

W. Secret 111

Chapter 111: Peaceful Life II

Inside the brightly-lit tower, the atmosphere was very different from the dark and gloomy atmosphere which filled Wizard Leo's tower. Presumably, this was influenced by the Runic Magic Circle the Wizards had chosen while building their Wizard Towers.

At the front of this bright and spacious tower was a long wooden table. A graceful woman about thirty years old, dressed in a white robe, was seated behind the wooden table. Merlin presumed her to be the owner of the tower, Wizard Nasha.

Wizard Nasha was not considered a belle but her simple appearance – golden locks that hung effortlessly on her back in a simple ponytail and a spotless white robe draped over her body with a matching light blue belt around her waist – gave a down-to-earth, non-pretentious impression.

“The main topic of my lesson today is a Zero-level Wind-type spell – Gale, and the construction of some related Spell Models.”

Wizard Nasha spoke, wearing a smile on her face. Her calm and soft voice was soothing to the ears. The audience who was making noise earlier also quieted down unconsciously.

Merlin nodded silently in the crowd. It was no wonder Wizard Nasha managed to attract so many people to listen to her teaching on Spell Models construction in her tower. Not only because it was free but her temperament and kind character also made those around her felt at ease and comfortable, which was a rare scene to see in the Dark Magic Region.

It was very unlike Wizard Leo, who not only had a disturbing appearance, but also a strange temperament. Even the students from his Wizard Tower were not willing to meet Wizard Leo, let alone Spell Casters from other towers.

Wizard Nasha started the explanation on Zero-level Wind-type Gale. Although Merlin had the Matrix to assist him in the analysis, it was still necessary to understand the basic knowledge of spells construction.

Furthermore, the next spell that Merlin was preparing to construct was exactly Wind-type Gale.

“Matrix, ready to record!”

Merlin secretly activated the Matrix and commenced recording the knowledge Wizard Nasha shared today as they might be helpful to Merlin’s construction of Spell Models.

The teaching style of Wizard Nasha was also exceptionally interesting. She was able to lead her audience into an in-depth immersion of the content without them knowing. Even Merlin had forgotten about everything else and was completely engaged in Wizard Nasha’s lesson.

The construction of a Spell Model was truly a complicated process as it demanded a vast amount of basic understanding of Spell Models. Besides, each Spell Model had specific differences that required a Spell Caster’s hands-on construction.

No wonder Laurinka mentioned that the construction of Spell Models was the most arduous. She was born into a family of highly experienced Spell Casters hence she had been receiving knowledge about Spell Model construction since she was a child.

However, even if she grew up in such an environment which awarded her much better advantages compared to roaming Wizards, she was still at her wit’s end about the construction of Spell Model, especially regarding First-level Spell Model. Until now, she had not built a First-level Spell Model yet.

If Laurinka was stuck in a position like this, it was not worth mentioning about the roaming Wizards like old man Etha and the black-robed old man.

In hindsight, old man Etha was slightly better in comparison with the others. With decades of understanding about spells, he was able to reconstruct several Spell Models. Even though Merlin thought that the several Spell Models built by old man Etha were unrefined, it was considered pretty good for the standard of roaming Wizards.

For instance, the black-robed old man who had never constructed a Spell Model properly but had been simulating the Spell Model obtained from the army directly in his Awareness had undoubtedly caused him numerous troubles.

“Alright, that’s all for today.”

Three hours later, Wizard Nasha's course finally came to an end. Many Spell Casters bowed slightly at Wizard Nasha as a gesture to express their gratitude before they turned and left the tower.

After returning to Wizard Leo's tower, Merlin repeatedly replayed the lesson taught by Wizard Nasha with the information stored in the Matrix. Finally, he shook his head helplessly.

It was too complicated to construct a Spell Model without the help of the Matrix. Eventually, Merlin completely dismissed the idea of constructing a Spell Model by himself.

Since then, Merlin spent some time attending a runology class. After all, it seemed that the mysterious runes were noticeable everywhere in the Dark Magic Region, and each possessed a unique ability. Grasping the meaning or even mastering the mysterious runes would enhance his ability.

However, Merlin was completely defeated after attending one runology class. The study of runology was too vast and complicated. Besides that, to cast runes, one had to rely completely on Mind Power and it required superb comprehension ability.

Merlin was not a genius. If it was not for the Matrix, he might not even be able to construct a Spell Model, let alone becoming a Spell Caster.

Upon discovering that rune was not within his capability, Merlin gave up completely and began devoting himself to the cultivation of Mind Meditation Spell.

Generally, Spell Casters had more time than Normies but it was not the same for Merlin. He only had three years to construct Spell Models. If he spent too much effort in other aspects, perhaps even with the help of the Matrix, it would be difficult for him to become a First-level Spell Caster in three years.

After all, Merlin's ultimate goal was not just to be a general Three-Elemental Spell Caster but a much stronger and powerful Spell Caster of Four-, Five-, Six- or even Seven-Elemental. In other words, he would need so much more of Mind Power in comparison to a general Three-Elemental Spell Caster.

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Half a year later, Merlin finally stepped out of the Wizard Tower. During these six months, Merlin spent most of his time cultivating Mind Meditation Spell.

The outcome of this intermediate-level Mind Meditation Spell was indeed satisfying. In just half a year, Merlin felt his Mind Power had increased several folds. His current release of Fireball was almost at an instantaneous firing speed.

At the lift of a hand, his powerful Mind Power could immediately release dozens of Fireballs, which was terribly intimidating. This was the reason why Merilung dreaded the black-robed old man.

Even if the black-robed old man had no other tricks, he was able to speed up his release of Fireball to the optimum which posed a large destructive threat with only his powerful Mind Power.

Right now, after practicing intermediate-level Mind Meditation Spell for half a year, Merlin's strength was almost on par to that of the black-robed old man. Therefore, with just the expansion of his Mind Power, his capability was already greatly improved even if Merlin had not constructed a new Spell Model throughout this time.

“Finally, it's time that my Mind Power can support the construction of my first First-level spell! However, my goal is far beyond becoming a Three-Elemental Wizard!”

A determined look washed over Merlin's face, and without hesitation, he left Wizard Leo's tower and headed toward the Resource Tower.

Chapter 112: Options

As before, there were many Spell Casters dressed in different costumes coming in and out of the Resource Tower. Although Merlin rarely walked out of the Wizard Tower in the past half year, he learned enough knowledge about the general customs of the Dark Magic Region.

Every Spell Caster dressed in gray robes in the Dark Magic Region were those who had been assigned missions from the Mission Hall.

For example, the gray-robed Wizard who had previously examined Merlin's Dark Magic ring and the lethargic-looking gray-robed Wizard in the Resource Tower – both had accepted tasks from the Mission Hall.

These tasks came with conditions. The primary rule was that only an official member of the Dark Magic Region such as a First-level Spell Caster or above could take on such tasks.

Merlin ignored that indolent gray-robed Wizard when he arrived at the Resource Tower and went straight to the second floor.

There were more Spell Casters on the second floor but most of them were there to select First-level spells in preparation to becoming First-level Spell Casters.

Merlin glimpsed absentmindedly at the First-level spells on the bookshelves and then moved to the section that stored Zero-level spells. The Dark Magic Region had a massive collection of Zero-level spells, arranged and organized in more than a dozen bookshelves.

He first selected Wind-type Gale, which was exactly the lesson taught by Wizard Nasha previously. Gale was characterized by its speed where it was not utilized for attacking the opponent but to double up the Spell Caster's speed.

It was exactly because of Gale that Merilung was able to move at the speed of lightning, leaving behind only trails of faint shadow in others' eyes.

"Two contribution points isn't too expensive."

Merlin took a quick look at the price of Gale and realized it only required two contribution points. This was not to say that Gale was cheap because it was not a strong spell. Instead, it was because of its immense popularity that most spell casters' organizations and even some common Spell Casters families and roaming Wizards, could easily obtain it.

After he selected Gale, Merlin continued his search on the bookshelf. After spending half a year inside of Wizard Leo's tower, working hard to cultivate intermediate level Mind Meditation Spell, his current Mind Power had increased several folds and was even able to support the construction of a First-level Spell Model.

