yun had figured out that they weren't walking in a straight line, but in a wide spiral. This was a spiraling path leading underground, but because of the way the walls and floor were built, it gave the illusion of leading upward in a straight line.

Moreover, it became darker, to the point that they couldn't see more than ten meters ahead of them.

After walking for over a kilometer, a wide lobby appeared before them. It was a level room spreading over two hundred meters across, and there was a seven-meter-tall stone gate in front of them. It looked as if they could leave this place just by pushing open the stone gate.

The Rock Puppets barely reached the stone gate when Frost Rays suddenly pierced them from both sides.

A layer of ice instantly covered the two Rock Puppets, and when the two Rock Puppets toppled over onto the ground, they instantly shattered into fragments.

Waves of mana fluctuations started spreading from the two smooth walls, and two huge shadows came out of these ripples.

These were two alchemy puppets!

The two alchemy puppets were very tall, their arms a lot thicker than Lin Yun's waist, and a metallic luster shone on their bodies. They were also covered in countless runes and magical patterns. They both had a Bloodstone forming a single eye on their faces. The complicated runes and patterns on their cheeks were converging towards that Bloodstone, and anyone could see that a very powerful spell was enchanted on that eye.

Lin Yun wasn't surprised when he saw that there were two puppets. This was the correct path leading to the ruins, after all. Unless he had made a mistake somewhere along the line, that entrance should be the entrance to the ruins. It was pretty normal for that door to have two level 39 One-Eyed Guards.

One-Eyed Guards were the best alchemy puppets to guard strategic gateways. They had robust bodies, and all the materials used to craft them had all kinds of magic resistance. Furthermore, they could have a large number of powerful single-target spells enchanted. The spell enchanted on their single eye was definitely the most powerful spell, and it make them the most suitable kind of gatekeeper puppet.

"Attract the attention of these two puppets," Lin Yun said before retreating.

Xiuban swung Carnage and was the first to rush out. He instantly saw the two puppets raising their arms, and Fire Bolts transformed into a curtain of light that fell towards Xiuban.

Xiuban angled Carnage to block in front of him. The warhammer made of the most powerful jaw bone of the Ancient Poison Dragon simply couldn't be destroyed by these rays of fire.

As he approached within twenty meters of the two puppets, they both seemed to realize that the spell couldn't repel the enemy, and the runes covering their bodies flashed in succession.

In an instant, seven Bursting Flames appeared like a wall of fire and exploded on Xiuban's body.

The terrifying explosive power superposed together, and Xiuban was immediately sent flying out.

At this time, Enderfa, Reina, and the puppet started moving together.

The Ten Thousand Spell Wheel slowly rotated, and boundless runes overflowed from within the Thousand Spell Rune, forming a flood of four different types of spells that transformed into a four-colored elemental storm, which ruthlessly flew towards the two guarding puppets.

As for the alchemy puppet, it raised its arms, and boundless runes circulated on the surface of its body, scattering an even more terrifying mana fluctuation than the two One-Eyed Guards. There was no technique or skill in the casting, and the spells only tyrannically bombarded towards the One-Eyed Guards.

Reina's fighting style, on the other hand, looked a lot more delicate. Ice spheres kept condensing beside her body, and with a snap of her fingers, they instantly disappeared.

The ice spheres exploded in front of the One-Eyed Guards and instantly froze everything within a dozen meters while also slowing down the casting speed of the two puppets by at least half.

Enderfa and the puppet's flood of spells fell down at that time, fiercely submerging the two One-Eyed Guards.

In an instant, the two puppets were suppressed from casting their spells, and they had to switch from offense to defense. The runes on their bodies crazily flickered as shields covered in rich mana patterns appeared before ultimately transforming into defensive power reinforcing their bodies.

Suppressed and unable to fight back, the two One-Eyed Guards still didn't leave the entrance, and their blood-like eyes started to shine.

After three seconds, a sinister ray shot out from one of the eyes and instantly hit Xiuban, who was standing at the forefront.

Xiuban suddenly froze, with Carnage's motion also frozen, and even his gnashing teeth had frozen.

Loud explosions echoed as Xiuban was hit by a Bursting Flame and sent flying, yet still in the same position as he was earlier. A tinge of fright could be seen in his eyes.

Less than a second later, another sinister ray came from the eye of the other One-Eyed Guard. The target was none other than Enderfa.

Horror could be seen in Enderfa's three faces as he instantly flew behind Wagner.

Originally standing on the side watching the fight, Wagner suddenly started in fright and instantly cast a Runic Shield.

"Damnit, Enderfa! You dare to t..."

Wagner didn't have time to finish his words as that sinister ray went through his Runic Shield and hit his body.

At that instant, Wagner's angry expression froze, as if he had been paused.

Lin Yun, who had yet to make a move, suddenly used Ice Elemental Incarnation to flash behind one of the puppets.

He put a hand on one of the One-Eyed Guards. His hand shook like a shadow, and in less than one second, that puppet fell apart, turning into a pile of components.

Before those components even fell to the ground, Lin Yun was already behind the other puppet. He cast three Flame Binds as well as a counterspell.

Within the small window of time gained, Lin Yun's hand touched the back of the remaining One-Eyed Guard with a series of runes lingering at his fingertip.

Everyone else only saw a shadow where Lin Yun's hand should have been. The mana of that One-Eyed Guard seemed to have been completely cut off, and it also collapsed into a pile of components.

"I really can't stop myself from dismantling..."

Lin Yun helplessly looked at his own hand. At the end of the Magic Era, apart from reading books in the decaying library, the activity he enjoyed the most was dismantling alchemy puppets. There was no mana at the time, so even Heaven Rank puppets were like discarded pieces of metal in the desert.

All the alchemy puppets had become toys, especially this kind of very iconic puppet. All their parts, where they were affixed, as well as how they were affixed, everything had become an instinct to Lin Yun.

Just a second was enough to dismantle a One-Eyed Guard, and it only took that long because that puppet's mana source was very rich and its defenses were active. If it had just been standing there without anything readied, Lin Yun wouldn't have needed so much time to dismantle it.

The One-Eyed Guard's strongest point was their enchanted spell. Once that spell was released, there would be a certain cooldown before they could use it again, and their defenses were at the weakest during that time.

Because the most powerful enchanted spell of the One-Eyed Guards required them to mobilize as much power as they could to shoot it, they had no energy left for defense just afterwards.

But their powerful bodies were their strongest defenses. A level 39 One-Eyed Guard could block a single-target 8th Tier Spell without suffering any damage just by relying on its body.

Apart from a monster like Lin Yun, whose dismantling skill had become an instinct, wanting to defeat that puppet with skin as tough as Xiuban's would be very troublesome.

Lin Yun dusted his hands off and turned around to look at the others. Wagner, who was still frozen, had completely forgotten about the dangers, and he looked over as if he had seen a ghost.

'What the hell was that? Two level 39 puppets actually fell apart with a single touch of his hand? Are you f\*cking with me?'

