

Magic Era 911

Chapter 911:Puppet City

It was rumored that the Grey Beastmen weren't natives of the Raging Flame Plane. Their ancestors were from another place, but by now the Grey Beastmen had been living in the Raging Flame Plane for countless years. After having developed to this point, even the other Beastman races of the Raging Flame Plane didn't feel that they were outsiders.

As for their fort, it was clearly inconsistent with the style of other Beastman races. It was a neat and tidy rectangular prism.

From a distance, it looked like the city walls had been cut from a huge grey rock. Metallic luster could be seen flickering on the walls, and wisps of mana fluctuations could be felt, even from several kilometers away.

Lin Yun couldn't help being somewhat amazed. He didn't know what material had been used to make the city walls, but the outside was covered with a layer of forged magic metal.

The dense patterns and runes of the small array carved into every metal plate formed a powerful defensive effect.

Moreover, after the ashen-colored metal plates were assembled, they formed a huge array formation covering an entire wall. This greatly increased the defensive effect and rendered any spell under the 6th Tier useless.

He could also see huge and strange puppets standing atop the walls. They looked like mana crystal cannons... with very long legs.

Sure enough, by the time those fleeing Grey Beastmen entered the fort, a few puppets immediately started emitting fierce mana fluctuations that could be sensed from a distance.

Glaring blazing light started gathering within the mouths of those cannon-like puppets, and five seconds later, loud noises echoed as huge fireballs spurted out at the pursuing puppet army.

Every cannon puppet let out a huge fireball that fiercely exploded on the ground within a few hundred meters of the city wall.

"Rumble..."

Explosions similar to rolling thunder echoed. The earth started bursting open, forming a deep ravine between the city wall and the sword puppets.

And just as these puppets had started casting, Lin Yun had the puppet army and the mage army stop their chase.

If he hadn't, the huge fireballs would have destroyed at least a dozen sword puppets.

"Sir Mafa, what now?"

Xiuban anxiously looked at Lin Yun with worry. These Grey Beastmen were too fragile... If they weren't careful, they would accidentally kill them.

Lin Yun waved his hand and said, "Let's surround them first..."

As he spoke those words, a group of puppets and Grey Beastmen appeared on the metallic wall facing them.

The surface of the wall was like a mirror covered with patterns, and it also exposed various black holes from which the mana cannon puppets were aiming.

In an instant, a large number of Grey Beastmen started casting towards Lin Yun's side. The earth-shattering spells were akin to multi-colored rain falling towards them.

As for those long-legged cannon-like puppets, they kept casting, and their flames were following right behind the rain of spells.

As the blazing flames came out, they turned into ten-meter-long bursting fireballs flying towards Lin Yun's side.

The Grey Beastmen were using their geographical advantage to launch a powerful counterattack.

On this side, the casting puppets and the mage army joined hands to cast a flood of spells towards the Grey Beastmen on the city wall, but the patterns on the wall suddenly shone brightly.

A layer of faint light covered the surface of the city wall, and the spells falling on top of it only made the patterns on the wall's surface enlarge a bit. They simply couldn't damage the city wall.

As for the Grey Beastmen, they were casting without restraint. The rain of spells lasted half a minute until Lin Yun made his subordinates withdraw five hundred meters away. Only then did the Grey Beastmen calm their attack.

Unless one had the power of an Archmage, they would have difficulty aiming from such a distance. Among the puppets, only the roughly six-meter-tall long-legged puppets shaped like mana crystal cannons could have such an attack range.

But the attack frequency of those puppets was too low. After releasing a fireball, they would need to stop for a full minute before being able to cast again. The time needed to gather power after every cast was too long.

Also, after their trajectory had been set, they couldn't alter it. They had too many flaws and simply couldn't compare to actual mana crystal cannons. Although they were powerful, they were only useful in situations like this, where they had to defend the city walls. The Grey Beastmen seemed to know about these puppets' flaws, so they hadn't made too many of them. There were only a dozen.

Those huge fireballs could compare to the strongest 7th Tier Spells in terms of power. When facing a huge group of enemies, they would land on a ten-meter-wide area before exploding in a radius of several dozen meters. This kind of spell was an extraordinary deterrent.

Lin Yun ordered a retreat and surrounded the Grey Beastmen's fort without attacking.

Before coming, Lin Yun knew that the Grey Beastmen's fort would be a very tough bone to chew, but he hadn't expected that they would be so fearless.

The city walls they built were thirty meters high and the surface was covered with a full layer of magic-resistant metal.

That magic metal was of excellent quality. It could be used to make magic-resistant armor and could be sold in alchemy shops, while they were used as bricks by the Grey Beastmen.

But to achieve that effect, the thickness of that alloy had to be thicker than an armor plate. Also, the alchemical processing, perfectly carving the arrays' patterns and runes, and even connecting each and every metal plate as a whole... All those were something a true Alchemist could barely attempt.

And when looking at the city walls, just one wall was at least several kilometers in length. The number of metal plates needed to cover it all was extremely huge. Even if every member of the Grey Beastman race knew some amount of alchemy and the number of Alchemists was shockingly high, they would still need several dozen years to complete the magic-resistant plates for the city walls. Even then, that was if they had an adequate supply of materials and their entire race worked together.

In reality, they might take a few centuries...

Lin Yun couldn't help letting out a deep sigh. 'Truly extravagant...'

The resources spent to build that wall could make any Family go bankrupt. Every major force in the entire Andlusa Kingdom combined would barely be able to pull together the raw resources needed for this kind of wall.

And those arrays were clearly rarely seen, ungraded arrays. A metal plate carried the most common array, but when enough of them were piled together, the alchemy array's grade would keep increasing.

In theory, as long as it was large enough, the array formation could reach an unlimited grade, and the power might also be boundlessly increased. Given another few centuries, they could keep on piling more and more metal plates and arrays. At that time, forming a Heaven Rank Array might not be impossible.

At that point, even a Heaven Rank powerhouse might not be able to destroy that city wall!

The stronger the attack, the greater the range of the array activated on those metal plates. As long as the attack didn't surpass the reaction limit or the defensive limit of the metal plates, destroying the city wall's plates was impossible.

This kind of excessive method wasn't uncommon. Even when Noscent reached its peak, not many people felt secure.

'I knew that those Grey Beastmen considered protecting themselves to be of the utmost importance. That's the main reason that puppeteering has already blended with their lives and bloodlines. But I really hadn't expected these guys to create such a huge tortoise shell...'

Lin Yun kept his group withdrawn. He wouldn't pointlessly sacrifice their lives. The Magic Array had already caught onto the patterns of the city wall and was continuously combining those patterns and runes in order to figure out how to break the array.

Lin Yun didn't attack, and the Grey Beastmen didn't dare to attack, and thus, they were stuck in this stalemate.

The situation was the same two days later. So long as Lin Yun's subordinates approached just a little bit, the patrolling Grey Beastmen would immediately go crazy and start casting.

Unless they could break through the entrance of the fort, a domineering attack wouldn't have a great effect. It would only increase the casualties. Flying wasn't an option, as the city walls had huge anti-air towers built every few hundred meters. Those were always operating and were ready to shoot down anything approaching their airspace.

The anti-air towers were mainly guarding the sky, and in order to reinforce that function, they were rendered unable to attack anything too close or on the ground.

Flying wasn't possible, and they also wouldn't be able to breach the city walls, so they could only think of a way to attack the gates.

On the 3rd day, the Grey Beastmen were still sticking to their turtling strategy and simply didn't come out. But Lin Yun started to surround the fort.

The Grey Beastmen needed a lot of water. After all, it was a huge city, and they were in contact with alchemy puppets all the time. Drinking and washing aside, the water demand in other fields was several times higher.

If the entire fort was sealed, what water could they use?

The fort was bordering two rivers. During normal times, they wouldn't need to worry about water supplies, but even though their fort was under siege now, they didn't seem nervous at all. Moreover, the black smoke coming from the workshops' chimneys could still be seen from outside the fort, showing that they were fully focused on the production of puppets.

Chapter 912: Captives

Everything in the Radiant Fort's puppet base was automatized, but that place was the best masterpiece of a Heaven Rank powerhouse. The power needed to run the base was stolen from the Abyss via the Radiant Fort's array.

The Grey Beastmen's fort didn't have anything that outstanding. There wouldn't be enough power in the long term if they used mana crystals, so they could only use hydraulic power or some other type of mechanical power. But hydraulic power would need very heavy water consumption.

The fort was now sealed, so how could they still dare to use water without restraint?

After surrounding the Grey Beastmen's fort, Lin Yun discovered that their fort was built on top of a huge piece of granite. That way, they wouldn't be attacked from underground, and with the anti-air towers and the city walls, they simply didn't need to worry about defense.

But that also made them lose their access to groundwater. How could they continue to use water like that?

Lin Yun looked at the confluence of the rivers while thinking of something. He then personally went to the river to start searching. The Magic Array was continuously studying the flow of the river, and in an instant, a huge amount of data crazily flowed into his brain.

Soon, Lin Yun found an anomaly in an ordinary spot. When the river flowed through there, a part would be missing, as if a part of the river was flowing somewhere else.

Lin Yun discovered an array specially used for concealment inside the river. That array's defensive abilities were very poor. It was just like an ordinary rock covering a passage at the bottom of the river.

As he kept exploring the river, he quickly discovered thirteen such passages, presumably all leading to the Grey Beastmen's fort.

'No wonder these guys have such an unyielding attitude. It turns out they aren't afraid of running out.'

Lin Yun thought for a while and then casually smashed two passages before sending a bunch of puppets to guard them, and another team to examine the bottom of the river.

This was all naturally detected by the Grey Beastmen. Two of their water sources had suddenly stopped working, and seeing the puppets on the river bank, they immediately became worried.

If all the water sources were destroyed, they would end up dying while trapped in their fort. Let alone developing, if they didn't do anything, they would have issues just staying hydrated within half a month.

The next day, Lin Yun had the puppets destroy another passage. This time, the Grey Beastmen could no longer remain still.

At night, several hundred monster puppets quietly left from a side gate, followed by a few dozen strange puppets.

These human-shaped puppets were over six meters tall and had a huge, transparent light barrier covering their chests. A Grey Beastman could be seen sitting in the chest compartment of each one, controlling these mechas as if they were machines. But the mechas' movements were clearly more flexible than those of puppets, and they could display even more power.