Therefore, Merlin tried to obtain as many Spell Models as he could. Apart from Gale, his next favorite was Darkness-type spells. The fierce battle that broke out with Merilung during his time in Count Selin's castle had exposed Merlin to the peculiarity of Darkness-type spells. If it was not for

the black-robed old man's assistance at the last minute, Merlin would have been caught in a turmoil of disasters.

However, Darkness-type spells were rare to come by in the Dark Magic Region. Merlin had checked out several bookshelves consecutively but still did not find any Darkness-type spell. After all, there were differences amongst spell casters' organizations.

The Abyss Fort, for example, was renowned for Darkness-type spells, and these kinds of spells could be found there in an inexhaustible variety. On the other hand, the Dark Magic Region was famous for runes. The Great Wizard Fidel who created the Dark Magic Region had great attainments in runology.

Therefore, Merlin had expected to find lesser Darkness-type spells in the Dark Magic Region.

Suddenly, he focused his gaze and then quickly walked toward a row of bookshelves near the corner. On the top of the shelves were several Darkness-type spells arranged neatly together.

Merlin picked up a few of them at random and all these Darkness-type spells had unique names.

"Hand of Darkness. Condenses Darkness Element to bind the target. Most effective at night! Three contribution points."

Merlin was not looking for this type of Binding spell. Currently, he already possessed a Binding spell which was Frost. Although Hand of Darkness had its own specific features, it was not necessarily comparable to Frost's binding effect. Merlin put it back again and took out other Darkness-type spells.

"Darkness Rays. Strong penetration effects accompanied by strong negative emotions. Most effective at night! Three contribution points."

This was a remarkable offensive Darkness-type spell but it had some limitations and might not necessarily overpower Fireball, therefore Merlin did not choose this spell.

Although these two Darkness-type spells which required three contribution points, it did not mean that they were greater than other spells which require lesser contribution points. It was because Darkness-type spells were rare in the Dark Magic Region hence more contribution points were needed in purchasing them.

Merlin did not choose either Hand of Darkness or Darkness Rays mainly because of the functions of these two spells overlapped with the Spell Models that Merlin had previously constructed.

What Merlin needed urgently was a Hallucinating spell like Dark Mist that Merilung had cast.

After searching through the shelves for a short while, Merlin finally found the spell he needed.

“Dark Mist. Uses Darkness Element to form an absolute enclosed dark space. Anyone lacking Mind Power can fall into the illusion! Five contribution points.”

Merlin finally found Dark Mist, which characteristics described in the book was the same as Dark Mist cast by Merilung. Back to that time when Merlin fell into the hallucination of Dark Mist, he sensed no sound, no direction, and surrounded by complete darkness. Even Mind Power seemed to have lost its effect. That feeling of utter confusion still left a lingering fear in Merlin’s heart even until now.

However, this might be the aftermath of Merlin’s weak Mind Power at that time, which in a way also explained the force of Dark Mist.

“Five contribution points, hmm, not far from what I expected.”

Merlin wandered around the Resource Tower for a long time and he had learned that Zero-level spells required a maximum of five contributions at most. Therefore, Zero-level spells that required five contribution points were either the best amongst their kind or spells with unique characteristics.

Eventually, Merlin had chosen Gale and Dark Mist. If he really succeeded in constructing these Spell Models in his Awareness, then he would have acquired five different spells and became a powerful Five-Elemental Wizard amongst the sea of Spell Casters.

An average Spell Caster was Three-Elemental Wizard and slightly more powerful ones would be Four-Elemental Wizards. Both Merilung and Wizard Leo were Four-Elemental Wizards.

There were very few Spell Casters of more than Five-Elemental or above, even in the Dark Magic Region. At least Merlin had not encountered any Spell Caster more than Five-Elemental or above up until now.

However, being a Spell Caster of more than Five-Elemental was not Merlin's ultimate goal. At present, Merlin already acquired Binding, Speed, Defensive, and Hallucinating spells, but only possessed Fireball as an Offensive spell. Although it was destructive when dealing with a single opponent, it was gradually failing to keep up with his current needs.

Therefore, Merlin needed to select a more powerful spell that was capable of attacking a wider range, in order to make up for the weakness of Merlin's single attack.

Chapter 113: Unforeseen Circumstance

Merlin paced around the numerous bookshelves and eventually locked his eyes on Thunder-type spell.

Thunderbolt and flames were both violent enough to produce an equally terrifying force. Hence, Fire-type and Thunder-type made the most compatible Offensive spells.

Merlin already possessed Fire-type Fireball, hence he needed to choose another type of Offensive spell. It seemed that the most appropriate choice would be a Thunder-type spell.

There was an extensive selection of Thunder-type spells in the Dark Magic Region so Merlin had to choose with caution. He wanted a spell that was greatly powerful and was able to cover an expansive attack range. Knowing what he wanted helped in narrowing down his options.

Finally, Merlin made up his mind on a spell named Thunderbolt Net. The distinguishing trait of this spell coincidentally matched with Merlin's requirement.

"Thunderbolt Net. A large net formed by violent Thunder Elements, it covers a radius of more than ten meters. Carries an additional numbing effect! Five contribution points."

All of Thunderbolt Net's unique traits fulfilled what Merlin envisaged in his mind but his face fell when he realized that this ideal spell required five contribution points.

Earlier, he had made up his mind about Gale and Dark Mist, and those would add up to a total of seven contribution points. In other words, the ten contribution points awarded to Merlin as a new member of the Dark Magic Region would have been left with only three contribution points.

Three contribution points were not enough to exchange for Thunderbolt Net.

Merlin stood in front of the bookshelf and pondered for a long time. At last, he shook his head and gradually regained his mood. He surely felt it was a pity as he had no choice but to temporarily give up Thunderbolt Net. He would only return for it when he had accumulated enough contribution points.

Therefore, without any further hesitation, Merlin selected Gale and Dark Mist, then went downstairs to the gray-robed Wizard.

“Please exchange these two spells for me.”

Merlin said to one of the sluggish gray-robed Wizards without much interest.

This gray-robed Wizard, with his eyes narrowed, threw a sideways glance at Merlin. Then, he revealed a round plate which looked like a casting tool filled with mysterious runes.

“Pass me your Dark Magic ring.”

Merlin followed the command obediently. Then, the gray-robed Wizard activated the casting tool, and those densely-packed mysterious runes began to sparkle with faint white light, shrouding Merlin’s entire ring.

Merlin witnessed with his own eyes that the number “Ten” on his ring gradually turned into “Three.” This indicated that he was now left with only three contribution points.

According to the accustomed ways, the gray-robed Wizard utilized that casting tool to remove the restrictive runes on the two volumes of books so Merlin could read the contents as he wished.

Merlin bowed slightly at the gray-robed Wizard, then turned to leave the Resource Tower.

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Once he returned to Wizard Leo's tower, Merlin first flipped open the book that recorded Gale's Spell Model.

There were five Spell Models in the book, all of which were Gale's Spell Model. Merlin was no longer the newbie Wizard who only relied on old man Etha's Spell Manual. He still had some basic judgment although he was unable to construct his own Spell Model.

He decided that all five of those Spell Models in the book were fairly stable, and they must have been constructed by the hands of a powerful Spell Caster, one who had done extensive research on Gale.

In comparison to the Spell Models constructed by old man Etha, the ones constructed in this book were of another level. After all, there were vast differences between Spell Casters supported by systematic learning through spell casters' organization and the roaming Wizards.

It was unlikely that something wrong would happen if Merlin directly simulated these five Spell Models into Awareness based on the instructions on the book, although by doing so would be slightly risky. However, except for roaming Wizards who knew nothing better, no one was daring enough to take the chance.

The Spell Casters must reconstruct the Spell Models themselves to ensure their stability in Awareness.

"Matrix, build a database for Gale, and analyze its Spell Model."

"Beep. The database for Gale is built. Starting to analyze!"

Merlin commenced the easy process of reconstructing Gale's Spell Model smoothly from experience.

"Beep. Analysis over. A total of 253,516 Spell Models have been reconstructed!"

In only brief moments, the Matrix had completed its analysis and more than 250,000 Spell Models were reconstructed. This resulted in the highest number of Spell Models among all that Merlin had reconstructed.