After witnessing this scene, Wagner had a deep sense of failure. He had just seen the power of these few people, and they could hardly be described as ordinary Archmages. 'They are at least 9th Rank Archmages, and they are even more berserk and terrifying...

'A Magic Tool Incarnation that can release spells of four different elements, the mage army, that patched alchemy puppet, as well as that woman whose mastery of ice spells couldn't be seen through... All of them are actually normal when compared to Mafa Merlin!

'With a single touch, he made a One-Eyed Guard fall to pieces...'

Wagner felt that he was the true Andlusan bumpkin while the other side was a genius of a major force of the Odin Kingdom.

His worldview had been thrown upside down.

### **Chapter 865: Alchemy Puppet**

Lin Yun walked towards Xiuban and casually cast a few dispels, dispersing the effect that was keeping him frozen, and then did the same for Wagner.

But Wagner only stood still, foolishly staring straight ahead, as if the dispels hadn't worked.

"Ah, truly an idiot... It's only a Petrification spell, don't tell me your soul somehow got hit too?"

Enderfa's three faces sneered. Wagner was strangely looking at Lin Yun without saying anything, before fiercely complaining to Enderfa, "Just you wait, you actually dared to use me as a shield! Sh\*t, don't you know that I'm the 1st heir of the George Family? Being a Magic Tool Incarnation wouldn't have protected you from the consequences if I died."

Wagner didn't dare to say anything to Lin Yun, as his feat of dismantling the puppets with one hand was too shocking, causing Wagner to have a feeling of reverence. But as he recalled being used as a human shield by Enderfa, he couldn't help becoming angry.

Enderfa disdainfully shot a glance at Wagner and said, "A Petrification spell scares you that much? I really don't know how you became an 8th Rank Archmage. Don't tell me you don't know that Runic Shield can't block Petrification? Moreover, with this great Enderfa here, do you think I would let you die like that? You think Uncle Enderfa is as dumb as you?"

His second head continued, "Seeing as how you blocked the Petrification for Uncle Enderfa, I'll teach you a good method. When faced with Petrification, the best way is to dodge it. If you can't dodge it, then you have to use Fire Elemental Incarnation and scatter the Elemental Incarnation just when you are hit. You can also use Ghost Incarnation to ignore it, or a mirror to reflect it..."

"Moreover, you absolutely can't use Mana Shield or Runic Shield to block it, or you'll be petrified anyways," Enderfa's third face finished.

Wagner was shamed into anger, but he couldn't retort. After all, not using Runic Shield against Petrification was common sense to High Mages.

Enderfa proudly looked at the red-faced Wagner and then controlled the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel to float towards the stone gate.

In the distance, Xiuban was looking at Wagner with sympathy.

Enderfa didn't even bother to mock Xiuban the same way, as it would go straight over his head. He was feeling good enough after messing with Wagner, so why bother?

Lin Yun ignored the quarreling people and examined the pile of components on the ground.

The One-Eyed Guards were the most suitable puppets to guard the entrance, and their parts were definitely made of extremely high-grade materials. These two One-Eyed Guards were level 39, and their components could be used for the Heaven Rank puppet. If not for the mechanical system's restriction, these two puppets could have also become Heaven Rank puppets.

If they had, Lin Yun would have definitely been unable to dismantle them in that short period of time.

After taking a while to pick, Lin Yun chose a few relatively good parts and summoned his patched up puppet before quickly changing some of its components.

The puppet itself should have been at the Heaven Rank, and its mechanical system was outstanding. What restricted this puppet and stopped it from displaying the power of the Heaven Rank were its poor parts, which were severely limiting it.

The components from the One-Eyed Guards just happened to be able to replace some old parts.

After taking a few minutes to change the parts, Lin Yun looked at his puppet and smiled. If it went on and he dismantled a few more level 39 One-Eyed Guards, he might be able to make the puppet's strength truly reach the Heaven Rank.

Lin Yun didn't let the rest of the components go to waste; he picked up everything. He would later alter the control systems of these two One-Eyed Guards, and after reassembling them, he would keep them as gatekeepers.

The alchemy puppet's strength had increased again, and after Lin Yun reassembled it, he controlled it to walk to the huge stone gate and push it. A loud rumble echoed, and it didn't take long before the stone gate swung open.

There was no danger and no trap. Lin Yun had expected that a psycho like Bill George wouldn't put any treacherous trap in his own nest. Almost no trap would be effective against someone that could defeat two level 39 One-Eyed Guards. Only absolute strength would be able to repel those that arrived there.

After opening the door, a huge space spreading for several kilometers appeared before them, and countless huge dormant machines could be seen within. There were puppets lying on the ground like corpses.

There were even more puppets in front of those huge machines, most of which had several arms with all kinds of tools.

This was an extremely huge underground base!



An underground base of alchemy puppets!

This was a complete puppet factory. The manufactured parts would move between machines until they were ultimately assembled into puppets.

Apart from those tireless puppets, there were also many combat-type puppets.

But whether it was the labor puppets, auxiliary puppets, or the fighting puppets, they were all motionless, as they had exhausted all their energy.

Lin Yun took a few glances and discovered that even the weakest labor puppet was level 35!

Moreover, they had exhausted their energy, so their power systems had lost all effect, and their components were no longer working.

He only needed to rearrange their control systems and resupply them with energy and these puppets would be able to stand up again.

Lin Yun examined a few puppets and immediately came to this conclusion.

These puppets were a delicious harvest. Some spirit mana crystals would be enough to make them function again, and rearranging their control systems was really easy.

Looking at this huge underground base, Lin Yun knew that this was really a relic left by Bill George and that they were in his most valuable ruins.

In those days, Bill George had returned to Noscent and established a new force in the place currently known as the Sten Kingdom. The reason that the Nesser Dynasty didn't bother Bill George wasn't just his status as a powerful Heaven Mage.

The most important reason was Bill George's skill in the field of alchemy. It could be said that he was unmatched, and even when Noscent developed to its peak, Bill George's accomplishments in the field of alchemy could still be considered among the most important.

In those days, Bill George commanded his tide-like army of puppets and swept through an unknown number of planes. No one knew for sure, as Bill George had remained low-key.

Occasionally, someone would see Bill George leading an army of puppets to push through a plane, and those people would learn how frightening he was.

He was a formidable Heaven Rank powerhouse and possessed an unknown number of puppets as his subordinates. No one would dare to provoke him.

It could be seen from this underground base. Even the most common labor puppets were at level 35, and just from looking at the assembly line, one could tell that these level 35 puppets were actually the worst batch, the most ordinary and mediocre kind.

This kind of powerhouse with only puppets as subordinates only left a pitiful amount of achievement behind. At the peak of Noscent, some people inferred from very small clues that Bill George had once obtained the coordinates of the Raging Flame Plane and had come to this plane.

But he was rarely seen and never conquered the Raging Flame Plane. He only stayed in that plane for a very long time and had some connection to the Black Iron Beastmen. It was said that he had once come to the Radiant Fort.