Lin Yun was calmly waiting on the side, not even lighting a bonfire as he looked at the Grey Beastmen and puppets who were taking advantage of the darkness.

Lin Yun smiled.

"Go, tear all that cannon fodder apart, but don't kill the Grey Beastmen. Anyone controlling a mecha should be an Alchemist, and these are talented ones. Hmm... Just capture a few and let a few of them run away."

The mage army and the puppet army were calmly waiting. When one of the puppets guarding the river was torn apart, the two armies immediately rushed to the river bank as if they had just discovered what happened.

The monster puppets weren't worth mentioning. After being charged at by the sword puppets twice, they turned into a pile of components.

But those few dozen mechas driven by the Grey Beastmen showed shocking power.

Those mechas didn't possess an automatic control system. They were fully controlled by the Grey Beastmen piloting them, and they were obviously Level 30 puppets. There were a few dozen mechas, yet, under the pressure of a few hundred sword puppets, they were only pushed back, and that was just due to being at a numerical disadvantage.

These mechas had the flexibility that ordinary puppets didn't have, and just like seasoned fighters, they could cripple some sword puppets even while retreating.

But the circumstances changed once the mage army joined in.

The mechas themselves were close-range battle puppets, but the Grey Beastmen within could use a system to cast spells in close range. The power displayed by a Level 30 mecha and a Level 30 Grey Beastman together could be comparable to a powerhouse between Level 33 and Level 35.

Lin Yun recalled some notes about mechas as he saw this.

In the future, puppets would be too inflexible, and the weak point of being unable to compare with mages of the same rank would be repeatedly brought up. The mechas, which had already appeared, naturally became a source of attention.

It removed the puppets' need for automated procedures and allowed mages to operate them from within so that they could not only fight in melee, but also cast spells. Visit web novel. live If You like manga , comics

The idea was good but difficult to implement. It might be better to let the puppet fight by itself instead of making a mage fight like a swordsman, but it would be better if a mage was controlling both the puppet and his spells from a distance at the same time.

Later on, a Draconic Beastman had appeared. Because of his natural magic patterns, he didn't need to chant like mages to condense runes, and he was also a formidable fighter.

The Draconic Beastman himself was very powerful, and very few people within the same rank could be his opponent. Along with his powerful physique and warrior talent, he could also instant-cast spells.

And that Draconic Beastman was only a 5th Rank Heaven powerhouse. No one knew how, but he offended an 8th Rank Heaven Mage and ended up being chased through a dozen planes, almost dying a few times.

A few years later, the Draconic Beastman was still a 5th Rank Heaven powerhouse, but he was controlling a Heaven-Grade Mecha.

That battle made everyone experience the power of mechas.

The 5th Rank Heaven Draconic Beastman was controlling a 6th Rank Heaven Mecha. The battle barely started when the 8th Rank Heaven Mage was already being pressured.

After all, the gap between every rank at the Heaven realm was huge, involving the power of Laws. A slight discrepancy could be the difference between life and death. That Draconic Beastman was very powerful to be able to withstand an 8th Rank Heaven Mage as a 5th Rank Heaven Sword Saint, but he

was still chased around like a stray dog. If not for the fact that he ran so quickly, he would have died many times over.

But because of a 6th Rank Heaven Mecha, the situation reversed, and he was the one chasing that 8th Rank Heaven Mage through a dozen planes, up until a first-rate powerhouse of a major force appeared and made that Draconic Beastman give up.

From that point on, the previously unpopular mechas started being studied.

The conclusion was that this kind of thing was only suitable for fighter races like the Draconic Beastmen. But the fighting power of races that could also use magic patterns would exceed their own limits.

Although it was still awkward for the Grey Beastmen to control those mechas and they couldn't show the full potential of the mechas in close-combat, they could display power exceeding their levels.

Lin Yun turned and glanced at Xiuban, feeling that it was a pity that the magic patterns on Xiuban's body had completely disappeared after bathing in Ancient God Blood. Otherwise, if Xiuban was given a mecha, his strength would have definitely increased.

But he didn't need a mecha thanks to his abnormal body. His terrifying strength, combined with his outstanding physique, already exceeded a mecha's.

With the mage army and the puppet army attacking them together, quite a few of the Grey Beastmen's mechas were soon dismantled. After losing the protection of their mechas, it didn't take long before these Grey Beastmen were captured by the fearless sword puppets.

After thirty Grey Beastmen were captured, the mage army and the puppet army relented somewhat. They chased the remaining Grey Beastmen towards the fort, up until the puppets on top of the forts started casting.

Those glaring flames were especially conspicuous in the darkness of the night.

The mage army decisively withdrew, and the puppet army followed suit. It appeared as if Lin Yun's group still didn't want to go all-out against the Grey Beastmen, and they even released a few of them. The released Grey Beastmen weren't even injured in the slightest.

The Grey Beastmen absolutely didn't think that Lin Yun had deliberately made the mage army and the puppet army give up on the attack.

Ever since the Grey Beastmen had appeared, Lin Yun, Reina, Enderfa, and the patched puppet hadn't made any moves. Although Xiuban was powerful, he had no casting abilities, and under such circumstances, he wouldn't be able to break through alone.

After capturing those Grey Beastmen, Lin Yun temporarily sealed their casting abilities and gave them to William, making him deliver them to Shawn in the Radiant Fort.

After easily capturing a bit over thirty Beastmen, Lin Yun couldn't help smiling.

After all, Grey Beastmen had very delicate physiques. The mecha drivers should have been involved in the production of the mechas so that they would have a thorough understanding of them to improve their control.

After all, the Grey Beastman race didn't produce any melee classes.

Thus, those thirty captured Grey Beastmen had at least reached the Alchemist rank.

After checking, he confirmed that they were genuinely Alchemists, and there was even one Great Alchemist among them.

Even though most of them were ordinary Alchemists, Lin Yun was still very pleased. The Grey Beastmen's Alchemists were well-known for one important reason. It wasn't that they had a lot of alchemists, or that they had high-rank alchemists, but rather that they had excellent cooperation!

Ordinary alchemists could only work well on their own when completing something. At most, they would let others process the ingredients to help, but they would take care of the manufacturing process on their own.

Chapter 913: Slow and Steady

Just like there were no two people with the same identical mana, mana fluctuations, and frequency, it was the same for alchemists. Different alchemists would also have small differences. These differences would greatly affect the success rate at the final stage, and even if it was successful, the power would be affected.

But Grey Beastmen were different. A puppet could be made by multiple Grey Beastmen at the same time, and there wouldn't be any difference. Sometimes, the puppet manufactured from their cooperation could be stronger than if it had been made by one person.

The most frightening part was that the Grey Beastman race had a special strength. Not only could they work together, but they could also craft things that exceeded their own rank.

A group of Alchemists could manufacture something that would normally need a Great Alchemist.

And it wasn't impossible to make something even stronger!

This ability was the greatest strength of the Grey Beastmen.

Thus, Lin Yun didn't care that there were a few dozen ordinary Alchemists as long as he had enough people to do repairs and enough people to do research.

On the next day, Lin Yun dispatched even more puppets to do a thorough search, acting as if he was searching for all the entrances.

That day, he once again destroyed a passage he'd "discovered", and once the passage was blocked, another water source within the fort was no longer supplying the Grey Beastmen.

This time, it made the Grey Beastmen panic even more, but the previous battle was still vivid in their minds. They had left the fort under the cover of the night in order to discreetly open up the blocked passages. But they ended up being discovered and failing to accomplish the mission, and they had no way of opening another passage.

The next day, Lin Yun blocked another passage, and the Grey Beastmen were unable to endure it any longer. They took advantage of the darkness of the night to send more than a hundred mechas piloted by Beastmen. They completely gave up on sending the cannon fodder puppets and only sent over a hundred Level 30 elite puppets.

Once again, Lin Yun didn't immediately attack. Instead, he waited for those Grey Beastmen to open a water passage before sending the mage army and the puppet army after them.

Another battle occurred, and over seventy Grey Beastmen were caught, while he let forty go.

The captured Grey Beastmen were directly delivered to the Radiant Fort.

Lin Yun took the time to take a trip to the Radiant Fort to resupply his sword puppets. In the past few days, he had lost several dozen sword puppets, the majority of which had been lost in order to lure the Grey Beastmen into traps. If these guys weren't given any benefits, and if they couldn't see any hope, why would they keep dispatching people?

After eight days, Lin Yun still didn't thoroughly block the water sources. Someone else wouldn't have had the means to find all those secret entrances in such a short time, but Lin Yun was exceptional with arrays, and his computing ability was even more formidable.

Just by standing on the riverbank and letting out mana fluctuations, he could figure out the path of the stream, and he could sense if the flow even slightly decreased, unless those passages stopped drawing water altogether. The path of the water was as clear as day to Lin Yun.

He had closed off a passage the previous day and lured the Grey Beastmen once again. So far, he had captured close to four hundred Grey Beastmen, most of whom were common Alchemists, while only ten of them were Great Alchemists.

Due to so many clansmen being captured, and all of them being at least Alchemists, the Grey Beastmen grew somewhat worried and completely gave up on sending people.

Lin Yun also still didn't close all the passages. Doing so would mean forcing the hands of the Grey Beastmen. He wasn't planning on eradicating them.

If it had been another Beastman Tribe, he would have just swept through all of them, but the Grey Beastmen were different. They weren't natives to the Raging Flame Plane, and they were alchemists. Getting rid of them would be a loss.

No Beastmen came out for the next three days, and Lin Yun knew that trying to lure them at this point would be impossible, so he decided that he might as well make the mage army and the puppet army start the siege.

As the siege officially started, the power of the Grey Beastmen's fort was truly displayed.

Every single hole in the city walls exposed the mouth of a mana crystal cannon puppet. There were also box-like alchemy weapons and fortifications crafted from magic metals.

When the fighting started, the cannon-like mouths started blossoming with glaring rays of light, loudly firing out their huge fireballs.

After hitting the ground, they exploded and formed craters that spanned twenty to thirty meters, while the flames swept everything around.

Those strange casting puppets on the city walls walked to the sides of the walls, and countless flaming rays flew out, forming a rain of red lasers that shot downward.

As these Fire Bolts fell onto the puppet army, they covered the fastest sword puppets in black burns.