This also proved that the Spell Models in the Dark Magic Region had been perfected, far more than the Spell Models built by old man Etha, which was why the analysis resulted in such a high number of Spell Models.

Without delay, Merlin selected the best Spell Model from the vast selection and then began the final step – to simulate the Spell Model into Awareness using Mind Power.

The simulation of Gale's Spell Model commenced immediately in Mind Power. Merlin was already familiar with the simulation process of a Spell Model. Coupled with his current state of extremely strong Mind Power, Gale's Spell Model was simulated in Awareness within the next few moments.

The moment Gale's Spell Model was formed in Merlin's Awareness, he instantly felt countless green lights, like groups of densely-packed moths, flying frantically toward him.

These green lights were Wind Elements. The abundance of Wind Elements sped directly toward Merlin's Awareness where it was quickly absorbed by Gale's Spell Model and being transformed into Magic Power.

Merlin had successfully constructed Gale into his Awareness but he did not rest. Immediately, he ordered the Matrix to analyze Dark Mist's Spell Model.

Dark Mist's Spell Model was quite complicated. Although there were also five Spell Models in the book, at a quick glance, Merlin had already noticed that these were much more complicated than any of the Spell Models he had constructed before.

"No wonder it requires five contribution points."

Merlin was secretly delighted. The more complicated the Spell Model, the more powerful it was. Although complicated Spell Models also meant an increased difficulty level of construction, with the Matrix, Merlin could cheat his way out and completely ignored the obstacles one may face in the construction of Spell Models.

Soon, the Matrix ended its analysis. Merlin selected the best out of all Spell Models and began to mobilize his Mind Power to carefully simulate Dark Mist's Spell Model.

"Phew..."

Merlin heaved a long sigh, then gathered his concentration on simulating Dark Mist's Spell Model in his Awareness.

Out of the blue, an unforeseen circumstance happened.

“Eh?”

Merlin's expression turned grave. He felt his initial forceful Mind Power suddenly became heavy the second he simulated Dark Mist's Spell Model in his Awareness.

It was as if his Mind Power had been sucked into a vacuum, leaving him gasping for air as if he was being suffocated.

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This also proved that the Spell Models in the Dark Magic Region had been perfected, far more than the Spell Models built by old man Etha, which was why the analyzation resulted in so many Spell Models.

Right away, Merlin selected the best Spell Model from the varied selections and then began the final step – to simulate the Spell Model into Awareness using Mind Power.

Mind Power immediately commenced simulation of Gale Spell's Spell Model. Merlin was already familiar with the simulation process of Spell Model. Coupled with his current extremely forceful Mind Power, Gale Spell's Spell Model was simulated in Awareness within the next few moments.

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Chapter 114: Mission Hall

After nearly half a year of cultivating intermediate level Mind Meditation Spell, Merlin’s Mind Power was no longer what it was before. It could now able to support the construction of a First-level Spell Model.

However, when he was simulating Dark Mist’s Spell Model in his Awareness, he was overwhelmed with a rather cumbersome feeling. This meant that almost half of his Mind Power was exhausted by Dark Mist’s Spell Model.

Even the total amount of Mind Power spent while constructing all four spells – Gale, Earth Guard, Frost, and Fireball – was less than what was required for constructing Dark Mist.

“Fortunately, my Mind Power has increased multiple folds recently and it was sufficient to support a First-level Spell Model. Otherwise, the construction would fail due to lack of Mind Power.”

Merlin murmured to himself with a solemn expression on his face. This was an unforeseen circumstance that happened completely out of his expectation. It never came across his mind that Dark Mist's Spell Model would exhaust so much Mind Power.

Therefore, Merlin could not afford to be careless. He utilized almost all his Mind Power to simulate Dark Mist's Spell Model.

The simulation process consumed a long duration of five to six hours. The night had already fallen when Merlin finally felt a tinge of vibration in his Awareness.

“Whoosh!”

Like the call of a fierce wind, numerous black dots clouded together and flew toward Merlin in his Awareness.

These black dots were Darkness Elements. They gradually entered the Awareness and were transformed into Magic Power by Dark Mist's Spell Model. Soon enough, Merlin felt a strange feeling rising inside of him.

It was as if he had suddenly been accustomed to the darkness, and he enjoyed this new sensation greatly.

Naturally, the effect of Darkness-type spells was most compelling at night. Although Dark Mist could be cast during day or night, it was most effective at night as it was when the surrounding was condensed with Darkness Elements. This was the trait of Darkness Elements, also the unique characteristic of Darkness-type spells.

Merlin adjusted his Mind Power slightly. Even though Dark Mist's Spell Model required an abundance of Mind Power, so much more than what Merlin expected, he could still mobilize a portion of his Mind Power right now, at least for casting spells.

“Gale!”

Merlin utilized his Mind Power to simulate Gale's Spell Model. Instantly, numerous Wind Elements fluctuated in his body. He suddenly felt the air around him became lighter.

“Whoosh!”

Like a flash of lightning, Merlin’s silhouette appeared at the other end of the room. It was so fast that only a faint shadow flashed in front of his naked eye.

“Dark Mist!”

Merlin was controlling Dark Mist’s Spell Model, the spell that he held the most expectation.

“Whoosh!”

Thick dark mist appeared out of thin air soundlessly and shrouded the entire room at the blink of an eye, covering a relatively large area.

Merlin was satisfied at the result of his small tests. Up to this moment, he had acquired a total of five Elements, namely Fireball, Frost, Earth Guard, Gale, and Dark Mist. He was now a true Five-Elemental Wizard.

Moreover, Merlin had one more Thunderbolt Net which was yet to be exchanged. He would do it once he had accumulated enough contribution points. When he succeeded, Merlin would become a Six-Elemental Wizard!

Six-Elemental Wizards were extremely rare, even in the powerful spell casters’ organizations. Merlin doubted if there was any Six-Elemental Spell Caster in the Dark Magic Region.

Merlin needed time to stabilize these two newly-constructed Spell Models, at least allowing them to accumulate three spells worth of Magic Power. By doing so, he could activate the strengthened version of the spells, which would enhance his ability greatly.

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Half a month later, Merlin finally stopped his cultivation process and exited the Wizard Tower.

During the half month period, the Spell Models of Gale and Dark Mist had accumulated at least ten spells worth of Magic Power. In other words, they were ready to form an initial combat power.

“It’s a shame that I don’t have Wind and Darkness elemental crystal stones. Otherwise, the accumulation speed of Magic Power for Gale and Dark Mist could be greatly accelerated.”

Merlin, who had spent more than half a year in the Dark Magic Region was no longer the newbie Wizard like Didimoss used to call him. Back when Didimoss asked him for elemental crystal stones, Merlin was at a complete loss about the request.

Hence, Merlin had specially searched for information in the Resource Tower and was now rewarded with knowledge about these precious elemental crystal stones.

There were several kinds of elemental crystal stones. Just as the names suggested, they were a kind of natural ore formed after the Elements were condensed to the extreme. These stones could be of great help to Spell Casters in accumulating and recovering Magic Power.

If Merlin had obtained Wind and Darkness elemental crystal stones, then he could allow the Spell Models of Gale and Dark Mist to absorb enough Magic Power in the shortest time.

However, elemental crystal stones were extremely precious. An elemental crystal stone about the size of a thumb cost at least one contribution point. Merlin currently only had a mere total of three contribution points, which was not enough for him to exchange numerous stones.

Besides, Merlin was already considering constructing a First-level Spell Model once his Mind Power had increased to a certain level.

Despite this, the First-level spells in the Resource Tower were extraordinarily costly, with the cheapest one priced at a minimum of twenty contribution points. Merlin’s meager three contribution points were like a drop in the bucket.

“I don’t have enough contribution points! Seems like it’s time to accomplish some missions!”

The main reason that led Merlin to step out of the Wizard Tower was insufficient contribution points. During the past half year, Merlin had buried himself in cultivation and never realized the importance of contribution points. Now that he needed elemental crystal stones and various kinds of spells, he truly understood the importance of contribution points in the Dark Magic Region.

