

W. Secret 191

Chapter 191: Attack and Kill

Wizard DeMarco saw Merlin's pale white finger and his expression changed completely as Fire Element began to rise from his body.

"Lava Flames! Go to hell!"

Wizard DeMarco immediately cast the Third-level spell, Lava Flames and soon, the sky was filled with fiery red flames. It was as if a volcano had erupted as the flames hurled toward Merlin.

"Crackle! Crackle!"

Merlin's face was completely calm, and with a single twitch of his finger, a translucent cold breeze flew out to retaliate the fiery red flames.

At first, the flames were almost shapeless but as they collided with the cold breeze, they instantly froze into pieces of ice crystals and came falling to the ground.

It was more common that flames were more resistant to becoming ice crystals. It had to be a very strong Ice-type spell in order to completely freeze the flames. This was also dependent on the difference of levels between the spells. For example, a Third-level Ice-type spell could easily freeze a First-level Fire-type spell.

Wizard DeMarco had cast a very powerful Third-level Fire-type spell. Once released, it was like a volcanic eruption and the violent flames could engulf the opponent in an instant.

However, even a strong Third-level Fire-type spell did not stand a chance against Merlin's Glacial Finger. It was essentially useless as the flames which filled the sky were quickly enveloped by the cold breeze, and instantly, froze into ice crystals and came crashing to the ground.

At the same time, the cold breeze also formed a white shadow and flew rapidly toward Wizard DeMarco.

“No, this is impossible!”

Wizard DeMarco’s face turned pale as he stumbled backward, away from the cold breeze that rushed toward him. He quickly cast a Defensive Earth-type spell.

A khaki-colored light was emitted, and an endless volume of Earth Element gathered on his body as it formed a thick layer of armor to protect Wizard DeMarco. It was no less than Guardian Monument that Merlin had cast with the help of the Enhancing casting tool.

Wizard DeMarco seemed relieved after he cast a Defensive Third-level Spell, but before he could fully relax, Merlin’s Glacial Finger had reached him.

“Crackle!”

The cold breeze swiftly enveloped Wizard DeMarco and froze the thick Earth Element surrounding his body. This was just a Defensive Third-level spell hence Wizard DeMarco still had some confidence.

However, Merlin let out a slight grin. Although he had cultivated Glacial Finger, he had almost drained all his Magic Power for Frigid Ice and Frost but Merlin knew Glacial Finger was extremely powerful.

“Split!”

Merlin shouted and immediately, the frozen Earth Element surrounding Wizard DeMarco began to crack open. His defense broke as the ice around him shattered.

Wizard DeMarco expressed some pain. It seemed that even the blood that flowed in his body had frozen. As thick ice crystals began to form, his entire body had frozen too.

“Stop, Wizard Merlin!”

Wizard Sammir shouted hurriedly as his eyes glared nervously at Merlin.

However, Merlin shook his head. Merlin understood now that Glacial Finger was too powerful. Once one is frozen, a Spell Caster's weak physical attributes meant that it was impossible to break through it.

“Crackle!”

Just like the Alchemy Creature, Wizard DeMarco's body began to freeze, cracked, and shattered on the ground into a million pieces.

Wizard DeMarco was now dead. Wizard Sammir and the other two Third-level Spell Casters stared at Merlin in horror. They could not believe what they just saw.

Not even a Third-level Spell Caster could withstand a single blow from Merlin, who was an Entrance-level Spell Caster?

They seemed impressed especially as they had no clue what technique Merlin had used just then, but they knew for sure it was not a spell. Merlin was just an Entrance-level Spell Caster, there was no way he could construct a terrifying spell like that.

Wizard Riesen, who had treated Merlin with the most respect so far, gazed at the pile of ice crystals for a long time and finally stared at Merlin's pale white finger as he whispered, “Demon Ability... That was the legendary Pandora Demon Ability!”

Merlin looked up. He did not expect for this quiet, seemingly ordinary Spell Caster to know about Pandora Demon Ability.

Merlin had killed DeMarco because if he had not, DeMarco would have killed Merlin first. However, Merlin was still unsatisfied, mainly because he only wanted to impress the Third-level Spell Casters.

Entering the ancient monument with the other Spell Casters would not be as simple as now. Merlin had too many secrets – whether it was his Enhancing casting tool or Pandora Demon Ability – many Spell Casters would desire them.

Wizard DeMarco did not hide his greed for Merlin's Enhancing casting tool. Wizard Sammir, Wizard Bren, and even Wizard Riesen, who had a slightly better attitude toward Merlin, would also be very intrigued in his casting tool.

Perhaps they were not as eager as DeMarco but it was very difficult to determine what would really happen once they entered the ancient monument. That was why Merlin had to cast Glacial Finger to kill DeMarco and prove himself worthy to the group.

When Wizard DeMarco died, the Third-level Spell Casters were extremely envious of Merlin's Pandora Demon Ability. However, it was just pure jealousy. With Pandora Demon Ability, Merlin now stood on the same level as the Third-level Spell Casters. They would think twice before messing with him, and this was Merlin's plan all along.

Now, as Wizard Sammir and the others stared blankly at Merlin, he knew he had fulfilled his plan.

Finally, Wizard Sammir said, "I never would have thought that Wizard Merlin had cultivated the legendary Pandora Demon Ability. Wizard DeMarco only brought dishonor to himself."

Wizard Sammir's expression was uneasy and he felt remorseful. When he pressured Merlin two months ago, Merlin had not cultivated Pandora Demon Ability yet.

However, Wizard Sammir was also fortunate. If Merlin had successfully cultivated Pandora Demon Ability then, his fate would have been no different to that of Wizard DeMarco.

Merlin listened quietly as Wizard Sammir and the other Spell Casters deliberated. He knew very little about ancient monuments and decided it was best if he did not interrupt. Finally, a decision was made.

"How about we leave for the ancient monument in ten days?"

After negotiating the more specific matters of entering the ancient monument, Wizard Sammir confirmed the time of departure.

Merlin nodded his head. "I have no objections, I can leave anytime."

Wizard Riesen and Wizard Bren nodded in agreement as they all left Wizard Sammir's house.

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Merlin, who was dressed in a black robe, had a faint cold breeze emitting from his body, warding off other Spell Casters.

This was a slight side effect he gotten from cultivating Glacial Finger. Merlin had no way of eradicating it.

However, just as Merlin was about to reach Wizard Burton's courtyard, he stopped in his tracks. His expression sank as he turned sharply and extended the finger on his right hand, ready to strike with Glacial Finger.

"Wizard Merlin, don't be mistaken, it's me!"

A Spell Caster stepped out from a shadowed area. It was Wizard Riesen, who had just been with Wizard Sammir to negotiate the plans to enter the ancient monument.

Merlin's heart sank. Although Wizard Riesen seemed ordinary, he knew that Merlin's Glacial Finger was a Pandora Demon Ability.

Even though Wizard Sammir and Wizard Bren had heard of the Pandora Demon Ability, they did not have a thorough understanding of it as Wizard Riesen did.

Wizard Sammir was a suspicious Spell Caster but his strength was only average. Meanwhile, Wizard Bren was powerful but Wizard Merlin could see through him.

The only thing Merlin was unsure of was Wizard Riesen, who seemed so ordinary. Merlin finally realized that he was not as ordinary as he seemed. Merlin could sense the fluctuations of Elements and that was what warned him that someone had been following him.

He did not expect for it to be Wizard Riesen. He had followed Merlin all the way home and managed to stay hidden in the shadows. Wizard Riesen was clearly talented and unique.

"Wizard Riesen, why have you followed me home?"

Merlin asked coldly. He stayed vigilant, ready to strike with Glacial Finger at any time.

Wizard Riesen smiled and shrugged. “Don’t be nervous, Wizard Merlin. I did not even bring my Alchemy Creature. How could I? I don’t even dare battle against the horror of your Pandora Demon Ability.”

Merlin thought carefully. Wizard Riesen had not brought along his Alchemy Creature. Most alchemists depended primarily on their Alchemy Creatures for their strength. Without bringing one, Wizard Riesen could be truly sincere.

However, Merlin did not let down his guard. He coldly replied, “Wizard Riesen, what’s wrong? Why couldn’t we speak at Wizard Sammir’s?”

Riesen spoke with dignity as he whispered, “I think you’ll be interested in what I’ve to tell you. It’s about the ancient monument and it’s something that even Wizard Sammir and Wizard Bren don’t know!”

Wizard Riesen spoke mysteriously. This could have been important.

Merlin pondered for a moment and finally, he nodded. “Since it’s important, let’s talk inside. Please come in, Wizard Riesen.”

Merlin gave way and invited Wizard Riesen inside.

Chapter 192: Another Pandora Demon Ability?

“Wizard Riesen, what is it that you couldn’t tell Wizard Bren and Wizard Sammir?”

Merlin asked as they both sat down.

Riesen looked intently at Merlin and whispered, “They only know it’s an ancient monument, but not what lies within. But I know. The most precious thing in there is not a potion, casting tool or spell, but a Pandora Demon Ability instead! It was left behind by the powerful Spell Casters from over three thousand six hundred years ago!”

“Another Pandora Demon Ability?”

Merlin was shocked and asked in confusion, “How did you know that there would be a Pandora Demon Ability in the ancient monument?”

Many thoughts ran through Merlin’s mind. The Pandora Demon Ability was a dark secret to keep so one would have to keep it vigilantly. How could Wizard Riesen share this secret so straightforwardly?

This left Merlin very puzzled.

“Hehe, I know there’s a Pandora Demon Ability because I’ve entered this ancient monument before!”

Suddenly, Wizard Riesen revealed the shocking news that he had already entered this ancient monument once before.

Merlin did not look convinced so Wizard Riesen said, “I entered the ancient monument three years ago. I was trapped for some time but eventually escaped. In the ancient monument, I had found the Pandora Demon Ability. However, it was protected too powerfully, so I did not manage to retrieve it.”

This was extremely shocking news. Riesen did not tell Wizard Sammir or Wizard Bren of this so Merlin was vigilant and coldly asked, “If you knew about the Pandora Demon Ability, Wizard Riesen, why didn’t you enter the ancient monument alone and retrieve it yourself? Why have you told me about it?”

“It’s very simple. I can’t retrieve the Pandora Demon Ability alone! You’ve no idea how powerful the defenses are in the ancient monument. A common Third-level Spell Caster would not stand a chance. Even I’ve prepared for the worst. However, you showed us the strength of your Pandora Demon Ability – it may be able to break down the defenses. When we get to the Pandora Demon Ability, we’ll share it without conflict. What do you think?”

Merlin hesitated for a moment before he lifted his head and replied with a smile, “Since you’re so honest, how could I object?”

“Haha, brilliant. We’ll discuss the specifics in ten days when we depart for the ancient monument.”

Wizard Riesen said as he got up and left the courtyard.

Merlin watched as Wizard Riesen walked away. Merlin became more dignified as he coldly laughed. “Wizard Riesen has managed to keep such a deep and dark secret. He even hid it from Wizard Sammir. Hopefully, he’s being honest, and really does want my help in retrieving the Pandora Demon Ability from the ancient monument, otherwise...”

Merlin thought about it more, and as he did, the cold breeze around him got stronger. He lifted his pale white finger and observed it. He had cultivated Glacial Finger, which killed Wizard DeMarco today and made Wizard Sammir and the others terrified of him.