As for those strange, box-like weapons with eight legs, numerous array patterns shone on them and a terrifying mana fluctuation rose up as a large number of small holes appeared at the front of a box, just like a honeycomb.

In an instant, brilliant light spread out as awl-like alchemy bombs shot out of each and every hole.

Several of these unknown alchemy bombs exploded on the ground and immediately turned the ground in front of the fort into dust.

A sword puppet happened to be close to the area, and within a second, over a hundred alchemy bombs burst against that puppet.

The concentrated flaming explosions instantly sent the components of the Level 30 puppet flying, with its arms and head shattered into pieces.

And from another box-like metallic weapon, a four-meter-long tube as thick as a thigh appeared. As it buzzed, a thick Fire Bolt shot out and hit a casting puppet over two hundred meters away.

In an instant, that casting puppet's head turned crimson and melted like butter.

Facing such circumstances, Lin Yun remained unperturbed. He completely didn't care about this kind of loss.

Ever since those few hundred Grey Beastmen were delivered to the Radiant Fort, the efficiency of the puppet base had rapidly increased. The rather lacking research and development had been bolstered by the few hundred Grey Beastmen, and some of the defunct places producing important components had been restored to working order.

Along with the improvements of the Grey Beastmen's alchemists, the underground base's efficiency had sharply risen. Sword puppets would be produced every day at a speed two to three times as fast as before, and that speed was still slowly increasing."Access Read.live if you like watching manga,comics.

Lin Yun completely didn't care about the costs of that battle. Those Grey Beastmen would be sent to the Radiant Fort, and once they were sorted out by Shawn, they would have to sign slave contracts so that even their souls would continue to work for Lin Yun after their deaths.

If there was any sort of reincarnation, these Grey Beastmen would still be Lin Yun's subordinates in their next lives.

After resupplying with a large number of puppets, Lin Yun didn't have to worry about losing too many.

The large hordes of puppets fearlessly attacked the fort in front of them, frantically assaulting the entrance with no care for the Grey Beastmen's counterattack. It looked as if they planned to use numbers to forcibly squeeze the entrance open.

Sure enough, the Grey Beastmen eventually couldn't handle it. Their city walls were very strong, but the entrance was the only weak point of the city wall.

And the only places that the Grey Beastmen needed to focus their defenses on were the gates. Now that their gates were attacked, how could they not worry?

Soon, two box weapons on the city walls threw a large number of alchemy bombs in front of the entrance. Then, two mana crystal cannon puppets turned their bodies and shot two huge fireballs onto the entrance.

A large area in front of the entrance was cleared out, but at the same time, the gates were opened.

A large number of cannon fodder puppets rushed out, followed by over three hundred Grey Beastmen outfitted with mechas and over three hundred elite puppets.

The hordes of cannon fodder rushed at Lin Yun's puppet army, followed by the three hundred elite puppets and the three hundred mechas.

Lin Yun smiled and glanced at the incessantly sighing Xiuban.

"Xiuban, go. Do your best to capture as many as possible." After pausing for an instant, he added, "Or you can throw those mechas to the rear."

Xiuban couldn't help sighing in relief as Lin Yun said that.

Those Grey Beastmen were too fragile for Xiuban, truly too weak. With any of the Black Iron Beastmen, a slap would only stun them and make them puke a bit of blood, but the same slap would actually obliterate the head of a Grey Beastman.

Not killing them was too bothersome.

Now he didn't have to worry about it, he only had to throw those mechas to the back. That would be very easy.

Xiuban lifted Carnage and laughed mischievously before charging out.

Xiuban dashed through a pack of wolf puppets, but these cannon fodder puppets didn't even have the qualifications to stall him.

Soon, Xiuban reached the ranks of the Grey Beastmen. He swung Carnage and simply ignored those Grey Beastmen's magic attacks.

Regardless of what spell it was, it was ineffective once it touched Carnage. In fact, they even collapsed into the most basic elemental power.

A Grey Beastman controlling a mecha was hit by Xiuban's hammer, and his six-meter-tall mecha weighing 2,000kg was like a ball sent flying after being struck. Half of the mecha fell apart in the air while the Grey Beastman inside puked blood and fainted.

After he fell, a few puppets quickly tore apart the mecha and took away the fainted Grey Beastman.

Chapter 914: Planar Path

Seeing that this was effective, Xiuban sighed in relief. He had been afraid of the short Beastman dying because he used too much strength.

The ranged attacks of the Grey Beastmen on the city walls weren't too useful in this chaotic melee. Only those box-shaped things emitting thick Fire Bolts were somewhat useful, but the frequency of their attacks was too low. They could shoot only one Fire Bolt per minute, and although they would destroy one of Lin Yun's puppets every time, they didn't have too much of an impact on the battlefield.

Xiuban cooperated with the mage army to quickly harvest Grey Beastmen. In less than ten minutes, over two hundred Grey Beastmen were caught...

Facing these circumstances, the remaining Grey Beastmen wanted to flee back to their fort, only to find out that Xiuban was like a fierce, unshakable monster. He would clench his teeth and take on a thick Fire Bolt before continuing to fight as if nothing happened. Anyone chased by that monster would be finished.

The remaining few dozen Grey Beastmen gave up on fleeing and took the remaining puppets to launch the final assault.

But it had no effect. All the Grey Beastmen were captured within three minutes.

And at this time, Lin Yun gave the firm order to withdraw, ignoring the monster puppets.

They captured over two hundred Grey Beastmen at once, and although Xiuban had miscalculated his strength, killing a dozen and injuring more than half, it didn't matter. After returning, some Health Potions would be enough to be lively once again.

This time, there were relatively more people. Lin Yun put them all in his Demiplane, and seeing that the battle was over, he left for the Radiant Fort in person.

After delivering over two hundred Grey Beastmen to Shawn and grabbing a large number of newly produced puppets into the Demiplane, Lin Yun rushed back to the Grey Beastmen's fort without taking a single pause.

A large number of puppets appeared, even more than he'd had at the start. And these puppets were more powerful.

After several clashes, the Grey Beastmen understood that Lin Yun's side was too strong for them. Not only were the enemies too powerful for a force of monster puppets and mechas to defeat, but Lin Yun's side also surrounded them and captured some Grey Beastmen every time.

If this continued, they would be slowly eaten away.

"We can't go on like this! Those humans encircled us and severed our water supply in order to capture us. They are slowly engulfing us while spending very little. We have to counterattack, we have to use

everything we have and counterattack! That is the only way to repel these humans and avert this crisis!" A high-ranked Grey Beastman officer was loudly shouting within the fort's war hall.

"Those humans have more and more puppets, and they are all elite puppets. If this continues, the fort will definitely be breached."

"Yeah, we have to repel them. We will be done for if the fort is breached," a voice echoed.

They could all see Lin Yun's plans now.

"Okay. Open the gates, counterattack with everything we have, and repel these repulsive humans," the worried leader of the Grey Beastmen commanded.

An hour later, the entrance of the Grey Beastmen's fort was wide open. Several types of unknown monster puppets rushed out like a flood and crazily charged towards Lin Yun's location.

Over a thousand Grey Beastmen, all outfitted with mechas, were following that puppet army. Moreover, a large number of Grey Beastmen rode puppets and followed behind.

No less than eight thousand cannon fodder puppets were crazily rushing over, making the earth tremble.

Lin Yun frowned and noticed something different. 'Did these Grey Beastmen unexpectedly start their all-out counterattack?'

The battle started, but it was completely one-sided. Lin Yun's replenished puppets were Level 30 at the lowest and formed an inexorably advancing tide of steel. The opposing puppets, which could only be regarded as cannon fodder, were unable to resist.

Soon, the puppet army and the mage army started to fight against the mechas.

The Grey Beastmen gave up on the high ground and were now frantically charging towards Lin Yun's front line... but it was useless.

A large number of Grey Beastmen were knocked down and captured, while the frantically casting Grey Beastmen in the back were stunned in groups from one of Xiuban's attacks, easily allowing him to capture them in large quantities.

Soon, Xiuban alone had captured almost eighty Grey Beastmen, and those captured were delivered to the back. More and more Grey Beastmen were captured, yet Lin Yun's army only slightly moved back.

Over three thousand of the monster puppets had been torn apart, over a hundred elite puppets had been destroyed, and over four hundred Grey Beastmen had been captured.

They were staking everything on the attack, but suffering a defeat was only a matter of time...

Xiuban burst out in laughter. "Silly Guys, do you really think you can escape with Lord Xiuban personally taking charge? Obediently present your heads, and Lord Xiuban will guarantee that you'll only faint, I definitely won't break your neck..."

It wasn't just Xiuban, as the mages were also very happy. This was too easy.

'Did those Grey Beastmen decide to just throw away their lives because they realized they were no match for us?'

No one thought too much about it. They just took advantage of the opportunity to capture a large number of Grey Beastmen. Everyone was cheerful, and only Lin Yun was frowning, with mana fluctuations emitting from his body.

The Grey Beastmen kept throwing away their lives. Every second, there would be at least a few dozen cannon fodder puppets destroyed, and almost every second, there would be a Grey Beastman captured.

But those Grey Beastmen appeared fearless, not caring about their losses at all, only going all-out to pressure Lin Yun's army into mutual destruction.

Sure enough, it didn't take long before Lin Yun suddenly raised his head with a flash of understanding. A fierce spatial fluctuation rippled above the Grey Beastmen's fort. The space was like a pond in which someone had thrown a rock, causing waves of visible ripples to spread around.

The origin of the fluctuation was the space underneath. A dozen cannon fodder puppets were swept by the spatial fluctuations and were unexpectedly torn to shreds. Their steel bodies were like mud being molded into strange shapes.

The next instant, the calm sky that looked like a smooth cloth had a big hole forcibly torn open in it. A pitch-black crack appeared, from which gales surged out. The elemental power near it became berserk, and a void storm escaped from within. A completely different aura flooded the battlefield from within.

Four thick arms stretched out of this spatial crack and firmly pushed against the sides as if trying to widen it. Blinding lightning appeared as the palms collided with the spatial crack, making the originally unstable rift even more volatile.

Then, those four arms tore both sides apart and forcibly enlarged the crack.

The next second, a ten-meter-tall humanoid puppet with four arms rushed out of that crack. The earth shook violently as it hit the ground, and a shockwave with a trace of fierce Heaven Rank power spread in the surroundings.