If he wished to become a First-level Spell Caster in three years, Merlin would have to earn sufficient contribution points to support his desire for various kinds of Spell Models.

Soon, Merlin arrived at the Mission Hall. For the first time since his arrival in the Dark Magic Region, he finally stepped foot into the venue.

There were numerous Spell Casters in the great hall. Beginner-level Spell Casters as well as First, Second, or even powerful Third-level Spell Casters also shuffled in and out of the Mission Hall continuously.

This occurrence indirectly showed that even official members of the Dark Magic Region also yearned for more contribution points.

Merlin glanced around the hall. On each white wall, there was a huge, smooth mirror filled with countless mysterious runes. Occasionally, the runes would flash and reveal the tasks on the mirrors.

Some of these tasks were released by the Dark Magic Region while others were released by Spell Casters from the Dark Magic Region. After all, there would be a time when Spell Casters in the Dark Magic Region were desperate for precious ingredients or assistance to accomplish some small tasks. They could release their demands in the Mission Hall as long as they could afford to pay enough contribution points.

Merlin gathered his focus to inspect the densely-packed tasks in the Mission Hall. Suddenly, from the corner of his eyes, he noticed a familiar figure in the crowd.

Merlin hesitated briefly before finally walked over to the familiar figure.

Chapter 115: Mission I

“Wizard Laurinka.”

Merlin approached the familiar figure and called out softly.

“Oh? Wizard Merlin, are you here to accept the mission as well?”

As she turned around and saw that it was Merlin, Laurinka expressed a hint of astonishment. After all, in her view, Merlin had only been in the Dark Magic Region for half a year. He would not be rushing to accept any mission.

Merlin nodded and said rather helplessly, “Yeah. I don’t have enough contribution points. I’m preparing to create my First-level spell but some First-level spells in the Resource Tower require too many contribution points. So, I can only come here to check out the mission.”

After a slight pause, Merlin stared at Laurinka closely and found her having a deep frown. A depressive mood seemed to hover over her, so Merlin asked in a low voice, “Wizard Laurinka, have you made the determination to create a First-level spell?”

Merlin knew that Laurinka had been in the Dark Magic Region for almost three years. If she could not create a First-level spell, she would be expelled from the Dark Magic Region. That was the reason he asked the question.

Laurinka nodded. With a serious face, she said in a low voice, “In less than a month, I’ve been in the Dark Magic Region for three years. If I have not become a First-level spell Caster by then, I’ll be expelled from the Dark Magic Region. No matter what, I’m trying it this time. However, I don’t have enough contribution points currently, so I can only accept the mission here.”

Merlin sighed in his heart. For many normal Spell Casters, creating a Spell Model was exceptionally difficult. Since her three-year limit in the Dark Magic Region was approaching fast, Laurinka had no choice but to try it out.

“Right. Have you chosen your mission?” Merlin asked her softly.

Laurinka shook her head slightly. “Some of the missions here are too difficult like searching for Heart Corroding Grass in Storm Valley and others. The contribution points are in total three hundred points. However, even the First-level or Second-level spellCaster may not come out of there alive. Although some are rather easy, the contribution points are too little... So, I haven’t chosen any decent mission.”

Merlin did not know a lot about these missions. Merlin had not heard about the Storm Valley Laurinka talked about, so he had to be very cautious when he accepted mission in the Mission Hall. He would be in danger if he was not careful.

In the Dark Magic Region, the Spell Casters who had died in mission had already reached a number that could not be accurately known.

Seemingly understood Merlin's careful consideration, Laurinka chuckled. "Since you need to exchange for a First-level spell as well, we can do a mission together. In that way, we can take care of each other as well."

Although Laurinka mentioned working together, Merlin could see that Laurinka was saying it out of kindness and tried to help him. After all, he had only been in the Dark Magic Region for half a year. On top of that, before he came to the Dark Magic Region, he was simply a roaming Wizard and Laurinka naturally classified Merlin as the "weak" group.

Merlin nodded in gratitude. When he was about to say something, a blinding light slowly shone from the rune mirrors around the hall.

"Swoosh."

In the rune mirrors, a new mission was added. It was announced by the Dark Magic Region.

"In Donglin City, the Kingdom of Blackmoon, some Dark Vampire Bats are found. We hereby order a team of only four to investigate the situation. Both temporary members and official members can join this mission. Fifty contribution points for each person and a First-level spell 'Furious Flame' will be rewarded."

As soon as this mission was published, it instantaneously caused a commotion in the hall. Fifty contribution points did not account much. The First-level spell Casters would not be interested in these points.

However, to those Entrance-level Spell Casters, this was a great temptation. Other than fifty contribution points, there was still the First-level spell "Furious Flame" in the reward after all. If this spell was exchanged in the Resource Tower, it would at least required thirty contribution points.

Merlin was a little moved to accept this mission, so he looked at Laurinka.

However, Laurinka wore a deep frown. She seemed a little hesitant.

“What’s wrong? Is this mission very difficult? It’s only investigating the situation,” Merlin asked, a little confused.

Laurinka shot a glance at Merlin and said, “Dark Vampire Bats don’t account to much since they’re only some Darkness-type Elemental Monsters. Normal Spell Casters can deal with them. However, these Dark Vampire Bats are gregarious creatures. They appear in flocks of millions. If we’re to check out the situation, we must look far into the source of Dark Vampire Bats. At that time, we may be involved in a dangerous situation.”

Laurinka was very serious in her words. Merlin also realized that this mission was not as simple as it seemed. No wonder the crowd who was all worked up in the hall earlier had slowly calmed down. They must have thought that this mission was still too dangerous after careful consideration.

After thinking through it carefully, Merlin took one more glance at the mission. No matter what, he was greatly tempted by the fifty contribution points and First-level spell Furious Flame.

Thus, Merlin said in a low voice, “Wizard Laurinka, this mission may be dangerous but it is very rewarding, especially First-level spell Furious Flame. Both of us can use this spell. So, I still think we should accept this mission!”

Laurinka gave a little thought, then flashed a smile. She replied, “Alright. Although it’s slightly dangerous, the contribution points and First-level spell are worthy for us to take the risk. Good, let’s accept the mission then.”

Thus, both came to the gray-robed Wizard at the front of the Mission Hall. Laurinka said to one of the gray-robed Wizard, “We’ve come to accept the mission to Donglin City.”

The gray-robed Wizard raised his head and took a glance at Laurinka and Merlin. Then, he spoke emotionlessly, “Hand me your Dark Magic ring.”

Merlin and Laurinka handed their Dark Magic rings to the gray-robed Wizard.

The Wizard used a casting tool to record something on the rings. After that, the Dark Magic Ring gradually shone a faint red light.

“Alright. You’ve accepted the mission. From now on, your every move will be recorded by the Runic Magic Circle on the Dark Magic rings. After you’ve completed your mission, it will serve as

your proof. Now, you can wait in the hall. As soon as two more people accept this mission and form a team of four, you can depart for your mission.”

The gray-robed Wizard handed the Dark Magic rings back to Merlin and Laurinka.

Merlin’s expression changed slightly and looked at the Dark Magic ring more closely. He found some mysterious runes on it. It should be the Runic Magic Circle the gray-robed Wizard had carved on the ring. It could record every single move Merlin had made.

The wonder of runes was incredible!

On the other hand, Laurinka remained calm where it seemed that she had known about this long ago. Thus, after receiving the Dark Magic ring, Laurinka said to Merlin monotonously, “Let’s go. We’ll wait here for a while. This mission is quite rewarding. There should be someone accepting this mission soon.”

This mission required four Spell Casters to form a team and complete the mission. Thus, Merlin and Laurinka simply stayed in the hall, waiting silently.

Chapter 116: Mission II

Merlin and Laurinka both stayed in the Mission Hall meditating. Approximately after two hours, a gray-robed Wizard approached the two and said monotonously, “Come here. A team of four has been established for this mission.”

Merlin and Laurinka stood up and followed the gray-robed Wizard to the front.

“The two?”

Merlin saw a male and a female Spell Casters in front. The male Spell Caster wore a long white robe. Mysterious runes were carved on his robe that could only be sensed by Mind Power. This long robe was a casting tool.