Furthermore, Merlin’s Glacial Finger had not been completely cultivated yet. He would continue to cultivate Glacial Finger over the next ten days and increased its strength. When the time came, whether it was the dangers of the ancient monument or if Wizard Riesen was to back out of his agreement, Merlin would be able to protect himself.

Hence, Merlin returned to his room. He used the elemental crystal stones that Wizard Vladi had given him and stayed up all night to madly cultivate Glacial Finger.

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Over the past few days, the number of Spell Casters in Floating City had increased drastically. They all seemed to be in a rush as they hurried around.

“Sister Elena, there are so many people in Floating City. Is it because of the ancient monument?”

Two female Spell Casters wearing blue robes with their hair in ponytails were speaking to each other. They looked stunned as they watched the streets of Floating City filled with rushing people.

However, when Spell Casters noticed the gold signet on the hems of their cuffs, they shifted slightly.

This seemingly inconspicuous signet was, in fact, not as plain as it seemed. It represented one of the noblest Spell Caster families in Floating City, the Delman clan. Some of these roaming Wizards had come across members of such noble families before where they encountered unfavorable positions.

Although the Delman clan was not considered particularly powerful, several of the most powerful families in Floating City had united to form a huge alliance. They worked together and created a formidable force. They even had a so-called 'Law Enforcement Team'.

Of course, these 'Law Enforcement Teams' were only available in places where the families of Floating City could control. The powerful families had not yet gained control of places like this, in the South of Floating City, hence, the situation was rather chaotic.

Still, there were very few Spell Casters who dared go against the powerful families of Floating City.

Elena hesitated for a moment before she replied, "Maybe. A few days ago, the news of the ancient monument spread. These Spell Casters must be preparing to enter the ancient monument."

"Sister Elena, a few Spell Casters have already entered the ancient monument. Brother Ken has already gone to look for Brother Glen, and although he's just a Second-level Spell Caster, he's surely the most gifted in Fire City! What are we still doing here?"

The other female Spell Caster asked with a puzzled look on her face.

Elena stopped in her tracks and hesitated. "Glen is very powerful. However, the dangers that lie within the ancient monument are unpredictable. If the news I received from Vladi that the 'Wizard Merlin' he encountered is the same 'Wizard Merlin' that I encountered, we may have a better grasp of the ancient monument."

"Huh? The genius Six-Elemental Spell Caster you met in the Dark Magic Region? There are so many Spell Casters in Floating City, perhaps it's just a coincidence that they both have the same name. The Six-Elemental Spell Caster has not even become a First-level Spell Caster yet, how remarkable could he be? He's nothing compared to Brother Glen, let alone Brother Ken..."

Elena shook her head and explained no further. She looked up and saw a courtyard – it seemed like the one Wizard Vladi had mentioned where 'Wizard Merlin' lived.

Thus, Elena walked through the courtyard.

In the middle of the courtyard, there were the black-robed old man and Wizard Burton. Around them floated fluctuations of Elements.

The black-robed old man had consumed the Purple Stone Powder Potion for a long time now. He felt his Spell Models had stabilized and so, he sought out Wizard Burton to try out his spells.

After a few trials, Wizard Burton nodded and grinned. “Not bad, Hill, it looks like the Spell Models in your Awareness have finally stabilized. You shouldn’t have to consume any more Purple Stone Powder Potion. However, you’re unable to construct any new Spell Models...”

Wizard Burton shook his head and felt sympathetic. The black-robed old man and Wizard Burton had been through thick and thin together. Wizard Burton was a First-level Spell Caster and alchemist with hopes of one day becoming a Second or Third-level Spell Caster.

However, the black-robed old man would never be able to become a First-level Spell Caster.

“Hehe, I’m just grateful to have lived for so long. It’s not such a great loss that I may never construct new Spell Models...”

The black-robed man laughed casually. He had completely let go of the idea that he may never construct new Spell Models and was not fussed about it either.

Suddenly, the black-robed old man and Wizard Burton realized the two strangers who had entered the courtyard.

“Who are you two?”

The black-robed old man asked immediately and remained vigilant.

Wizard Burton noticed the robes that the two female Wizards wore, and his heart skipped a beat. He smiled and asked, “Are you Wizards from the Delman clan?”

The younger female Wizard held her head high as she responded, “Yes, we’re from the Delman clan. My name is Simi, and this is my sister, Elena.”

Elena nodded and asked Wizard Burton, “We’re looking for a Wizard named ‘Merlin’. Is he around?”

“Why are you looking for Merlin?”

The black-robed man asked nervously.

Elena smiled warmly and said, “You both don’t need to worry. If he’s around, may you please ask him to come out and meet me?”

The black-robed man furrowed his eyebrows. He let down his guard as the two female Wizards did not seem like a threat.

However, he still shook his head. “Wizard Merlin has urged us not to allow any visitors. He doesn’t want to be disturbed right now.”

“No visitors?”

Elena looked around. Finally, she took a deep breath and shouted, “Wizard Merlin, I’m Elena from the Dark Magic Region! If you remember me, please come and meet me!”

Her voice was loud, and it echoed around the entire courtyard.

They waited for a moment but there was no response. Elena shook her head, and her face showed a hint of disappointment. This ‘Wizard Merlin’ could not be the same ‘Wizard Merlin’ that she had met.

“It seems like we’ve mistaken, sorry for disturbing you,” Elena said to the black-robed old man and Wizard Burton as she turned to leave with the other female Wizard.

“Wizard Elena, you just got here. Why the hurry to leave?”

The door in the courtyard suddenly opened and out came a familiar figure.

Chapter 193: The Spell Caster Clan

“Wizard Merlin, is that you?”

Elena looked at the familiar figure and smiled with glee.

Elena walked right up to Merlin to get a closer look and let out a deep sigh. “Wizard Merlin, you’re really impressive. You arrived in the Dark Magic Region as a Six-Elemental Spell Caster and really shocked us. Now, you’ve become a famous apothecary in Floating City.”

Although it was known by the public that Wizard Vladi had prepared the potions, it was no absolute secret that Merlin had, in fact, prepared them. Furthermore, Wizard Vladi knew many Spell Casters in Floating City and surely had told them the truth.

Perhaps Wizard Vladi had inadvertently revealed this to one or two people, but soon, the Alkaline Earth Potion prepared by the mysterious ‘Wizard Merlin’, took Floating City by storm.

Elena had heard this rumor and decided to investigate this herself. Was this the same ‘Wizard Merlin’ she knew from the Dark Magic Region?

Merlin could not help but laugh and did not give an explanation. He knew Elena’s clan was here in Floating City, but since he arrived, he had been too busy preparing potions and completely forgot about looking for Elena in the Delman clan.

“Yes, Wizard Elena, do you come with news from the Dark Magic Region? How is it there?”

Merlin had left for a few months now but he tried to keep up with news from the Dark Magic Region. However, he only interacted with a few roaming Wizards, how could he have known what went on in the Dark Magic Region?

Now that he had bumped into Elena, who was from a Spell Caster clan, perhaps she came with some news.

“The Dark Magic Region?”

Elena felt a little hesitant as she looked over at the black-robed old man and Wizard Burton.

Merlin understood, and he invited Elena and Simi into his room.

In the room, the young Wizard Simi watched Merlin with intrigue, unsure what to think of him. Merlin took a quick look at her but did not think much of it. He asked Elena, “Wizard Elena, do you not have news from the Dark Magic Region?”

Elena shifted slightly and whispered, “I do have news. The Dark Magic Region has joined forces with Fire City, Abyss Fort, Ashes Region, and other large spell casters’ organizations with their individual regions to fiercely block the people of Ozmu.”

“I heard the battle was terrifying. The Dark Magic Region and other spell casters’ organizations were determined to cut off any spell casters’ organizations that Ozmu had gotten hold of. Ozmu may be strong but they had made too many enemies and couldn’t waste their strength. Hence, under these circumstances, Ozmu is still at a disadvantage. We may be able to return to the Dark Magic Region soon.”

Merlin nodded. Wizard Leo had mentioned that they could return within a year’s time. It seemed like this would be true.

News as secretive as this could be reached by Wizards of powerful clans such as the Delman clan. Common roaming Wizards would not have heard this news let alone a few spell casters’ organizations. It was best not to spread that one knew this secret.

Upon hearing that the Dark Magic Region was still safe, Merlin let out a deep breath and felt relieved. He had finally constructed five spells, and although his Mind Power was increasing slowly, he had a High-level Mind Meditation Spell and a few Mind Power potions. He would be able to reach the Mind Power of a Third-level Spell Caster in less than half a year.

When the time comes, he would construct the final First-level spell, Dark Light Realm without difficulty. He could already foresee becoming a First-level Spell Caster as long as the Dark Magic Region was safe and sound. He could finally become an official member of the Dark Magic Region and could use the wide range of resources available there.

“You’re Wizard Merlin? Sister Elena says you’re really amazing! Is it true that you’re a Six-Elemental Spell Caster?”

Suddenly, the wide-eyed female Wizard asked Merlin as she gazed at him with intrigue.

“Simi!”

Elena furrowed her eyebrows as she shouted, “Wizard Merlin, my apologies, this is my little sister, Simi. She’s just being funny!”

Merlin looked at Simi, who reminded him of Lord Selin’s daughter, Shelly from Prakash City. She would always ask Merlin how strong he was or whether he could beat her brother, Cook.

Merlin smiled humbly and said, “It isn’t that impressive.”

After a moment, Merlin finally asked, “Well, Wizard Elena, what brings you here today?”

Elena heard Merlin’s question and hesitated for a moment.

Simi, the female Wizard who stood on the side replied, “Wizard Merlin, Sister Elena made a special trip to invite you to the Delman clan as a guest. Will you accept her invitation?”

“A guest?”

Merlin could not help but smile. He knew Elena surely had something to say, perhaps she did not know how to put it delicately.

Merlin had spent the last few days tirelessly cultivating Glacial Finger. It had already been nine days, and tomorrow he would meet with Wizard Sammir to enter the ancient monument. His Glacial Finger had only changed slightly in color and had not returned to its original form.

It was only his finger that had changed color. It was clear that it was still not enough even though Merlin had spent many days cultivating Glacial Finger. It would take at least a month before he could completely cultivate Glacial Finger.

Elena glared at Simi. She did not think that Simi, who was usually very quiet, would be so quick-witted. However, as long as Merlin accepted their invitation, she could have a discussion with Ken. Elena would consider this trip a success.

Hence, Elena let out a slight grin and said, “Wizard Merlin, please. We’ll leave immediately.”

Merlin nodded and headed out of the house to inform the black-robed old man and Wizard Burton that he would be leaving with Elena to the Delman clan.

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Elena walked as if she had a lot on her mind but Merlin did not notice it. He walked beside Simi who constantly badgered him with questions, mostly about the Dark Magic Region. He answered her questions simply and in turn found out more about the Delman clan.

The Delman clan was a typical example of a Spell Caster clan. However, not all clan members had the Spell Caster Quality.

Although Simi and Elena were sisters, they did not share the same mother. Their father had over thirty wives, so naturally, he bred an unimaginable number of children.

Hence, with a huge number of children, the Delman clan possessed enough descendants with the Spell Caster Quality.