After all, Bill George's skill regarding alchemy puppets was really too outstanding. This was why many people had designs on his ruins.

But no one could find the true location of the important ruins. All they could find were some ruins that were mostly barren, and some of the ruins were just huge traps.

It wasn't until the peak of the Planar Colonization Era that people found some clues in other planes and inferred that Bill George's ruins were in the Raging Flame Plane, below the Radiant Fort.

But that information had never been confirmed, because just when the expeditionary team finished their preparations, the coordinates of the Raging Flame Plane suddenly became ineffective.

They guessed that something must have happened in the Raging Flame Plane to cause the original coordinates to lose effect. No one was able to find the Raging Flame Plane from that point on, and Bill George's ruins had completely disappeared.

Lin Yun wouldn't normally pay much attention to this kind of unconfirmed news. If he hadn't heard of the Radiant Fort, as well as several other names, Lin Yun wouldn't have remembered and come here to confirm it.

Now, it looked like this information was real, or at least the huge underground base with puppet assembly lines was real.

Apart from Bill George, Lin Yun couldn't think of anyone else.

Lin Yun opened his Demiplane and threw the inactive puppets into it.

The weakest of those puppets were at level 35, but now that they had lost energy, they were just a pile of components.

That was why Lin Yun dared to do this.

### **Chapter 866: Breaking In**

The Natural Demiplane was still in its growth stage and simply couldn't bear too many powerhouses. If these level 35 puppets were all roused, a few hundreds of them would definitely mess with the Laws of the Demiplanes.

Before Lin Yun advanced to the Heaven Rank, if a Heaven Rank powerhouse appeared in the Demiplane and released his Aura, the Natural Demiplane would be destroyed.

Since the Demiplane's development started, the Laws had slowly been maturing and the restrictions had become bigger and bigger. A power that was too strong would simply be unbearable.

Treating it as a warehouse was okay, but Lin Yun didn't dare to do something as dangerous as putting a few hundred powerhouses within. He didn't even dare to let his subordinates enter the Demiplane together since they started advancing to the Archmage realm.

As he looted his way forward, Lin Yun didn't go far before suddenly stopping. In the distance, a team of puppets holding large swords or covered in enchantments was running over.

These puppets had clear marks on their bodies. They were all combat models and seemed to be defending this underground base.

"Prepare to fight, dismantle these guys," Lin Yun instructed.

Xiuban was already swinging Carnage.

Before coming in, Lin Yun knew that the puppets within wouldn't all be completely devoid of energy, considering that there were the two One-Eyed Guards at the entrance.

The huge Radiant Fort's array was stealing Abyssal power and a portion was diverted underground. That wasn't a small amount.

Even if those huge assembly lines stopped, it didn't mean that all the puppets had run out of energy.

And it looked like it truly was the case. Those ten guard puppets still remained active, eight of them at level 35 and two at level 36. The level 35 ones were all sword model puppets, while the two level 36 ones were casting model puppets that could use magic.

Their bodies were emitting very clear mana fluctuations, and one glance was enough to see that they had enough energy remaining to keep fighting.

Xiuban swung Carnage and directly rushed towards that group of puppets. Air blasts were created by Carnage's momentum as it ruthlessly smashed onto the body of a sword puppet.

A loud explosion echoed, and that puppet's chest suddenly caved in. A large amount of electricity sparked from its body as its mechanical system was instantly destroyed. It fell in the distance, and its limbs were continuously jerking around, but it could no longer stand.

Lin Yun's eyelids twitched. He opened his mouth, wanting to say something, but he ended up remaining silent.

'That dumbass... These sword puppets are extremely valuable. As long as I manage to control them and rewrite their control systems, they could be used as hired thugs. But great, the most important mechanical system has been destroyed. That puppet can only be dismantled and used for parts now...'

As for the alchemy puppet and Enderfa, they were even fiercer as they cast floods of spells, especially Enderfa. He slowly used spells of all four elements to form an Elemental Storm that caused complete destruction.

A level 35 puppet was drawn into the elemental storm and torn apart in less than three seconds.

On the contrary, Reina used simple freezing spells that surpassed the realm of Frost Dragons.

A simple Freeze froze the power sources of the two strongest puppets in an instant.

Lin Yun sighed and casually dismantled the dozen puppets, taking out any parts that could be used, while the rest would be melted back into materials.

Lin Yun didn't say anything as he looked at Wagner, who had been following along without making a move.

Wagner was actually startled by Lin Yun's glance and promptly explained, "Sir Merlin, my strength is lacking, I didn't have time to do anything before you finished the fight..."

Lin Yun ignored Wagner, making the latter worry as he didn't know what Lin Yun was thinking. If he wasn't doing anything to help, why would they still let him follow?

On the way, Lin Yun milked the inactive puppets dry while continuing towards the depths of the underground base.

He didn't walk far before meeting another group of puppets, and this group was clearly larger.

Over thirty puppets, all of which were casting models. They were still several dozen meters away when they sent out over a hundred Fire Bolts. As the bolts grazed the ground, they left numerous burn marks.

Lin Yun frowned, and his Magic Array rapidly revolved. In an instant, he discovered that those puppets were all level 35 or level 36, and not only were the most annoying ray-type spells enchanted on their bodies, but with enough energy, each of these puppets could let out four to five rays at the same time, casting about a hundred and fifty without stopping.

After doing some calculations, Lin Yun gave up on dismantling those puppets with his bare hands, but the thirty puppets couldn't be left alone. He couldn't guarantee that these puppets would remain intact and could only forcibly destroy them.

Lin Yun waved his Draconic Staff, and ice appeared on the ground in front of them. The ice flickered with light before three loud sounds echoed as three Askrim Gates rose up from the ground.

A large number of Fire Bolts, Fire Rays, and Flame Rays frantically pelted the Askrim Gates. All kinds of creatures seemed to have come alive on the Askrim Gate, and they kept moving on the upper part of the gates as they devoured flaming rays.

Thick, white smoke began soaring up from the top of the gate as the Askrim Gates could be seen melting at a visible speed, losing about half their height.

As a reaction to their spells being blocked, even more runes lit up on the bodies of the puppets.

In an instant, several hundred red rays assembled into a huge beam that ruthlessly attacked the three Askrim Gates.

The blue gates were destroyed in a second, and fragments of ice filled the sky.

But during that time, five more Askrim Gates rose up from the ground and forcibly blocked that lance of flame.

Enderfa, Reina, and the puppet took advantage of the timeframe to start casting.

A dozen-meter-thick Elemental Storm transformed into a flood that washed over the puppets, and the alchemy puppet released a spellwave right after, suppressing the group of puppets from two sides.

Facing the two-pronged attack, the puppets reacted extremely quickly and instantly cast over sixty Fire Shields which layered and combined to form a powerful defense.

But at his time, Reina had already finished chanting a few sounds, creating three blue runes that continuously scattered ice fragments. The runes then transformed into lights that flashed towards three nodes of the huge, flaming defense.

