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However, Kai smiled and shook his head, saying, "Old Mr. Seizon, it wasn't because of the sealing stone's power. You've been tricked. The arcane array on this wooden doll is flawed, and that is why it ended up falling apart. It looks like the guy who sold you the wooden doll is only an amateur mage."

Renault was instantly enraged. "F\*ck! How dare he lie to me? I spent hundreds of millions of spirit coins on this! If I see that guy, I'm going to skin him alive! Mr. Chance, what do we do now? Should I send one of my disciples to test it out?"

"No need." Kai waved dismissively before breaking a nearby tree branch to hold in his hand. Then, as he muttered an incantation, the branch began moving. As though it had turned into a human, it started wriggling. In the next second, it leaped onto the sealing stone.

Then, with Kai's control, the branch started jumping on the stone, but neither the stone nor the altar showed any response.

Seeing Kai's skills, Renault could not help but feel admiration for the young man. Regardless of Kai's actual strength, with this technique alone, he could surely make a fortune in the Ethereal Realm.

Alas, Kai was not in the Ethereal Realm to make money, he had no attachment to wealth. "It seems like this sealing arcane array has already become ineffective. No issues here," Kai casually remarked as he waved his hand, turning the tree branch into powder.

"I had a feeling there wouldn't be any issues. There's no way an arcane array would have no spiritual energy fluctuations. Judging by the level of damage to this stone, it's probably been here for thousands of years," Cloud said as he approached and touched the sealing stone.

It did not react at all. Upon realizing that Cloud had touched the sealing stone without any consequences, Kai was confident that the sealing arcane array had indeed become ineffective.

Otherwise, to protect the seal from being broken, there would be defensive arcane arrays integrated into the sealing arcane array. If anyone touched or deliberately damaged it, the defensive arcane array would activate and harm the intruder.

That was why Kai initially discouraged Cloud from touching the sealing stone. "It appears to be an abandoned altar and no longer of any use."

Renault sighed, a tinge of disappointment lacing his words. Stumbling upon an ancient altar like this, anyone would hope to discover valuable magical items. However, it appeared that this altar had been abandoned for quite some time.

"It seems like there's no point in lingering here. We should continue our exploration elsewhere."

Kai assessed the surroundings. The unadorned altar didn't seem to hold any immediate promise, so he called out to move on.

Nevertheless, at that very moment, Cloud, who had placed his hand on the mysterious sealing stone, unexpectedly channeled a surge of spiritual energy into it.

Buzz! The vibrations started instantly as Cloud's action triggered an unexpected response from the sealing stone. A powerful force then thrust Cloud away.

"Cloud!"

Seeing this, Renault reacted swiftly, jumping into the air to catch Cloud. Cloud appeared shaken, his face displaying discomfort.

"Are you okay?" Kai inquired. "I'm all right; it wasn't too serious. However, the energy that surged from the stone was extraordinary," Cloud replied, still recovering from the shock.

"It seems that this sealing arcane array hasn't lost its potency. In fact, it remains rather formidable. The reason it appeared as an ordinary stone, devoid of spiritual energy fluctuations, is likely because its creator intentionally concealed its true nature. This deliberate camouflage served as a protective measure for the arcane array. What a brilliant mind..."

Kai couldn't help but admire the genius behind this setup.

"But, could it be that this sealing arcane array is here to contain some truly ominous creature or entity beneath this altar? Otherwise, why go to such

lengths?" Renault mused, gazing at the sealing stone now emitting a faint, eerie glow.

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Now that the sealing arcane array had been inadvertently triggered by Cloud, it produced noticeable spiritual energy fluctuations around the stone.

It was possible that once they departed, the sealing stone might revert to its initial condition. Nonetheless, at this particular moment, it emanated spiritual energy ripples and gleamed brightly.

"I'm also quite curious about what is concealed beneath this altar. This is such a formidable sealing formation. If it isn't used to imprison a demon beast or a Demonic Cultivator, then it could be-"

Kai halted abruptly, his expression darkening.

"Mr. Chance, what could it be?" Cloud asked curiously. Without uttering a word, Kai abruptly ascended into the air. Flying on this small island wasn't impeded. Thus, he rose above and surveyed the entire expanse.

After a few minutes, Kai descended with a considerably more solemn expression. "It's possible that what we're looking at here is merely the core of a sealing arcane array. The entire island is actually the real arcane array, and what it's sealing is beneath it," Kai speculated aloud.

Cloud was left flabbergasted by the notion. Even though they referred to this island as "small," it spanned tens of thousands of square kilometers. How could such an immense island serve as the location for a sealing arcane array? Who could have established such an enormous sealing arcane array? Immortals from the celestial realm?

Renault was also startled by Kai's hypothesis and promptly shook his head, remarking, "Mr. Chance, your conjecture is incredibly audacious. It can't be true. How could someone create a sealing arcane array on such a colossal scale? Additionally, if it indeed is an enormous sealing array, the entity sealed within must be unimaginably terrifying."

"Maybe I'm overthinking it." Kai smiled faintly when he saw Cloud and Renault's shocked expressions. He wasn't sure about his speculation, but the island was peculiar, especially with the sudden appearance of the altar. The entire island was filled with an eerie atmosphere, making Kai's imagination go wild.