Merlin thought about his own two children, Conxion and Celia. He wondered whether they would possess the Spell Caster Quality and if so, he would bring them up to be Spell Casters. One day, the Wilson family could also become a Spell Caster clan.

However, after realizing that the Delman clan kept the method of producing enough offspring in order to have enough Spell Casters, Merlin completely dispelled the idea of making the Wilson family a Spell Caster clan.

The medium-sized Delman clan formed today was the result of hundreds of thousands of years of expansion.

With such profound heritage, there were many clan members in the Delman clan, all spread across different spell casters’ organizations. For example, Elena could smoothly join the Dark Magic Region using the tokens the clan had obtained.

The others joined organizations such as Fire City and Abyss Fort. Some were even able to join the prestigious and powerful Sterling House.

This was how the clan was able to build a network and flourished. Of course, this required a lot of resources such as tokens to join the Dark Magic Region. The Delman clan would have spent a lot in order to achieve such greatness.

Hence, clan members who were naturally gifted and possessed the Spell Caster Quality allowed the clan to stand out amongst the rest. With their wide variety of resources, the Delman clan was able to flourish quickly.

Without the Spell Caster Quality, it would be like Laurinka, who was sent away by the Dark Magic Region. When she returned to her clan, she would be refused any resources.

This was how most Spell Caster clans operated. However, there were some clans, ones that were similar to spell casters' organizations, did not have to depend on such methods to prolong the clan.

There were too few clans that were similar to spell casters' organizations. It did not matter that the Spell Caster clans had formed an alliance; they would never be compared to spell casters' organizations. This was because they did not control enough resources and did not possess essential knowledge inheritance.

For example, the more extensive and complete spells, comprehensive potions, mysterious and powerful runology, and more – these were not things that powerful clans could possess just because they were united.

Only spell casters' organizations were able to possess such extensive knowledge inheritance, which made it the true core of a spell casters' organization!

“Wizard Merlin, we're here!”

Suddenly, Elena, who was too focused on hurrying back, stopped in her tracks and pointed at a huge building in ahead. This was the Delman clan!

Chapter 194: Wizard Glen

It was Merlin's first time visiting a Spell Caster clan. The clusters of the buildings that belonged to the Delman clan were completely different compared to the towers in the Dark Magic Region; there were many low houses in the area. In addition, every cluster of buildings was wide and spacious. There were even some potion materials planted around the houses.

The clusters spread out in a net-like formation resembling that of a spider web. The buildings Merlin saw on his way were only situated in the outer area of the Delman clan.

"Wizard Merlin. Let's go."

Elena said to Merlin and brought him to the front door. Simi and Elena raised their hands and some runes appeared on the golden-laced marking of their sleeves. Following that, a strange fluctuation appeared out of nowhere. To Merlin's astonishment, there were also Runic Magic Circles set up at the front door.

However, the Runic Magic Circles were not powerful. Merlin could faintly sense that any First-level spell could easily break through it. It could not be compared to the Runic Magic Circles that surrounded the entire Dark Magic Region at all.

After all, the Runic Magic Circles in the Dark Magic Region was set up personally by the Great Wizard Fidel. The Delman clan did not possess such a powerful Spell Caster.

Upon entering the Delman clan, Merlin saw many Spell Casters walking about. When some saw Elena, they would greet her politely. He noticed that some Spell Casters were not powerful at all; some had only constructed one or two spells.

Along the way, Merlin did not even see a First-level Spell Caster that belonged to the Delman clan.

Merlin could not help but ask, "Wizard Elena, your clan is in Floating City, so it's supposed to be a large Spell Caster clan. But why haven't I seen even a First-level Spell Caster along the way?"

"First-level Spell Caster?"

Elena paused and shot a strange look at Merlin. Then, she showed a bitter smile. "Wizard Merlin, I think you're comparing the Dark Magic Region with my clan. There are countless First-level Spell Casters in the Dark Magic Region but how many Spell Caster clans can be compared to a spell casters' organization? In fact, as long as you become a First-level Spell Caster, you'll attain a high

status in the clan. I haven't become a First-level Spell Caster yet but I still have the chance to become one after I entered the Dark Magic Region. That's why I currently have a high social status in the clan and my clan emphasizes my training. Having said that, how much does my talent amount to in the Dark Magic Region?"

After hearing Elena's explanation, Merlin wore a thoughtful look.

Indeed, Elena's quality was not particularly excellent in the Dark Magic Region. If that was not the case, she would not have been sent to Wizard Leo's tower. Even so, Elena still had a high status in the Delman clan as she stood a chance to become a First-level Spell Caster.

In the Delman family, there were more Normies clansmen who did not even stand a chance at all.

Merlin then thought about roaming wizards. It was already considered lucky for one roaming wizard amongst a hundred to become a First-level Spell Caster. Merlin was in the Dark Magic Region before, then came to Floating City. He had seen many roaming wizards who all seemed to be First-level Spell Casters.

Some roaming wizards like Wizard Sammir, Wizard Bren, Wizard Riesen, and the others were in fact, Third-level Spell Casters.

Merlin had met so many Spell Casters of First-level to Third-level, causing him to have the misconception that it was common to have First-level Spell Casters anywhere. In reality, even in the case of the Delman clan, anyone who was a First-level Spell Caster was an important figure in the clan.

In addition, Floating City was the place where many roaming wizards gathered for trading from all over. Those who could visit Floating City were considered the more powerful ones amongst roaming wizards.

"Wizard Merlin, please come in."

Merlin raised his head and realized that he had arrived in front of a quiet and secluded house.

The house was neat and clean. There seemed to be a faint aroma in the air. Elena and Merlin sat across each other and the atmosphere slowly turned grim. Even Simi who could not stop chattering also became silent.

Merlin gave a small smile, knowing that Elena was about to talk about the ‘serious’ matter. He knew that Elena would not invite him to the Delman clan just to be a guest.

“Wizard Elena, let’s be frank.”

Merlin spoke softly.

Elena took a glance at Simi, then said in a heavy tone, “Simi, do me a favor and check whether Ken is back in the clan.”

Simi seemed unwilling to do so but she did not dare to speak against Elena. Thus, she stood up and left the house.

Merlin thought it was strange. What could have made Elena so cautious?

“Wizard Merlin, I indeed have something to discuss with you this time. You’ll definitely benefit from this talk.”

“Oh. What’s that?”

Merlin’s expression turned serious as well.

Elena lowered her voice. “Have Wizard Merlin heard about the ancient monument?”

“Ancient monument? You’re talking about the monument left behind by ancient Spell Casters?”

Merlin showed a strange expression. Could it be that Elena found the ancient monument as well?

Elena nodded. “That’s right. It’s a monument left by the ancient and strong Spell Casters. Since Wizard Merlin knows about the ancient monument, then you should understand its worth as well. Moreover, this is the ancient monument left from the time of the Molta Empire three thousand six hundred years ago. I believe there’ll be many wonderful spells, casting tools or rare potion materials left behind in that monument which was from the most glorious age of Spell Casters.”

“I have an accurate piece of information about the ancient monument and know about its exact location as well. I brought you here to invite you to explore the ancient monument with us.”

After Elena finished her words, she set her gaze at Merlin and patiently waited for his answer.

Upon hearing the information about the ancient monument, Merlin became more confused.

“The ancient monument from three thousand six hundred years ago? Won’t it be such a coincidence for two ancient monuments to appear at once?”

Merlin immediately thought of his promise with Wizard Sammir and the others – they would go to the ancient monument left behind from the time of Molta Empire.

“Elena, where exactly is the ancient monument that you speak of?”

Merlin wanted to know if it was the ancient monument Wizard Sammir and the others wanted to enter. If it was the same, the information regarding the ancient monument had been leaked.

“The exact location of the ancient monument is at...”

When Elena was about to explain in detail, an unfamiliar male voice rang from outside the door. “If Wizard Merlin can join us, we’ll surely tell you the exact location of the ancient monument.”

“Ken?”

The door was pushed open and a Spell Caster with long brown hair stood outside.

“Sister Elena, Brother Ken just came back, so I wasn’t able to inform you in time...”

Simi glanced at Elena carefully and said in a soft voice.

Elena frowned slightly but soon recovered. She said to Ken, “Ken, let me introduce you. This is...”

However, Ken directly waved his hands. He set his gaze on Merlin then said in a low voice, “You don’t have to. I know that he’s Merlin, the Six-Elemental Spell Caster in the Dark Magic Region. He’s also the genius you’ve always spoken of, Elena.”

After a pause, Ken raised his head and spoke in a loud voice, “Elena, the matter regarding the ancient monument is important. How can you tell others about the information when I’m not around? Six-Elemental Spell Caster of the Dark Magic Region is indeed a prodigy but how can he compare to Glen?”

Right after Ken finished his words, a tall figure immediately appeared behind him. His entire figure was cloaked under a red robe.

As soon as this tall Spell Caster in a red robe appeared, Merlin instantly sensed his scorching presence. It was as if the tall Spell Caster was a ball of flames.

“Glen? It’s, of course, excellent for you to join us. But if Wizard Merlin joins us as well, we’ll have more assurance in entering the ancient monument this time.”

Upon seeing the arrival of the red-robed wizard, Elena said calmly with a rather complicated expression.

“He’s from Fire City!”

Merlin shot his gaze toward the red-robed wizard as well. He wore a robe that had runes etched on it. Merlin had seen robes like his before in the Dark Magic Region; it was the robe for the official members of Fire City.

Fire City and the Dark Magic Region were both small-scaled spell casters’ organizations. They had even joined forces to chase after those from Ozmu this time around. Relative to the competition between the Dark Magic Region and Abyss Fort, Fire City was too far away from the Dark Magic Region, hence did not have many conflicts of interest with the Dark Magic Region.

It was Merlin’s first time meeting a Spell Caster from Fire City as well!

Elena appeared rather awkward but she soon recovered. She immediately introduced the newcomers to Merlin. “Wizard Merlin, this is one of the most outstanding prodigy Spell Casters in the Delman clan, Wizard Glen! Glen is the official member of Fire City and he’s also a Four-Elemental Second-level Spell Caster!”

It turned out that Glen was a Four-Elemental Second-level Spell Caster. It was unsurprising that he was one of the most excellent prodigies in the Delman clan.

However, Wizard Ken quickly added, “If Fire City did not join forces with the Dark Magic Region this time, Glen will be preparing to construct Third-level spells. He’s not far from becoming a Third-level Spell Caster.”

As compared to the excitement shown by Wizard Ken, Glen reacted rather calmly to the compliments. He walked into the house and nodded slightly to Merlin. With a calm voice, he said, “I’ve heard about you from Elena. You’re the Six-Elemental Spell Caster who just joined the Dark Magic Region and have defeated some First-level Spell Casters during the conference.”

“I’m not so familiar with the Dark Magic Region but I’ve met Kleis once. He was a Five-Elemental Spell Caster back then and hadn’t become an official member of the Dark Magic Region yet. Tsk. So many years have passed. He has become the most unique prodigy in the Dark Magic Region but betrayed it and turned to Ozmu in the end. What a pity!”

Wizard Glen shook his head and put on a regretful expression.

After saying that, Wizard Glen stared at Merlin. Then, he said to Elena, “Elena, tell Wizard Merlin about the information regarding the ancient monument. The news has spread throughout the entire Floating City. Every Spell Caster knows about it by now. There’s nothing to be kept secret about.”