In an instant, three ice-blue halos transformed into ripples that spread out and forcibly extinguished the flames of the Fire Shields.

How could those shields resist the Elemental Storm and the spellwave with three holes broken through them?

In a head-on collision, the remaining Fire Shields were ripped apart, and the Elemental Storm and the spellwave collided at the same location.

Ten of those thirty puppets in the middle were instantly torn to pieces.

The rest tried to dodge, but there was only one path out of spells, and it was behind them. However, Xiuban had suddenly appeared behind them, swinging Carnage and rotating like a spinning top.

A terrifying force burst out in the air, and a large amount of cloudy smoke was generated, from which lightning kept flashing. After a second, Xiuban turned into a shadow, and his silhouette could no longer be seen. Only the thick, whitish tornado could be seen colliding with the puppets.

Bolts of lightning floated within that white tornado, and the moment those burning rays reached the tornado, they were torn apart.

A puppet approached the edge of the tornado, and a formidable warhammer flashed over, shattering it into countless fragments, not leaving a single intact part behind.

In the distance, Lin Yun only casually released some Askrim Gates and left the others to deal with the situation. He then turned to look at Wagner, who seemed ready to escape.

A trace of embarrassment could be seen on Wagner's face, and cold sweat began dripping down his back.

'Damn it, Mafa Merlin's subordinates are that strong?! That's over thirty of those puppets, yet they dealt with them so easily and tore them into pieces...

'Apart from that monstrous Beastman, everyone else has the power of a 9th Rank Archmage. And Mafa Merlin himself has yet to go all-out...

'But I've seen him act twice, and it was at least comparable to those peak 9th Rank Archmages. He was actually able to release three Askrim Gates, the advanced form of Ice Walls, in a row? Just how strong are the Andlusans?

'If you're so powerful, why did you drag me in? I'm just an 8th Rank Archmage, there is no use in me following behind. It's not that I don't want to help, there is just no opportunity...'

Wagner had a bitter expression. He wanted to leave but didn't dare to. Every time he wanted to turn around to leave, Lin Yun would casually glance at him.

### **Chapter 867: Extraordinary Power**

'Haaa, forget it, I might as well just follow since I don't have to do anything. After all, this place is also considered part of the Radiant Fort. If I'm lucky, I might get some more points. It would be even better if I could get some benefits.

'There are so many puppets here... If I can control a few, I won't have to be on the backseat any more. Hell, I'm the 1st heir of the George Family of the Odin Kingdom, but now I actually have to depend on the mood of an Andlusan ant!

'And the most important part is that this ant is too strong. Not to mention Mafa Merlin, even his few subordinates can easily kill me...'

Wagner had thoroughly given up. He chose to follow and made up his mind to not try to participate in the battle. If he wasn't forced to join in, then he would just follow along and enjoy the show. The best outcome would be if they encountered something dangerous and all died.

Lin Yun didn't care what Wagner was thinking about. Ever since they arrived here, Lin Yun wasn't planning on letting him fight anyways, as he had considered that this guy might be the descendant of Bill George, that mysterious, secretive, and abnormal Heaven Rank powerhouse. Who knew if there was some particularly special danger left?

Bill George hadn't cared about much during his life. His subordinates were all puppets, and the only thing that made others see him as a person was his relationship with the descendants he left behind. Bill George had cared a lot about his descendants.

In his later years, he had once personally led a puppet army to flatten an opposing Family because one of his descendants had been killed. Only when many Heaven Rank powerhouses appeared did Bill George withdraw his puppet army.

This was the reason that Lin Yun was bringing Wagner. A person with Bill George's bloodline would certainly be useful here.

Everyone passed by the abandoned assembly line and slowly approached the underground base of operation.

Just as they were leaving that huge assembly line, a pathfinder Rock Puppet was burnt to ashes by an arm-thick Fire Bolt.

The Rock Puppet had been over three meters tall, yet it didn't leave a single fragment behind as it disappeared in an instant.

Lin Yun unhesitantly chanted three sounds, and the earth suddenly started swelling, causing a thick Earth Wall to suddenly rise out of the ground. After it reached eight meters in height, runes started appearing on its surface, and the Earth Wall was rapidly reinforced, causing its surface to shine with a metallic luster.

After the Earth Wall appeared, Lin Yun led everyone to fall back as he still chanted another incantation while a huge wheel shadow appeared behind him. Countless runes were moving within the wheel shadow before gushing out into the Earth Wall.

In an instant, countless runes gathered one by one and transformed into shackles that extended from the Earth Wall into the surrounding earth.

Lin Yun finished everything in one second. He had used the most purely defensive Earth Wall before reinforcing it a dozen times, and he ultimately used runes to fuse the Earth Wall with the ground in a few dozen meters around it, increasing the defense of that spell to an unimaginable realm.

But even after that, Lin Yun still fell back, so how could the others not know that this was a huge crisis? No one hesitated as they all followed after Lin Yun.

Sure enough, the especially thick Fire Bolt covered several hundred meters before striking the Earth Wall, making the earth shake.

The ground around the Earth Wall started cracking like porcelain, with the cracks creeping along the surface of the earth and expanding.

In just a bit over a second, the Earth Wall loudly exploded, sending fragments into the air that filled the entire sky.

Three thick Fire Bolts, seemingly ignoring the distance, instantly passed through the place where Lin Yun had been just a moment ago.

As the Fire Bolts flew over, the air was forcibly blown away and space somewhat distorted. The bolts disappeared after two to three seconds, leaving traces of the burning bolts in the sky. That was the power to tear through space, causing it to be unable to recover for a short moment

“Hell, what kind of monster is that? That Fire Bolt was as thick as an arm,” Enderfa blurted in terror.

A normal Fire Bolt would be about as thick as a finger, and even as an Ultimate Spell, doubling this size would be quite decent already. Also, an ordinary Fire Bolt was red, while these Fire Bolts were actually a glaring light closer to the color of the sun.

They were already showing signs of reaching the limits of Ultimate Spells!

Lin Yun frowned and looked at the puppet in the distance.

That was a puppet similar to a spider. Eight legs, all several meters long, eight sinister and cold eyes, and numerous layers of runes covering its skin. The mana fluctuations emitted by that huge abdomen felt like a huge stone was pressuring their hearts.

Heaven Rank...

A genuine Heaven Rank Puppet, and not a typical puppet at that!

That Fire Bolt was comparable to an 8th Tier single-target spell and far exceeded the power that a Fire Bolt should have... This was something only Extraordinary Power could achieve.

“Careful, this is a true Heaven Rank Puppet. Although it’s only level 40, a level 39 puppet can’t compare to it at all, as it can already use Extraordinary Power.”

This huge spider puppet’s eight legs were like sharp, giant blades. The skin that almost looked like fur was made of countless barbed tips, and seeing it, no one would think that this fur was just decoration.