It was like the cannon fodder puppets had met their sovereign as they remained at a distance, not daring to approach.

Heaven Rank Puppet!

Lin Yun's puppets were like magic beasts that met a high-level magic beast. Their fighting strength was suppressed, as were their movements. The puppets' control procedures and fighting procedures had been unexpectedly affected, and they simply couldn't approach this Heaven Puppet.

Everyone had been cheerful earlier, but they couldn't smile now. No one had expected the Grey Beastmen to actually be able to summon a Heaven Puppet.

The army decisively withdrew, and the puppet army was also called back. Reina, Enderfa, and the patched puppet, who had yet to act, started making their own battle preparations.

As for the Grey Beastmen, the moment that Heaven Puppet appeared, they immediately retreated towards the fort, only leaving that Heaven Puppet outside.

Lin Yun's expression instantly became heavy. The way he looked at that spatial crack wasn't good.

The Magic Array instantly caught the aura of the Heaven Puppet and started fully analyzing it. After a short moment, Lin Yun sighed in relief.

'No wonder these Grey Beastmen were crazily charging over. It turns out that they were opening a Planar Path! Although it isn't very stable, it still summoned a Heaven Puppet...'

The only fortunate part was that although this Heaven Puppet had already reached the Heaven Rank, it didn't possess Extraordinary Power. Its strength already far surpassed Level 39, but it hadn't truly reached Level 40 yet.

Advancing to the Heaven Rank was different for puppets. They could first advance to Level 40 before undergoing their final transformation, when they would obtain Extraordinary Power and truly become a Heaven Rank powerhouse.

Most puppets who got this far were stuck at that last step and couldn't complete the transformation, thus being unable to become a genuine Heaven Puppet.

The one before their eyes was a typical example. It was at the Heaven Rank but didn't possess Extraordinary Power, making it a lot weaker than a true Heaven Rank. It couldn't inherently pressure lifeforms below the Heaven Rank.

But even then, that Heaven Rank Puppet could suppress any puppet below the Heaven Rank through a natural pressure that had no effect on humans. It couldn't make these puppets lose all their fighting power, but it could prevent them from exerting all their strength.

That Heaven Puppet stood on the ground, its crystal eyes constantly flickering scarlet lights, and its head turned to check its surroundings.

Then, the Heaven Rank Puppet raised its four arms, shooting out countless laser spells and indiscriminately hitting puppets within two hundred meters.

Red Fire Bolts instantly pierced the power core of each cannon fodder puppet while blue Frost Bolts froze puppets into statues, freezing their mana sources.

Chapter 915: Frost Breath

It took two seconds for the three-hundred-meter area around the Heaven Rank Puppet to be cleared. But the puppet didn't continue attacking after this... It just remained motionless next to the unstable Planar Path. Its scarlet crystal eyes were continuously flickering, vigilantly checking the surroundings.

Lin Yun furrowed his brows as he controlled a sword puppet to slowly move towards the Heaven Rank Puppet.

After approaching within three hundred meters, that sword puppet's mana core was instantly pierced by three Fire Bolts.

Seeing this, Lin Yun was sure that this Heaven Rank Puppet wasn't planning on fighting, but guarding the Planar Path like a defensive vanguard.

Apart from the famed Puppet Plane, Lin Yun couldn't think of any other plane that would use a Heaven Rank Puppet as a vanguard, even if it was still a step away from becoming a genuine Heaven Puppet.

Lin Yun turned to William and told him, "Bring Wagner over here as fast as possible, regardless of what he is doing!"

After giving that order, Lin Yun took out the Draconic Staff and the Book of Death. He instantly used Fire Elemental Incarnation, and his body turned into a swaying flame as it flew towards the Heaven Rank Puppet.

As Lin Yun got on the move, Xiuban, Reina, Enderfa, the patched puppet, and the mage army followed behind him.

Even if that Heaven Rank Puppet hadn't completed its final transformation yet, it wasn't something that the mage army and the puppet army could handle.

The Purple Dragon Incarnation came out of the Draconic Staff and transformed into a huge shadow behind Lin Yun. The purple dragon shadow opened its arms and slowly embraced that profound wheel shadow that shimmered like the starry sky.

Countless four-colored rays of light roamed in the center of the wheel shadow while several runes kept revolving.

The Book of Death flipped itself to the Element Chapter's page, and the four-colored rays of light surged, transforming into a translucent four-colored magic robe covering Lin Yun's body.

Terrifying mana surged, and within a second, Lin Yun's burst of power exceeded that of a 9th Rank Archmage.

Lin Yun flew up, and four huge vortexes of various colors appeared behind him, just like volcanoes erupting with four different kinds of spells.

The chaotic spells of the four elements were piled up together. It was like spells were squeezed into one another, and as they were compressed, they became a four-colored flood in which the spells kept clashing, squeezing, and collapsing...

As it approached the Heaven Rank Puppet, the spells became unstable, turning into a destructive, four-colored spellstorm. If a 9th Rank Archmage was caught in that storm of elements and spells, they wouldn't last more than three seconds before their soul was torn into pieces.

The Heaven Rank Puppet's scarlet eyes were flickering even more crazily as it raised its four arms and opened its palms. Its hands instantly transformed into a huge shield covered in numerous runes and magic patterns.

Then, layers upon layers of Elemental Shields frantically covered the surface of that metal shield, taking only a moment for ten layers to appear.

The berserk storm of four elements poured down and instantly tore apart eight layers of Elemental Shields, but even more layers kept appearing.

It took a full three seconds for all the Elemental Shields to be torn apart. Then, the chaotic storm hit the metal shield, but just like waves hitting a reef, the storm was split in two, scattered to the sides.

The Heaven Rank Puppet was pushed back three steps, and the earth under its feet loudly caved in, sinking more than twenty meters.

It had to be known that the ground was a huge lump of granite. It was incomparably hard and solid, yet it seemed unable to withstand the weight of the puppet at this moment.

As the two scattered streams of the storm hit the ground, the hard rock could be seen melting. It felt as if the ground's decay over countless years had been accelerated.

Two ten-meter-wide ravines took shape in the ground, and as the storm of destruction followed these ravines, it fiercely hit the fort's city wall.

The silent city wall seemed to have been ignited in an instant. The defensive plates within several hundred meters had been activated, and as the remnants of the storm collided more intensely, more and more defensive metal plates were activated.

This alarmed the Grey Beastmen within the fort.

The aftermath alone was enough to activate hundreds of meters of defensive metal plates.

Earlier, the mage army and the casting puppets working together had only activated seven hundred meters of defensive plates!

Yet, the aftermath of that one attack activated five hundred meters of defensive plates!

The Heaven Rank Puppet was slowly forced back, and after five seconds, its legs started deforming. As if to brace itself better, four thick metal thorns pierced into the ground, and its body became a bit shorter. Then, two huge cannons appeared where its legs had been.

Blinding light condensed, as radiant as sunlight converging. A fifty-centimeter-thick burning white ray instantly pierced Lin Yun's four-element storm and flew towards Lin Yun.

As Lin Yun hovered in the air, he instantly formed a Runic Shield, four thick Elemental Shields, and a Mana Shield. That terrifying bolt instantly pierced through the Mana Shield and tore apart the four Elemental Shields in one second before the remaining power struck the Runic Shield.

A ripple could be seen spreading from the center of Lin Yun's Runic Shield, while the runes on it were crazily moving about.

After two seconds, that blazing bolt dissipated, but Lin Yun's shield didn't seem to have recovered from the devastating attack as the runes kept scattering around.

Lin Yun slightly frowned. That Heaven Rank Puppet was not only able to cast spells from the fire and ice elements, but it could also use spells from the light element.

Among bolt-type spells, Light spells were the strongest and highest-ranked ones. Their power was far greater than any other such spells.

That Heaven Rank Puppet had released a 7th Tier Spell, Purification Bolt. Upon striking a lifeform, it would instantly purify it into the smallest particles. If the target was Undead, it would even have the might of an 8th Tier Spell.

But usually, Purification Bolt was only as thick as a human arm. How could it be fifty centimeters thick? This was already comparable to some 8th Tier Spells.

Moreover, Purification Bolt had very strong piercing power, and its attacking range was huge. Under normal circumstances, its max range would be two kilometers, far exceeding an ordinary Archmage's attack range.

Lin Yun instantly made a series of calculations and came to the conclusion that if he was hit by three of those Purification Bolts within two seconds, his Runic Shield would be unable to handle it.

The flames covering his body swayed as he chose to use Flame Flash to move several dozen meters away to avoid other Purification Bolts.

At this time, Reina, Xiuban, Enderfa, the patched puppet, and the mage army arrived in succession.

The patched puppet had been a genuine Heaven Rank Puppet before, so even though it couldn't display its power because of part restrictions, it couldn't be passively suppressed by that four-armed puppet.

The patched puppet stood in the distance, continuously dodging bolt spells while pressuring the Heaven Rank Puppet with spell storms.

Enderfa was even more unrestrained. He floated behind the patched puppet, using it as a shield as a flood of spells sprang forth from the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel.

Xiuban swung Carnage and used it to deflect bolt spells, looking for an opportunity to rush towards the four-armed puppet.

The mage army combined their power to summon half of a Flame Giant's body before using the Joint Chant Array to release High Tier Spells.

Reina, in her Frost Dragon Shape, was casually releasing some ice spells, waiting for an opportunity to make a decisive move.

In less than ten seconds, the four-armed puppet was completely suppressed, but it wasn't leaving the spatial crack's area, still obstinately defending it.

Seeing this, Lin Yun's expression became even more unpleasant, and he attacked with even more vigor.

In less than thirty seconds, the four-armed puppet was no longer able to release any ordinary bolt spells and could only defend passively. Only the two parts that fired Purification Bolts could still attack.

But even then, the puppet didn't withdraw or dodge, only resisting the attacks. No visible damage could be seen on the puppet, and none of its components were destroyed...

That was a frighteningly tough defensive power.

After ten minutes of being in this deadlock, Lin Yun's group was still unable to harm that four-armed puppet. Instead, a few mages of the mage army had almost been disintegrated by the Purification Bolts.

At this time, Lin Yun saw Wagner hurriedly rushing over.

"Reina, Frost Breath!" Lin Yun shouted.

He then stopped all his casting and rapidly condensed a fireball and an ice sphere in front of him.