“Spread throughout the entire Floating City?”

Merlin’s expression changed. If this was the monument Wizard Sammir and the group was going, he thought that things were turning for the worse.

Upon thinking about this, Merlin raised his head and looked at Elena. He was prepared to listen to the information of the ancient monument attentively.

Chapter 195: The Spread of Information

Merlin attentively listened to Elena's introduction of the ancient monument. The more he listened, the darker his expression became. Although he did not know the exact location of the ancient monument Wizard Sammir and the group was going, he had heard some descriptions of the place.

The situation of the ancient monument as explained by Elena was almost the same as what was told by Wizard Sammir. This confirmed that the information regarding the ancient monument had spread throughout Floating City.

"How is it, Wizard Merlin? It may be dangerous in the ancient monument but we should be able to overcome many dangerous situations with my ability. We'll benefit a lot from this."

Wizard Glen squinted his eyes and his lips quirked into a smile. He appeared to be confident.

"Swoosh."

Suddenly, Merlin stood up and shook his head. "Wizard Glen, Elena, I have some matters to attend to. I'll excuse myself first. As for the matter of the ancient monument, I think I'll pass."

After saying that, Merlin directly left the house, leaving behind a group of Spell Casters in the room. The atmosphere was extremely grim. The smile on Wizard Glen's face was frozen in place and his expression showed a hint of embarrassment.

"Hehe, Elena. The prodigy you talked about all day doesn't even dare to enter the ancient monument. Haha..."

Wizard Ken shot a glance at Elena and his words carried a mocking tone. Meanwhile, Elena's expression was rather dark. She ignored Wizard Ken's mocking statement.

Elena's gaze revealed a hint of confusion. She thought that Merlin would gladly agree to enter the ancient monument. Little did she expect Merlin to immediately reject her and leave.

Wizard Glen soon recovered from the shock. He took a thoughtful glance at Merlin's back, then spoke in a low voice, "Doesn't matter. We won't force him. Six-Elemental Spell Caster? He's far inferior to Kleis. Such a cowardly attitude will never make him a First-level Spell Caster... I can

protect the three of us just fine in the ancient monument. It's more appropriate to have one less person!"

Looking at Wizard Glen's dark expression, Elena opened her mouth. She knew Glen's character well; Glen must be furious at Merlin at the moment.

However, Elena only ended up opening her mouth with no words coming out from her. She stared at the direction where Merlin left with a complicated look...

...

After Merlin left the Delman clan, he wore a rather dark expression. He raised his head to look at the booming Floating City and multiple thoughts crossed his mind.

Since the information about the ancient monument had been leaked, Wizard Sammir and his group had lost the upper hands in this matter. He would need to discuss this matter with Sammir as soon as possible.

Upon thinking that, Merlin headed directly to Wizard Sammir's residence.

Soon, Merlin arrived at his destination. As soon as he stepped into the courtyard, Merlin could not help but yelled urgently, "Wizard Sammir, things are bad!"

"Hmm? Wizard Merlin, you came right on time. We're about to look for you."

Merlin saw Wizard Sammir, Wizard Bren, and Wizard Riesen from the courtyard. These three were surprisingly gathered at Wizard Sammir's residence.

"Why are you here?"

Merlin shot his gaze at Wizard Bren and Wizard Riesen. When his gaze fell on Wizard Riesen, his glance paused slightly.

"Wizard Merlin, what do you mean by 'bad' earlier?"

Wizard Sammir did not answer directly but instead, he asked Merlin.

Merlin thought for a moment and finally replied, “The information about the ancient monument has spread throughout Floating City. I’m not sure if Wizard Sammir is aware of that.”

“Oh? Wizard Merlin, you came at the right time. Wizard Bren and Wizard Riesen rushed here today for this matter as well!”

It turned out that Wizard Bren and Wizard Riesen came to Wizard Sammir’s for the same reason as him.

Following that, the four went to the living room and discussed the spread of information regarding the ancient monument in detail.

Wizard Sammir spoke first, “The information of the ancient monument has leaked since some time ago. Only a few of us knew about this information, but I reckon no one will leak the information. Then, only one possibility is left. Other Spell Casters have found the ancient monument incidentally.”

In fact, it was easy to understand this matter. No matter what Merlin and the others were planning to do, they would definitely not leak the information. Meanwhile, since the ancient monument was found by Wizard Riesen, other Spell Casters could have found the ancient monument as well. Thus, the spread of information was not absolutely impossible.

It was not important whether who had spread the news around. Rather, the actions of Merlin and the others in face of this situation were more crucial at this moment.

“Everyone, let’s talk about it. What should we do now?”

Wizard Sammir asked in a heavy tone as he scanned across the room.

“What can we do? Although the spread of information regarding the ancient monument has caused some disadvantages for us, the situation is not bleak. With our abilities, it’s a piece of cake to enter the ancient monument. Who dares to fight us? Whoever that comes our way, we’ll kill them!”

Wizard Bren let out a smirk and his tone was rather intimidating. Even the Alchemy Creatures in a great shape behind him had adopted a cold attitude with his words. They released an intimidating aura, faintly forming a sense of pressure around them.

Wizard Riesen glanced at Wizard Bren and nodded. He said in a calm tone, “That’s right. With our abilities, who dares to fight us when we join forces? We must enter the ancient monument and we must be quick. Even without having the upper hand, we shouldn’t fall behind, too. Otherwise, even if the danger in the ancient monument cannot be easily overcome by ordinary Spell Casters, some roaming wizards might just be lucky enough to infiltrate the deeper region of the ancient monument. It’ll be bad when that really happens.”

By now, some Spell Casters had definitely entered the ancient monument. Some of them could have the luck and avoided the danger zones in the ancient monument. When they reached the deeper region of the ancient monument, they would take all spells, casting tools, and potions.

Although there was a sense of urgency in Wizard Riesen’s tone, Merlin noticed the calm composure hidden deep in Riesen’s eyes.

This showed that Pandora Demon Ability which Wizard Riesen cared most about could be safe. In other words, the place where the Pandora Demon Ability was located could not be found easily by ordinary Spell Casters.

“Wizard Merlin, what do you think?”

Wizard Sammir looked at Merlin once again. Since the last time Merlin used his Glacial Finger and killed the powerful Wizard DeMarco in an instant, Merlin had an important role in the small group. Wizard Sammir and the others had completely acknowledged Merlin as their equal.

Merlin thought for a moment and shook his head slightly. “I think the situation is quite bad. The information has been leaked for some days. Some Spell Casters of Fourth-level and above may have gone there by now. Although we have three Third-level Spell Casters in the group, our abilities are still slightly inferior to those of Fourth-level and Fifth-level Spell Casters.”

Ever since Merlin knew about the spread of information, he had been weighed down by worries. He thought that the situation was terrible. If the ancient monument had attracted the attention of Fourth-level Spell Casters, their advantage would become less apparent.

Merlin even began to imagine the scene where powerful Spell Casters of Fourth-level or Fifth-level fighting frantically for Pandora Demon Ability in the ancient monument.

However, after Merlin had finished his words, he raised his head to find Wizard Sammir and the others giving him strange stares.

“Is something wrong? Isn’t our situation quite bad?”

Merlin frowned. He did not understand why the others would have such strange looks.

After a long moment, Wizard Sammir seemed to think of something and came to a sudden realization. He shook his head slightly and wore a bitter smile. “Wizard Merlin, how many Fourth-level Spell Casters do you think there are in Floating City?”

“Those Spell Caster clans have one powerful Fourth-level Spell Caster at most. In addition, Sterling House in Floating City, albeit strong, was only a branch of the organization. Sterling House also has a rule to follow – they never send Spell Casters into an ancient monument. They can only buy things from Spell Casters who risked their lives in the ancient monument with a fortune.

“Other than Sterling House, the rest are roaming wizards... Wizard Merlin, you may have come from a spell casters’ organization and don’t know about the real situation of roaming wizards. It’s extremely difficult to reach Third-level for roaming wizards. Wizard Bren, Wizard Riesen, and I are considered to be a handful of the strongest roaming wizards in Floating City. I’ve never seen a roaming wizard of Fourth-level and above in Floating City during all my years here.”

Merlin suddenly realized that Wizard Sammir and the others were considered the powerful ones amongst roaming wizards. The cultivation of roaming wizards was extremely difficult. Merlin had learned about it briefly from Elena. Hearing this again from Wizard Sammir had further deepened his understanding regarding roaming wizards.

Some roaming wizards could have experienced some sort of wonderful encounters and in addition to having excellent talents, they could have the chance to become Fourth-level Spell Casters. However, surely such people were not present in Floating City. Wizard Sammir and the others were said to be the most powerful roaming wizards here. That was the reason why Wizard Bren had such an overbearing attitude earlier.

“Other than Spell Caster clan and roaming wizards, there are also spell casters’ organizations! Should they hear about the ancient monument, won’t they send strong Spell Casters to the place?”

Merlin immediately thought of the powerful spell casters' organizations, hence raised the question.

Chapter 196: Overbearing

“Spell casters' organization?”

The entire room fell into silence again.

After a long moment, Wizard Sammir heaved a long sigh. “Wizard Merlin, have you ever been troubled about not having spells, potions or casting tools when you were in the Dark Magic Region? I know that you'll pay an equal price to obtain precious spells, potions, and casting tools in spell casters' organization. Either way, you'd still have the privilege to obtain the items you require as every type of spell, potion, and casting tool is available in an organization.

“Meanwhile, roaming wizards like us have nothing at all. If we want to buy spells, it'll cost us an arm and leg to do so. Moreover, even if we have a large number of elemental crystal stones, we won't be able to buy the spells or potion materials suitable for us. The ancient monument may have some special spells, precious potions or even ancient powerful casting tools. However, how can these things compare to what spell casters' organizations have? As long as they put in the effort to pay the price, they can get anything they want. The presence of the ancient monument doesn't attract the wizards in spell casters' organizations at all, especially strong wizards of Fourth-level and above.”

After a pause, Wizard Sammir took a long look at Merlin, then said with a hint of a smile, “In addition, the location of the ancient monument is far away even for Fire City, the spell casters' organization closest to us. Hehe, Wizard Merlin should know this better than we do. Spell casters' organizations such as Fire City, the Dark Magic Region, and the others are busy dealing with Ozmu right now; they won't have the time to care about whatever ancient monument here.”

Merlin was a little surprised. The fact that the Dark Magic Region, Fire City, Abyss Fort, and Ashes Region had joined forces to deal with Ozmu was well known amongst wizards from spell casters' organizations.

However, many roaming wizards did not even know spell casters' organization that well, not to mention obtaining such detailed information on the battle with Ozmu. Obviously, Wizard Sammir had especially fished the information about the situation of spell casters' organizations before.

Merlin nodded. Wizard Sammir has got a point there. Spell casters' organizations had a complete endowment, a very comprehensive knowledge system, and an immeasurable amount of resources. The members of spell casters' organizations only needed to use their contribution points to obtain the spells, potions, and casting tools they needed.

Thus, the spells, potions, and casting tools in the ancient monument were not attractive to the powerful Spell Casters in spell casters' organizations at all.

However, Wizard Sammir was unaware of the legendary Pandora Demon Ability in the ancient monument. In this case, even powerful wizards of spell casters' organizations would definitely enter the ancient monument.