Lin Yun raised his Draconic Staff, his body suddenly emitting a huge swirl of flames as he turned into a towering Flame Elemental.

The huge wheel shadow appeared behind him once again, and boundless runes were flowing within the wheel shadow. Even the Book of Death in his left hand had already appeared.

Terrifying mana fluctuations spread from Lin Yun. This was Lin Yun going all-out, and it was the first time he used all his power since he became a 4th Rank Archmage.

On the side, a deep Dragon Roar echoed as Reina leapt into the air and transformed into a graceful and slender Frost Dragon. The only difference from her original Dragon form was that there were two Dragon Horns like crystals growing from Reina’s head, and her body also had undergone some changes. There were also countless spheres made of runes revolving in her surroundings, and the ice elements near her were drawing closer to her out of instinct.

A terrifying Dragon Might was released, and Reina’s aura sharply increased in an instant. This was the first time Reina had changed into her Dragon Shape after having fused with the Ancient Poison Dragon.

On the other side, numerous runes also started appearing on Lin Yun’s alchemy puppet. Those runes seemed to drill out from the puppet’s body before starting to collide and combine, seeming as if there were several spells being prepared within, ready to burst at any time.

Enderfa also had a rare serious expression, and his three faces kept changing positions as the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel frantically rotated. Mana surged like a tide and transformed into ripples that kept spreading from him.

Just as everyone was bursting with power, a crimson torrent came out of the spider puppet’s mouth. The pillar of fire thicker than a thigh instantly distorted the space around them.

The pungent burning smell spread as the light shone and appeared in front of Lin Yun, only taking a moment to travel several hundred meters.

Lin Yun raised his Draconic Staff, and runes rapidly rushed out of the wheel shadow. At the same time, the ground started shaking violently.

“Rumble...”

A loud series of sounds echoed as six heavy Askrim Gates rose up from underground and clashed with the thick Fire Bolt.



“Boom!”

In an instant, the six heavy Askrim Gates exploded into pieces, which didn't even have time to fly away before evaporating.

As for that thick Fire Bolt, it was barely slowed by the six layers of Askrim Gates as it kept charging towards Lin Yun.

Lin Yun frowned as he used that small timeframe to Flame Flash a dozen meters away.

Seeing that ray rushing out from several hundred meters away, piercing through everything, and leaving spatial burn marks that took a long time to recover, Lin Yun knew how much trouble they were in.

That spell had already exceeded the Archmage realm, and with the addition of Extraordinary Power, it was actually comparable to an ordinary 9th Tier Spell.

Although the Askrim Gate was known as the most powerful ice-type defensive spell under the Heaven Rank, six of them together were barely able to gain him some time.

That was Extraordinary Power.

When facing over thirty puppets that were level 35 or above, Lin Yun had only needed three Askrim Gates to easily resist their attacks. The speed at which the other side destroyed the Askrim Gates couldn't catch up to his casting speed.

But that kind of method had no effect on a Heaven Rank Puppet. None of their defensive spells would be able to resist this puppet's spells. They could only manage to delay them a bit so that they could dodge.

After that attack, it was as if the prelude to the battle had officially started. That spider puppet opened its eight ice-cold eyes, and its eight long legs quickly got on the move. The huge body couldn't be stopped as its speed was terrifyingly fast. It took only one second to move several dozen meters.

With the spider puppet's charge, the runes on its body shone one by one.

As those eight legs propelled it forward, over a hundred golden rays of light burst out of the puppet... It was as if over a hundred Divine Archers had shot their arrows at the same time.

Sharp continuous sounds echoed as countless spikes pierced through the air, creating sonic booms. Even the space was pierced by the golden spikes.

### ***Chapter 868: Power of the Heaven Rank***

The shrill noise that rippled through the air sounded like a banshee putting her life force into a screech. The few puppets without energy in the surroundings were swept by that ripple, and as if they had come to life, they shook a few times before loudly exploding, their fragments filling the entire sky.

Lin Yun had a cold expression on his face. He quickly chanted for a few seconds before a dozen Ice Shields and Fire Shields appeared in the air.

Behind each Ice Shield was a Fire Shield, and layers upon layers of shields were intertwined.

Those golden thorns pierced through a dozen Shields before they started slowing down. They were burned by a Fire Shield before being frozen by an Ice Shield and then being burnt again by a Fire Shield.

In an extremely short period, that process repeated a dozen times before those golden thorns finally collapsed.

In the end, Lin Yun used an Earth Shield to stop those thorns.

Seeing the golden thorns piercing halfway into the Earth Shield, cold sweat started trickling down Lin Yun's forehead.

Because these golden thorns were only the hair of the spider's fur.

With Armor Penetration, Haste, Magic Penetration, as well as a dozen other enchantments, the hairs were able to display a frightening power no less formidable than an 8th Tier spell.

Moreover, that attack covered a large range.

And the target wasn't only Lin Yun... Reina, Enderfa, Xiuban, and the alchemy puppet were all targets of that attack.

Reina used her Dragon Shape to fall back and dodge, ice enveloping her body as she frantically condensed Ice Shields. But they simply couldn't effectively block those golden thorns.

In less than a second, the shields thoroughly lost their effects, and Reina had no choice but to flap her wings covered with a layer of deep blue ice and use them to shield herself, barely able to block the golden thorns.

"Ding, ding, ding..."

A series of sharp collisions echoed as Reina's wings became filled with golden thorns.

"Snap..."

The layer of ice covering Reina's wings thoroughly shattered, and the golden thorns also fell to the ground.

The alchemy puppet actually had the easiest time dodging. It protected the swapped parts and used offensive spells to weaken the might of those golden thorns. It then used its Heaven Rank parts to receive the attacks from the thorns, and its body only shook. Only a few replaceable parts were damaged.

Xiuban had gotten a lot smarter and used his huge Carnage as a shield, only exposing some non-vital parts.

Most of the golden thorns hit Carnage and couldn't shatter that warhammer made of the jawbone of an Ancient Poison Dragon, but the terrible impact sent Xiuban flying back. Also, a sharp thorn pierced through Xiuban's left arm, gouging away a piece of flesh.

Xiuban spurted blood after suffering from that attack, and fear could be seen in his eyes. Just the impact transmitted through Carnage was enough to wound him... This was too frightening.

As the spider puppet finished its first attack, Reina let out a deafening Dragon Roar, shooting out icy light from her mouth.

When Lin Yun saw this, he immediately raised his Draconic Staff. A large number of runes came out of the wheel shadow, and after a short incantation, meteors fell from the sky and crashed towards the spider puppet.

The spider puppet's speed didn't change at all. It only swung its two blade-like legs and slashed out with them, easily tearing apart a dozen meteors.

But suddenly, the earth in front of its body suddenly shook, and the earth that had been reinforced countless times turned into a quagmire.

The quagmire covered over thirty meters, and the spider puppet's long legs instantly sank into it.

At the same time, Enderfa's Elemental Storm and the puppet's spellwave pressured the spider puppet from both sides.