Only after being promoted to an official member of the Dark Magic Region, a set of robe like this would be given to the person for free. However, this man’s robe was obviously different from that of the official members. It should be something he exchanged for in the Resource Tower.

Merlin once saw the casting tools in the Resource Tower but the price was shockingly high. Any small casting tool would require hundreds of contribution points. Meanwhile, the man's robe required at least fifty to one hundred contribution points as it was a luxurious item.

The white-robed Wizard turned around. As he saw Merlin and Laurinka, he furrowed his eyebrows immediately.

"Which Wizard's tower do both of you belong to?" the man asked proudly.

Laurinka's expression did not waver. She seemed to have gotten used to this. Just from the man's robe, she knew that he must have come from a wealthy background. He might be a genius from a large Spell Caster family so it was normal for him to have an air of arrogance.

"We're Teacher Leo's students. I'm Laurinka."

Merlin stepped forward and said monotonously, "I'm Merlin!"

"Hmm? It's you?"

Suddenly, the female Wizard beside the white-robed Wizard turned around, feeling surprised.

Merlin nodded and said with a smile, "I didn't manage to say my thanks to you last time. I apologize for that!"

This female Wizard was the slightly chubby one Merlin asked at the Resource Tower last time. He did not expect to see her accepting this mission.

The white-robed man turned sideways and asked, "Ryllis, you know him?"

The slightly chubby Wizard gave a small smile and nodded. "We met at the Resource Tower before."

After a slight pause, she pointed at the white-robed Wizard and said, "He's Wizard Holmes. I'm Ryllis. We're both Teacher Gretel's students."

“You’re Wizard Holmes?”

Laurinka expressed a hint of surprise and stared straight at the white-robed Wizard.

“That’s right. I’m Holmes!”

Wizard Holmes’ expression was overflowing with confidence as he continued, “Since we’ve all accepted this mission, let’s make an appointment to depart to Donglin City five days later.”

Laurinka soon resumed her calmness and exchanged a glance with Merlin and then nodded. “Alright. Five days later, we’ll depart to Donglin City.”

All of them should prepare themselves well in this five days’ time. Since there was still a certain amount of danger associated with this mission, no one knew what they would encounter in Donglin City.

Following that, Wizard Holmes and Wizard Ryllis left the Mission Hall. Merlin gazed at them leaving and asked Laurinka softly, “Wizard Laurinka, what’s so special about this Holmes?”

When she heard that the man was Holmes, Laurinka appeared very surprised, which was why Merlin asked her this question.

Laurinka wore a complicated expression as she said in a low voice, “Wizard Holmes has just been in the Dark Magic Region for a year but he has already made a name for himself. He learns under the infamous Wizard Gretel. Under Wizard Gretel’s teaching, he has created Four-Elemental spell in a year. Moreover, he has received this mission now. It seems that he’s confident to create a First-level spell and he’s ready to become a First-level spell Caster.”

Merlin nodded. This Holmes must be quite strong. On top of that, he was a genius. Although Four-Elemental Spell Caster only had one more spell than Three-Elemental Wizard, it was a truly difficult feat to achieve. Adding one more spell required multiple amounts of energy no matter in terms of creating a Spell Model or of Mind Power.

Other than those confident genius Spell Casters, no one would be willing to create one more spell. However, once one had become a Four-Elemental Wizard, he would be standing at the top of Spell Casters.

In the Dark Magic Region, Four-Elemental Spell Casters were rather rare. It was no wonder that Holmes' expression was overflowing with confidence and arrogance.

Seeing that Merlin was keeping silent, Laurinka thought he was a little uncomfortable with Holmes' arrogant tone earlier. Thus, she flashed a smile at him. "Wizard Merlin, Wizard Holmes' attitude is considered still decent. We're Teacher Leo's students. In the Dark Magic Region, that basically indicated that we're Spell Casters with the smallest potential and the worst quality. Up to eighty percent of chance that we'll be expelled from the Dark Magic Region after three years. At least Wizard Holmes is still willing to execute the mission with us other than having an arrogant attitude. Back in those days, some students of Teacher Leo accepted mission here. Once their partners knew that they're Teacher Leo's students, they would immediately abort the mission."

When Laurinka said this, she wore a bitter expression. It appeared that she was hopeless about the situation as she had experienced such incident before.

Merlin gave a smile but he remained quiet. Why would he fuss over such a small matter?

"Let's go. We should go back and get ready."

Merlin said, then left the Mission Hall with Laurinka. They returned to the tower and began their preparation.

When he was back in Wizard Leo's tower, Merlin began his preparations. After all, this was his first mission and it was even associated with a certain amount of danger, so he must not be careless.

After careful consideration, Merlin found Laurinka and borrowed five contribution points from her. Laurinka also agreed to it generously and did not ask anything. Merlin was deeply grateful for that in his heart.

With these five contribution points and the remaining three contribution points Merlin had, he had a total of eight contribution points. This meant that it was enough for him to exchange for the spell, Thunderbolt Net.

Without a moment of hesitation, he went to the Resource Tower and exchanged for the spell Thunderbolt Net. Although half of his Mind Power was consumed by Dark Mist, it was still enough to create another level-zero spell. It was just not as easy as he created level-zero spells before.

After spending a whole day, Merlin had successfully simulated Thunderbolt Net in his Awareness.

With Thunderbolt Net, Merlin had truly become a Six-Elemental Wizard. His initially strong Mind Power was almost depleted now. He could barely maintain six level-zero spell Models now. If he wanted to create a First-level spell, then his Mind Power must be greatly improved.

A Six-Elemental Spell Caster required double or triple the usual Mind Power of a Three-Elemental Wizard. It was already difficult to achieve the requirement for Mind Power, not to mention creating a complicated First-level spell Model. This resulted in the low number of Spell Casters who could reach Three-Elemental and above.

Although Merlin just created Gale, Dark Mist, and Thunderbolt Net, he had only created them recently. The Magic Power accumulated in them was still low. If he only needed to deal with normal danger, it would still be sufficient. However, no one knew what would happen during this mission in Donglin City, so he should give all he could to strengthen himself.

Therefore, Merlin spent his last three contribution points to exchange for Wind, Darkness and Thunder elemental crystal stones at the Resource Tower.

With these elemental crystal stones, the speed of accumulating Magic Power for Merlin's newly created Spell Models would greatly increase.

After these preparations, Merlin stayed at ease in the tower. As he utilized the elemental crystal stones to increase his Magic Power, he silently waited for the arrival day to execute the mission.

Chapter 117: Donglin City I

In Wizard Leo's tower, Merlin was waiting in front of Laurinka's door.

"Creak..."

Laurinka came out of her room. When she saw Merlin, she flashed him a smile. “Wizard Merlin are you ready?”

“More or less. Are we going to the Mission Hall now?”

“Let’s go.”

Laurinka nodded as she appeared calm. In these five days, she must have prepared herself but this was her private matter. Merlin should not ask about it.

Hence, both came to the Mission Hall together. At this time, Wizard Holmes and Wizard Ryllis had already arrived in the Mission Hall, both waiting silently for them.

“Wizard Laurinka, Wizard Merlin, if you’re ready, let’s depart,” Holmes said in a low voice while shooting an emotionless look at Merlin and Laurinka.

Merlin and Laurinka both nodded as an acknowledgment. So, the four of them left the Mission Hall directly and reached an extremely spacious square. There were many mysterious Runic Magic Circles carved on the ground.

Merlin had seen such Runic Magic Circles before. They were about the same as the mysterious Runic Magic Circle in the Kurdish Mountains. It was this Magic Circle that had transported Merlin directly to the Dark Magic Region.

The Runic Magic Circles at the square should be the type of Runic Magic Circles that could transport people for a long distance. The ones who could set up such a strong Runic Magic Circle should at least be advanced Spell Casters who were Seventh-level and above. There would not be more than ten of such Spell Casters even in the Dark Magic Region.

Holmes was the one leading the four of them where he seemed to enjoy the attention as the decision maker in the group. He directly brought Merlin and the others to a part of the Runic Magic Circle.