Countless fire runes and ice runes appeared, and their power was forcibly compressed together, forming two unstable spheres of ice and fire.

Then, a large amount of metallic earth condensed around the two spheres, forming into a conical awl shell wrapped around the fire power and ice power.

At this time, the defending puppet suddenly turned towards Lin Yun and aimed its two barrels at him as blazing white Purification Bolts condensed.

It had clearly sensed that the spell Lin Yun was casting was a threat.

Chapter 916 Siege

At that time, the flying Reina opened her mouth and breathed out blue light. It was like a shooting star that crashed into the four-armed puppet in an instant.

Everything within ten meters froze within a second, and even that four-armed puppet's half-released Purification Bolt had been frozen.

The spells that had been fired at the four-armed puppet were also frozen when getting close to it. It was as if time was frozen in this area.

And in the sky, Lin Yun's Four-Element Bomb was successfully released. This one was even more unstable than before, and it was also bigger.

There were numerous runes and patterns on the originally simple surface. Its shape was even more graceful, looking like an art piece crafted by a Pureblood Elf.

Even the cyan wind that was originally wrapped around the Four-Element Bomb's outer shell had become a cyan rune inscribed on the surface of the bomb.

After being condensed, four-colored radiance lit up the sky.

The four elements were crazily converging, transforming into fairy-like shadows that fluttered in the air. The shadows seemed to cheer as they flew down and merged into the Four-Element Bomb, making the spell grow stronger and stronger.

In the distance, Butler, who had just traveled through space, looked in the direction of the Grey Beastmen's fort while looking amazed.

“Someone created a new spell? Incredible, it must have just been created, yet it’s already an 8th Tier Spell. When did such a terrifying powerhouse appear in the Raging Flame Plane? There definitely isn’t such a person in the Andlusa Kingdom’s side, so that must be someone from the Odin Kingdom. Troublesome, I have to make some preparations...” After mumbling to himself, Butler opened a Teleportation Gate and left with a serious expression on his face.

Meanwhile, Lin Yun couldn’t help smiling.

This self-created spell could be considered fully formed. Although it was still crude, in terms of power, it was already an 8th Tier Spell, and a relatively powerful one at that! As its creator, there would be a series of benefits every time he used that spell, such as power increase, casting time reduction, and mana consumption reduction.

After being successfully cast, the Four-Element Bomb instantly disappeared. Only a white trail was left in the air as it instantly collided with the frozen puppet.

This kind of spell, which had no merit apart from pure destructive power, was bursting out with all its energy at this moment.

The explosive power turned into pure spatial destruction, and even a mushroom cloud could be seen rising up. That puppet with terrifying defense turned into a shadow as it was sent flying, fiercely crashing against the Grey Beastmen’s wall.

At this moment, the metal plates of an entire wall started to shine as the city wall firmly shook.

An arm of that frighteningly powerful puppet was blown away.

And the instant that the puppet was finally sent flying, Lin Yun immediately carried Wagner to the spatial crack, and with a Wind Blade, he opened a long and narrow cut on Wagner’s arm.

A large amount of blood fell towards that spatial crack in an instant, and it looked as if there was a terrifying existence kneading that spatial crack.

The spatial crack rapidly distorted and then transformed into a pitch-black vortex. The four-armed puppet suddenly seemed to have received some sort of summons, and it quickly flew up from the ground before rapidly entering the vortex.

The vortex rapidly spun, becoming smaller and smaller, until it finally disappeared and the sky regained its original appearance.

Lin Yun sighed in relief and put the startled Wagner down on the ground before casually giving him a Health Potion.

Wagner was pale, and as he promptly drank the Health Potion, the wound on his arm could be seen healing at a visible rate.

He still didn’t understand what was happening...

Lin Yun picked up the arm that had been blown off, and his expression didn’t look too good.

After discovering the base Bill George had left behind, Lin Yun knew that this matter wouldn't be that simple.

The entire base had been made into a complete puppet, and even the Radiant Fort had been turned into a huge array that stole power from the Abyss.

If this happened in Noscent, it could still be understandable, but it had happened in the Raging Flame Plane, and in the Radiant Fort, a place that even slimes would avoid. This was too abnormal.

Bill George was a peak Heaven Rank powerhouse, and not only was his puppeteering skill at the peak of Noscent, but he could also even be regarded as one of the few top-notch existences in the entire history of Noscent.

Such an existence absolutely wouldn't run to the Raging Flame Plane just to build a base at the Radiant Fort.

Lin Yun thought for a while before coming to a conclusion. The only way that the Raging Flame Plane could have specifically attracted Bill George was if there was a Planar Path leading to the Puppet Plane in this place!

And the most likely place for that Planar Path should be the surroundings of the Grey Beastmen's fort, or maybe inside the fort!

Just now, he had been able to confirm his guess. Sure enough, there was a Planar Path leading to the Puppet Plane. But there was something different... The Grey Beastmen shouldn't have known about that Planar Path, or the Planar Path's specific position.

But it could be seen from the current situation, that Bill George had already controlled that Planar Path and might have even established a force in the Puppet Plane. Perhaps the base at the Raging Flame Plane had been a bridgehead of sorts? It might have only been the tip of the iceberg.

That unstable spatial crack clearly wasn't a true Planar Path. Instead, it had been some unknown method used by the Grey Beastmen, wasting a large amount of power to open a path to the Planar Path.

Strictly speaking, this was similar to a back door. Not only was it unstable, but it also couldn't bear too much power.

That four-armed Heaven Rank Puppet was at the highest level of power that was able to come out of the passage, and after it appeared, it obstinately stood guard there. Lin Yun reasoned that a powerful puppet of the Puppet Plane had discovered this place and wanted to use that crack to open a complete Planar Path. Thus, it had made this four-armed puppet guard this location.

During the previous attack on the Grey Beastmen, Lin Yun had always paid attention to not force their hands too much... He always gave some hope. Capturing the Grey Beastmen for his puppet production was secondary, mainly because he was afraid that if he was too ruthless, they would risk their own destruction and try to open a Planar Path to the Puppet Plane.

The Puppet Plane was an advanced plane, and the puppets there were innumerable. If the Beastmen opened a Planar Path, closing it would be impossible.

Once the Puppet Plane's powerful puppets rushed into the Raging Flame Plane, they would simply be unable to stop them here. The Odin Kingdom, the Andlusa Kingdom, as well as the Beastmen, would be swept aside.

At that time, the Raging Flame Plane would inevitably be seized by the Puppet Plane, and if they didn't flee on time, they might be chased back to Noscent.

Fortunately, these Grey Beastmen didn't grasp the true Planar Path and only used a large amount of power to open a crack.

This also meant one thing: The Planar Path leading to the Puppet Plane was near the Grey Beastmen's fort.

Staking it all to open a crack should have been the last card of these Grey Beastmen. They had thrown away many lives before in order to stall for time.

After confirming this, Lin Yun relaxed. He had been truly afraid that the Grey Beastmen controlled a genuine Planar Path and would decide to take everyone down with them.

After making his subordinates guard the surroundings of the Grey Beastmen's fort, Lin Yun took his patched puppet and the arm of the four-armed puppet with him as he returned to the Radiant Fort.

That arm had fallen from a genuine Heaven Rank Puppet, and it was an arm armed with a weapon system. Aside from the Heaven Grade components, the weapon system was the most valuable part.

Once exchanged with the puppet's components, it would be able to exert much of that four-armed puppet's power with one arm. Even if there was no Extraordinary Power, it would still surpass Level 39.

The weapon system was dismantled and given to the alchemists to study.

Even if they couldn't duplicate it, it would still give them some enlightenment. And if they could reproduce some of those, although they might not be equal to the original, they would be able to include it in the puppet production

Time passed.

With the newly acquired weapon system as a reference, the entire puppet production line's weapon system production had gone up by a rank, and the puppets that came out were clearly stronger than before.

The control system was taking the longest time. Using the production line for it was impossible, and they could only be specially crafted in small production rooms. Now, the weapon system's crafting time had been cut down, and completing a puppet was a lot faster.

A large number of puppets were once again manufactured, and they were used to beef up the forces appearing outside the Grey Beastmen's fort once more, further worrying the Grey Beastmen.

Their last trump card had no effect, and they were no match for their enemy in a direct battle. Even their water supply was getting cut off. Sooner or later, they would die.

The Grey Beastmen started quarrelling with each other. Some wanted to surrender, while others wanted to fight until death. The leaders of both factions were arguing.

But Lin Yun just kept manufacturing puppets and upgrading his puppets.

After a week, the patrols on top of the Grey Beastmen's walls became listless. Less and less water entered the fort, and the factories had already stopped.

After returning from the Radiant Fort, Lin Yun looked at the Grey Beastmen and raised his Draconic Staff.

In an instant, the puppet army started charging. Every casting puppet, as well as the mage army, started casting towards the entrance of the fort.

Chapter 917 Mana Reactor

Countless spells stacked together, turning into a multi-colored flood that continuously crashed against the gate of the Grey Beastmen's fort.

The metal plates lit up one by one, and soon, the entire wall was lit up, with the blossoming light becoming brighter and brighter.

On the city wall, a large group of Grey Beastmen was frantically casting spells in order to resist, but it didn't have much effect.

Lin Yun floated in the air with a cold expression, and countless runes were flickering in front of him as another Four-Element Bomb rapidly condensed. After three seconds, the Four-Element Bomb instantly vanished from sight, only leaving behind a long white trail in the air.

"Boom..."

A loud explosion echoed as the entire wall started shaking, the metal plates becoming almost blinding.

Cracks started appearing on the ten-meter-tall entrance, and a few seconds later, a huge explosion echoed as the flood of spells broke through it.

Behind the entrance were numerous alchemy puppets, but they weren't even able to rush out of the fort before being swept away by the flood of spells.

The horde of sword puppets was like a tidal wave of steel as they rushed inside the Grey Beastmen's fort. The mage army followed behind them, which was in turn followed by Lin Yun and the others.

The resistance they encountered after going in was very weak. In less than three minutes, the leader of the Grey Beastmen's fort came out.

"Surrender! We are surrendering! Great Human Powerhouse, we've surrendered! Please stop the slaughter and destruction..."

The large group of Grey Beastmen and mechas came out and stood behind the leader, expressing their own surrender.