A huge rune shone on the back of the spider puppet, and as it rose, a round watery shield covered its insides.

The Elemental Storm and the spellwave fiercely swept towards it but barely caused any reaction on that blue barrier. It showed no sign of being damaged.

"Damn, Heavenflower Water Barrier, a 9th Tier spell that can appear in an instant," Enderfa hatefully cursed. He gnashed his teeth and controlled the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel to release another Elemental Storm.

At this time, Reina also opened her mouth and let out a glaring Dragon Breath at the temporarily suppressed puppet.

It was like an icy blue sun had exploded in Reina's mouth. The radiance which carried a chilling aura, transformed into a pillar of light that blasted the spider puppet's shield.

"Snap..."

That flowing blue shield was instantly frozen.

Reina's Frost Breath had been refined along with her Life Essence and had already reached a formidable stage. It was able to freeze a 9th Tier Heavenflower Water Barrier in an instant and even froze the spider puppet within.

The surrounding space was also frozen for a short duration. All the fluctuations in the affected area stopped, completing pausing. Even the air froze. It was as if a transparent crystal pillar had just appeared.

After using Frost Breath, Reina started panting in exertion. The Frost Breath had been a powerful trump card before, but after the fusion with the Ancient Poison Dragon's mana crystal, her life essence had

been refined. Her Frost Breath, which came from her Frost Dragon's instinct, had become even more frightening and consumed even more mana.

She was at level 39, but could use a Frost Breath that displayed traces of Extraordinary Power.

The spider puppet was frozen alongside its water barrier, and in an instant, Lin Yun burst out with his power. A purple Dragon shadow came out of his Draconic Staff and appeared behind him, holding that huge roulette shadow. In an instant, four huge vortexes appeared behind Lin Yun, and the four types of spells crazily rushed out from them.

The four types of spells crazily attacked that sphere of ice and instantly created a frightening Elemental Storm.

Enderfa and the puppet were already going all-out, and with the addition of Lin Yun's Elemental Storm, a phenomenon of annihilation was created.

The Elemental Storms collided and destroyed everything in their wake, and the huge ice sphere was crazily twisting after being surrounded by them.

In less than three seconds, the ice sphere exploded open, shattering into many fragments.

Within it, the spider had turned into a vivid ice sculpture and was being torn apart by that destructive storm, causing cracks to appear on the surface of its frozen body.

"Crack..."

When he saw this, not only was Lin Yun not happy, but his frown even intensified.

"Fall back, everyone retreat outside!" Lin Yun roared as he roused his mana while rapidly chanting incantations.

As words came out of Lin Yun's mouth, a large number of runes rushed out of the wheel shadow.

At this moment, Lin Yun frantically gathered blue fireballs in front of him.

In less than a second, over a hundred Bursting Flames condensed in front of Lin Yun and dragged long blue trails as they flew towards the spider puppet.

At the same time, the layer of ice over the spider puppet's body loudly exploded sending the ice flying in all directions, sharply cutting through the air.

As for the spider puppet, it let out a weird sound as its eight legs turned into shadows, and its body became somewhat fuzzy as it turned towards Lin Yun.

During that time, Lin Yun roused his mana and condensed over a hundred Burst Flames that exploded in front of the spider puppet.

All of them exploding together created a huge blue fireball, and the terrifying explosive power sent the puppet flying out.

Lin Yun then used Flame Flash to quickly withdraw.

Enderfa and the puppet immediately followed Lin Yun back, and Xiuban, that cowardly guy, was already running away the moment Lin Yun said to retreat.

Reina also spread her wings and flew out.

That spider puppet had been sent flying by the huge explosions, but it merely damaged some of its fur and caused some of its runes to dim. It simply wasn't injured much.

Lin Yun fell back, inwardly sighing, '4th Rank Archmage is still too weak... Only by advancing to the 5th Rank will I be able to display some Archmage power and withstand that spider puppet to a certain degree. There is nothing I can do at the moment because my spells can hardly damage it.

'Heaven Rank... It's just one Rank, yet the gap is like the gap between heaven and earth. All our trump cards would still be ineffective against it.

As Lin Yun withdrew, the puppet's legs stabbed into one of the walls, its eight dark eyes icily looking over.

Five of its eyes slowly started shining, and numerous small runes were flowing within those eyes.

In an instant, the movements of Lin Yun, Xiuban, Enderfa, the puppet, and Reina seemed to have slowed.

Lin Yun's expression changed, and he instantly chanted a rune, making an ordinary Earth Wall appear behind them. The Earth Wall rose up until it was ten meters tall, but the speed at which it rose seemed to have been slowed as well. It took no less than a second before it thoroughly took shape.

With the appearance of the wall, Lin Yun and the others started moving like normal.

### **Chapter 869: Your Turn**

Lin Yun returned to the assembly line hall, followed by Xiuban, Enderfa, and the puppet.

He turned and saw that the Earth Wall had already collapsed. Runes had shone on the five eyes of the spider puppet, but four of them had already dimmed. The runes were combined onto the remaining eye.

And as the runes finished assembling, an illusory image appeared above the puppet.

That image had the upper body of a woman with six long arms, and the lower body of a thick snake. Her hair was also made of small, squirming vipers that seemed ready to devour a person in an instant.

Following its appearance, that phantom's eyes rapidly congealed.

Only the eyes of that illusory phantom seemed real. That pair of eyes, which seemed to suck people's souls in, had a deep black rune slowly flickering within.

In an instant, Reina's draconic tail started turning ash gray, and it spread across her body like a ripple, turning her body into stone as it moved.

Once Reina reached the assembly line, the puppet stopped casting and the illusory shadow also dissipated.

After reaching the ground, Reina transformed back into a human, but her legs had turned into stone.

Fear was etched into Reina's face. She roused her mana, but it couldn't spread to her feet... It was as if her two legs no longer belonged to her.

"Hell, Medusa's Eyes! Damnit, the original owner of this place was a lunatic, he actually enchanted eight Medusa's Eyes spells onto that puppet. That spider puppet's eyes were unexpectedly all taken from Medusas..."

Cold sweat trickled down Lin Yun's forehead. That had been too close. He had guessed that the eight eyes might have some powerful spells, but no one would have thought that the eight eyes were actually Medusa's Eyes.

Only the eyes dug out from a living Heaven Rank Medusa could be enchanted into Medusa's Eyes, which would summon the phantom of a Medusa while casting, making that spell reach the 9th Tier!

It wasn't something an ordinary petrification spell could compare to, because Medusa's Eyes possessed Extraordinary Power.

Medusas were said to be Extraordinary lifeforms, and they were very few in number. Each adult Medusa was at the Heaven Rank. Even if an adult Dragon encountered a Medusa, they would take a detour. No one was willing to provoke such a frightening being.

Medusas were innately able to use Medusa's Eyes. As long as they began to use the ability while they could see someone, regardless of the distance or gap, it would definitely hit.