It was obviously not Holmes’ first time using these Runic Magic Circles. He seemed to know his way and could easily direct them to this part of the Runic Magic Circle. There were about ten Runic Magic Circles where each of them represented a faraway place. Thus, the group had to be clear about this or they might end up being transported to an unknown place.

“All ready? Then let’s go!”

Holmes scanned the group, then reached out his finger and initiated the runes on the Dark Magic ring.

“Swoosh!”

A pillar of light shot up and Holmes disappeared into the Runic Magic Circles. He had already been transported to an unknown place.

Right behind him, Merlin and others also initiated the runes on their Dark Magic rings respectively. Three pillars of light flashed by and the three of them disappeared into the Runic Magic Circles.

Beside a clear stream, a few birds slowly touched down on the rocks protruding out of the stream, then stuck out their heads. When they were about to reach their sharp beaks into the water, a strange wave suddenly appeared in the stream, accompanied by a string of faint white light.

“Swoosh!”

A few figures appeared out of thin air. There was a total four of them and all seemed slightly pale.

“This place is...?”

Merlin looked around and found that they were in a forest. Other than a few frightened creatures scurrying away, there was no one in sight.

“Sigh...”

After making sure there was no danger, Merlin heaved a sigh of relief. This transportation experience was not exactly enjoyable. At the instant he was transported by the Runic Magic Circle, his mind had gone completely blank. His whole body felt as if it was experiencing a strong pressure.

When he was transported to the Kurdish Mountains the previous time, although he felt the pressure as well, it was not as intense as this time.

“Are you alright?”

Holmes’ face was a little pale but he quickly recovered from it.

Laurinka and Ryllis both nodded their heads to indicate that they were alright. Thus, the group took out the map they received at the Mission Hall and looked at it carefully.

“According to what is shown on the map, this is probably the Kavennoch Mountains, three hundred miles to the east of Donglin City,” Holmes said as he pointed at the map.

The Kingdom of Blackmoon was huge as it was formed from hundred thousand of city-states. Thus, when the Spell Casters of the Dark Magic Region went out for a mission, they would bring a map.

However, Merlin noticed a problem. Regardless of whether entering or leaving the Dark Magic Region, the Spell Casters had to rely on Runic Magic Circles. However, the Dark Magic Region was on a mysterious island where no one knew its exact location, so the Spell Casters whose Dark Magic rings were taken away due to various reasons could no longer find the Dark Magic Region after they were sent out from it.

The Spell Casters of the Dark Magic Region, even the official members of First-level and above and the Fourth-level spellCasters who could build their tower independently, did not know the exact location of the Dark Magic Region. Since its establishment, the Dark Magic Region had maintained its mystique.

Only the Seventh-level spellCasters and above, the central force of the Dark Magic Region, might know a little about the exact location of this place.

Wizard Holmes kept the map and said monotonously, “Let’s go. We should hurry up. We may reach Donglin City in one day.”

The team of four then began to walk along the stream and toward the outer area of the mountains.

“Sir Marquis, at the outskirts west of Donglin City today, twenty-eight bodies are found. All of them are in a terrible, bloody state. Some of their limbs are missing and their blood was sucked dry,” a tall muscular man who wore an armor said.

Marquis Barossa was sitting on his wide large chair. As the supreme commander and the actual ruler of the whole Donglin city-state, he had numerous hundred thousand of knights under his command. However, he furrowed his eyebrows and wore a worried look.

“Wizard Pario, you’ve been investigating this matter over the last few days. Is it the Dark Vampire Bat’s doing?” Marquis Barossa could not help but asked a black-robed Wizard beside him.

Wizard Pario also frowned and replied in a serious tone, “O’ respectable Sir Marquis, after my investigation these few days, I’m afraid there are truly some evil Darkness-type Elemental Monsters in Donglin City. The Dark Vampire Bats have appeared and there are a lot of them around.”

Marquis Barossa quickly questioned, “Since it’s the Dark Vampire Bats, is there any solution to this problem?”

Wizard Pario thought for a while and answered, “The Dark Vampire Bats are very odd. They’re not afraid of normal attacks but they fear being frozen. So, to deal with these Dark Vampire Bats, we must find their nest first. Then, we bring a few strong Ice Swordsmen, Fourth-level and above, to destroy them.”

As soon as Marquis Barossa heard there was a solution, he relaxed a little and continued, “Alright. Wizard Pario, please bring some people and eliminate these Dark Vampire Bats.”

Wizard Pario squinted his eyes and looked around. Then, he showed a light smile. “I only need Wizard Simp and Marshal Wharton to come with me. Also, please send thirty Ice Swordsmen, Fourth-level and above, to aid me.”

“Alright. Wizard Simp, I’m sorry to trouble you, but please go with Wizard Pario to eliminate the Dark Vampire Bats.”

Marquis Barossa paused for a short while before turning his gaze at the muscular armored man. Then, he ordered in a low voice, “Marshal Wharton, choose thirty Ice Swordsmen who are Fourth-level and above and go with Wizard Pario.”

The armored man nodded, then turned around and left to choose the Ice Swordsmen.

“I hope we can completely eliminate these Dark Vampire Bats this time around.”

Marquis Barossa heaved a long sigh and set an expectant gaze.

Chapter 118: Donglin City II

Soon, a mysterious team led by Wizard Pario quietly left Donglin City. However, as soon as they left, two figures – one male and the other female – appeared behind them.

These two wore tight clothes and carried a huge sword behind their back. They seemed to have been prepared earlier but the younger male appeared to be hesitant. He spoke softly, “Catherine, when we went to the Kurdish Mountains in search of Spell Casters organization previously, we’re already heavily scolded by Father. If we followed them to take a risk again and if Father finds out about it, I’m afraid that we can’t ever think of going out of the house again.”

Catherine glared at the man and exclaimed, “Capace, you can’t be scared now? Although the Dark Vampire Bats are strong, the team is led by Wizard Pario, Wizard Simp and Father this time. There are also thirty Ice Swordsmen, all Fourth-level and above. What danger will there be? Alright, speak no more. We don’t get such a chance often. Let’s just follow them. Hehe. We may even witness some interesting stuff.”

After saying that, Catherine wore an excited expression. Then, she pulled Capace and sneakily followed Wizard Pario’s team and left Donglin City.

...

Outside of Donglin City, four young figures appeared worn out and weary. It seemed they had gone through a long journey to reach this place, so they all seemed to be exhausted.

“That’s Donglin City in front. Let’s go. We should meet Marquis Barossa directly. I believe he’ll have some news regarding the Dark Vampire Bats.”

Holmes seemed to have thought this through. Moreover, during the journey, it was him who led the team. Laurinka and Merlin did not express any opinion at all and just followed Holmes.

Thus, the four of them entered Donglin City directly.

Donglin City was the central area of Donglin city-state. It was even more prosperous than Count Selin's Prakash City. Moreover, the highest title in the whole Donglin city-state was a Marquis. In the Kingdom of Blackmoon, Donglin city-state was counted as a city-state in the middle range. This was not something Prakash city-state could compare to.

However, as they faced the bustling Donglin City, Merlin and others were not in the mood to enjoy it. Instead, they headed directly toward Marquis Barossa's castle. After accepting this mission, Merlin and the team had already grasped most of the information in Donglin City.

Marquis Barossa of Donglin City had up to a hundred of intermediate Elemental Swordsmen and numerous hundred thousand elite knights under his command. Also, there were at least five roaming Wizards working for him. This showed that his influence was wide and great.

However, Holmes did not seem to care about Marquis Barossa's forces at all. His plan was simple – to crash into Marquis Barossa's castle and asked him about the information regarding the Dark Vampire Bats.

“Stop right there. Who are you?”

Holmes brought the team outside of Marquis Barossa's castle where they were immediately stopped by the guards.

“Confine!”

Holmes simply frowned a little, then waved his hands lightly. A strong fluctuation of Wind Element appeared and whistled by, surrounding these few guards.

“Let's go,” Holmes said without much emotion. Without even sparing a glance at these guards, he walked directly into the castle.

Merlin squinted his eyes and mumbled to himself, “A Binding and Wind-type spell?”

Since Merlin entered the Dark Magic Region, he had learned about all types of spells. He was no longer the rookie Wizard who did not even know about the common sense about spell. Thus, with one glance, he knew that the spell Wizard Holmes cast earlier was a Wind and Binding-type spell.