Lin Yun's puppets were like a disciplined army as they put all the Grey Beastmen under control.

Those who could control mechas were all Alchemists at the very least, and they were all captured and delivered to the Radiant Fort. Even the high-ranked members of the Grey Beastman Race had to sign a soul contract with Shawn before they could be released.

Three days passed before the Grey Beastman Tribe was completely under control. Every Alchemist had signed a contract with Shawn, and all those of the ruling class had signed particularly harsh soul contracts.

Dunas, the leader of the Grey Beastmen, was cautiously following behind Lin Yun as they walked on the streets of the fort.

“Sir Merlin, ahead is our greatest puppet factory. Most of the components can be made there, and the final assembly is also done there..”

In the entire Grey Beastman Fort, none of the rough buildings that other Beastmen typically lived in could be seen. Instead, it was full of sturdy buildings made of some kind of metal, just like the large cities of his previous life.

A railroad was running through the entire fort, connecting major areas, and special machines kept travelling throughout the fort.

A large number of shops could be seen on both sides, with most of them being related to puppeteering. They sold all kinds of materials, components, mana reactors, and control systems, as well as already finished puppets.

And the most remarkable one was the factory before his eyes with three huge smokestacks and all kinds of machines.

These Grey Beastmen’s delicate bodies made them incapable of doing any heavy lifting, so they had heavy machinery helping them with everything. Cutting parts, polishing, and manufacturing were all done using the machines.

Only the key steps like carving runes or arrays had to be done directly by the Grey Beastmen.

Dunas was only an ordinary Alchemist, and his leadership position had been inherited from his father according to traditions. But he was only a 2nd Rank Archmage and wasn’t considered the strongest among the Grey Beastmen.

This was different from the other Beastmen Tribes, which were always led by the strongest. The Grey Beastmen were simply so enthralled by puppeteering that they didn’t want to waste time overcomplicating something like administration.

Dunas cautiously remained behind Lin Yun, introducing everything within the factory to him.

They kept exploring the factory until Lin Yun suddenly stopped, his eyes staring at something in a corner.

There was a small sphere the size of a human fist that was covered with various lines. The lines were perfectly straight, and when they changed direction, it was always at a right angle.

Usually, all alchemy patterns were drawn in arcs. This would allow energy to pass through unobstructed.

Thus, all arrays were circular or elliptical. Triangular arrays were very rare.

This kind of right angle was extremely rare in an array, not to mention an array that only had right angles... None should exist in this era!

Lin Yun walked over and casually grabbed that fist-sized sphere, frowning with an unfathomable expression.

Max Mana Reactor!

How could Lin Yun not know of that thing? That Mana Reactor had been a success spanning an entire era.

The system supplying energy to the puppet was the most important part. It was equivalent to the puppet's heart. Only when its heart was powerful enough could the growth of other parts advance.

And if the heart wasn't powerful enough, no matter how powerful the other parts were, they wouldn't be able to display their full power. It would even restrict the puppet's abilities.

And this Max Mana Reactor could provide very powerful energy to the puppet. Any puppet under the Heaven Rank would see their power increased by 30% after using the Max Mana Reactor!

Some casting puppets with fierce mana consumption could get up to a 50% power increase!

And this wasn't the most important part... The most important part was that Lin Yun clearly remembered that the Max Mana Reactor should have appeared 140 years later!

That thing should have been created 140 years later by a female Artisan named Max!

That female Artisan would become known throughout Noscent due to her Max Mana Reactor. Because her Mana Reactor supplied such abundant mana to all the puppets, she ended up being jokingly nicknamed Big-Chested Max.

That interesting anecdote was even recorded in the decaying library. From this, it could be seen how much influence Max Mana Reactor had!

But how could it be appearing now, when it should have been created 140 years later?

Horror could be seen in Lin Yun's eyes. Apart from the things he had made himself, this was the first time he had seen something transcending time. How could he not be horrified?

The Max Mana Reactor... At the end of time, Lin Yun had personally torn apart countless puppets. How could he not recognize the iconic right-angle pattern, how could he be mistaken?

After holding it, Lin Yun was even more certain that this was the Max Mana Reactor!

"Sir Merlin, this Mana Reactor is a whimsical failure. We do many experiments every day. If you are interested, I can show you," Dunas carefully said with a smile as he saw Lin Yun stare at that thing for a long time.

After those words, Lin Yun sighed in relief. He carefully observed it and used mana to probe it before finally concluding that this was a prototype that simply couldn't be used as a Mana Reactor yet.

The Mana Reactor had the same shape as Max Mana Reactor, and its most iconic characteristic was the right-angle pattern, but the Mana Reactor also needed mana crystals of two completely opposite attributes: one fire mana crystal and one ice mana crystal.

The theory was to use the clash between fire power and ice power to create a fierce burst of energy. It wasn't to use the power of the mana crystals directly. That kind of clash would be extraordinarily powerful, and after passing through the Mana Reactor, the energy supplied would far surpass the individual power of the two mana crystals.

The most important part was that the two mana crystals could be used for a very long time. Once loaded into the puppet, not only could they offer even more powerful bursts of mana, but the expected lifetime was over ten times better than simply using mana crystals.

That was something that transcended time!

Although it was only a prototype and couldn't be used as an ordinary Mana Reactor, the idea and the design were available. All that was needed was some time to slowly fix the issues and details.

That process might take several dozen years, up to even a hundred years.

Based on what he knew now, that Mana Reactor should have come out after countless experiments by the Artisan named Max over a century later.

Lin Yun held the prototype Mana Reactor, his eyes slightly glistening. The creator of that Mana Reactor was definitely a genius surpassing this era. Regardless of who it was, this couldn't be erased. The thought process and imagination, and even the level of accomplishment in the field of puppeteering all absolutely surpassed this era by several dozen years, even over a century.

Although the Max Mana Reactor could only be considered the standard Mana Reactor for low-level puppets in the distant future, as stronger Mana Reactors were eventually developed, there were absolutely no better low-cost Mana Reactors in this entire era.

Lin Yun could make stronger and better Mana Reactors, and could even use the Hydra Heart as a Mana Reactor that didn't need a source of energy or mana crystals.

But this was because of the difference in knowledge. If someone in this era could come out with a prototype of the Max Mana Reactor, that person's puppeteering skills would definitely be fierce and bold.

Holding this Mana Reactor, Lin Yun looked at Dunas and asked, "Who made this design?"

Dunas smiled as he replied, "Sir Merlin, there are daring designs made every day. I might not have known if you asked about anything else, but I know about this one. This is a plan made by the only Artisan among our Grey Beastmen, Sir Crowits. But it's only a prototype. It can't be used as a Mana Reactor, and is completely unable to supply mana to a puppet. Moreover, it's too dangerous. If there is something wrong, it could explode."

Chapter 918 Peak Artisan

A hint of understanding flashed on Lin Yun's face. 'Sure enough, it was an Artisan. To be able to design a prototype of the Max Mana Reactor, it was all but certain that he was an Artisan.'

“Take me to Sir Crowits.”

Hesitation flashed on Dunas’ face before he cautioned, “Sir Merlin... Sir Crowits doesn’t have a good temper, he usually ignores tribesmen. He opened a puppet component part shop, and although he is the only Artisan of our fort, very few alchemists are willing to get in touch with him...”

Lin Yun waved his hands indifferently. Others might not know the extent of how formidable Crowits was, but Lin Yun knew that no ordinary Artisan could design a prototype for the Max Mana Reactor. It was something only a Peak Artisan with high achievements in the field of puppeteering could do.

Because this design was ahead of its time by over a century.

It had to be known that for something like alchemy, the foundations were most important. The fundamental theories and formulas might develop slowly, but things made by building on top of them would rapidly be improved. The same thing could peak in popularity and then fall from being a top design within a year.

This was the same for his previous life. Newton’s three laws had been the base theory, but the results relying on that base theory became more and more outstanding over time. But it still relied on the basic foundation. Anything surpassing the era by dozens of years would be very eye-opening.

This Max Mana Reactor wasn’t just a simple result, it was also creating a new law!

That fully right-angle array was a masterpiece challenging the foundational law. Even if it seemed very simple, especially to someone who had come from the future, in this era, it was a masterpiece transcending time!

Seeing Lin Yun looking so exhilarated, how could Dunas have the heart to say anything? He could only hold it in and apprehensively lead Lin Yun to Crowits’ alchemy shop.

Before getting there, Dunas specifically sent someone to notify Crowits, out of fear that Crowits would anger Lin Yun and bring a disaster upon the Grey Beastmen.

Lin Yun had a huge number of puppets under his command, and apart from the labor puppets and the auxiliary puppets, they were all at least at Level 30!

Just by relying on that puppet army, he could destroy a third of the Grey Beastman Race within a day.

Lin Yun was somewhat amazed as he stood in front of that shop. That store was truly in a remote part of the city. It wasn’t in the main path of the Grey Beastmen at all. Moreover, the store appeared to be very small, and various marks covered the outside walls of the shop.

A pitch-black hide was hung at the entrance, greasy and dirty. It could be seen with one look that it hadn’t been washed for seven to eight years.

‘This is an Artisan’s shop?’

Dunas awkwardly smiled as he explained in a small voice, “That Sir Crowits has a strange character. He doesn’t care about anything other than alchemy...”

Lin Yun didn't say anything in response. He waved his hand to have Dunas wait outside before opening the dirty hide door and entering the ruined alchemy shop.

A dozen enchanted Light spells could be seen within the shop, and apart from a passage in the middle, there were puppets everywhere. All kinds of puppet components, both big and small, could be seen piled on the shelves.

In the depths of the shop, there was a small, old Grey Beastman sitting behind a desk. He had five layers of magnifying glasses over his left eye, and was holding the head of a pen with a pair of tweezers, inscribing a rune on a fingernail-sized component.

Lin Yun calmly walked over and determined with a glance that this person was the only Artisan of the Grey Beastmen's fort, Crowits.

Besides an Artisan that specialized in the field of puppeteering, who could make such a miniature control hub component? A Master Alchemist certainly couldn't manufacture this.

Lin Yun calmly waited without speaking a word. He could see that only the last important step of carving the rune and the command procedure was left, the most important part.

After half an hour, Crowits put down his tools and expressionlessly looked at the precious component for a moment before throwing it into a box on the side in dissatisfaction.

At that time, Lin Yun approached.