Any lifeform hit by Medusa's Eyes would turn into stone. Their body would be thoroughly petrified, and their soul would be trapped in a stone sculpture, forever unable to escape. Ultimately, as time passed, their soul would be destroyed, and their body would be left as just a stone carving.

Medusas hadn't appeared for countless years, and during that time, the Chromatic Dragons and Pureblood Elves ruled Noscent.

Once, there was a peak Heaven Rank Jade Dragon that unknowingly came across a Medusa Tribe. The leader of that Medusa Tribe, a 9th Rank Heaven Medusa, used Medusa's Eyes to look at that powerful Jade Dragon.

The Jade Dragon wasn't even able to resist before turning into a lifelike stone statue. Afterwards, a Three-Headed Golden Dragon personally came to negotiate with that Medusa Tribe before ultimately taking the statue of the Jade Dragon and leaving, not daring to retaliate.

Medusas were experts at holding grudges. Holding a grudge for centuries, or even a millennium, was very normal for them. One could only dare to provoke a Medusa if they could kill the entire Tribe without leaving a trace for other Medusas to find.

Otherwise, the only thing that awaited an offender would be a crazy revenge. It didn't matter what happened... When a group of snake-haired Medusas went crazy, they wouldn't understand any human concepts.

Bill George actually used the eyes of eight Medusas as materials. This was extremely daring, as it would even be better to challenge a Chromatic Dragon.

Lin Yun looked at the spider puppet from afar and faintly guessed that in the past, Bill George might have escaped to the Raging Flame Plane for many years because of these eyes. The fact that he had killed at least four Heaven Rank Medusas might have been exposed.

There had been a famous Medusa Queen in the Endless Sea during the 3rd Dynasty. No creature dared to go within several thousand kilometers of that location. If it was known that Bill George killed at least four Heaven Rank Medusas, then the 3rd Dynasty would have acted as if they'd seen nothing.

If Bill George's bloodline hadn't been cleanly killed off, this matter should have remained concealed.

Lin Yun wiped the sweat off his forehead. While Lin Yun had known beforehand that Bill George was treacherous, murderous, and had a perverse character, he hadn't expected that guy to be so brazen and sinister.

Eight eyes from Medusas were actually enchanted onto a level 40 spider puppet. Who would have thought that Bill George would be so extravagant?

But now, that spider puppet had stopped attacking, and the bright runes on its body had completely dimmed. It was only calmly waiting there just like a huge statue of a spider.

Lin Yun opened his Demi-plane and took out a drop of God Blood from within. He dripped a bit of it on Reina's petrified legs. In an instant, fierce mana fluctuations spread and began confronting the terrifying power afflicting Reina's legs.

One side was the innate ability of Medusas, while the other was a God's power. After a handful of seconds, the power within that drop of God Blood dissipated, while Reina's petrified legs slowly turned pale before regaining their original color.

Lin Yun frowned. Only a Medusa or an even higher power could remove the curse-like petrification of Medusa's Eyes.

But even a drop of God Blood unexpectedly needed a handful of seconds to break this curse. The one that the eye had come from was at the very least a 5th Rank Heaven Medusa!

Digging out the eye of a 5th Rank Heaven Medusa to enchant it on an alchemy puppet... Lin Yun hadn't expected Bill George to be that crazy.

After resolving Reina's petrification curse, Lin Yun looked at the spider puppet in the distance before massaging his temples.

They definitely couldn't defeat it if they attacked now. That spider puppet was too frightening, a true Heaven Rank powerhouse. If a Heaven Rank reached this place and was careless, they would definitely end up dying to Bill George.

They could only use other methods to avoid this spider puppet.

It had started attacking when they entered, but it didn't react when they were near the assembly line.

Lin Yun's first guess was right: That spider puppet had been ordered to kill any lifeform entering its defensive perimeter. That was why it hadn't attacked before and suddenly went crazy.

As long as they remained outside that perimeter, that puppet would completely ignore their existence.

But Lin Yun made two laps around the assembly line, using his Magic Array and Mage Eyes, only to find that there was only one path onwards and that they had to pass through the spider puppet's defensive perimeter.

Or they could just turn back...

Lin Yun glanced at the pale and scared Wagner and thought over what had just happened.

Although Wagner hadn't attacked, he had also entered the spider puppet's zone of aggression with the others.

But the puppet didn't attack him at all! Even its indiscriminate large-scale attacks didn't fall near Wagner!

More importantly, when the spider puppet used Medusa's Eyes, even Lin Yun's alchemy puppet and a Magic Tool Incarnation like Enderfa were targeted by it

Only three of the spider puppet's eyes hadn't reacted. In other words, the spider puppet had truly ignored Wagner.

When they were escaping from the spider puppet, apart from Reina, Wagner was the slowest one!

He was far slower than Reina, yet the spider puppet only attacked Reina and didn't care about Wagner.

After thinking it through, Lin Yun was now certain that killing everyone who got too close wasn't the only order that the spider puppet had received!

It was likely that this spider puppet's 1st order was to protect Bill George's bloodline, or at least that it couldn't attack anyone with Bill George's bloodline! The least likely possibility was that these two orders had the same priority. Also, Wagner hadn't attacked when entering the puppet's defensive perimeter.

Bill George was just as the books depicted him... He was very apathetic to everything and had no subordinates other than his puppets, yet he cared a lot about his bloodline.

He slew Medusas and dug out their eyes, potentially bringing him and his descendants a huge amount of trouble, yet he left those eyes behind to protect his bloodline. That guy had been a living contradiction.

Lin Yun thought about it deeply before waving to Wagner.

"Wagner, it's your turn now."

Wagner turned pale, and his back started to get damp with sweat.

'Damn it, I'm not blind! How could I not see how powerful that puppet is? That's a genuine Heaven Puppet! You all attacked together and almost got killed! That terrifying woman is actually a Frost Dragon, yet she could only run!



'What a joke, you want me to go? I knew it! That damned guy had evil intentions, he wanted to get rid of me!'

### **Chapter 870: Trap**

Wagner was very high-strung. He gnashed his teeth and started rousing his mana, intending to escape.

On the side, Xiuban had already silently appeared beside Wagner, casually crushing the latter's Mana Shield before grabbing him by the neck and tossing him towards the spider puppet.

"Damned fool! Sir Merlin told you to do something, yet you actually dared to ignore him. If not for Sir Merlin being benevolent, I would have already snapped your neck..."

Xiuban leaned Carnage against his back as he fiercely chastised Wagner.

Wagner fell to the ground in despair and started running back without thinking.

Just as he ran out of the spider puppet's defensive perimeter, Xiuban kicked him back inside.

After the third time, Lin Yun said one word: "Idiot."

Wagner was terrified, and tears started appearing on his face.

"Sir Merlin, what do you want? Just speak and I'll do as instructed. I can give you all that was plundered before, and I have many pieces of information on the Odin Kingdom, I'll tell you everything!"