Moreover, the spell could confine numerous guards at once. It should be “Confinement Wind” which required five contribution points to be exchanged in the Resource Tower.

With Holmes clearing the path in front, any guard they met did not even have the chance to come close to them. They were already confined by Holmes then, so the four of them entered the castle as if they were going into an empty place.

“Swoosh!”

As soon as Merlin and the team stepped into the hall, numerous strong Elemental Swordsmen immediately flooded into the hall with a strong fluctuation of Element gleaming on them.

These Elemental Swordsmen were at least Third-level Elemental Swordsmen.

“Who are you? How dare you to crash into the Marquis’s castle?”

Behind the guards, a skinny old man who wore a blue long robe was staring sharply at Merlin and the others.

“So troublesome! It seems we have to kill someone first!”

Mysterious runes slowly appeared on Holmes’ robe which covered his whole body. His Mind Power began to fluctuate. He was preparing to cast a spell now.

“Wizard Holmes, we don’t have to go through the trouble.”

Suddenly, a low yet calmed voice rang beside Holmes’ ears.

“Wizard Merlin, you have a way?”

Holmes shot a glance at Merlin, rather surprised.

Merlin did not reply directly. Instead, he scanned the Elemental Swordsmen beside them emotionlessly.

“Dark Mist!”

In an instant, Merlin cast Dark Mist. A huge mist suddenly appeared out of thin air and rapidly hovered over the hall, engulfing the Elemental Swordsmen in it.

Dark Mist was a Hallucination-type spell. Once engulfed by it, those with a weaker Mind Power would be susceptible to hallucination. When Merlin was battling with Merilung, he was engulfed by Dark Mist cast by Merilung. Even Merlin had fallen into a hallucination then, not to mention these Elemental Swordsmen.

Thus, even if there were dozens of strong Elemental Swordsmen in the hall, all of them had lost all senses of the outside world the instant Dark Mist dawned on them. All of them seemed like they were in a trance where they simply stood idly.

“Swoosh!”

With Gale, Merlin rapidly arrived in front of a middle-aged man in the hall. He spoke in a calm tone, “Marquis Barossa, we’re here to investigate the matter of the Dark Vampire Bats. You don’t have to be tense.”

Marquis Barossa appeared rather unruffled and stared closely at Merlin. Then, he looked at the skinny old man beside him.

The skinny old man’s expression kept changing. After a while, he sighed deeply. “Sir Marquis, they should be the Spell Casters from the Dark Magic Region.”

This skinny old man was obviously a Spell Caster. He should be a roaming Wizard who was under the command of Marquis Barossa. Since he was a roaming Wizard, it was not odd for him to recognize that Merlin and the team were Spell Casters of the Dark Magic Region. After all, Donglin City was under the influence of the Dark Magic Region.

Marquis Barossa relaxed and smiled. “So, you’re Spell Casters from the Dark Magic Region. Wizard Nasha has once come to Donglin City as well. She brought an extremely gifted girl away then. How is the girl doing now?”

“Oh? Wizard Nasha has come here as well? I just join the Dark Magic Region recently. I’m not so sure about Wizard Nasha’s matter.”

Hearing Barossa mentioning Wizard Nasha, Merlin knew he was not lying. Thus, he waved his hands lightly and cast Dark Mist away. The Elemental Swordsmen immediately came to their senses and looked at Merlin with a horrified expression.

“Dark Mist?”

Not only those Elemental Swordsmen, even Wizard Holmes who was with Merlin also mumbled to himself. When he raised his head and looked at Merlin again, a strange look flashed across his eyes.

Chapter 119: Dark Vampire Bats I

“Dark Mist is not so easy to create. I once thought of creating it and I’ve tried a few times but I don’t have the confidence to do it. So, I gave up at last.”

Holmes shook his head slightly. It turned out that he had tried to create Dark Mist’s Spell Model but he failed.

Usually, the stronger the spell, the more difficult it was to create its Spell Model. Merlin had the analysis of the Matrix, so he could easily create a stable and strong Spell Model.

When Merlin simulated Dark Mist Spell Model in his Awareness, he had already noticed how complicated the Spell Model was. To him, it was the most complicated Spell Model he had ever created until now.

It was no wonder that even Holmes, a genius Four-Elemental Spell Caster, did not have the confidence to create Dark Mist’s Spell Model.

“I’m just lucky,” Merlin said calmly and smiled slightly.

Following that, Merlin looked around. These Elemental Swordsmen were all Third-level and above. If it was before, he could never be able to easily deal with so many Elemental Swordsmen.

Now, just his Dark Mist was enough drove these Elemental Swordsmen into a hallucination and rendered them vulnerable. Merlin was greatly satisfied with the effect of Dark Mist.

“Oh right. You’re here to investigate the Dark Vampire Bats?”

Marquis Barossa suddenly stood up and gave an agitated look.

Holmes stepped forward and nodded. With a cold tone, he said, “That’s right. We came for the Dark Vampire Bats. Do you know what’s the problem with these Dark Vampire Bats?”

Marquis Barossa frowned and replied hesitantly, “These Dark Vampire Bats suddenly appeared three months ago at the outskirts. A few dozen bodies were found, some of their limbs gone and their blood was all sucked dry. Initially, I only ordered my people to investigate this matter. However, before we find the reason for it, I received more news that more bodies were found.”

“Hence, I let Wizard Pario investigate this matter. It’s Darkness-type Elemental Monster, Dark Vampire Bats. So, I let Wizard Pario bring a few Ice Swordsmen to destroy the Dark Vampire Bats’ nest. That’s right. They’ve only left for half a day.”

After hearing Marquis Barossa’s words, Holmes and Merlin exchanged a glance. Holmes said with a heavy tone, “Our mission is to clarify the situation of the Dark Vampire Bats. Just this information is not enough to complete our mission. It seems that we have to find Dark Vampire Bats’ nest to truly grasp the situation.”

Merlin and the others nodded. This mission was difficult because they had to clarify the situation of the Dark Vampire Bats. If they encountered a large number of Dark Vampire Bats, the situation would be dangerous.

Wizard Holmes turned around and said to Marquis Barossa, “Marquis Barossa, we need someone to lead us to the Dark Vampire Bats.”

Marquis Barossa would, of course, love to help. He had heard about the Dark Magic Region, a strong Spell Casters organization. The Spell Casters who came from Spell Casters organization were extremely powerful, far more powerful than the roaming Wizards he had recruited.

The matter with the Dark Vampire Bats was troublesome. If the Spell Casters of the Dark Magic Region were willing to help, then the possibility to solve this issue would be greater.

After thinking for a while, Marquis Barossa set his gaze on the skinny roaming Wizard beside him. He said with a low voice, "Wizard Danbe, you know a little about those Dark Vampire Bats. You can lead these Wizards to them."

Wizard Danbe gave a look to Merlin and the team, then he nodded.

"Let's go. The earlier we investigate the situation of the Dark Vampire Bats, the earlier we can go back," Holmes said to Wizard Danbe calmly.

Thus, Wizard Danbe bowed slightly to Marquis Barossa, then brought Merlin and the team out of the castle.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!"

A series of intense crashing noise exploded. A few dozen bodies lied all over a spacious ground in the forest.

These bodies were mostly covered in blood with some of their limbs missing. Moreover, there were also many bat-like monsters with bodies gleaming in a bloody red. They spat out a bright red light while engulfing the bodies.

In the blink of an eye, the bodies rapidly dried out. All their blood had been absorbed into the bats' mouths.

"Ice Cleave!"

Suddenly, a terrifying icy air wrapped around the bats and froze them. The frozen bats crashed onto the ground into smithereens.

The place was currently in the middle of an intense fight. It was extremely cruel. There were two Wizards, a strong Fifth-level Ice Swordsman and a few dozen Fourth-level Ice Swordsmen hanging onto the battle in difficulty.

“D*mn it. There are too many Dark Vampire Bats. We can’t get out of here. Wizard Pario, what do we do?”

Marshal Wharton’s body was giving off a terrifying icy aura as he howled.