"Sir Crowits, let me introduce myself. I am Mafa Merlin, the new ruler of the Grey Beastmen, and also an Artisan. I came here today hoping to have Sir Crowits join my team of alchemists. We have the best technology, and the latest and most perfect refining techniques, and even some things beyond this era. I believe Sir Crowits wouldn't be disappointed..."

Facing a Peak Artisan, Lin Yun showed the other side the due respect.

Such an esteemed Artisan actually only had such a shabby alchemy shop. Also, Crowits was only a 5th Rank Archmage, and it seemed that he had been trapped at that rank for a very long time. There was no question that Crowits was spending all his energy on puppeteering.

Even if the Grey Beastmen's casting talents came from spell casting and their magic patterns, to advance past the 5th Rank, one had to start to understand Laws and work on establishing their own Law's foundation. Only that way could one advance beyond the 5th Rank.

A lot of time and energy was needed to comprehend Laws, and the time and energy that all mages spent was never enough, or it could be said that no mage would ever say that they were spending too much time on their own Law.

The benefits from ranking up didn't interest Crowits at all. Only puppeteering could attract this Peak Artisan.

Lin Yun gave out some details about the alchemist team and even told Crowits about the puppet base.

But Crowits didn't even raise his head from his task as he casually looked for another miniature control hub component. He used his tweezers to grab a small pen tip to start carving runes on it.

Lin Yun faintly frowned. Although he had foreseen that Crowits would be hard to deal with, he had at least expected a reaction.

Lin Yun thought for a bit before talking about some puppeteering knowledge that surpassed the current era.

After hearing that, Crowits finally raised his head and glanced at Lin Yun from the corner of his eye, with the disdain on his face barely hidden. He then went back to work and acted as if Lin Yun was transparent.

Lin Yun pondered a bit and then couldn't help laughing.

Puppeteering knowledge wasn't like potioneering knowledge or Magic Tool knowledge. For potioneering in particular, the temperature, degree of extraction, sequences, and methods needed to be absolutely precise when it came to fusing materials. As long as he shared the data, it would prove whether his words were true.

But for puppeteering... Besides some key points, there weren't many places where data was completely standardized. Puppets were different, and the same component might have over a hundred thousand differences, and they would all be correct.

If those were just words, then Crowits would only consider them conjectures.

Or perhaps those things could be manufactured, but at a price so high that it simply couldn't be widely used. Maybe with just 10% of the materials, it would be possible to make something of the same efficiency, or even better.

There were too many conjectures in the world of puppeteering, most of which weren't worth researching even if they could be successfully crafted, because they might have no practical value.

Such as a certain Mana Reactor... It was just a theorized concept of a Mana Reactor that might work in the future. It would only need half a mana crystal to give out the effect of a full mana crystal.

Even if the advanced conjecture had research value, it had no practical value right now.

Lin Yun himself was an Artisan, and he was proficient in potioneering, Magic Tools craftsmanship, and puppeteering, so he naturally understood that reasoning.

Seeing Crowits taking care of his own business and ignoring him, Lin Yun turned around and left.

After Lin Yun departed, Crowits finished carving the component and raised his head in dissatisfaction.

He also knew about the Grey Beastmen's fort being captured, but if it was under control, then so be it. In any case, that human didn't wildly kill and didn't exterminate the Grey Beastmen, and he was also not hindering his alchemy research.

If not for Dunas sending someone ahead of time, Crowits might have not even let Lin Yun in. He might have just left the guest at the entrance, acting as if he didn't want to see him. But because the Grey Beastmen Race had just been captured, Crowits also felt that he couldn't anger Lin Yun too much, just in case he caused disaster for the Grey Beastmen, even if these tribesmen were a group of idiots...

Lin Yun knew that he couldn't attract Crowits for now. He was a person that didn't care about his own rank, and besides making him interested, no other method would work. Lin Yun estimated that threatening the Grey Beastmen's fort wouldn't have much effect, either.

Lin Yun had Dunas look for a puppet laboratory with a complete set of tools and facilities. And how could Dunas dare to ask questions? He promptly looked for the best alchemy laboratory available.

Lin Yun took the prototype Max Mana Reactor that Crowits had created and didn't come out for an entire day.

While he was there, Lin Yun looked at the prototype and frowned.

Crowits' prototype and concept were complete, but the right-angle array was a mess. The carved mana runes were far too different from the Max Mana Reactor's. He might as well rebuild one from scratch.

To rebuild the Max Mana Reactor, he only needed a sample. It wasn't anything high-level, and he could do it within an hour.

But he spent an entire day altering that prototype.

Chapter 919 Why Aren't You Going?

It didn't take long to draw the design, but altering this design filled with reckless patterns wasn't a simple matter.

Unfortunately, if he wanted to draw Crowits' interest, the best way was to transform his prototype into a finished product.

Completing it would be good, but this kind of thing so far ahead of its time would make others feel that Lin Yun was a God's reincarnation. However, an Artisan like Crowits wouldn't be so easy to fool.

After finishing the modifications, Lin Yun took the Max Mana Reactor to meet with Crowits once again.

Crowits was still busy with his own matters and didn't pay attention to Lin Yun when the latter came in.

Lin Yun put that Max Mana Reactor in front of Crowits.

"Sir Crowits, did you make this Mana Reactor?"

A trace of disdain flashed past Crowits' eyes as he glanced at the Mana Reactor. He really didn't feel like bothering with Lin Yun.

Lin Yun didn't wait for Crowits' answer as he casually walked to a Level 15 puppet on the side, put his hand on top of it. Suddenly, mana surged as his hand turned into a shadow.

In less than a second, that alchemy puppet loudly turned into a pile of components scattering on the ground.

Lin Yun looked a bit embarrassed as he said, "Sorry, I accidentally dismantled it..."

Seeing that pile of components, Crowits raised his head to look at Lin Yun.

In one second, he tore open a Level 15 puppet. Just based on that, Crowits could see that Lin Yun definitely was an Artisan, and one proficient in puppeteering.

To dismantle a puppet in one second, one needed to have a complete understanding of the puppet's structure, the position of each part. This would include the mana reactor, control system, operating system, and such. In order to pour mana into the puppet and cause a resonance that could instantly dismantle it, one would need to know everything.

The puppets here were not completely standard types, as they had all been made by Crowits, and even a casually made puppet was much stronger than a normal puppet of the same level. Moreover, they had unique designs.

Lin Yun looked at the puppet on the side and put one hand on the left side of its chest before opening it up and removing the mana reactor within.

Crowits watched attentively. Lin Yun noticed with a glance that this puppet was different and understood that it had been designed to use a heavy weapon in its right hand and a shield in its left hand, making its center of gravity a bit unstable. Thus, the mana reactor was designed to lean towards the left side and increase the mana output in that direction.

But when Crowits saw Lin Yun opening that prototype mana reactor and putting in a Level 10 fire mana crystal and a Level 10 ice mana crystal as mana sources, he frowned and stood up.

'Damn, is that guy planning on putting that prototype mana reactor in the puppet? Such an arrogant guy! That mana reactor's design surpasses this era by a few decades, maybe even centuries. Even I was only able to come up with the design, unable to make it actually work. It can't even be used as a normal mana reactor.

'Does he think I can't see the changes he made? What a mess, those new right-angle patterns were all messed up! Is there still any use in such circumstances?

'I'm afraid it'll explode the moment it's turned on because of the fierce reaction between fire and ice... The power created by such a clash is too powerful, and that's why I designed a right-angle array to limit the flow of speed, but he messed it up. Based on the array now, the speed at which the energy flows will be even faster. It doesn't have any restrictive effect.

'Forget it, Dunas specially came yesterday and asked me not to provoke that human and just let him off.

'In any case, it's only two Level 10 mana crystals. Even if they explode, it won't be that powerful. With his strength, he should be fine.

'So what if this shop explodes? I wasn't planning on staying here anyway. If I did, that human would keep bothering me every day and make me unable to continue my research.'

A twitch could be seen on Crowits' face. The longer he stayed in the Grey Beastmen's fort, the less he paid attention to his tribesmen. He couldn't find a single person he could truly have a proper discussion with.

Even when those Master Alchemists had questions, it felt like children playing with mud. The more time passed, the more he felt like he was surrounded by idiots.

Especially after he reached the peak of the Artisan realm, he became even more antisocial and moved to this remote place and didn't care about anyone.

But since reaching that peak, Crowits felt that his alchemy hadn't progressed at all.

Throughout his life, his greatest wish and his only desire was to become a Saint Alchemist, but he couldn't see any hope of reaching that realm.

He designed many new things, and there were even some designs that were beyond his times, but none of them were successful.

That spherical mana reactor was the design he had been the most optimistic about, and the array he had used had been a shocking right-angle array, with an extremely innovative core principle behind the mana reactor.

If the design was successful, it would have been the first step towards the path of becoming a Saint Alchemist, the first step to surpass the Artisan realm!

But it didn't succeed.

Crowits thought of many things as he saw the scene in front of him. His heart felt very complicated, and ultimately, he didn't stop Lin Yun's movements. He only silently raised a Mana Shield in order to resist the mana reactor's explosion...

Lin Yun quickly installed the mana reactor and closed the puppet's chest.

After a second, the puppet's crystal eyes shone brightly. It slowly lifted a leg and took a step forward.

Seeing this, Crowits' eyes instantly widened. His jaw slackened, and mana fluctuations leaked from his body.

He looked at that Level 15 puppet as if he was looking at a living God.

"It actually moved... It didn't explode... It's actually working..." Crowits kept mumbling to himself, his eyes firmly glued to that slowly walking puppet.

A second later, Crowits seemed to suddenly realize something, and his small body seemed to burst with power comparable to a Sword Saint as he knocked over the table in front of him and jumped out as if his butt had been stabbed.

That petite body carried unstoppable momentum as he rushed over while grinding his teeth as if he had seen the person that had killed his own father.

He felt the puppet with one hand, sending frantic mana surging out to dismantle the puppet. Then, he used a large amount of mana to protect the spherical mana reactor.

Two Mana Hands appeared out of nowhere and swept the components aside as if they were garbage. The surrounding shelves were also swept away by the ethereal hands, clearing up a lot of space. He then grabbed a new low-level puppet with the Mana Hands and sent it flying over.