Upon thinking of this, Merlin took a knowing look at Wizard Riesen and found the latter in a calm composure. Sensing Merlin's gaze, he even nodded with a nonchalant smile.

"He hides his feelings too well!"

Looking at the calm Wizard Riesen, Merlin maintained a sharp vigilance against him. Riesen had many tricks up his sleeve, so Merlin would have to be cautious when they enter the ancient monument.

"Wizard Sammir, since there won't be any Spell Caster of Fourth-level and above, let's move out as soon as possible. We don't have to wait until tomorrow. Rather, we can depart to the ancient monument anytime."

Merlin was cleared of his doubts and agreed to Wizard Bren's suggestion to enter the ancient monument.

Wizard Sammir nodded. "Alright, let's not delay further and move out right away!"

Hence, Wizard Sammir prepared a few carriages and let their Alchemy Creatures to drive the carriages. Soon, the carriages ran at full speed out of Floating City and headed toward the mysterious ancient monument.

...

In the early morning, the winter fog lingered as the warm sunlight shone upon a large area of dense forest. The fallen leaves on the ground were soaked by the moist dewdrops that reflected strings of golden light under the sun.

The entire forest was shrouded in the fog to the extent that nobody could see his or her own hands anymore.

However, in such a dense forest, a group of Spell Casters had gathered.

The Spell Casters' gazes were focused on a small hill in front of them. If one looked closely at the hill, one would find that it was not a hill at all. Instead, it was an ancient-looking tower which was covered in soil where flowers and plants had grown on it.

Only the upper four floors of the ancient tower were visible. Since it was covered by soil all year-round, it appeared just like a small hill. Moreover, such an ancient tower would have at least nine floors in total. In other words, apart from the upper four floors shown above ground, there could be at least six floors buried underneath.

The fact that such a tall tower was buried underground proved that it had stood the test of time of over thousands of years.

Below the ancient tower, there was an area of soil that was charred black; it was obviously scorched by high temperature. It showed that someone had cast Fire-type spells here. Moreover, there was a large hole beside the charred soil, indicating that someone had passed through the hole and entered the underground of the ancient tower.

A large crowd of Spell Casters gathered in front of the tower. They were mostly Entrance-level Spell Casters. They stared intently at the entrance of the tower but did not dare to enter.

"The Spell Casters who entered the tower earlier did not experience any issues. I think it's not that dangerous in there. Let's go in quickly."

There was a small group of Spell Casters amongst the crowd; the one who spoke was Wizard Ken of the Delman clan.

Meanwhile, Wizard Glen, the Four-Elemental Second-level Spell Caster, and Elena stood beside him. With Glen as the leader, the three had arrived at the front of the ancient tower.

This tower was just a part of the ancient monument. There were more floors buried underground which consisted of the entire ancient monument.

“Let’s not rush. The ones who went in are Entrance-level Spell Casters. Even if they entered the monument, how many dangerous zones can they break through?”

Wizard Glen appeared rather composed. He did not rush as he stopped Wizard Ken, who seemed slightly agitated.

“Phew…”

As soon as Wizard Glen finished his words, a violent gust of wind blew suddenly. Following that, an old and thin Spell Caster with white hair strode toward the ancient monument.

This old-looking Spell Caster, albeit taking slow strides, had a gust of whirlwind blowing in front of him. It made a way through the crowds of Spell Casters in front of the ancient monument by force.

“It’s Wizard Hodgdon. He’s a well-known First-level Spell Caster. He possesses a few strong Defensive casting tools in addition to his expertise in Wind-type spells. Tsk tsk. He’s a powerful wizard who can stand against a Second-level Spell Caster.”

There were Spell Casters in the crowd who recognized the old man as they muttered amongst themselves.

“Hodgdon, he’s pretty strong. It’s good to have him clear the path ahead of us.”

Wizard Glen who hid amongst the crowds pulled his robe lower as he spoke in a low voice.

The ancient monument contained many hidden dangers. Although Wizard Glen was confident, he did not want to enter rashly. Thus, he had been waiting all this while for a capable Spell Caster to enter the ancient monument before him. Following the Spell Caster, they could minimize the danger that they would encounter in there.

“Ken, Elena, stay close to me. After Hodgdon has entered the ancient monument, we’ll trail in after him.”

Wizard Glen had completed his preparation. His stare was glued on Wizard Hodgdon waiting for him to enter the monument.

“Hehe, old man Hodgdon, you’ll soon be dead. Even so, you still want to enter the ancient monument and test your luck? But let me go in first. Haha!”

Suddenly, a series of loud laughter rang. A muscular Spell Caster who only wore a basic creature’s skin dashed out of the dense forest. There were many gigantic rings hanging over his left ear, making him look rather daunting.

The Spell Caster with the weird outfit shook off the dewdrops on him and quirked his mouth. He pointed straight at the old man Hodgdon and a hint of fire appeared out of thin air. In the blink of an eye, the fire turned into an endless sea of flames that almost ignited the entire forest.

The old man Hodgdon who was initially emotionless changed his expression drastically after seeing the Spell Caster with the weird outfit. After the flames had appeared, he immediately took a step back. An intense amount of Wind Elements fluctuated around him and his speed had increased significantly.

However, the old man was still one step slower than the weird Spell Caster. His body was covered in flames but there was a grayish light flashing on him. It was obviously a Defensive casting tool that worked to defend against the spell of the Spell Caster with the weird outfit.

“Baslow, you madman. What are you doing? If you want to go in, I’ll let you do it first!”

The old man appeared to be in rage as he yelled.

The Spell Caster named Baslow smirked as he said, “Old man Hodgdon, I haven’t finished my business with you from the previous time! You indeed have a lot of tricks to save your life despite not having any other strength. You better stay away from me. Hehe. Otherwise, I may very well attack you when I’m not in a good mood!”

Baslow seemed to have had arguments with the old man Hodgdon before but he had no means to beat the latter, who was good at escaping and saving his own life.

The old man Hodgdon wore a dark expression. Since he knew that he could not fight against Baslow, he stifled his words. Meanwhile, Baslow could have wanted to enter the ancient monument quickly, so he strode toward the entrance in large steps after he gave his 'warning' to the old man Hodgdon.

He was different from Wizard Glen and the others; he did not care about the danger present in the ancient monument and did not want to wait for others to clear the path for him.

"Such stupidity. The ones who enter the ancient monument first die the quickest. But Baslow is a Second-level Spell Caster, so he's more suitable to clear the obstacles in front for us."

Wizard Glen hid amongst the crowd and closely observed the other Spell Casters.

Baslow, who wore a creature's skin indeed had an overbearing attitude, and he had every right to. Before he entered the ancient monument, two figures dashed toward Baslow rapidly, blowing a gust of wind.

"Bang!"

Baslow immediately cast his Defensive spell but he was still thrown off by the strong force. Following that, a sharp voice rang. "The Four Alchemists of Floating City are here. For those who want to live, leave immediately or prepare to die in vain!"

Four figures gradually appeared in front of the ancient monument. After seeing the arrival of the alchemists, Wizard Glen who hid amongst the crowds finally changed his calm expression.

"It's these four old men... They're here this time as well. This is bad!"

Wizard Glen frowned slightly. His tone revealed that he knew the so-called 'Four Alchemists of Floating City' and he was fearful of them.

"That's not right. One of them is not here. Hmm? Who's that?"

Suddenly, the youthful face of a black-robed Spell Caster amongst the four made Wizard Glen speechless for a moment with a hint of surprise in his eyes.

Chapter 197: The Melee

“That’s Merlin? Elena, is that the young black-robed Spell Caster Merlin from the Dark Magic Region?”

Wizard Glen’s expression changed drastically as he asked Elena.

He knew that the so-called ‘Four Alchemists of Floating City’, indicated an alliance of mutual interest established by the four strongest roaming wizards in Floating City.

Moreover, these alchemists were truly powerful as they possessed unique skills of their own. As a Third-level Spell Caster, these four Spell Casters were nothing less remarkable than the Spell Casters of the same level from any usual spell casters’ organization.

Thus, Wizard Glen dreaded the arrival of these four Spell Casters.

However, it seemed that Wizard DeMarco was missing from the group. Instead, an unfamiliar young Spell Caster was in his place. Many did not recognize the young Spell Caster whose body was cloaked in a black robe.

Elena stared at the young Spell Caster who was covered with a black robe without blinking. She was way too familiar with that face.

“It’s Wizard Merlin!”

Elena said in a low voice with a complicated expression.

After hearing Elena’s confirmation, Wizard Glen’s expression darkened. With a low voice, he replied, “I didn’t expect Merlin to come to the ancient monument with these three old men. Unsurprisingly, he didn’t promise to come with us. But, hmph! Don’t these old men have their own intentions coming here? No matter what means Merlin has used to persuade these people to bring him to the ancient monument, how far can they protect him when they encounter dangerous situations there? Hehe.”

“Glen, the Four Alchemists always act together. Why is it that there are only three of them this time?”

Elena noticed that a powerful Spell Caster was missing from Wizard Sammir’s group. The Four Alchemists of Floating City consisted of four powerful Spell Casters – Wizard Sammir, Wizard Bren, Wizard Riesen, and also Wizard DeMarco.

Instead of Wizard DeMarco, Merlin was in their group.

Glen smirked. “Maybe that old guy didn’t come. Or he may have been trailing behind them. No matter what, it’s a troublesome situation with these four in the ancient monument!”

Initially, Glen was full of confidence about this trip. He even had the confidence to go up against an ordinary Third-level Spell Caster. However, Wizard Sammir and the others were different. Albeit being roaming wizards, they had their unique skills and their abilities were comparable to Third-level Spell Casters from spell casters’ organizations.

Thus, Wizard Glen wore a dark expression since Wizard Sammir and his group arrived and disrupted his position.

However, changes soon occurred to the situation. Even if the atrocity of ‘the Four Alchemists of Floating City’ was well-known, there were also some roaming wizards who felt more confident in a crowd, eyeing the mysterious ancient monument. They were not as fearful about Wizard Sammir and the others.

Despite Wizard Bren’s overbearing attitude, these roaming wizards did not leave at all. Instead, they stood in front of the ancient monument as they stared intently at Wizard Sammir and his group who had just arrived.

Wizard Sammir frowned and said in a low voice, “It seems like we haven’t shown ourselves in a long time. Some have already forgotten about us!”

“Hehe. Sammir, I think it’s time to do something about it!”

Wizard Bren let out a cruel laugh. Following that, intense fluctuations of Elements appeared from his body.

“Kill them!”

Wizard Sammir howled lowly when he saw the surrounding Spell Casters who still did not back down.

“Boom!”

Instantly, a large area of violent flames flared up and their Alchemy Creatures dashed into the large crowd of Spell Casters like beasts.

Their Alchemy Creatures ran into the crowd and began their crazy massacre. These Alchemy Creatures were extremely powerful as they were able to withstand any ordinary Third-level spell attacks! Besides, these Spell Casters were mostly Entrance-level or were just lucky enough to become First-level Spell Casters.

The Zero-level and First-level spells could not cause any significant damage upon the Alchemy Creatures. At once, the shrill cries of the crowd died.

“Incredible Alchemy Creatures!”

Merlin did not join in the attack; he only squinted his eyes a little as he observed Wizard Sammir and the others. When he fought Wizard Sammir’s Alchemy Creature, he did not notice how strong they were.