Lin Yun was speechless. Wagner, who was already so scared that he had soiled his pants, kept scrambling out before being kicked back by Xiuban.

After six times, something suddenly occurred to Wagner. He turned around to take a look, finding out that the spider puppet hadn't moved at all.

Wagner was stunned. He couldn't understand.

Lin Yun didn't seem surprised as he thought, 'Sure enough, that spider's first order was to not attack anyone with Bill George's bloodline.'

He walked a bit closer to the statue-like spider puppet and it instantly opened its eyes, surging with mana fluctuations as a bright ray of light was shining within its mouth.

Lin Yun rapidly arrived beside Wagner and a few runes flickered within his hands as he moved Wagner in front of him.

The spider puppet instantly stopped in its footsteps, cancelling all its attacks.

"Sir Merlin, please speak if you have something to say, what are you doing? Let go of me, quickly!"

Wagner looked terrified and his body was shaking.

Lin Yun frowned and shouted, "Don't speak. Rest assured, I won't let you die, but if you don't want to anger me, don't mess around."

Wagner looked alarmed, but when he saw that the spider puppet hadn't attacked, he could only confusedly listen to Lin Yun's words.

Lin Yun held Wagner and kept walking towards the spider puppet. After walking a few meters, the spells summoned by the spider puppet had completely dissipated, and the runes on its body started flickering irregularly.

As Lin Yun led Wagner closer and closer, the frequency at which the spider puppet's runes flickered kept increasing.

By the time Lin Yun and Wagner were within ten meters of it, the runes looked ready to explode.

Suddenly, the spider puppet shook and its runes darkened.

That terrifying surge of mana had also dissipated.

Lin Yun sighed in relief and let go of Wagner. Wagner fell and sat on the ground, feeling scared. He was staring foolishly at the motionless puppet while mumbling, "Sir Merlin, what's going on..."

Lin Yun ignored him, feeling relieved.

Because of contradicting orders, that spider puppet had fallen into an infinite loop.

It couldn't attack Bill George's bloodline, but it was supposed to kill anyone that got too close to it. Its first and second commands were thoroughly conflicting with each other, and the spider puppet didn't know which one it was supposed to follow.

Without an outside force solving this, the puppet would just sink into an endless loop.

Lin Yun waved to the others and they all joined him. This time, the puppet didn't react.

Xiuban was looking at the puppet with amazement when Lin Yun sneered, "If you don't want to die, you'd better not touch it."

Xiuban instantly jumped several meters backward, shaking his head in alarm.

That spider puppet wasn't actually damaged; it was just stuck in a loop. If anyone attacked it, it would break out of the loop, and at that time, everyone would become a target, including Wagner.

Lin Yun glanced at Wagner and derisively said, "You can touch that huge thing, but after coming to life again, the first one it'll get rid of will be you. If you don't believe me, you can go ahead and try it out."

Wagner turned pale. He had just thought about examining it.

Since the spider puppet apparently wouldn't attack him, he wanted to try and check if he could use it in some way.

A Heaven Rank Puppet was even more powerful than an army.

But after hearing Lin Yun's words, Wagner promptly shook his head and completely gave up on that idea.

They all went past the spider puppet and arrived at what could be described as the core area of the underground base.

That place wasn't as big as the assembly line room that spread over several kilometers. Instead, it was like an ordinary underground base and had a narrow tunnel filled with complex passages leading to various rooms.

Surprisingly, not a single puppet could be seen after reaching this area.

After walking for a short while, several hundred sharp spikes came out of the walls on both sides, surrounding Lin Yun's group. The ones on the edges were the first to appear, while the ones next to them came slightly later.

Lin Yun's eyes widened because he hadn't noticed any traps or mechanisms just now.

But he didn't have time to think. He instantly chanted some sounds, and a few brown runes revolved around everyone, transforming into a mudstone cage that enveloped them.

Sharp metallic sounds echoed as hundreds of sharp spikes struck the mudstone cage. Magic Penetration Runes were flickering on the spikes, allowing them to even pierce halfway through that solid mudstone cage. It looked as if the spikes would soon reach everyone.

A huge wheel shadow appeared behind Lin Yun and burst with runes, which poured into the mudstone cage, reinforcing it. Even more runes passed through the cage before attaching themselves to the metal spikes.

As those runes merged with the metallic spikes, the Magic Penetration Runes seemed to dissolve as if they were being washed away.

Having lost the Magic Penetration, the sharp spikes could no longer pierce through the mudstone cage.

Everyone sighed in relief as they felt that the issue had been solved.

Wagner was deathly pale, overwhelmed by regret. If he had known earlier what it'd be like down here, he wouldn't have followed even if he had been beaten to death. No, if he had known, he would have never come to the Radiant Fort at all...

"Hell, what the f\*ck is happening?" Enderfa looked at Lin Yun in shock.

Mafa Merlin falling into a trap seemed almost unthinkable...

Enderfa could understand if it was someone else, but just who was Mafa Merlin? All along, regardless of what ruins they had been in, or when they explored the Intrepid, he had never fallen directly into a trap and almost died from it.

Lin Yu frowned, and a large number of runes flew out of the wheel shadow behind him. Outside the mudstone cage, the persevering spikes touched the flaming runes and rapidly turned burning red before slowly melting.

After confirming that the spikes had completely melted, Lin Yun scattered the mudstone cage.

A solidified layer of molten iron froze up around the mudstone cage, and the walls turned silvery-white because of all the melted metal spikes.

Lin Yun looked at the wall and his Magic Array kept revolving, continuously analyzing the current situation.

Ultimately, there was only one conclusion: They didn't fall into a trap, as there was no probing spell or mechanism for a trap.

These spikes had suddenly stabbed out, but there was no way to actually trigger a trap. It was possible that a trap had suddenly gone out of control.

But Lin Yun wasn't too convinced about that possibility... He felt that there was definitely something or other that had caused the trap to activate.

And he'd also sent Rock Puppets to lead the way!

Lin Yun's expression turned serious after discovering that he couldn't find the trap's activation method.

These were the ruins Bill George left behind. As a Heaven Mage and someone with unprecedented accomplishments in the puppeteering field, not discovering some of his tricks was very normal.

Lin Yun thought of all the methods he knew, but he couldn't find one that met the current situation.

Bill George was formidable, but he couldn't exceed Noscent at its peak!

Lin Yun was even more prudent as they kept going forward and opened a Hell Gate to summon an Imp as a pathfinder.

As for the rooms on the side, he didn't find anything valuable after opening a few. There were only some alchemy facilities and workshops to manufacture some core puppet components.

All of these facilities were different, and each specialized in manufacturing specific components.

After going through a passage, they entered a room specifically used to manufacture power system components. Those huge machines that had been sealed for a long time and were covered in dust suddenly started operating.

A huge, two-meter-tall grinding wheel used for polishing components was controlled by a large mechanical arm, and it swept towards Lin Yun's group.

A mournful sound came out of that grinding wheel as it ruthlessly sliced towards Lin Yun's group.