Crowits seemed possessed. He quickly took out that puppet's mana reactor and casually threw it aside without even looking at it. Then, as if he was taking care of a baby, he cautiously put that heavily protected mana reactor into the puppet's chest.

After installing it, he inspected it three times in detail before starting the puppet up with a hopeful expression.

After a second, the puppet's eyes shone, and the runes on the surface of its body lit up one after another.

Everything showed that this puppet was working normally. It couldn't be even more normal.

Crowits turned around, the expression on his face continuously changing between bitterness and joy.

"How did you do it? This... How did you do this..." Crowits mumbled under his breath as his eyes shined with a dreadful light, like a starving person that had just seen a piece of bread.

Lin Yun's heart skipped a beat. He had been startled by Crowits' fanatical expression.

"Didn't I tell you before? As long as you join my team of alchemists, there will be many new things to learn. There will be new ideas and a wide breadth of knowledge that you can access.

"Just like this mana reactor. If you join my team of alchemists, you'll be able to know the details..."

Before Lin Yun even finished his words, Crowits rapidly rushed towards the depths of his store and packed up several kinds of tools before walking out.

After reaching the doorway, Crowits reacted, realizing that Lin Yun was still inside the store.

"Why aren't you going?"

Lin Yun froze, unable to keep up with Crowits' rhythm.

"Going where?"

Crowits' eyes looked fanatical.

"To your team of alchemists!"

Lin Yun turned to glance around at the shop and the many components and designs left within.

"You don't want to bring the things within your shop?"

Crowits didn't even look at it as he casually answered, "Throw it all away! Whoever wants those can take them..."

Lin Yun bitterly smiled. Crowits' fanaticism towards puppeteering had reached a desperate stage. He could discard anything for puppeteering.

Lin Yun brought Crowits to the Radiant Fort's base. After the latter learnt that this entire underground base was a huge puppet, Crowits walked within the passage like someone on a pilgrimage.

Chapter 920 | Wan

After entering the base, when he unexpectedly found out that all the Grey Beastmen alchemists had signed a contract, Crowitz also wanted to sign a contract no matter the price. It didn't even matter that Lin Yun said there was no need.

That guy was afraid that if he didn't sign, Lin Yun wouldn't trust him and wouldn't let him learn the new alchemy knowledge.

Shawn was stunned as he faced someone requesting to sign a contract.

He then watched as Crowitz signed without even looking at the terms. Shawn didn't even know how to express his thoughts, because what he had just prepared was the same strict soul contract as he'd done for the other Beastmen...

'Damn, that's a soul contract! Is that guy really a Peak Artisan? How could he be so brainless and not even look at the contract's contents? Is it that easy to sell your soul away?'

Crowitz' arrival immediately made the Grey Beastmen that had been forced to unenthusiastically sign their soul contracts thoroughly accept their situation.

It could be said that Crowitz' fame and status among the ordinary Grey Beastmen were as high as the clouds. They wouldn't question or disobey him.

Regarding other things, Crowitz might be considered eccentric, unreasonable, and unhygienic, but when it came to alchemy, no one in the fort would dare to say one malicious word against Crowitz. If they did, just being able to remain alive would be considered good fortune.

Lin Yun announced that Crowitz would lead these Grey Beastmen, and naturally, no one could say anything against it.

Only Wagner had a very bad expression. Out of nowhere, Lin Yun had put an old Grey Beastman that was almost bald on the same rank as him, dividing half of the base's power. It'd be a wonder if Wagner was happy about it.

But Wagner didn't dare to act resentful when Lin Yun said that. After Lin Yun walked away, Wagner rode on the spider puppet that was defending the base and swaggered his way into Crowitz' laboratory.

That Heaven Rank Puppet had woken up after Wagner took control of the base, but sadly, the puppet's orders were to guard the base, so it couldn't leave. Lin Yun couldn't borrow that puppet's power for the moment.

For now, this spider puppet had become Wagner's bodyguard. With that Heaven Rank Puppet, Wagner didn't have to worry about his safety.

Wagner rode the spider puppet over, and no one dared to obstruct his path. The Grey Beastmen didn't dare to block the one controlling the base.

Wagner wanted to deter Crowitz and make him know who was truly in charge of the base so that he wouldn't get any ideas about his place.

But when Wagner reached the door of Crowitz' laboratory, he was completely stunned.

In the laboratory, Crowits put his hand on the surface of a Level 30 puppet before pouring in some mana. In two seconds, that puppet suddenly collapsed.

It turned into components in an instant. All the components dispersed, but they remained floating in the air, with over a thousand components under his control.

Crowits was fully focused as he studied these components. He then took out two fingernail-sized components and put them on some instruments before using two pairs of tweezers to hold needle-size pen tips.

With a shake of his hand, a large number of patterns and runes rapidly appeared on top of the two components.

It only took ten seconds for the two components to be completely altered.

Crowits then put the two components back in the air with the others, and with another surge of mana, the thousand components combined. Only three seconds passed before it transformed into a complete puppet.

The puppet's crystal eyes shone brightly, which completely stunned Wagner...

Just now, a Level 30 puppet actually gained one level just because two small components had been modified! It became a Level 31 puppet!

Wagner's alchemy was nothing great, but ever since he fused with this base's control system, he also started learning puppeteering, and he was learning at a very rapid pace. Furthermore, a lot of Grey Beastmen had arrived at this time.

He didn't have the ability yet, but he had the knowledge.

And he naturally knew that the seemingly simple actions that Crowits did a few moments ago were extremely difficult. An ordinary Artisan didn't have this kind of skill!

In an instant, his original bravado had disappeared.

Wagner courteously knocked on the door with a smile.

"Sir Crowits, I'm this base's commander, Wagner George. Wagner is fine..."

Crowits' expression became a bit milder. After coming here, he naturally had to be a bit polite to the place's Commander, but when he saw the Heaven Rank Puppet behind Wagner, attraction could be seen in his Crowits' eyes.

Wagner's gaze turned and he said, "Sir Crowits, this is the guardian of the base, a Heaven Rank spider-shaped puppet. If you are interested, you can study it, but you can't dismantle it... This is the rule of the base.

"Moreover, Sir Merlin said that your energy is limited and that I should be taking care of the miscellaneous tasks so that you would have time to focus on your research. He also said that I should take the opportunity to learn from you..."

Wagner was a bit worried, as he didn't know how useful Lin Yun's name would be here.

Seeing the formidable power surging out of that petite body, Wagner became resolute. He had to learn, he had to apprentice himself.

Crowits didn't think much of it. Hearing that those were Lin Yun's words, he agreed without comment. He only looked at the spider puppet with regret.

From that point on, Wagner started learning puppeteering from Crowits...

With Crowits' arrival, the base's research rapidly progressed, and the puppet production became faster and faster while the puppets themselves became stronger and stronger.

The puppets manufactured weren't just limited to labor puppets and fighting puppets.

With the large number of Alchemists, more kinds of puppets became available.

There were now eight forts under Lin Yun's control, along with the surrounding resources. However, he hadn't been able to extract those resources because he lacked manpower.

But it was different now. A large number of puppets were being produced, some specifically made to exploit veins of ores, some used to uphold law and order, some sweeping away any threats in the surroundings, some transporting minerals, some performing construction and maintenance... All kinds of puppets were being produced.

A large number of puppets were scattered to the various forts, doubling the mining efficiency.

In barely half a month, the area where the eight forts were located, the Four Seasons Plain, was thoroughly operated by Lin Yun. The minerals produced here, all the known veins of ore, were being extracted by puppets.

The minerals were all delivered to the Radiant Fort before being used to produce a large number of puppets, forming an unending cycle.

Lin Yun was already running more forts than the other forces, and they were the best-operated forts.

Other forces didn't have all kinds of puppets they could use. They would only leave enough people to defend the forts while sending a small amount of manpower to extract the local resources.

A large number of people poured into the Raging Flame Plane, which put huge pressure on the logistics. As a result, defending the huge territory became more and more difficult. This was a vicious cycle. Thus, they obtained their greatest benefits from plundering the forts, while their gains afterwards couldn't compare to Lin Yun's.

Soon, other forces learnt about the situation of the Four Seasons Plain...

In a fort controlled by the Black Tower, a middle-aged 9th Rank Archmage with a flickering expression hurriedly arrived in front of a house and softly rang the bell.

"Sir Dubois..."

"Come in..."

The middle-aged man softly bowed, saluting Dubois, who was watching a map.

“Sir Dubois, there is news from the Four Seasons Plain.”

“Speak.”

“That Mafa Merlin thoroughly seized the Four Seasons Plain, and the eight forts there are under his control. Moreover, all the ore veins of the Four Seasons Plain are being mined by Mafa Merlin, and the wealth they produce every day far exceeds what our Black Tower is obtaining. It’s comparable to what we produced in the entire Raging Flame Plane for a month before the general attack...”

Dubois put down the crystal ball in his hand, and the map that kept flashing instantly disappeared.

“Mafa Merlin? That damned clown? He was actually able to attack the Four Seasons Canyon? Larieth, are you making fun of me?”

Larieth promptly shook his head.

“Sir Dubois, how could I dare to make fun of you? I already confirmed the news. That Mafa Merlin has a huge number of puppets, and he firmly controls the eight forts. He even controls the Grey Beastmen’s fort after having captured the Grey Beastmen, those odd Beastmen proficient in puppeteering...”

“It must have been those Grey Beastmen who supplied Mafa Merlin with mining puppets. The Four Seasons Plain is a rare, fertile land in the center of the Raging Flame Plane. All kinds of magic ore veins are birthed there, and the climate is very gentle all year long. It is suitable for agriculture and the breeding of magic plants and medicinal ingredients.

“The wealth being accumulated there every day is comparable to a place with a dozen forts, maybe even more... After all, we don’t have that many puppets...”

Dubois looked quite irritated upon hearing this.

“Hmpf, how could that clown be qualified to own the Four Seasons Plain? Go, tell that Mafa Merlin that I want the Four Seasons Plain, tell him to leave the Grey Beastman Fort and get the f*ck back to the front lines to keep attacking.

“Others are painstakingly attacking the Raging Flame Beastmen for the sake of victory, yet he is making money from the war! He even made the Grey Beastmen help enrich him. Isn’t that betraying the allied armies?”

“The control of the Four Seasons Plain definitely cannot be left in the hands of that clown. Have him hand it over, or he shouldn’t blame me for being rude.”