Especially when he possessed the Pandora Demon Ability, Glacial Finger, these Alchemy Creatures could not cause any damage to Merlin at all.

However, at this point, Merlin could see how terrifying these Alchemy Creatures were in front of these Entrance-level, First-level, and Second-level Spell Casters – they were almost dominating the entire fight. The crowds were simply being massacred right now by those Alchemy Creatures.

Ever since the battle had begun, Wizard Sammir and the others were at an advantageous position. Although there were a large number of Spell Casters around, they had no way to fight against Wizard Sammir and his group.

“Haha, my darling. Kill as many as you like!”

Wizard Bren sent out two of his Alchemy Creatures; they dashed in and out of the crowd like the wind. In addition, their defense was astounding; they had already killed numerous roaming wizards within a short period of time.

Such one-sided massacre had transpired under the condition that Wizard Sammir and the others had not cast their spells. It was crucial to know that they were all Third-level Spell Casters and they had constructed Third-level spells. If they cast their spells, these roaming wizards would not survive at all.

“Damn it. These old guys are too strong. It seems we have to retreat for now and wait for an opportunity to enter the ancient monument!”

Wizard Glen who was hiding in the crowd took a long glance at Wizard Sammir and the others. He seemed to be rather helpless. He knew that he would not have a chance of winning against Wizard Sammir and the group. He would be looking for his own death if he trailed behind them.

Right at this moment, Merlin suddenly raised his head, seemingly noticing something. At one glance, he spotted Wizard Glen and Elena.

“So Elena came as well!”

After he ensured that Elena and the others had retreated from the crowd silently, he nodded subtly. Under the circumstance, it was pure stupidity to remain at this place to face the powerful attacks of Wizard Sammir and the others.

“Swoosh!”

Suddenly, a wind blade struck Merlin but it was resolved by Merlin’s Zero-level spell, Earth Guard, right before hitting him.

Someone could have finally noticed Merlin and figured that he was the weakest Spell Caster amongst the four. Thus, a majority of Spell Casters placed their gaze toward Merlin.

“Hehe. Baslow, the young Spell Caster is weaker. Let’s kill him first and vent out our anger!”

The old man Hodgdon said moodily.

Baslow shot a furious look at the old man Hodgdon, but he, too, stared closely at Merlin. He was indeed quite frustrated when he was thrown off by the Alchemy Creatures sent by Wizard Bren even though he was not injured.

However, Wizard Bren was a Third-level Spell Caster and Baslow was far inferior to him. Hence, sensing that Merlin’s aura was weaker and in addition to his youthful looks, Baslow was very attracted to what the old man Hodgdon had said.

“It’s fine that I’m inferior to these old men! But do you think you can enter the ancient monument that easily? A young Spell Caster who came from nowhere?”

Baslow yelled and attracted Merlin’s attention. Upon seeing that Baslow had grabbed Merlin’s attention, the old man Hodgdon had to stifle an angry curse.

“Baslow, such an idiot. What stupidity! If we attack him sneakily, we may kill this young Spell Caster easily. After all, he came with the three old men. Killing him can, in a way, disrupt their confidence and attitude! Now, it’s all ruined by you!”

The old man Hodgdon could never understand Baslow’s actions. He was always in favor of sneaky attacks. If he could not kill the person, he would immediately retreat; his actions made him an extremely troublesome opponent. Even in front of Wizard Sammir and the others, the old man Hodgdon still wanted to kill Merlin to lower the group’s morale.

However, all his plans were ruined by Baslow’s yell. The old man Hodgdon was truly speechless but he had to trail behind Baslow and cast his spells, blasting towards Merlin.

“Hmm? Why are all the spells heading towards Wizard Merlin?”

Wizard Sammir and the others suddenly noticed some abnormalities. Many Spell Casters were, in fact, casting spells that were heading straight toward Merlin. At once, like a gust of violent wind, spells whistled by and headed toward Merlin.

However, upon seeing a large number of spells blasting toward Merlin, Wizard Sammir did not show a slight hint of worry at all. Instead, he stopped his attacks and gazed upon Baslow and Hodgdon who started the attack pitifully with a hint of a smile on his face.

“Baslow and Hodgdon are considered powerful presences amongst the roaming wizards. Unfortunately, they’ll die right here...”

Wizard Sammir muttered in a low voice. The fact that Merlin had killed Wizard DeMarco with his Pandora Demon Ability was still confidential at this point. Only Wizard Sammir, Wizard Bren, and Wizard Riesen were aware of this matter.

Only the three of them knew how terrifying Merlin was. Merlin was the strongest person amongst the group. The old man Hodgdon and Baslow were simply courting their own deaths when they messed with Merlin.

Wizard Sammir and the others’ strange expressions had caught the attention of the old man Hodgdon who was always suspicious of others. However, he did not understand what was wrong with the situation hence, he continued to cast his spells toward Merlin.

The old man Hodgdon and Baslow had already planned their retreat route. Once they killed Merlin, they would immediately run away at their quickest speed to not give any chance for Wizard Sammir and the others to chase after them.

“Boom!”

Spells all over the sky had blasted frantically upon Merlin just like a storm. In the blink of an eye, Merlin’s figure had disappeared from sight...

Chapter 198: The Intimidating One!

Endless spells inundated Merlin’s entire figure. Wizard Baslow and the old man Hodgdon revealed a hint of elation when they believed that Merlin was now overwhelmed by the sheer number of spells.

However, before they could completely relax, a weak light instantly encompassed Merlin's body. At the same time, dull collision sounds came from Merlin's direction, and his surroundings had become hazy due to the spell attacks.

Upon hearing the sounds, the old man Hodgdon and Wizard Baslow changed their expressions drastically. Such sounds indicated that the spells were all blocked by some sort of casting tool or a Defensive spell.

"They're blocked?"

The old man Hodgdon was in disbelief. Merlin was not a Third-level Spell Caster; they could see that he was at most a First-level Spell Caster.

Even a First-level Spell Caster had no way of blocking so many spells except for a Third-level Defensive spell cast by Third-level Spell Caster.

"Swoosh!"

Suddenly, lightning began to flash and fist-sized Thunderlight Balls appeared above everyone's heads unexpectedly.

At the same time, these thunder balls were releasing strings of thunder where each of them was the size of a finger and contained a violent force.

"Thunderlight Ball!"

Merlin's voices came from within the vortex of dust. There were also a few monuments erected in front of him that cast a grayish light. Merlin had blocked the enormous amount of spell attacks by casting the strengthened version of Guardian Monument with the help of the Enhancing casting tool.

"He didn't die! He must've strong Enhancing casting tool on him; the First-level spell he cast is actually comparable to a Third-level spell!"

Baslow's expression changed. If he had not seen it with his own eyes, he would not have believed that such a powerful Enhancing casting tool existed. Even though Merlin's Guardian Monument was a First-level Defensive spell, it was comparable to some Third-level spells.

Other than the Enhancing casting tool, Baslow could not think of any other method that could increase the power of spells so drastically.

However, Baslow did not back down. Instead, he rapidly cast a Defensive spell and charged towards Merlin. His expression revealed a hint of madness.

Meanwhile, the old man Hodgdon hesitated for a moment. At last, he took a long glance at the grayish Guardian Monument which was erected in front of Merlin and shook his head. He knew that he did not have the ability to break through Merlin's Guardian Monument. Thus, Wind Elements began to fluctuate violently around the old man Hodgdon and his figure retreated backward rapidly.

"Hmm? Want to leave now? It's too late!"

Merlin squinted his eyes slightly. He had cast Thunderlight Ball which was a large-area Offensive spell. The roaming wizards who were not First-level Spell Casters had let out shrill cries before they were vaporized.

This was the true massacre. Even the Alchemy Creatures had not killed the crowd as efficiently as Merlin's Thunderlight Ball. After all, it was a spell aimed at a large area. Apart from that, Thunderlight Ball was also a powerful spell amongst large-area Offensive spells. If one was shrouded by it, one could not defend against it without the help of strong spells or Defensive casting tools.

Meanwhile, Thunderlight Ball did not have much effect on the Second-level Spell Casters unless Merlin had cast the strengthened version of Thunderlight Ball. However, with the abilities of Wizard Baslow and the old man Hodgdon, it was unsurprising if the strengthened version of Thunderlight Ball could not hurt them much.

Upon thinking of this, Merlin shot an icy stare at them. He would not go easy on those who dared to attack him.

"Demon Ability, Glacial Finger!"

His white finger that resembled an ice crystal pointed lightly at Baslow.

“Ka-chak!”

With just a slight sound, Baslow’s entire body was frozen whilst he maintained a running pose. Even his facial expression was lively and seemed unchanged.

“Bang!”

The ice crystals broke into smithereens. The previously overbearing Baslow who was covered by ice crystals broke into countless crystal debris all over the ground.

Merlin’s Glacial Finger had not only frozen Baslow but its remaining force was also heading straight at the old man Hodgdon.

The old man Hodgdon was just ready to cast a Wind-type spell to escape when he witnessed the scene where Baslow was frozen and broken into countless pieces.

Even the knowledgeable old man Hodgdon was immediately gripped by terror. His entire body could not help but shiver, showing how frightened he was in his heart.

“What’s that? A spell? A casting tool?”

The old man Hodgdon did not know of Pandora Demon Ability but he had no intention to block the attack after witnessing Baslow’s ending. He immediately retreated backward as if he was flying.

However, Merlin’s Glacial Finger was even quicker. An icy aura directly gripped the old man Hodgdon and his body began to freeze at once.

“No, no. My robe, quickly block this attack...”

The old man Hodgdon had a lot of tricks up his sleeve to run away. He even had a few casting tools on him but his robe was not effective against Merlin’s Glacial Finger at all. He was directly encompassed by the icy aura and frozen altogether.

“Ka-chak!”

The ice crystals broke and the old man Hodgdon ended up the same as Baslow; his body broke into countless pieces of tiny ice crystals.

The old man Hodgdon and Wizard Baslow had died. Two Second-level Spell Casters could not defend themselves at all as they were turned into a pile of broken ice crystal debris on the ground in the blink of an eye.

Even though the fight was not bloody, it caused a chill down on people’s spine, especially to those roaming wizards who were still stubbornly blocking the attack of Merlin’s Thunderlight Ball. After witnessing Merlin who had easily eliminated the powerful Wizard Baslow and the old man Hodgdon who had countless life-saving tricks, these roaming wizards had lost all will to fight. They cast their life-saving spells respectively, trying to get away from the attacking range of Thunderlight Ball.

The roaming wizards who were not killed by the first round of thunder’s forces were at least First-level Spell Casters. Moreover, they had relied on powerful Defensive spells or Defensive casting tools to hang on until now.

At this point, these roaming wizards had regretted their decision; they had thought Merlin was weak but they did not expect Merlin to be so insanely powerful. Such a large-area Offensive spell had almost eliminated half of the roaming wizards present.

“Go, let’s go. The young Spell Caster is the true intimidating one!”

Many roaming wizards struggled to leave the attacking range of Merlin’s Thunderlight Ball after paying significant prices. They did not even hesitate to leave as they ran toward the opposite direction of the ancient monument frantically. They did not dare to come close to the ancient monument at all.

Soon, Merlin had stopped casting Thunderlight Ball. Now, there were charred black bodies on the ground. There were initially hundreds of roaming wizards present but only about fifty of them had managed to escape or stay hidden.