Wizard Pario’s expression was dark as well. He glanced at his side as his people gradually decreased. Trying hard to suppress the anger in his heart, he glanced at the two dark caves behind him. He said in a heavy tone, “Since we can’t get out, then we should go into the caves. I’m sure these two caves are the nests of the Dark Vampire Bats. Destroying their nests in there may give us a slim chance of survival.”

“Go!”

Wizard Pario and Marshal Wharton led the team and chose one of the caves under the endless attack of Dark Vampire Bats. They quickly went into the cave.

Dark Vampire Bats, their bodies gleaming in an eerie red, let out a sharp screeching sound. Then, they flew into the two dark and mysterious caves. Only the bloody corpses were left lying around outside the caves.

“Swoosh!”

After a while, two figures quietly appeared outside the caves. They watched the bodies on the ground with a complicated look. The intense bloody stench made them sick.

“Capace, what should we do? Father and Wizard Pario seem to be in danger...”

These two were Capace and Catherine who had followed Wizard Pario and the team sneakily. They witnessed the cruel battle outside of the caves with their own eyes. It was obvious that the situation Wizard Pario and the others were in was extremely dire. They were forced to go into the caves.

The usually fearless Catherine could not help but become pale looking at the bodies now. Fear crawled across her face.

The tall Capace was slightly calmer. He took a glance at the dark caves and said in a heavy tone, “Wizard Pario and Father are both in danger. They’re forced to hide in the caves. We must quickly go back to Donglin City and report to Sir Marquis. He’ll send his man to save Father, Wizard Pario, and the others.”

Catherine was out of any idea now. She quickly nodded and agreed. “Right. Let’s quickly go back to Donglin City. If we’re late, I’m afraid Father will be in great danger.”

“Shriek!”

Just when the two were about to leave, sharp noises echoed from the dark caves. Many gleaming Dark Vampire Bats rushed out of the caves in a frenzy and dived toward Capace and Catherine.

“Not good. We’re found. Let’s go quickly!”

Capace’s expression changed drastically. He quickly pulled out the sword on his back and took hold of the shivering Catherine as they dashed into the forest.

Chapter 120: Dark Vampire Bats II

In the forest, Merlin and the others were right behind Wizard Danbe.

Their journey was extremely quiet. They did not encounter any Dark Vampire Bats, so they were slightly relaxed. Merlin and Laurinka were walking at the back of the team. Laurinka raised her head and glanced at Wizard Holmes who was in front of them. After that, she quietly slowed down her pace and walked beside Merlin.

“Wizard Merlin, you borrowed five contribution points from me. It was to exchange for the spell Dark Mist?”

Laurinka lowered her voice and asked softly.

Merlin showed neither approval or disapproval. He did not answer her question. Only a smile appeared on his face.

Upon seeing Merlin's expression, Laurinka shook her head in disappointment. Following that, she frowned. "You've already created three Spell Models before. These Spell Models are not stable yet but you still created Dark Mist. Although Four-Elemental Spell Caster is very powerful, it's even more difficult for you to become a First-level spell Caster. Don't you want to become an official member of the Dark Magic Region?"

Merlin was quite surprised. He did not think Laurinka's reaction would be so great.

Laurinka also realized that she had overreacted. She shook her head helplessly and did not speak anymore afterward. However, Merlin noticed the hint of disappointment in Laurinka's words.

Merlin glanced at Laurinka's back and frowned slightly. He would not be so naïve and thought that Laurinka truly "cared" about him. In reality, the Spell Casters in the Dark Magic Region mostly had a force backing them. The Spell Casters organization was rather a loose organization.

However, it was because of this reason that every Spell Caster in the Dark Magic Region had their own considerations. After noticing Merlin had created a new Spell Model, Laurinka seemed to think that Merlin had no chance of becoming First-level spell Caster now. She was disappointed about that.

Laurinka's reaction was truly strange.

Merlin could not understand Laurinka's intention, so he stopped thinking about it. He simply followed the team at a distance.

"Something's odd. There's movement in front."

Suddenly, Wizard Holmes raised his head, noticing something.

At the same time, a slight fluctuation of Element appeared in front of them. It was the fluctuation of Darkness Element. Moreover, it did not seem like a Spell Caster was casting a spell.

"Could it be the Dark Vampire Bats?"

Merlin became serious. He knew the mission this time was not simple. They might encounter a large number of Dark Vampire Bats, so he must stay alert at all times.

“You guys stay here. I’ll go in front and check it out.”

Wizard Holmes was also acting carefully. As the leader of the team, he must stand up at this time.

Following that, Wizard Holmes initiated the robe on his body and walked toward the front carefully.

“Boom!”

Not long after, there was an explosion in front of them. Then, strong fluctuations of Element appeared from the forest. Someone was obviously casting a spell.

Wizard Ryllis felt the fluctuation of Element and her expression changed slightly. She told the others worriedly, “Let’s go there quickly. That is Holmes casting spell. He may be in danger.”

Thus, the team hurriedly dashed forward.

Soon, everyone found Wizard Holmes. He was casting “Confinement Wind” right now. He had confined a dozen bats that kept letting out sharp screeches in the forest.

“Dark Vampire Bats?”

Everyone immediately understood the situation. Those ugly monsters were the Dark Vampire Bats they needed to investigate in this mission. They were a Darkness type Elemental Monster which was very difficult to deal with.

“Hmm?”

Other than seeing these ugly Dark Vampire Bats, Merlin also saw a young man and a girl leaning against a huge tree. Moreover, he knew these two. They were Capace and Catherine, whom Merlin met after he left Prakash City.

Capace was supporting Catherine with one hand now. His other hand was gripping a huge sword tightly as he stared at those ugly Elemental Monster with a pale face.

“Swish!”

Suddenly, an ugly Elemental Monster broke out of Holmes’ Confinement Wind and dashed toward Capace and Catherine.

Both of their faces turned instantly pale. These Darkness type Elemental Monsters were extremely cruel. In addition, the Dark Vampire Bats were extremely quick. Capace did not even have the time to raise his sword.

“Bang!”

Suddenly, a scorching Fireball crashed into the ugly Dark Vampire Bats accurately and exploded. The violent flame directly engulfed Darkness Vampire Bat and burned it.

“Swoosh!”

A figure directly appeared in front of Capace and Catherine.

“Capace, Catherine, we meet again.”

Merlin wore a strange smile on him.

Capace and Catherine were dumbfounded but soon, Catherine reacted. She showed a hint of extreme elation and yelled loudly, “It’s you? Mr. Merlin? No, it should be Wizard Merlin. You saved us again.”

Without caring about their surprise, Merlin asked monotonously, “Why are you here?”

At this time, Capace stepped forward and explained briefly, “We’re following Wizard Pario and Father’s team, but we didn’t expect them to encounter danger after they found the Dark Vampire Bats. We want to rush back to Donglin City and ask Sir Marquis to save Father and Wizard Pario.

However, we're too careless and these Dark Vampire Bats found us. We've been running away from them for a while. Luckily, we met you..."

Merlin suddenly turned around and frowned. He noticed the Dark Vampire Bat which was hit by his Fireball was not dead yet. In fact, it seemed uninjured at all. It was now dashing toward Merlin, screeching.

"These Dark Vampire Bats are hard to deal with. We can only use Ice-type spell to restrain them!"

Wizard Holmes yelled loudly. The Dark Vampire Bats he had confined earlier had respectively broken out of the confinement. Other spells could not cause any harm to them at all.

Description about the Dark Vampire Bats also jumped into Merlin's mind. They were indeed afraid of Ice-type spell. Even some Ice Swordsmen could deal with them.

Upon thinking about that, Merlin reached out his hand and pointed at the Dark Vampire Bat that was aiming at him. He instantly cast Frost.

"Kachak."

The Dark Vampire Bat which came at Merlin was instantaneously frozen. Thick ice crystals covered it. Then, it fell from midair and broke into pieces.

"Indeed effective!"

Upon noticing Frost was effective, Merlin then cast Frost to the other Dark Vampire Bats. Since Holmes, Ryllis, and Laurinka had also created Ice-type spell, together they quickly eliminated the Dark Vampire Bats and the forest resumed its tranquility.