Cloud inquired, "Mr. Chance, what should our next course of action be? Should we attempt to break this seal? It's possible that it's not a demon beast beneath it but rather something like a weapon soul. This location was once an ancient battlefield, and numerous spirit weapons and sacred items were left behind. Even if we can acquire a somewhat damaged ancient divine weapon, it would be of great value. If it possesses a weapon soul, that would be ideal."

Kai gazed at the sealing stone and shook his head. "Let's not touch this seal for now. If there's something terrifying sealed beneath, we'd only be inviting trouble. This island must've been here for years. There's not a single living creature besides the birds flying above. It's too eerie, so let's not take unnecessary risks."

Kai was apprehensive about the peculiar island and didn't dare to act rashly.

"Mr. Chance, you're correct. This island gives off an unsettling vibe. It's best not to meddle with whatever lies beneath. Instead, let's focus on locating those missing individuals. If we can find them and figure out a way to leave this island swiftly, that would be the best. I have a foreboding feeling about this place."

Renault also concurred with the decision not to tamper with the seal. After all, if someone had established such a sealing arcane array here, they couldn't be ordinary mortals. If there truly was a fearsome demon beast sealed below, they wouldn't stand a chance.

"Let's go," Kai urged. They decided not to touch the arcane array. As they were preparing to leave, a series of footsteps sounded not far away.

Hearing the footsteps, everyone paused for a moment, realizing that another group had arrived on the island. However, they had no information about the identity of these newcomers.

"Could it be our missing comrades finding their way here?" one of the Stellaris Sect disciples asked excitedly.

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"I don't think it's them. Everyone, be careful!" Renault warned, furrowing his brow slightly. Before long, the approaching footsteps grew louder, mingling with grumbles.

"What in the world is this place? It appears so vibrant with lush greenery and a pleasant environment, yet it curiously lacks any signs of life. Throughout the journey, not only did we find nothing, but we even lost two of our members!" someone grumbled.

Hearing that, both Kai and Cloud exchanged a glance. By listening to the voice, they realized that the newcomer was Zordey. Behind Zordey were at least a dozen individuals.

All of these individuals had been meandering without a clear purpose on the small island before coming together temporarily. It was due to Zordey's power and the substantial number of people with him that they naturally gravitated toward him as their focal point.

"Mr. Zupakie, look ahead!" someone suddenly shouted. "An altar! I can't believe we found an altar. There must be something good here!" someone else chimed in excitedly. They attempted to run to the altar, but Zordey stopped them.

"Everyone, not a single ant can be spotted on this island, but out of the blue, an altar emerges. None of us can say for certain if it's a potential trap. However, allow me to clarify from the outset that any treasures we discover here will be distributed evenly among us. Let's preserve a harmonious atmosphere," Zordey proclaimed with a resounding voice.

"Of course, Mr. Zupakie."

"Yes, we're a team now."

"We should prioritize harmony when we're all together." While everyone outwardly echoed his sentiments, their true thoughts remained shrouded in mystery.

After all, these individuals had convened only temporarily, and they were strangers to one another. In this ruthless world, equal sharing of spoils was a rare prospect.

Never mind if the treasures weren't valuable. If they turned out to be precious treasures, these people would undoubtedly engage in a frenzied scramble. Who would be foolish enough to divide their gains?

Zordey was keenly aware of this, which explained his effort to maintain group cohesion. After all, among this assembly, his influence was the most substantial. If indeed there were any treasures to be found, he would undoubtedly be the one calling the shots.

With caution, Zordey and the others approached the altar. Initially, they were exceedingly vigilant, but as they observed the aged and diminutive altar, which seemed on the verge of collapse at any moment, they began to lower their guard.

"This altar appears to have been constructed by a certain tribe. What sort of treasure could possibly remain? It seems to have weathered many years and is likely depleted," someone commented, their expression filled with disappointment.

"I'll head up there to investigate," a cultivator with a scarred face declared, leaping onto the altar without hesitation.

Upon closer inspection, he spotted the sealing stone. At that instant, the sealing stone emitted a faint glow, with its engraved runes: continuously shifting. Upon witnessing this spectacle, the cultivator's eyes widened.

"Eureka! There's treasure on this altar!" he exclaimed with excitement. The moment the word "treasure" reached their ears, the others jumped onto the altar as well.

Their astonishment was evident when they laid eyes on the sealing stone. No one had anticipated that such a decrepit altar could house such a stone!

Nevertheless, none of these individuals possessed the knowledge to decipher the runes inscribed on the sealing stone, leaving them unable to discern its purpose.

"This stone is definitely a treasure. What do you think those engravings on it mean?" someone asked curiously, reaching out to touch it.

However, as soon as the cultivator's hand came into contact with the sealing stone, a powerful force instantly sent him flying. Seeing this, everyone quickly backed away from the sealing stone and stared at it in amazement.

"I didn't expect this stone to have its own defense mechanism. It's definitely a treasure. We need to find a way to take it with us," Zordey said, his eyes gleaming.