Merlin’s Thunderlight Ball eliminated half of the roaming wizards!

“Ruthless. So ruthless. Who’s this young Spell Caster? He’s too frightening. Besides a First-level spell, such a Large-area Offensive spell doesn’t come by very often.”

The roaming wizards who managed to run away stared at Merlin’s figure with lingering terror. Large-area spells were precious to these roaming wizards. Many of them had never seen such Large-area Offensive spells before.

Even Third-level Spell Casters like Wizard Sammir who was considered a powerful Spell Caster amongst the roaming wizards, only possessed Large-area Binding spell instead of the Offensive spell.

The offensive ability of Large-area Offensive spells was, in fact, not as good as that of Single-aimed spells. For example, if Merlin only had one opponent, the effect of his Furious Flame would be more apparent.

Due to this reason, many Spell Casters did not want to construct Large-area Offensive spell. After all, the majority of Spell Casters in the world of Spell Casters was only capable of constructing three spells. Many would choose to construct a Single-aimed Offensive spell, a Defensive spell, and a Binding spell.

Even for a Four-Elemental Spell Caster, his fourth spell would usually be a Speed spell. Thus, Spell Casters would seldom choose to construct Large-area Offensive spell.

However, Merlin did not have such restrictions at all because he was a Six-Elemental Spell Caster. He possessed many spells, so he could choose to construct many different types of spells. Besides, this was Merlin’s first time using Large-area Offensive spell, Thunderlight Ball, and the result was quite remarkable.

The horrifying scene they witnessed today might forever be etched in the memory of these roaming wizards who were fortunate enough to escape.

...

Wizard Glen and his group who had long hidden in a small corner stared wide-eyed at the familiar figure.

A large number of spell attacks made them think that Merlin had no chance of defending himself at all. Wizard Glen also admitted to himself that he could not stand against that number of attacks as well.

However, the result had far exceeded their expectations. Not only did Merlin block the attacks but he was also able to retaliate immediately. With one hit, he eliminated the powerful Second-level Spell Casters, Wizard Baslow and the old man Hodgdon.

Baslow's death was understandable as he, albeit strong, was far inferior to the old man Hodgdon in terms of life-saving tricks. However, the old man Hodgdon who was able to run away from Third-level Spell Casters could not even stand one hit from Merlin.

Recalling their deaths and the translucent icy aura, Wizard Glen and the others were gripped by intense terror.

“Strong. So strong! Wizard Merlin's potential was far more than that of Kleis back then! Elena, a true prodigy has once again appeared in the Dark Magic Region. Six-Elemental Spell Caster is such an unfathomable existence!”

Wizard Glen who was furious at Merlin's “arrogant” attitude before was completely defeated by the ability Merlin had shown. In the Delman family, he was considered a prodigy but he was at most average in Fire City. Naturally, he was not comparable to Six-Elemental Spell Casters who had presented undefeatable strength like Merlin.

“Wizard Merlin's growth is so rapid...”

Elena suddenly exclaimed with mixed emotions. She knew about Merlin's ability before. In the Dark Magic Region, although Merlin was powerful where ordinary First-level Spell Casters could not rival his strength, he was definitely not as strong as he was now.

In other words, Merlin had improved his abilities to this horrifying extent within a short duration of a few months' time. Most importantly, the spells Merlin had cast earlier were all First-level spells. It was highly possible that Merlin had become a First-level Spell Caster. This was the condition to rid the status of a temporary member in the Dark Magic Region and finally become the official member of Dark Magic Region; Elena was more envious of Merlin in this matter.

“Swoosh!”

All of a sudden, Wizard Glen's expression changed. He could clearly see that Merlin's gaze was shot toward where they were at right now...

Chapter 199: Mysterious Symbols

Merlin's gaze turned to where Wizard Glen and the others were. Although his gaze seemed calm, Wizard Glen and the others felt a deep chill in their bones and did not dare move a single muscle.

In particular, Wizard Ken, who had previously sneered at Merlin, felt apprehensive after seeing the look in Merlin's eyes.

However, Merlin soon retracted his gaze and turned away. Wizard Glen and the others heaved a sigh of relief.

"Glen, what should we do now?"

Wizard Ken was out of his wits and even wanted to leave right away. After all, it was a terrifying situation that they were in, whether it was Wizard Sammir and the others, or Merlin. Not even Wizard Glen was a match for them. If they had not withdrawn before everything happened, they would have ended up like Hodgdon and Baslow.

Wizard Glen fixed his gaze on Merlin, Wizard Sammir, and the others, before speaking in a low voice, "We mustn't get too close to them. All we can do is wait for them to enter the ancient monument first, and if we bump into them again, we'll turn around immediately. Wizard Merlin should be around, and he wouldn't create trouble for us."

After he spoke, Wizard Glen glanced at Elena who was standing at one side. Although Merlin had only stared at them for a moment, Wizard Glen's sharp perception told him that it was Elena whom Merlin was looking at.

As long as Elena was here, he believed that even if they bumped into Merlin and the others, they would be fine. This was the main reason Wizard Glen decided on entering the ancient monument.

Thereafter, Wizard Glen and the others stood quietly at a far distance, cautiously observing every movement made by Merlin, Wizard Sammir, and the others.

...

“Wizard Merlin, I believe that after today, your name will shine far brighter than any of us old fools.”

Wizard Sammir smiled as he spoke. Wiping out fifty, sixty roaming Wizards in such a short duration was an astonishing feat even to Wizard Sammir and the others. They did not expect that other than possessing Pandora Demon Ability, Merlin also had such impressive spells.

“Alright, those eyesores have been eliminated. There were people who had already entered the ancient monument, so let’s quickly go in as well.”

Wizard Bren eyed the entrance of the ancient monument, and could not wait to go in.

“Fine, let’s go!”

Merlin nodded. He cast a glance at old man Hodgdon and Baslow who had been smashed to smithereens on the ground and felt that it was quite a shame. Although the power of Glacial Finger was formidable, once it had been cast, even the rings worn by old man Hodgdon and the rest were frozen and shattered as well.

This old man Hodgdon was an expert in escaping and had numerous survival methods as well as a few casting tools. However, these had been destroyed completely and Merlin was unable to obtain them.

Although it was a pity, Merlin did not express too much regret. Along with Wizard Sammir, the group of four quickly plunged into the huge hole in front of the ancient monument and began making their way into this mysterious monument.

After a moment had passed, a group of Spell Casters appeared at a distance. They were Spell Casters who were dissatisfied and who still wanted to enter the ancient monument. Seeing that the nefarious Merlin, Wizard Sammir, and the others had gone into the ancient monument, they began to become restless once more.

“Come on, let’s go in as well!”

Wizard Glen spoke in a low tone. Thereafter, he led Wizard Ken and Elena forward, and all three of them quickly disappeared into the monument too.

...

It was pitch-black in the ancient monument, and slightly damp.

Merlin gently stroked a stone wall – it was moist. With only a little effort, he was able to claw out a huge chunk of broken stone.

At the moment, they were still not in the middle of the monument. This structure was a tower with nine floors, of which only four floors were exposed above ground. These four floors had long been explored countless times.

The other five floors were located underground. It was these floors that were the main objective of their expedition.

Soon after going through the deep, pitch-black passage, the faint outline of a tunnel entrance appeared below. Beyond the entrance, a jumble of footprints had been left behind, indicating that people had passed by before.

This tunnel entrance was the true entry point into the ancient monument. Only by going in could they reach the middle of the ancient tower.

“Thump.”

Wizard Bren allowed his Alchemy Creature to first clear the way. As the Alchemy Creature moved in front, it would be the first to detect and hold back any danger up ahead.

The Alchemy Creature broke the rotten wooden door under its foot as it led the way into the tower. Merlin and the rest followed behind.

Just as he entered the tower, Merlin smelled the thick odor of dust. The ancient tower had been buried underground but its interior was still well preserved, only that the long passage of years had accumulated dust everywhere, obscuring the decorative displays in the tower.

“Crack!”

Without warning, Merlin cast Frost abruptly, and a mass of ice crystals swiftly appeared on the tower wall. A spider, covered in bright-colored patterns, about the size of a toddler’s palm, was frozen.

“Be careful. There may be dangers lurking around the ancient monument.”

Wizard Sammir glanced at the frozen patterned spider and reminded them once again. This type of spider was deadly toxic. The physical attributes of a Spell Caster were only slightly better than a Normie’s. If these spiders bit them in a moment of their carelessness, they would be in grave danger.

Therefore, Merlin maintained fluctuations of Earth Element over his body – he was casting Earth Guard at every moment. Although this increased the consumption of Magic Power, he had accumulated many spells in the Earth Guard’s Spell Model to the point where he could keep this up for a few hours.

With the protection of Earth Guard, smaller instances of danger would not cause Merlin any harm whatsoever. As for Wizard Bren, Wizard Riesen, and even Wizard Sammir, they did not cast any Defensive spells. Instead, they were wearing robes, and with the protection of these robes, naturally, they did not need to deplete their Magic Power to cast Defensive spells.

Merlin admired the robes that they were wearing. With those robes, many troubles could be avoided. Fortunately, he only had to construct Dark Light Realm successfully to become a First-level Spell Caster. Then, he would return to the Dark Magic Region and automatically obtain a free robe from the organization.

With the Alchemy Creature leading the way, their group moved at a swift pace. Soon, they were heading into the depths of the ancient tower. However, just as they had walked past, the patterned spider, which had initially landed frozen on the ground, began to gradually shine with a green glow as its body enlarged quickly.

“Bang!”

The ice crystals were shattered in an instant. The patterned spider had currently grown to the size of a washbasin. Two black fangs protruded below its mouth, making it look sinister and terrifying.

Having escaped from the grip of the ice crystals, the patterned spider stared at the direction in which Merlin and the rest had walked. Thereafter, it swayed its head while it followed closely behind and quickly vanished into the darkness.

...

“Hold on, there’s a whiff of blood!”

All of a sudden, Merlin frowned and yelled in haste. He had persisted in practicing the posture on the relief sculpture, and his physical attributes were substantially improved. His senses were far sharper than the average person’s, so he was able to catch a faint whiff of blood.

Wizard Sammir and the rest stopped as well. Even though they did not smell any blood, for the sake of being cautious, they still quickly readied themselves.

“Darling, go and see what lies ahead.”

Wizard Bren instructed one of the Alchemy Creatures in a low voice, after which the Alchemy Creature with a well-developed physique bounded ahead quickly.

Wizard Bren had two Alchemy Creatures. This was an alchemy technique unique to him, just like Wizard Sammir’s Mithril Alchemy Technique. These were their respective secret techniques, which they would not easily divulge to others.

Wizard Bren, who had two Alchemy Creatures, was naturally scouting the path ahead. Even if there was some danger which caused one of his Alchemy Creatures to die, he would still have one Alchemy Creature to protect him.

As they were waiting for the Alchemy Creature to examine the situation up ahead, Merlin began walking on the spot.

The faint light from the fire illuminated the room in which Merlin was. Everywhere was covered in dust, and he could not discern the original features of the ancient tower. Merlin gently approached a wall and reached out a hand, and casually wiped away the dust on the wall.

Then, he noticed mysterious symbols on the surface where he had wiped the dust away.

Merlin's heart stirred and he said to Wizard Bren, "Wizard Bren, could I trouble you to use a Wind-type spell to clear away the dust in this space?"

"Wizard Merlin, have you discovered something?"

As Wizard Bren asked, he cast a Wind-type spell as well. In a moment, powerful gusts of wind rushed by, blowing all the dust on the wall away.

As the walls were cleared by the wind, distorted and uneven symbols gradually appeared. This was not the Molta language, and Merlin could not understand what these symbols represented.

However, a small change seemed to have washed over Wizard Sammir as his eyes evidently lit up and he spoke in a soft voice, "These are mysterious calculations for potion preparation. I had entered a few ancient monuments before and found many of these mysterious symbols in them. These are formulas for potion-making used by ancient Spell Casters. Since these symbols have appeared here, it means that a room for potion-making may lie somewhere ahead. Perhaps the potion that I need will be there!"

Wizard Sammir seemed worked up. The Spell Casters here had their own agendas for entering the ancient monument, and Wizard Sammir's purpose was to find a potion which would stabilize the Spell Model in his Awareness.

Once any clue that was related to potions showed up, he would become excited.

"These symbols..."

Merlin frowned. These symbols were in fact left by ancient Spell Casters while they prepared potions three thousand and six hundred years ago. Merlin had an intuition that these mysterious symbols represented the supplementary methods used by powerful Spell Casters in potion-making during the most glorious age of Spell Casters.

Modern Spell Casters had a very low success rate in potion-making and yet, it was mentioned in ancient books that three thousand and six hundred years ago, the fields of potions, alchemy, spells, and runes were all at their peak.

Perhaps they could obtain some knowledge from the mysterious symbols regarding potion-making.

As he thought of this, Merlin instantly recorded these symbols in the Matrix. He would slowly analyze them when he had time in the future.

“Whoosh.”

Just then, the Alchemy Creature that Wizard Bren had sent ahead to scout had returned. Furthermore, its hands were carrying a corpse, from which came the sharp stench of blood.

Chapter 200: Patterned Spiders!

Wizard Bren’s face shifted slightly. He looked carefully at the corpse and noticed that it had been warped beyond recognition. Moreover, the body seemed to be tangled up in some white silk which was wrapped around the corpse. It was bizarre indeed.

“This seemed to be a Spell Caster who had entered the ancient monument but he had died such an unnatural death. What did he run into?”

Wizard Sammir frowned as well. They did not know what those Spell Casters, who had led the way into the ancient monument, had encountered. After all, there were all sorts of danger lurking in the ancient monument. No one could know for sure how many hazards they would come across.

“Come on, we’ll go ahead for a closer look.”

Wizard Bren seemed to have gotten some sort of message from his Alchemy Creature, and his expression changed as he spoke in a low voice.

Therefore, Merlin and the rest followed Wizard Bren’s Alchemy Creature as they walked further ahead.

After walking for a moment, the heavy stench of blood appeared once again. This time, Wizard Sammir, Wizard Bren, and Wizard Riesen were distinctly able to detect the smell, and the three of them could not help but make a face.

“Be careful. There could be danger up ahead!”

Wizard Sammir reminded them in a soft voice. Merlin did not dare act carelessly as well, and expanded his Mind Power, paying close attention to his surroundings. If there were any abnormal changes, he would be able to perceive them immediately.

Merlin and the others soon reached a room that seemed to be in a mess. Many long stone tables were placed in this room, and dust-covered equipment was set out on the tables.

Merlin was very familiar with this equipment because it was needed for potion-making. Furthermore, Merlin had never seen some of the equipment and he did not know what their functions were.

On the other stone tables, delicate porcelain flasks with tightly sealed contents were set out.

“This was the room in which the master of the tower prepared potions over three thousand years ago. These sealed porcelain flasks must contain some marvelous potion!”

Wizard Sammir was the most overjoyed. His purpose in coming to the ancient monument was to seek a potion which would thoroughly eradicate the insidious instability in his Spell Model. He did not expect to discover the place for potion-making so soon after entering the ancient monument. Hence, Wizard Sammir was naturally ecstatic.

With this in mind, Wizard Sammir was about to step forward to open the sealed porcelain flasks and see what potion was contained inside.

“Wizard Sammir, be careful. The Spell Casters on the ground seemed to have died a miserable death. They must’ve encountered something.”

Merlin lowered his voice and spoke to Wizard Sammir.

Wizard Sammir narrowed his eyes slightly and discovered that there were many corpses lying disorderly on the ground. All of them had been changed beyond recognition and were bound by loops of white silk.

Wizard Sammir hesitated for a moment, following which he stopped in his tracks. Although he was eager to examine the potion, he would not recklessly open the porcelain flasks on the desk. Thus he ordered his Alchemy Creature to approach the porcelain flasks.

“Open it!”

As soon as Wizard Sammir’s order was given, the Alchemy Creature swiftly pulled off the dust-covered black cloth which was covering the flask. In that instant, clouds of dust quickly ascended into the air, filling the entire room with a strange odor.

Clutching the porcelain flask in both hands, the Alchemy Creature tipped it upside down.

Instantly, spiders whose bodies were covered in patterns poured out of the flask.

As these patterned spiders fell on the ground, they woke up immediately. They gradually began to vibrate their bodies and darted toward the Alchemy Creature in swaying motions.

“It’s those deadly toxic spiders!”

Wizard Sammir frowned and his expression revealed his disappointment. It was not the potion that he had been looking forward to, so he simply cast a Fire-type spell.

In a second, the raging flames had quickly consumed the patterned spiders.

“Come on, let’s search the next room.”

Wizard Sammir shook his head slightly as he prepared to leave.

However, just at this moment, threads of white silk flew out from the midst of the blaze, spreading toward Wizard Sammir and the others as it covered the entire area.

“Hmm? Not dead?”

Wizard Sammir dared not wait any longer and immediately cast a Defensive spell. Merlin even cast the strengthened version of the Guardian Monument through the Enhancing casting tool.

In a moment, Merlin and the others were swaddled in strands of white silk. The white silk had strong corrosive properties, and would slowly corrode even First-level spells.

It was unsurprising that many Spell Casters had died here. They could have opened the porcelain flasks carelessly and released these patterned spiders.

“Furious Flame!”

Merlin quickly cast Furious Flame. In a flash, a surging stream of flame appeared on his Guardian Monument and began burning the white silk furiously.

The average Furious Flame was not effective against this white silk. It had to burn for a long time before it was able to break off the threads. However, Merlin cast the strengthened version of the spell right away, and the heat of the flame increased instantly. Surrounded by such a vicious blaze, the white silk emitted bursts of crackling sounds.

Finally, the white silk that had enclosed Merlin was burned away completely, and Merlin’s figure retreated swiftly.

Besides Merlin, Wizard Sammir, Wizard Bren, and Wizard Riesen had also managed to struggle out of the white silk’s clutches. However, displeasure was written on their faces. If they had not been Third-level Spell Casters with powerful spells, they really could have been ensnared by the white silk. It was very likely that they would have ended up just like the Spell Casters lying on the ground.

“Watch out, it’s those patterned spiders!”

Wizard Sammir’s face turned grim as he fixed a firm look on the patterned spiders, which he had burned with the spell he cast. These spiders were scorched black all over but at the moment, they seemed to be undergoing some incredible transformation.

The body of every single patterned spider enlarged rapidly until it was the size of a washbasin, and they looked extremely sinister and frightening.

“What kind of monsters are these patterned spiders?”

Merlin scowled. He had encountered these spiders before but it had been easily frozen by Frost, the Zero-level spell which he had cast. However, it seemed now as if these patterned spiders were far less simple than he had imagined them to be.

“Frost!”

Merlin quickly cast Frost but this time it was to no avail. These enormous patterned spiders merely had to struggle briefly to shatter the ice crystals before they darted toward Merlin and the others once more.

“Run, let’s escape for now!”

Wizard Sammir did not know that these hair-raising patterned spiders would be this terrifying so his first instinct was to retreat.

However, just as they were about to back away, they suddenly found out that behind them, a large crowd of these patterned spiders had appeared unknowingly.

“It’s those small patterned spiders from before. They’ve stealthily crept up behind us, and now they have us surrounded. How could they possess this level of intelligence?”

Wizard Sammir muttered in a low voice. The patterned spiders had them surrounded – it was clear that this was an intelligent behavior. If it was not the spiders which had high intelligence, then it could be some mysterious power which was steering these patterned spiders.

“Since we can’t retreat, just kill them!”

Wizard Bren gave a hoarse cry. They were Third-level Spell Casters so of course, they would not be petrified by these spiders. Consequently, they each cast their Third-level spells.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!”

The spells filled the room, shooting toward the patterned spiders in all directions. Perhaps First-level spells would not be of much use against these spiders for they were unafraid of ordinary attacks since their resistance was extremely strong.

However, Wizard Sammir and the others had cast Third-level spells, which were able to easily annihilate the patterned spiders. It was just that these were individual Offensive spells, so in order to exterminate such a legion of spiders, they would need to waste a lot of time.

At this point, Merlin’s large-scale Offensive spell, Thunderlight Ball, was evidently a crucial spell.

“Water Whorl!”

Wizard Sammir swiftly cast his Binding spell, which restricted the movement of most of the patterned spiders in the room. Although these spiders had great strength and could spit out such durable white silk, they were unable to break out of a Third-level Binding spell.

“Wizard Merlin, it’s up to you now!”

Wizard Sammir told Merlin in a grave voice whereas Wizard Bren and Wizard Riesen both turned to look at Merlin. Who knew how much time they would have taken if they depended on the method of killing the patterned spiders one by one? They may not even have enough Magic Power for that.

“Thunderlight Ball!”

Merlin nodded and cast Thunderlight Ball without delay. Spheres of thunder appeared immediately, flickering with bolts of thunder and lightning the size of fingers, which shot toward the bound patterned spiders.

“Pop! Pop!”

Every attack from Thunderlight Ball was only able to somewhat injure each spider but being a First-level spell, it was unable to effectively kill them off.

As he thought of this and without hesitation, Merlin cast the strengthened version of Thunderlight Ball.

In that instant, the power of the thunderbolts was clearly increased two-folds. The massive rays of lightning needed only a few hits to wipe out the patterned spiders. It seemed like the limit of the spiders' defensive capabilities did not extend to Second-level spells.

Most Second-level spells would be enough to handle these spiders. Merlin's strengthened Thunderlight Ball had broken the boundary and was comparable to the power of Second-level spells, so it only needed a few hits to annihilate the patterned spiders.

Seeing that Thunderlight Ball had the most desired effect, Wizard Sammir and the others heaved a small sigh of relief. Of course, with their discerning eyes, how would they not notice that from the beginning to the end, Merlin's Thunderlight Ball clearly underwent a significant increase in power?

They immediately linked this to the mysterious Enhancing casting tool that Merlin had on him. Only that casting tool could enable the same First-level spell to undergo such a huge change.

"The Enhancing casting tool is truly a superb item!"

Wizard Bren and Wizard Sammir exchanged a glance, and a trace of impulsive desire revealed on their faces. However, when they thought of how Wizard DeMarco had ended up, their hearts trembled slightly. They immediately pushed the yearning out of their minds.

It was only Wizard Riesen, who had always been mysterious, stared at Merlin's back as his eyes displayed an occasional, peculiar glint.